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

EMPLOYMENT.

FOLLOWING the usual seasonal decline immediately after Christmas, employment during January showed considerable improvement. There were further substantial improvements in those industries which had been most affected by the stoppage in the coal-mining industry, notably in the iron and steel, iron-ore mining and tinplate industries, and also among workers at coke ovens and by-product works. General, marine and constructional engineering and shipbuilding showed reductions in the numbers unemployed, and a slight improvement also took place in the cotton and linen industries. In some other industries, however, such as building, the distributive trades, and certain food industries, the seasonal decline continued during January, while there was also a slight decline in the wool textile industry.

Among the workpeople (numbering approximately 12,000,000) insured against unemployment under the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the percentage unemployed at 24th January, 1927, was 12·1, as compared with 11·9 at 20th December, 1926, and 11·0 at 25th January, 1926. If coal mining is excluded at both dates, the percentages for all other industries taken together show a reduction from 12·1 at 20th December, 1926, to 11·6 at 24th January, 1927. The total number of applicants for employment registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 31st January, 1927, was approximately 1,375,000, of whom 1,083,000 were men and 213,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls; at 20th December, 1926, it was 1,357,000, of whom 1,075,000 were men and 222,000 were women, and at 1st February, 1926, it was 1,237,000, of whom 956,000 were men and 209,000 were women. The figures relating to 20th December, 1926, were exclusive of those workpeople in the coal-mining industry who were disqualified for unemployment benefit on account of the dispute.

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 an aggregate increase of nearly £20,000 in the weekly full-time wages of nearly 400,000 workpeople, and in a reduction of nearly £38,000 in those of 270,000 workpeople.

The workpeople whose wages were increased included a considerable number of railway traffic workers in Great Britain, who received an increase of 1s. per week, and workpeople employed in the textile bleaching, dyeing, finishing, etc., industries in Yorkshire, Lancashire, and Scotland, who received increases of varying small amounts (less than one per cent. on the previous rates).

Other workpeople whose wages were increased included bobbin makers in England and Wales, the majority of iron-ore miners in Cumberland, employees of water-works and electricity supply undertakings in various districts, road transport workers in Scotland, coal tippers at the principal coal export centres, workpeople employed in the seed-crushing and oil-milling industry, men employed by public works contractors in London, and wholesale warehouse workers at Manchester.

The principal group of workpeople affected by reductions were coal miners in Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Warwickshire, in whose case the percentage additions to basis rates were reduced by amounts equivalent to between 5 and 8 per cent. on the previous wages. Under the Trade Board Acts there were reductions of varying amounts in the minimum rates fixed for workpeople employed in the jute industry in Great Britain, and for those in the linen and cotton handkerchief and household goods and linen piece goods industry in Northern Ireland. Other workpeople whose wages were reduced included blastfurnace and iron and steel workers in South Wales and Monmouthshire, iron puddlers and millmen in the North of England and West of Scotland, coal trimmers at various ports, and men employed by civil engineering contractors.

COST OF LIVING.

At 1st February the average level of retail prices of all the commodities taken into account in the statistics compiled by the Ministry of Labour (including food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, and miscellaneous items) was approximately 72 per cent. above that of July, 1914, as compared with 75 per cent. a month ago and 73 per cent. a year ago. The corresponding figures for food alone were 64, 67 and 68 respectively.

The fall in the index-number at 1st February, as compared with a month earlier, was due to reductions in the retail prices of eggs, bacon, tea, margarine, flour, bread and coal.

These statistics are designed to indicate the average increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the pre-war standard of living of working-class families, and accordingly, in making the calculations, the changes in the prices of the various items included are combined in proportions corresponding with the relative importance of those items in pre-war working class family expenditure.

TRADE DISPUTES.

The number of trade disputes involving stoppages of work reported to the Department as beginning in January was 28. In addition, eight 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 15,300, and the estimated aggregate duration of all disputes during January was about 130,000 working days.

COMMITTEE ON UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

THE Report of the Committee of Enquiry appointed by the Minister of Labour in November, 1925, "to consider, in the light of experience gained in the working of the unemployment insurance scheme, what changes in the scheme, if any, ought to be made," was published on 11th February.*

The Committee was constituted as follows:—The Rt. Hon. Lord Blanesburgh, G.B.E. (Chairman); Miss Margaret Bondfield, M.P.; Sir James Curtis, K.B.E.; Professor H. W. Carless Davis, C.B.E.; Mr. J. Hamilton; Sir Hugo Hirst, Bart.; Mr. Frank Hodges; Mr. A. E. Holmes; Mr. Laurence Holt; Sir James Lithgow, Bart.; Sir William McClintock, K.B.E., C.V.O.; Viscountess Milner; and Sir Glynn Hamilton West; with Mr. J. A. Dale, C.B.E., of the Ministry of Labour, as Secretary.

The Committee was so constituted as to represent the interests not only of employers and workers, but also those of a more general character. It included a member conversant with the administration of the Poor Law and two chairmen of Local Employment Committees.

When the Unemployment Insurance (No. 2) Bill, 1924, was passing through the House of Commons, a provision was inserted which had the effect of necessitating further legislation in the near future. The intention of Parliament was no doubt to secure that in the meantime the whole question of unemployment insurance, on which many widely different views were held, should be thoroughly explored. The Report is signed without reservation by all the members.

The Committee sought evidence from many quarters. The National Confederation of Employers' Organisations, the Trades Union Congress General Council, and the Association of Poor Law Unions, were among the witnesses. Many other representative bodies tendered evidence; in particular, the opinions of the Local Employment Committees throughout the country were obtained.

The Report contains a historical review of unemployment insurance, tracing its genesis from the action of the Friendly Societies and Trade Unions in the nineteenth century to the original statute of 1911 (the National Insurance Act, Part II), which was applied to certain selected trades covering about two and a quarter million manual workers. The review explains the principles of the Act of 1920, which for the first time extended the insurance scheme to substantially the whole of the employed population, excepting agriculture and private domestic service, and it shows how, immediately after the passing of this Act, the post-war depression in trade led to various modifications. Their general effect was that there came to be two kinds of benefit, (i) "standard" benefit, to which persons were entitled who could fulfil the conditions of the 1920 Act, and (ii) "extended" benefit, granted in anticipation of future contributions to persons who could not fulfil the "standard" conditions, but were nevertheless genuinely unemployed. The Report explains how a surplus of £21,000,000 in the Unemployment Fund, which existed at the passing of the 1920 Act, was rapidly dispersed by the subsequent heavy unemployment, and how, in spite of great increases in the contributions, there was before the general strike still a deficit of £7,000,000. The general strike and the stoppage in the coal-mining industry set back a promising improvement in trade, and caused serious embarrassment to the Unemployment Fund, increasing the deficit to well over £21,000,000.

After a reference to the Recommendation of the first of the International Labour Conferences, convened in 1919 at Washington by the International Labour Organisation, to the effect that each country should establish a system of unemployment insurance, the Committee deal with the allegations so widely made that the unemployment insurance system is subject to widespread abuse. The conclusion reached is as follows:—

"It is true that a certain number out of the 11½ millions of insured persons have received relief to which they had no claim. But it is equally true that these cases are relatively few, and that result is, we think, due to the vigilance with which the Ministry, while dealing fairly with the genuine claimant, guards against abuse."

The Report refers to the special precautions taken by the Ministry in this regard, and to an investigation in 1925 which showed that of the claims to benefit current at the time well under five per cent. were considered to have been wrongly allowed, and of these it is observed that many were the subject of a legitimate difference of opinion between the officers who had conducted the investigation on the one hand and the Local Employment Committees and officers of the Ministry who had admitted them on the other. The cases here mentioned are not cases of fraud, in regard to which the Committee point out that the number is almost negligible. An observation from the Secretary of the Charity Organisation Society is quoted to the effect that the officials of the Charity Organisation Society were surprised to find, when they came to inquire into the matter, that the number of examples of abuse was very few. The quotation proceeds: "This does not, of course, prove that their previous impression was not a sound one; on the other hand, it may quite well prove that unfavourable instances impress themselves upon the memory, while the proper and smooth working of a scheme passes almost unnoticed."

The Committee recognise, however, that there are latent in all compulsory schemes of unemployment insurance subtle tendencies to abuse, and that "no system can claim to be completely satisfactory which does not by its corrective provisions succeed in neutralising these tendencies."

"For this purpose," they say, "a good scheme must necessarily contain limitations which would probably be rejected by the insured contributors, if the question were one exclusively for them. But the

* H.M. Stationery Office; price 1s. 6d. net.

presence of these limitations is the condition to which contributors may properly be required to submit, if only in return for the financial aid of the Exchequer. It is, we conceive, the duty of Parliament, when sanctioning the State contribution, to see to it that, while the scheme so subsidised is beneficial to the insured contributors, it is in no respect injurious to the public interest."

The Committee then proceed to deal with the principles of unemployment insurance. They point out that unemployment, as we know it, is a new phenomenon arising from the changes in the occupations of the population consequent on the introduction, in the early years of the last century, of steam power. They observe that, though they are dealing with unemployment insurance, "it would be unfortunate if pre-occupation with the task of ascertaining how best such unemployment can be insured against were to weaken any concerted effort to get rid of unemployment itself," and a number of suggestions, made by different members of the Committee, are set out.

It is urged that greater use should be made of the Employment Exchanges by employers; that every industry should be invited to survey its own unemployment problem; that proper attention should be paid to the entry of young persons into industry; that the system of training the unemployed for other occupations should be developed; and that there should be a comprehensive inquiry by the Ministry into the methods of recruitment and discharge of labour in industry. A reference is made also to the damaging effect on employment of stoppages of work due to trade disputes.

The Report then deals with unemployment insurance proper. "We have found," it says, "in all quarters a general agreement that the risk of unemployment should be insured. Nobody has suggested to us that the principle of unemployment insurance should be abandoned. It has been recognised by all who have appeared before us, and we ourselves share the view, that an unemployment insurance scheme must now be regarded as a permanent feature of our code of social legislation." There was general agreement also that the scheme should be compulsory. A voluntary scheme had not been suggested in any quarter, and the Committee did not think that such a scheme could be adequate to the need. It was agreed, too, on all hands that a permanent scheme should cover, at the least, all the occupations for which the existing scheme provides.

On the question whether the scheme should be contributory, there was a difference of opinion among the witnesses. Some of them thought that the contributory principle, viz., that the fund should be subscribed by the employer and the worker, as well as by the State, was an essential feature of any scheme worthy of support. On the other hand, the view was expressed that industry should be relieved of the burden of unemployment insurance, and that, on both economic grounds and grounds of equity, the charge involved should fall upon the general body of taxpayers. The Committee came to the conclusion that the formulation of a non-contributory scheme was not within their terms of reference, and they proceed to set out their views on a contributory scheme.

They lay down as follows the principal conditions with which a contributory scheme must comply:—

- (1) The worker's contribution must be moderate in amount. It should never normally exceed 5d. a week, and, supplemented by the contribution of his employer and the State, should secure him an insurance sufficient in the great majority of cases to save him, during inevitable unemployment, from recourse to public assistance.
- (2) The scheme must not, by the extent of benefit promised, tempt the insured contributor to improvidence when in receipt of good pay.
- (3) It should provide benefits definitely less in amount than the general labourer's rate of wage, so that there may be no temptation to prefer benefit to work.
- (4) It must not interfere unduly with the mobility of labour in this country.
- (5) It must not deter from emigration those who would be benefited by a life overseas.
- (6) Subject to these conditions, the scheme should be made as attractive in its benefits to the insured contributor, as, on a strictly actuarial basis, it is possible to make it.

They then set forth the outlines of the permanent unemployment insurance scheme:—

"(1) *Unemployment Fund.*—There should be an Unemployment Fund, subscribed in equal proportions by employers, employed, and the State, of amounts actuarially certified to be sufficient to enable the outgoings in benefits and administration to be met over a trade cycle.

"(2) *Scope.*—The classes of persons to whom the scheme is to apply should be substantially the same as under the present scheme. It should be compulsory on them and their employers.

"(3) *Rates of Benefit.*—There should be paid from the Unemployment Fund benefits at the following weekly rates:—

Men	...	...	...	...	17s.
Women	...	...	...	...	15s.
Adult Dependants (not more than one for any insured contributor)	...	...	...	...	7s.
Dependent children under the age of 14	...	...	...	...	2s.
Young Men aged 18 to 21	...	...	...	...	10s.
Young Women aged 18 to 21	...	...	...	...	8s.
Boys aged 16 to 18	...	...	...	...	6s.
Girls aged 16 to 18	...	...	...	...	5s.

"(4) *Conditions for the Receipt of Benefit.*—A claimant for unemployment benefit should be entitled to it, subject to a waiting period of six days, provided—

- that at least 30 contributions have been paid in the previous two years in respect of him; and
- that he is genuinely seeking work but unable to obtain suitable employment, and is capable of and available for work;
- that he is free from the disqualifications for benefit, showing particularly,
 - that he has not left his employment voluntarily without just cause or been dismissed for misconduct;
 - that he is not affected by the trade dispute disqualification.

"In the case of juveniles, the payment should also be conditional on attendance at an approved course of instruction, where such instruction is available.

"(5) *Contributions.*—The normal contributions payable by each of the three parties should be at the following weekly rates:—

Men	...	...	...	...	5d.
Women	...	...	...	...	3½d.
Young Men aged 18-21	...	...	...	...	4d.
Young Women aged 18-21	...	...	...	...	3d.
Boys aged 16-18	...	...	...	...	2½d.
Girls aged 16-18	...	...	...	...	2d.

"For the purpose of extinguishing the debt on the existing scheme when it is wound up, the following additions should be made to the above contributions, these additions to cease as soon as that debt is liquidated:—

Men	...	...	...	...	1d.
Women	...	...	...	...	½d.
Young Men aged 18-21	...	...	...	...	1d.
Young Women aged 18-21	...	...	...	...	½d.
Boys aged 16-18	...	...	...	...	½d.
Girls aged 16-18	...	...	...	...	½d.

"(6) *Administration.*—The scheme should be administered by the Ministry of Labour through the medium of the Employment Exchanges. Decisions on claims to benefit should be subject to an appeal to the Courts of Referees and in certain cases to the Umpire. Where benefit has been paid for a lengthy period, the claim should be specially reviewed by the Court of Referees.

The cost of administration should be a charge on the Fund, save that, if it exceeds in any year one-eighth of the contributions, the balance should, as at present, be paid by the Exchequer."

The Committee then explain the reasons which have led them to recommend a permanent scheme in this particular form. It will be seen that they propose that the contributions from the employer, the employed person, and the State should be equal.

The amount of the contributions must be settled with reference both to the benefits and the costs of administration, and also to the probable amount of unemployment. Experience appears to show that unemployment fluctuates with a certain degree of regularity over what is known as a "trade cycle," and they propose that the finance of the fund should be so arranged that incomings and outgoings balance over such a period. On the question of the average amount of unemployment over a trade cycle they consulted the Government Actuary, who, with the limited data at his disposal, said that, taking a broad view of the problem, he is inclined to think that in adjusting the finance of the scheme a rate of 6 per cent. should be assumed. On this basis the finance of the scheme has been settled. In order that a surplus or deficiency may not reach unwieldy proportions, an actuarial inquiry into the scheme is recommended every five years. Considerable emphasis is laid on the actuarial soundness of the scheme, and the Committee think it well to record their view that "no changes in the scheme should ever be made without due regard to their effect on the actuarial integrity of the scheme as a whole."

While, however, they were thus able to deal with the finance of the scheme so far as normal conditions are concerned, they found themselves now under the necessity of considering two embarrassing problems,—first, the heavy deficit created by the general strike and the stoppage in the coal-mining industry, and secondly, the "marked deterioration of the economic position of the country" which those disturbances created. As regards the debt which may remain when the existing scheme is wound up, they suggest its liquidation by an addition of a penny a week to the contribution of each of the three parties, to persist until it is wiped out. The second problem may have the effect of postponing the initiation of the new scheme, with its rates of contribution, though the Committee hope that this postponement will not be a matter of years but of months.

The Report next discusses the rates of benefit and the principles which should govern them. "Ideal benefits must not be more generous than is consistent with the necessary conditions of a good scheme as above set forth; on the other hand, they should certainly be so substantial that the insured contributor can feel that if he has the misfortune to need them, then, taken in conjunction with such resources as may reasonably be in the generality of cases be expected to have been built up, they will be sufficient to prevent him from being haunted while at work by the fear of what must happen to him if he is unemployed. Subject to these considerations, the amount of benefit must depend upon contributions that can fairly be called for."

The benefits of single men are to be reduced, while those of the married contributor are to be increased to the same degree. The rates for young men and women will be curtailed, and the Committee state that they have taken into account the report of Sir Donald

Maclean's recent Committee upon the effect on migration of schemes of social insurance* and also a considerable body of opinion in the Local Employment Committees.

The conditions for the receipt of benefit, stated in a condensed manner, are first, a payment of 30 contributions in the last two years, and secondly, the requirement that the claimant must be "genuinely seeking work." The Report discusses the question whether these limitations are too generous or too strict. "It is common ground that benefit must be confined to persons of good faith—genuinely unemployed claimants. That limitation is obviously necessary. It is also, we believe, common ground, and it is our view, that the insurance scheme, while excluding non-genuine cases, should not fail to provide benefits for all insured persons who can fairly be described as genuinely unemployed." Representatives of one school of thought had urged that the principle of the 1920 Act, which applies certain automatic limits of a more stringent character than those now proposed, should again be put into operation, but the Committee do not so recommend. They consider that, except in times of very good trade, those limitations would have the effect of excluding genuinely unemployed persons. They prefer to rely on the two conditions mentioned, and in so far as that requiring the payment of 30 contributions in the last two years would by itself entitle to benefit persons who should not be admitted, they rely on their being excluded under the second condition.

At this point, the Committee discuss the proposal put forward by the Association of Poor Law Unions, which is broadly to the effect that the "extended" benefit which, as previously stated, was super-imposed on the Act of 1920, should be abandoned, and that persons who would not be covered by a scheme so revised should be dealt with by the poor law guardians. This suggestion is "subject to a suitable scheme of Government aid by way of equalisation of the burden."

The Committee do not take the same view of the present unemployment insurance scheme as do the Association of Poor Law Unions. The suggestion that "extended" benefit represents something for which the contributors have not paid is in their view "only valid so far as the automatic limitations of standard benefit can fairly be said to define those payments which may alone be regarded as earned by contributions. But in insurance of other kinds the benefits are not related to the number of contributions. It is the damage done by the fire and not the number of fire insurance premiums which settles the compensation payable by a fire insurance company. Whatever else can be said about unemployment insurance, it has at least substantially paid its way." They have no desire to drive to the poor law persons who are genuinely unemployed. "The dislike of most insured persons to resort to poor law relief is natural and laudable. We would encourage it. Poor relief will be no less unwelcome to the genuinely unemployed, because it is partly provided by State funds." Further, they regard "regular Government aid to the local Public Assistance Authority for the purposes of outdoor relief to able-bodied unemployed as highly dangerous. . . . If such payments were to be made, it seems obvious that some State supervision would be necessary, and in cases of this kind, where assessments of individual claims are involved, supervision would mean control. It would then not be long before an organisation arose little different, in the eyes of the claimants, at least, from that required for the payment of unemployment benefit. It would be unfortunate if a state of things were created under which anyone whom the authorities of the insurance scheme declined to pay were paid at once by the guardians. In that case the administration of unemployment insurance would be seriously compromised, since if anyone to whom the authorities of the insurance scheme properly refused benefit could be at once relieved by the local guardians, partly out of moneys provided by the State, the refusal would be a matter of indifference to the claimant." For these reasons they are not able to accept the proposal of the Association.

The Report goes on to explain more fully what the words "genuinely seeking work" are to mean, and how they can be accurately applied in practice. As there is to be one form of benefit only and not as at present two, namely "extended" and "standard," they think that there should be a single procedure for determining claims, and they recommend that, where a man has drawn more than 13 weeks' benefit in six months, his claim should be automatically reviewed by the Courts of Referees. These bodies, consisting of a Chairman, who is a man of legal training, assisted by two assessors representing respectively the interests of employers and workers, at present deal with disputed cases of standard benefit, and the proposal is that they should extend their activities over the whole field of unemployment benefit. A tribute is paid to the work of the Rota Committees of the Local Employment Committees, who have hitherto advised the Ministry in regard to claims for extended benefit and dependants' allowances. These Committees have since their establishment dealt with millions of claims, and the Report states that "their public spirit and devotion are beyond all praise." The Committee desire to retain "what we consider to be the sound principle that there shall be an examination by an authoritative and impartial body of the cases of those who have drawn largely on the fund."

They propose that "among the statutory conditions for the receipt of benefit a fuller definition of the phrase 'genuinely seeking work' should be made, that being the condition on which the fate of many an applicant will rightly depend. . . . It would be useful to state that, in determining whether an insured contributor fulfils or continues to fulfil the statutory conditions, regard may be had to the following, among other, considerations: the period or

* Cmd. 2608. H.M. Stationery Office; price 6d. net. This Report was reviewed in the April, 1926, issue of this GAZETTE, pages 126-7.

periods of time during which he has been unemployed; his qualifications, experience or training in a particular occupation; his record of previous employment; his prospect of becoming re-employed in his previous or in his usual occupation; his efforts to obtain employment which there was a reasonable chance of his obtaining, having regard to the usual means of obtaining it." They make a recommendation on what is to be regarded as "suitable" employment. They point out that an insured contributor may be "fairly entitled to regard his contribution as enabling him to tide over intervals between spells of work in his own trade without being expected to accept any work which presents itself. But nobody could claim that this privilege should be indefinite." The claimant should therefore "remain entitled to decline employment in his own trade and district at wages and on conditions less advantageous than those which he habitually obtained or might reasonably expect; but if, after a reasonable period of unemployment there is no prospect within a reasonable time of his obtaining re-employment in his own trade with sufficient regularity, he will be expected to seek suitable employment in some other trade."

The Committee deal also with a matter which has given rise to some misgivings, namely, rights of appeal to the Umpire, who is the final authority on disputed claims to benefit. At present a trade union has a right to proceed from an adverse decision of the Court of Referees to the Umpire, but an individual contributor cannot do so without the consent of the Court. They recommend "that, while an appeal to the Umpire shall not lie on the part of an individual contributor, except with the leave of the Court of Referees, such leave shall be granted where it appears to the Court to be reasonable, having regard to the importance of the principle involved or the special circumstances of the case, that the claim should be finally dealt with by the Umpire."

In regard to the proposals for the adjudication of the claims to benefit as a whole, the Committee observe "that the insured contributors will have the security against unemployment which they are promised: that they will be under no doubt as to their rights, and that at the same time nobody will remain on the fund for any long period without the approval of an instructed, impartial and authoritative body, representing the interests both of employers and workers."

Having thus dealt with the main principles of the unemployment insurance scheme, they proceed to deal in the second part of their Report with a number of subsidiary problems.

The question of contracting out is fully explored. The Committee explain how the provisions of the 1920 Act for the secession from the general scheme of the whole of an industry, in order that it might have a "special scheme" of its own, were expected in 1920 to affect roughly one-third of the insured persons. The trade depression and difficulties of detail, as well as of finance, deferred most of the industries which considered the matter, and in the result the banking industry and the insurance industry alone have taken advantage of the privilege, which was suspended in 1921. The Committee report that "the experience of the last few years, with unemployment widespread in quarters which had previously been considered immune, has all but extinguished the desire for contracting out," and they do not recommend that any such provision should be continued.

They discuss a proposal that contracting out should be permitted on terms of a regular payment by the unit contracting out sufficient completely to compensate the general fund for the withdrawal, but they find great difficulties in it. They recognise, however, a possibility of a distribution of benefits in a particular industry more appropriate to the needs of the industry than that which is secured under the general scheme. The two existing special schemes they do not propose to disturb.

In regard to the scope of unemployment insurance, they discuss the inclusion of agricultural workers, private domestic servants, permanent railway employees, and permanent employees of local authorities, and recommend no change in the present position.

They do, however, propose a corollary to the requirement that a claimant to benefit must prove that he has paid 30 contributions in the two preceding years. "Where the conditions of an industry, or section of an industry, are such that persons following it are normally not engaged in insurable work long enough to enable them to fulfil that condition, it would be unfair to them to insist on any contribution. We recommend, therefore, that where such workers can show that in two successive years they have been unable, for such reasons as are above stated, to secure as much as a yearly average of 15 contributions, they should be entitled to claim exemption."

The Committee refer to the classes of dependants who should be eligible for dependants' allowances, and they propose that an unmarried wife, where there are no children, shall no longer be recognised.

The arrangements under which trade unions can administer the benefits in addition to their own out of work benefits are fully discussed, and it is proposed that it should be an invariable rule that whenever the State benefit is so paid out, it should be accompanied on each occasion by at least a minimum payment from the Union's own funds.

The position in insurance of married women is also considered, but the Committee did not see its way to recommend any change, nor to accede to proposals frequently made to the effect that when an insured woman marries, she should be given a lump sum if she has a credit of contributions in the Fund, and thereafter be disentitled to further benefit.

The Committee conclude with the following general statement of their endeavours: "We have now set out our findings in accordance with our terms of reference. First and foremost, we desire that all possible steps should be taken to reduce the evil of unemployment.

Where this result cannot be achieved, recourse must be had to a scheme of unemployment insurance. We have recommended a scheme which we believe will be of practical value to the insured persons when they are unemployed, and advantageous not to them only but to the employers and the State.

"We have considered it of the first importance so to frame our scheme that it is as free as possible from all injurious tendencies. The conditions of benefit are so devised as to admit of speedy payment to those who are genuinely entitled to them, and at the same time to make it as certain as is possible that these alone can establish a claim. The prior payment of 30 weekly contributions, the reduction in the rate of benefit of young persons, the periodical review of those who make lengthy claims on the fund by a competent, authoritative and impartial tribunal, namely, the Court of Referees, are expressly designed for this purpose. We have realised that the reputation of the scheme in the eyes of the insured persons must be continuously maintained. Otherwise the benefits, so far from maintaining the self-respect and independence of these persons when they are unemployed, will have precisely the opposite effect. We have realised, too, that the contributions must be moderate in amount, and the suggested reductions should be of assistance to all the contributors.

"It gives us especial pleasure to report to you that we have reached our findings unanimously. A spirit of compromise has been necessary, but we believe you will agree that the value of our recommendations is enhanced and not diminished by this fact, carrying with them some assurance, if you see your way to adopt them, that the unemployment insurance system may acquire a stability that hitherto it has sadly lacked, and, sponsored as it is, may claim, and we hope will receive, the support of the community generally."

EFFECT OF TEMPERATURE ON WORKING CAPACITY OF COAL MINERS IN DEEP MINES.

THE Industrial Fatigue Research Board have issued a Report* on the relation of atmospheric conditions (heat and ventilation) to the working capacity and the accident rate of coal miners.

It has been shown in some of the Board's previous investigations that physiologically unfavourable conditions may reduce working capacity, particularly where heavy muscular effort is required; but the evidence on this point as regards coal mining had previously been rather slight and contradictory. It was, therefore, decided to arrange for a special investigation into the difference in the working capacity of miners in the hotter and in the cooler seams, respectively.

The usual test of working capacity, viz., output, was inapplicable in this instance owing to the great variations in the ease of getting coal; and accordingly the tests selected were (i) duration of rest pauses, both voluntary and involuntary (caused by shortage of tubs, etc.), and (ii) time required to fill tubs.

The investigation extended over five months, and was carried on in two adjoining collieries in the Eastern Division. One of these was selected because it offered a very wide range of temperature conditions, some of the working places being only at from 540 to 660 feet below the surface, while others reached a depth of from 2,655 to 2,715 feet, where the temperature was as high as 82 degrees (wet bulb). The levels, and consequently the temperatures, at the other colliery showed less variation. One hundred and thirty-eight men were watched for an average period of 96 minutes each; and it was found that while, under the most favourable conditions, (as tested by the "cooling power" of the air, i.e., the natural temperature, as modified by ventilation) the men rested on the average for seven minutes in every hour, under the least favourable conditions they rested for twenty-two minutes. Tub filling took 8.0 minutes under the former conditions and 9.6 minutes under the latter; and the rate of production of the men was calculated to be 41 per cent. less under the most adverse than under the most favourable conditions.

At one of the pits, almost all the coal was mined on the "pillar and stall" system; under this system headings are driven into the coal face at intervals, divided by pillars which are subsequently removed. At the other pit the system generally used was the "longwall" system, under which the whole of the coal is removed at once over a broad face. Ventilation is obviously less obstructed under the longwall system; indeed, it was found that the average air velocity at pillars and headings was only half that at longwall faces.

The accident rate also appears to be influenced by atmospheric conditions. At one colliery, where the "cooling power" of the atmosphere in three seams was 15.2, 11.3 and 10.2 respectively, the accident severity rate (i.e., the rate of accidents calculated in proportion both to their frequency and to their severity, as measured by length of absence from work entailed) was 3.2, 4.8, and 4.9 respectively. Also at one colliery, where the ventilation in the airways was worse than in the other, the accident severity rate for underground workers (other than colliers and trammers) was 55 per cent. greater than in the other colliery. At the coal face, however, where the ventilation in the first of these collieries was better than in the second, the severity rate for colliers and trammers was only 4 per cent. in excess.

The question then arises how these adverse conditions can be mitigated; and it is suggested in the Report that this can be done by ventilation, with the proviso that ventilation that is adequate for the shallower and cooler seams is insufficient for the deep and hot seams. It is understood that this question is engaging the attention of a Committee on Temperature in Deep and Hot Mines, set up by the Institution of Mining Engineers.

* Industrial Fatigue Research Board: Report No. 39. H.M. Stationery Office; price 1s. 3d. net.

LABOUR LEGISLATION IN 1926.

THE following is a brief review of the principal measures affecting labour enacted during the year 1926:—

The *Coal Mines Act, 1926*, received the Royal Assent on the 8th July. Under the *Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1908*, as amended by the *Coal Mines Act, 1919*, the hours during which ordinary workers in coal mines might be below ground were normally restricted to seven hours a day, from the end of the time fixed for lowering the shift to the beginning of the time fixed for raising the shift; but this might be extended, by not more than one hour a day, on not more than 60 days in any calendar year. The new Act, which is to continue in force for five years, cancelled the qualifying words italicised above, thus permitting the seven hours to be increased to eight on any day without restriction.

Fuller particulars of the provisions of the Act will be found in the July, 1926, issue of this GAZETTE (page 242).

The *Mining Industry Act, 1926*, which received the Royal Assent on the 4th August, seeks to promote the re-organisation of the coal mining industry by encouraging undertakings engaged in the industry to introduce schemes of amalgamation or of absorption. It also removes, in the case of coal, certain limitations in the *Mines (Working Facilities and Support) Act, 1923*. It provides for the raising of a new levy (called the royalties welfare levy) of 5 per cent. on the rental value of rights to work coal and of mineral wayleaves, the proceeds to be devoted to the provision of pithead baths and other welfare schemes. It authorises the Minister of Labour, after consultation with associations of employers and workmen, to make regulations restricting (up to the 31st December, 1929) the entrance into the industry of persons over 18 years of age who were not employed therein on the 30th April last. It empowers companies engaged in coal mining to introduce profit-sharing schemes. It also empowers the Board of Trade, after the expiration of two years, to make regulations providing for the constitution of a joint pit committee at coal mines, where the Board are satisfied that the management has not provided adequate opportunity for mutual discussion between the workers and the management of matters of common interest in regard to the working of the mine.

Fuller particulars of the provisions of the Act will be found in the August, 1926, issue of this GAZETTE (pages 283-4).

The *Unemployment Insurance Act, 1926*, which received the Royal Assent on the 30th June, extends until the 31st December, 1927, the following periods:—

- (1) The period (prescribed by Section 1 of the *Unemployment Insurance (No. 2) Act, 1924*) during which benefits may be paid under the *Unemployment Insurance Acts*;
- (2) The period (prescribed by Section 3 (2) of the same Act, as amended by Section 2 of the *Unemployment Insurance Act, 1925*) during which the Minister may waive the satisfaction of the first statutory condition for the receipt of benefit (which requires the payment of 30 contributions within a prescribed recent period);
- (3) The period (prescribed by Section 5 (1) of the *Unemployment Insurance Act, 1925*) during which arrangements with associations for the administration of State unemployment benefit may be made or allowed to continue on the same conditions as at present in regard to the amount of supplementary benefit to be paid from the association's private funds.

Under Section 8 of the *Economy (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1926*, which received the Royal Assent on the 16th June, 1926, the Exchequer contribution to the *Unemployment Fund* is reduced, as from the 5th April, 1926, to 6d., 4½d., 3d., and 2½d. a week in respect of men, women, boys, and girls, respectively. The Act makes no alteration in the benefit provisions of the *Unemployment Insurance Acts*.

The *Lead Paint (Protection against Poisoning) Act, 1926*, received the Royal Assent on the 15th December. Particulars of the provisions of this Act, and of the draft regulations issued thereunder, will be found in last month's issue of this GAZETTE (page 13).

The *Workmen's Compensation Act, 1926*, which also received the Royal Assent on the 15th December, amends subsection (2) of Section 11 of the *Workmen's Compensation Act, 1925*. Subsection (1) of Section 11 of the 1925 Act provides that any weekly payment may be reviewed at the request either of the employer or of the workman. Subsection (2) provides that, in the case of a workman who meets with an accident when he is under 21 years of age, the amount of the weekly payment, where the review takes place more than six months after the accident, and before the workman attains the age of 21, may be increased on the basis of what he would have been earning on the date of the review had he remained uninjured. This two-fold requirement created hardship in certain cases, in that, if a man was injured at any time during the last six months before reaching the age of 21, it was impossible for him to comply with the foregoing conditions.

Under the 1925 Act, as now amended, the review is allowed, provided it takes place more than six months after the accident and the application for review is made before, or within six months after, the workman attains the age of 21 years.

All the above Acts may be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, at any of the addresses stated on the cover of this GAZETTE, at the following prices (net, excluding postage):—*Coal Mines Act, 1926*, 1d.; *Mining Industry Act, 6d.*; *Unemployment Insurance Act, 1926*, 1d.; *Economy (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 6d.*; *Lead Paint (Protection against Poisoning) Act, 1d.*; *Workmen's Compensation Act, 1926*, 1d. A memorandum (Cmd. 2604) setting forth the objects of the *Economy (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act*, and the financial results expected therefrom, may also be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, at the price of 2d.

"FACTORS IN INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL EFFICIENCY." SURVEY BY THE COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRY AND TRADE.

THE Committee on Industry and Trade, who issued a "Survey of Overseas Markets" in July, 1925,* and a "Survey of Industrial Relations" in April, 1926,† have now issued a further volume with the above title.‡

The first chapter is concerned with industrial structure. It opens with an account of combination among manufacturers and commercial organisations, tracing in some detail the history of combination (whether by permanent consolidation or by terminable agreement) in Great Britain and in the principal British industries. Some particulars are also given of American, German, and French developments, and of international combinations. This is followed by a summary of the history, and an account of the present position, of the co-operative movement in Great Britain. As regards joint stock companies, particulars are given of their total number and capital, and the number of shareholders and average size of holdings in a number of large companies. Note is then taken of the present statutory requirements, and modifications which have been suggested, in regard to giving publicity to the trading results of companies.

The second chapter deals at length with the subject of industrial training and recruitment. First, a description is given of the present position in regard to workshop training, particular attention being concentrated upon the apprenticeship system. A full account is then given of the provision made, both in England and Wales and in Scotland, for technical and commercial education, whether in full-time technical and commercial schools, etc., in evening classes, or in the Universities. This section also contains some particulars as to the provision made in certain foreign countries for technical and commercial education. The chapter concludes with a description of the existing arrangements for advising boys and girls as to suitable employment and assisting them to obtain it.

In the third chapter, dealing with the subject of standardisation, a general account is given of the standard units of measurement, of standards prescribed by Government, and of the progress of voluntary standardisation. Information is given as to the position of industrial standardisation in the British Dominions and in foreign countries. The work of the British Engineering Standards Association is described, and an account is given of the simplification movement in the United States.

Chapter IV consists of a full description of the assistance given by the State towards research in industry since the establishment of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research in 1916. The work of the Research Associations is reviewed, and an account given of other methods of advancing industrial research. Mention is also made of the arrangements for co-operation between the Home Authorities and Imperial bodies.

Chapter V consists of a memorandum on the present position of British industries in respect of industrial art, which was furnished to the Committee by the British Institute of Industrial Art. It discusses the subject from the general point of view, including references to the work of schools of art and of local art museums; and it gives an account of the position in a number of industries where artistic design plays an important part.

In the sixth chapter, measures adopted by the State for meeting post-war difficulties of industry are described in some detail under the headings: measures of a financial character (e.g., Trade Facilities Acts, Export Credit Schemes, preference in public contracts, etc.), customs duties, import prohibitions, treatment of foreign enterprises and individuals, and marking of imported goods.

The final chapter contains a collection of material, mainly statistical, in regard to the profits of industry and trade, national savings, and charges upon industry. Under the last head particulars are given in regard to certain aspects of the incidence of local rates, social charges (i.e., health and unemployment insurances and workmen's compensation), and railway transport, as factors in cost of production.

EARNINGS AND HOURS IN THE FOOD, DRINK, AND TOBACCO INDUSTRIES.§

IN the following Tables particulars are given of the earnings and hours of labour in the food, drink and tobacco industries in 1924, as shown by the returns received from employers in response to the general inquiry instituted in 1925 by the Ministry of Labour. The details supplied in the returns relate to four dates in 1924, viz., the weeks ended 19th January, 12th April, 12th July and 18th October. The figures given below are subject to slight revision when later returns are included. For an explanation of the scope and nature of the inquiry, reference should be made to the article on page 196 of the issue of this GAZETTE for June, 1926.

I.—NUMBER OF RETURNS RECEIVED AND NUMBER OF WORKPEOPLE COVERED.

The number of returns received, giving information regarding earnings, and the average number of workpeople covered, as shown by the average of the numbers in the four weeks specified above, in this group of industries, are as shown in the following Table:—

* See the July, 1925, issue of this GAZETTE, page 234.
 † See the April, 1926, issue of this GAZETTE, page 127.
 ‡ H.M. Stationery Office; price 5s. net.
 § Particulars relating to various other groups of industries have been published in the issues of this GAZETTE for June, 1926-January, 1927.

Industry.	Number of	
	Returns received.	Workpeople covered.*
Grain milling	1,643	25,570
Bread baking	10,968	77,370
Biscuit manufacture	63	21,058
Cocoa, chocolate and sugar confectionery	648	59,103
Preserved food, jams, and sauces	511	33,843
Bacon curing and sausage making	637	10,232
Fish curing	405	6,763
Sugar refining	41	9,531
Seed crushing and cattle food manufacture	192	15,011
Brewing, malting and bottling	1,934	59,818
Spirit distilling and compounding	202	6,976
Aerated waters, cider, etc.	1,138	14,063
Tobacco	218	34,369
Other food†	1,177	16,334
All the above	19,777	390,041

The following Table shows the total number of workpeople, including adults and juveniles, employed by firms which have made returns as to earnings, in each of the four specified weeks of 1924, together with the proportions of males and females employed, as shown by the averages of the numbers in the four weeks:—

Industry.	Number of workpeople employed in the week ended				Proportion of	
	19th Jan.	12th Apr.	12th July.	18th Oct.	Males.	Females.
Grain milling	25,780	25,565	25,168	25,769	94.1	5.9
Bread baking	76,095	76,854	78,428	78,104	84.5	15.5
Biscuit manufacture	20,030	20,492	21,377	22,332	40.8	59.2
Cocoa, chocolate and sugar confectionery	57,757	55,835	58,563	64,258	29.2	70.8
Preserved food, jams, and sauce	30,750	30,317	40,295	34,008	32.0	68.0
Bacon curing and sausage making	10,078	10,056	10,192	10,603	77.6	22.4
Fish curing	5,069	5,395	8,782	7,806	51.3	48.7
Sugar refining	9,621	9,247	9,474	9,782	91.4	8.6
Seed crushing and cattle food manufacture	15,085	15,812	14,140	15,006	93.5	6.5
Brewing, malting and bottling	59,615	59,056	59,258	61,341	83.9	16.1
Spirit distilling and compounding	7,299	6,903	6,580	7,124	76.4	23.6
Aerated waters, cider, etc.	12,722	13,518	16,056	13,955	66.6	33.4
Tobacco	34,224	33,494	34,099	35,660	27.9	72.1
Other food†	16,150	16,285	16,456	16,444	79.3	20.7
All the above	380,275	378,829	398,868	402,192	64.7	35.3

II.—AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS.

The following Table shows the average actual earnings per head, in the four specified weeks, of the workpeople employed by the firms making returns, together with the average earnings of males and females, as shown by those returns which gave separate particulars. It should be observed that the workpeople covered by the returns include workers of all ages, including boys and apprentices and other juveniles. Owing to the fact that certain firms were unable to separate the wages paid to males and females respectively, the numbers of males and females for whom particulars are given separately in Sections (B) and (C) of the Table add to less than the total numbers given in Section (A) of the Table.

The relative levels of average earnings, shown for the different industries, are, of course, affected by the variations in the proportions of males and females, and of adults and juveniles employed:—

Industry.	Number of Workpeople covered.*	Average earnings (for time actually worked) in the week ended				Average of the Earnings in the four weeks.
		19th Jan.	12th April.	12th July.	18th Oct.	
Grain milling	25,570	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Bread baking	77,370	52 10	52 6	57 3	57 3	54 11
Biscuit manufacture	21,058	38 6	39 10	41 1	39 10	39 10
Cocoa, chocolate and sugar confectionery	59,103	35 5	35 9	36 10	37 4	36 4
Preserved food, jams, and sauce	33,843	38 8	35 7	39 2	35 11	36 9
Bacon curing and sausage making	10,232	48 2	47 9	48 1	48 2	48 1
Fish curing	6,763	40 3	41 4	37 3	44 7	40 9
Sugar refining	9,531	58 4	59 2	67 10	61 1	61 7
Seed crushing and cattle food manufacture	15,011	54 9	56 0	62 11	55 7	54 10
Brewing, malting and bottling	59,818	52 8	54 1	54 7	54 5	53 11
Spirit distilling and compounding	6,976	50 2	51 8	52 2	51 5	51 4
Aerated waters, cider, etc.	14,063	41 2	41 4	41 6	42 1	41 6
Tobacco	34,369	43 8	41 1	44 3	41 4	42 7
Other food†	16,334	46 8	47 4	48 3	47 2	47 4
All the above	390,041	45 7	45 11	46 10	46 4	46 2

* Averages of the numbers employed in the four weeks.
† Including margarine making, grist milling, etc.

Industry.	Number of Workpeople covered.*	Average earnings (for time actually worked) in the week ended				Average of the Earnings in the four weeks.
		19th Jan.	12th April.	12th July.	18th Oct.	
(B) MALES.						
Grain milling	23,043	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Bread baking	56,549	54 5	54 5	59 1	59 3	56 9
Biscuit manufacture	6,631	49 6	51 2	52 7	51 9	51 3
Cocoa, chocolate and sugar confectionery	13,560	59 11	62 4	63 2	64 3	62 5
Preserved food, jams, and sauce	9,301	56 3	56 7	64 0	56 9	58 6
Bacon curing and sausage making	6,688	55 4	54 8	55 4	55 6	55 2
Fish curing	3,222	52 1	52 6	55 9	58 2	54 9
Sugar refining	6,362	63 4	65 9	75 0	68 4	68 0
Seed crushing and cattle food manufacture	11,116	56 1	57 0	54 2	57 4	56 2
Brewing, malting and bottling	47,457	56 11	59 3	59 11	60 2	59 1
Spirit distilling and compounding	5,242	58 4	59 1	59 11	59 8	59 3
Aerated waters, cider, etc.	8,605	49 3	50 1	51 1	50 10	50 4
Tobacco	7,905	72 1	66 8	71 5	67 7	69 5
Other food†	12,542	52 5	53 0	54 0	53 3	53 2
All the above	218,223	55 11	56 8	58 2	57 9	57 2

Industry.	Number of Workpeople covered.*	Average earnings (for time actually worked) in the week ended				Average of the Earnings in the four weeks.
		19th Jan.	12th April.	12th July.	18th Oct.	
(C) FEMALES.						
Grain milling	1,437	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Bread baking	10,386	26 7	26 8	27 10	27 7	27 2
Biscuit manufacture	9,630	25 0	24 11	25 1	24 9	24 11
Cocoa, chocolate and sugar confectionery	32,868	28 5	29 4	31 2	30 3	29 10
Preserved food, jams, and sauce	19,840	24 11	25 3	26 0	26 8	25 9
Bacon curing and sausage making	1,931	26 9	26 4	25 6	26 8	26 4
Fish curing	3,056	21 11	23 0	24 11	25 1	26 9
Sugar refining	600	24 5	27 7	32 0	27 6	28 0
Seed crushing and cattle food manufacture	773	27 5	26 8	27 1	28 4	27 5
Brewing, malting and bottling	9,100	27 3	27 7	28 2	27 10	27 9
Spirit distilling and compounding	1,623	25 5	26 2	27 9	27 6	26 8
Aerated waters, cider, etc.	4,324	22 9	23 6	24 1	23 2	23 5
Tobacco	20,410	32 10	31 6	35 8	32 9	33 2
Other food†	3,281	25 6	26 10	27 5	26 3	26 6
All the above	119,259	26 11	26 11	28 7	28 0	27 8

III.—NORMAL HOURS OF LABOUR.

The following Table shows the proportion of the workpeople employed by firms making returns on this subject, whose normal weekly hours, exclusive of meal-times, in the week ended 18th October, 1924, fell within the limits stated, and the average normal hours:—

Industry.	Number of Workpeople covered.	Percentage of employees whose normal weekly hours were						Average weekly normal hours.
		44 or less.	44½ to 46½.	47	47½ to 47½.	48	Over 48.	
Grain milling	25,350	31.2	2.3	39.2	1.4	8.8	17.1	46.7
Bread baking	75,405	6.2	7.9	4.6	0.8	52.3	28.2	48.9
Biscuit manufacture	22,332	5.1	1.2	14.0	4.6	72.9	2.2	47.6
Cocoa, chocolate and sugar confectionery	64,242	35.3	7.3	29.5	2.6	23.3	2.0	46.2
Preserved food, jams, and sauce	34,007	18.6	8.1	23.4	5.2	38.4	6.3	46.8
Bacon curing and sausage making	10,458	6.5	9.3	10.8	2.9	41.9	28.6	48.6
Fish curing	7,245	6.8	3.0	3.8	2.3	19.6	64.5	51.3
Sugar refining	9,705	9.0	14.2	56.3	7.9	2.2	10.4	47.2
Seed crushing and cattle food manufacture	16,499	36.3	10.5	39.8	0.5	8.2	4.7	45.7
Brewing, malting and bottling	60,731	8.2	7.5	14.2	2.1	51.4	16.6	47.9
Spirit distilling and compounding	7,122	22.9	23.2	23.8	2.6	4.8	22.7	46.9
Aerated waters, cider, etc.	13,856	6.4	5.8	23.3	3.5	56.0	5.0	47.4
Tobacco	35,640	4.7	25.0	14.2	2.9	53.1	0.1	47.1
Other food†	16,319	12.1	3.1	7.8	5.7	43.7	27.6	48.3
All the above	398,911	15.5	8.8	19.2	2.7	39.8	14.0	47.5

In the grain milling, sugar refining and seed crushing industries a considerable proportion of the workers were shown as being employed on shift systems. In the grain milling industry 7,005 shift workers were employed. Of these, 764 were employed on a system of 2 shifts, usually of 8 hours, with one or two short shifts on Saturday.

* Averages of the numbers employed in the four weeks.
† Including margarine making, grist milling, etc.
‡ Except in the case of those shift workers for whom no definite meal interval was agreed upon.

Of the 6,241 workers on a system of 3 shifts, 2,356 were employed for 6 morning, 5 afternoon and 5 night shifts in successive weeks, the hours per shift being 8 on Monday to Friday and usually 12 on Saturday, though in some cases the Saturday shift was of 6 to 10 hours. A further 1,902 workers were employed for 6 morning, 6 afternoon and 5 night shifts, the hours per shift being 8 on Monday to Friday and usually 6 on the Saturday morning and afternoon shifts. Another 886 operatives worked 5½ morning, afternoon and night shifts of 8 hours on Monday to Friday and 4 hours on Saturday. The remainder worked under various 3-shift arrangements.

In the seed crushing industry there were 7,226 shift workers, of whom 6,867 were working on 3-shift systems. In the case of 2,979 of these the system consisted of 6 morning, 6 afternoon and 5 night shifts, 1,650 working shifts of 8½ hours on Monday to Friday and 6½ hours on Saturday and the remainder working 8 hour shifts, with a shorter Saturday shift in some cases. In addition, 1,910 operatives worked 6 morning, 5 afternoon and 6 night shifts of 8 hours in successive weeks, 1,159 worked 6 morning, 6 afternoon and 6 night shifts of 8 hours. In the sugar refining industry there was a considerable variation in the systems of shift working. In the case of 1,181 workers there were 6 morning, 6 afternoon and 6 night shifts of 8 hours on Monday to Friday and 7 hours on Saturday; 1,359 worked the same number of shifts, but the hours on Saturday were 8 in the morning and 5 in the afternoon; and 765 worked 6 morning, 5 afternoon and 6 night shifts of 8½ hours on Monday to Friday, 11 hours on Saturday morning and 12 hours on Sunday night. In the beet sugar factories 756 operatives were working on a system of 7 shifts per week, of 8 hours on Monday to Saturday and of 2 hours, 10 hours and 12 hours on Sunday in successive weeks.

IV.—HOURS ACTUALLY WORKED.

The following Table shows the average number of hours actually worked in the four specified weeks by the workpeople employed by firms who were able to supply these particulars:—

Industry.	Number of Workpeople covered.*	Average Hours worked in the week ended				Average Hours worked in the four weeks.
		19th Jan.	12th April.	12th July.	18th Oct.	
Grain milling	15,696	47.5	46.8	48.1	48.0	47.6
Bread baking	29,736	48.7	49.1	48.4	48.3	48.6
Biscuit manufacture	11,038	46.2	47.3	48.0	49.5	47.8
Cocoa, chocolate and sugar confectionery	35,643	41.9	43.2	44.2	45.5	43.8
Preserved food, jams, and sauce	19,452	45.0	44.7	47.0	45.2	45.5
Bacon curing and sausage making	6,480	48.3	47.8	47.2	48.8	48.0
Fish curing	2,386	47.5	49.3	50.8	49.9	49.7
Sugar refining	2,794	49.8	48.1	49.6	49.3	49.2
Seed crushing and cattle food manufacture	9,625	45.5	46.9	44.9	47.1	46.1
Brewing, malting and bottling	34,842	47.0	47.6	48.2	47.7	47.6
Spirit distilling and compounding	5,451	48.5	48.5	48.2	48.5	48.4
Aerated waters, cider, etc.	6,685	44.5	45.3	46.9	45.7	45.7
Tobacco	28,203	43.7	40.5	44.0	40.3	42.1
Other food†	10,015	46.9	47.9	48.7	47.3	47.7
All the above	218,046	45.8	45.8	46.8	46.4	46.2

V.—AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS.

The following Table shows the average earnings per hour of those workpeople covered by returns which showed the number of hours actually worked. As some firms were unable to give particulars of the number of hours worked, the average weekly earnings obtained by multiplying the average hourly earnings shown below by the average hours shown in Section IV do not correspond precisely with the average weekly earnings shown in Section II. Comparisons of the average earnings shown for different industries are, of course, affected by the different proportions of males and females, and of adults and juveniles, employed as between one industry and another.

Industry.	Number of Workpeople covered.*	Average Hourly Earnings in the week ended				Average Hourly Earnings in the four weeks.
		19th Jan.	12th April.	12th July.	18th Oct.	
Grain milling	15,696	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
Bread baking	29,736	13.6	13.6	14.6	14.6	14.1
Biscuit manufacture	11,038	9.6	9.6	9.8	9.4	9.6
Cocoa, chocolate, and sugar confectionery	35,643	10.5	10.8	10.7	10.5	10.6
Preserved food, jams and sauce	19,452	10.0	9.9	10.6	10.0	10.2
Bacon curing and sausage making	6,480	11.9	11.8	12.1	11.7	11.9
Fish curing	2,386	11.1	10.8	9.1	10.5	10.2
Sugar refining	2,794	15.0	15.1	16.5	15.6	15.6
Seed crushing and cattle food manufacture	9,625	14.6	14.5	14.2	14.4	14.4
Brewing, malting and bottling	34,842	13.3	13.5	13.4	13.5	13.4
Spirit distilling and compounding	5,451	12.6	13.0	13.2	13.0	12.9
Aerated waters, cider, etc.	6,685	10.9	10.9	10.7	10.9	10.8
Tobacco	28,203	12.3	12.4	12.4	12.7	12.5
Other food†	10,015	12.2	12.1	12.1	12.2	12.1
All the above	218,046	12.1	12.2	12.2	12.2	12.2

* Average of the numbers employed in the four weeks.
† Including margarine making, grist milling, etc.

VI.—EXTENT OF SHORT TIME.

The following Table shows the proportion of workpeople employed by firms making returns, who were reported to be working less than full time, together with the average number of hours lost per week by such workpeople, and the average time lost by all the workpeople covered by the returns. Workpeople "stood-off" for the whole of any of the weeks specified have been regarded as unemployed, and have not been taken into account in compiling the statistics:—

Industry.	Number of Workpeople covered.*	Proportion of Workpeople on Short Time in the week ended			
		19th Jan.	12th Apr.	12th July.	18th Oct.
Grain milling	24,597	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Bread baking	72,052	3.3	4.5	2.2	1.2
Biscuit manufacture	20,776	1.1	0.5	0.3	0.5
Cocoa, chocolate and sugar confectionery	56,886	14.9	9.4	1.2	2.5
Preserved food, jams and sauce	31,700	17.2	16.7	12.8	6.4
Bacon curing and sausage making	10,018	14.7	20.2	7.7	10.6
Fish curing	5,404	1.			

the number of shifts worked. In other words, there was little change, if any, in the relative incidence of accidents during 1926, when compared with the experience of recent years.

Of the total of 648 deaths from fatal accidents at mines under the Coal Mines Act, 332 were due to falls of ground (including 225 at the working face and 106 on underground roads), and 131 were due to haulage accidents (including 117 caused by persons being run over or crushed by trams or tubs while working underground). Of the remaining 185 deaths from accidents at mines under the Coal Mines Act, 5 were due to explosions of fire damp or coal dust, 26 to shaft accidents, 18 to the use of explosives underground, 23 to accidents on railways, sidings, or tramways on the surface, and 113 (61 underground and 52 on the surface) to miscellaneous causes.

Falls of ground accounted for 24 out of the 67 deaths at quarries during 1926.

DIAGRAMS ILLUSTRATING LABOUR STATISTICS.

A SPECIAL Supplement, which is included with the present issue of this GAZETTE, contains a selection of diagrams, etc., illustrating some of the principal official statistics relating to labour conditions. Explanatory notes with regard to each of these diagrams are given below:—

Wages in Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The first diagram shows the average movement of weekly rates of wages in Great Britain and Northern Ireland in the past seven years, the average level of rates of wages at the end of each month in the years 1920-1926 being expressed as a percentage of the average level at the end of July, 1914 (taken as 100).

A detailed account of the nature of the information used in arriving at the figures on which the diagram is based was given in an article on the relative level of rates of wages immediately before the war and at September, 1925, which appeared in the issue of this GAZETTE for October, 1925. It was pointed out in that article that it is not possible to calculate exactly the average percentage increase in rates of wages generally since 1914, and the position of the curve should be regarded as furnishing only an approximate indication of this percentage increase at any one date, so far as suggested by the incomplete information in the possession of the Department. The curve is believed, however, to represent with a close approach to accuracy the average changes in weekly wage rates which took place in the period from the beginning of 1920 to the end of 1926.

It should be noted (a) that as the weekly working hours have been reduced since 1914 in nearly all industries, the percentage increases in hourly rates of wages would be greater than the increases indicated by the diagram, which deals with weekly rates of wages; and (b) that the diagram relates to rates of wages for a full ordinary week, and not to actual earnings (inclusive of the effect of short-time, overtime, variations in the amount of work done by pieceworkers, etc.), as to which statistics are not available.

Comparative Levels of Real Wages: International Comparison.

This graph is constructed from the figures in column 7 of the Table in the article giving an international comparison of the Levels of Real Wages, on page 80 of the present issue of this GAZETTE. For further information on this subject, and for particulars as to the sources of information and methods employed in computing the figures referred to, reference should be made to the GAZETTE for July, 1923, *et seq.* (particularly to the articles published in that month on pp. 236 and 237, and in November, 1924, on page 392), and to the *International Labour Review* (published by the International Labour Office, Geneva) for October, 1924.

Points to be observed in comparing the levels indicated by the diagram are:—

- (1) The "wage" measured is the average of the hourly rates of wages in a number of typical urban male occupations in the cities represented;
- (2) The measure used to calculate the purchasing power of this average "wage" may be assumed to be the cost in each capital city of a basket of foodstuffs in which the quantity of each article is as nearly as possible an average of the quantities of that article in the working-class household budgets taken by the International Labour Office as typical of the countries represented.

Food Prices and Cost of Living.

The curves in this diagram relating to the changes in retail food prices and in working-class cost of living generally since July, 1914, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, are constructed from the statistics compiled by the Department, and published regularly in this GAZETTE, relating to the changes in the cost of maintaining the pre-war standard of living of working-class families (see page 57 of the present issue—particularly the Table at the foot of the second column of that page). A detailed explanation of the methods by which these statistics are compiled was given in the February, 1921, issue of the GAZETTE, and a summarised account in the July, 1923, issue.

The curve relating to retail food prices in 1913 and January to July, 1914, is based on index numbers which were regularly compiled, for many years before the war, by the Labour Department of the Board of Trade, representing the average percentage changes in the retail prices, in London, of 23 of the principal articles of food consumed by working-class families. These figures are published in the "Eighteenth Abstract of Labour Statistics of the United Kingdom" (Cmd. 2740, 1926).

The curve relating to wholesale food prices is constructed from the index numbers regularly computed by the "Statist," in continua-

tion of those formerly computed by Mr. Augustus Sauerbeck, relating to the changes in the prices of 19 articles of food. The original index numbers, which are computed monthly on the basis of the average prices of the 11 years 1867-77 (taken as 100), have been converted, for the purpose of the diagram, into percentages of the figures for 1913 (taken as 100) and averaged for quarterly periods.

In any comparison of the curves for wholesale and for retail food prices it should be noted that the articles included in the Sauerbeck "Statist" index number are not identical with those in the Ministry of Labour index number, and that there are other important differences in the construction, and, consequently, in the significance, of the two sets of figures. For these reasons caution is necessary in drawing inferences from relatively small divergences in the courses of the respective curves.

Changes in Cost of Living in Various Countries.

This diagram is based on the figures of percentage changes in the cost of living in this country and in various countries abroad, published month by month in the MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE (see, for example, page 79 of the present issue). It is to be noted that, while these percentages are derived from the most authoritative sources of statistical information, neither they nor the curves constructed from them can be taken as affording an exact comparative measure of the changes in the cost of living in the countries represented, for the reason that in no two countries are the nature and scope of the statistical data used alike, nor are the methods of combining such data and the periods for which the change is measured identical. In every case, however, the calculation of the fluctuations in the cost of living is on the basis of an identical standard of living at the various periods compared.

Trend of Unemployment in Various Countries.

This diagram is intended to show for a number of overseas countries, as well as for this country, the extent to which unemployment has increased or declined from month to month during the period commencing 1st January, 1920, and ending 31st December, 1926.

For each country the extent of the rise or fall between any two months is measured by the change in the percentage of members of Trade Unions or other similar workers' organisations returned as being totally unemployed in that country at a given date in the respective months. These percentages have been published regularly in the MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE throughout the period covered by the diagram (see, for example, page 79 of this issue).

It may help to prevent an erroneous interpretation of this diagram if attention is drawn to the cautionary note by which these percentages are preceded in each issue of the GAZETTE. The point there emphasised is that the percentages of unemployment reported for two or more countries at a given date do not constitute an accurate measure of the relative levels of unemployment prevailing in those countries at that date. One of the chief reasons for this is that in no two countries are the workpeople who are organised in Trade Unions equally representative of the general body of industrial wage earners. Other reasons, together with a detailed description of the differences in the bases of the official statistics of unemployment amongst Trade Unionists, published in various countries, will be found in the publications dealing with methods of compiling statistics of unemployment, forming No. 7 of Series "C" and No. 7 of Series "N" of the "Studies and Reports" issued by the International Labour Office in Geneva.

Unemployment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

A diagram is given showing the fluctuations in the percentages unemployed (a) in the period 1912-1926 among workpeople insured against unemployment under the Unemployment Insurance Act, and (b) in the period 1900-1926 among certain trade unions (mainly of skilled workers) which paid out-of-work benefit to their members and made regular returns to the Department. Monthly statistics under each of these headings have been published regularly in this GAZETTE, and figures for 1926 and previous years were published on page 2 of the January, 1927, issue. As regards insured workpeople, a summary of the monthly percentages from the beginning of 1921 up to September, 1924, was given on page 354 of the October, 1924, issue; the percentages for each month in 1926 and for January, 1927, will be found on page 53 of this issue. An account of the data employed and the methods used in compiling the statistics appeared on page 397 of the GAZETTE for November, 1923; and an explanation of the method of computing the estimated numbers of persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, on page 380 of the issue for November, 1925.

Under the original National Insurance Act, which came into operation in 1912, unemployment insurance applied only to certain industries, and to about 2½ million workpeople. In July, 1916, the scope of unemployment insurance was extended to include workpeople employed on munitions work and in certain other industries, and this extension brought the total number insured up to about 3½ millions at the end of 1916. In 1920, unemployment insurance was extended, by a new Act, to substantially all industries, except private domestic service and agriculture, and the number of workpeople now covered is just over 12 millions.

Number of Persons on the Registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain.

The figures on which this diagram is based relate to the total number of persons (whether insured against unemployment or not, and including short-time workers and others temporarily stopped from the service of their employers not actually employed on the dates to which the returns relate), registered at Employment

Exchanges in Great Britain at the end of each month in the period 1921-6. The figures are communicated regularly to the Press, and published monthly in this GAZETTE (see, for example, the article on page 66 of this issue).

Effect of the Coal-Mining Stoppage on Employment in Certain Groups of Industries.

This diagram shows the percentage rates of unemployment among insured workpeople, from April to December, 1926, in the industrial groups which were most affected by the stoppage in the coal-mining industry, and in all the other industries taken together. The figures for the more important industries, on which this diagram is based, were given in the January issue of this GAZETTE (pages 6 to 10).

Industrial Disputes.

Statistics are regularly compiled by the Department, based on returns obtained from the employers, or their associations, and from the trade unions concerned, as to the numbers of workpeople involved in industrial disputes causing stoppages of work, and as to the numbers of working days lost owing to disputes, at establishments where the disputes occur. Statistics for January, 1927, will be found on page 77 of this issue of the GAZETTE.

The diagram contained in the Supplement, showing the aggregate duration, in working days, of the disputes reported in the years 1900-1926, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, is based on the statistics so compiled: the actual figures for these years (up to 1925) were published, together with other statistics on this subject, on page 201 of the June, 1926, issue of this GAZETTE; and the figures for the year 1926, which are preliminary and subject to revision, were published on page 4 of the issue for January, 1927. The figures are exclusive of disputes involving less than 10 workpeople, or lasting less than one day, except when the aggregate duration (*i.e.*, number of workpeople involved multiplied by the number of working days) exceeds 100 days. The inclusion of such small disputes, however, would not materially affect the figures relating to aggregate duration.

Trade Unions.

The diagram illustrating the changes in the membership of Trade Unions in Great Britain and Northern Ireland is based on the statistics given in an article in the November, 1926, issue of this GAZETTE (page 398). The figures relate to the total membership of all employees' societies—including those of salaried and professional workers, as well as those of manual wage-earners—known to include among their functions that of negotiating with employers with the object of regulating conditions of employment. All such societies with headquarters in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, whether registered under the Trade Union Acts or not, are included.

Profit-sharing.

This diagram is based on the statistics contained in the annual article on Profit-sharing and Labour Co-partnership which appeared in the June, 1926, issue of this GAZETTE (pages 202-4). It shows the number of employees participating (or entitled to participate) in schemes of profit-sharing or of labour co-partnership reported to the Department as in operation in Great Britain and Northern Ireland in the years 1910 to 1925. The figures illustrated are exclusive of profit-sharing and co-partnership schemes in co-operative societies, as to which statistics are not available for all the period covered.

INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES IN ACCIDENT RATES.

The Industrial Fatigue Research Board have issued a Report* containing the results of an investigation, carried on by means of psychological tests, into individual differences in susceptibility to industrial accidents.

Two questions arise in this connection: First, do individuals in fact differ in their individual susceptibility, so that under equal conditions of risk some will incur accidents whilst others will escape; and, secondly, if this is so, in what measurable respects do such susceptible individuals differ from their fellows?

To the first of these questions, an affirmative reply can be given at once. Investigations have shown† that the observed distribution of accidents is very different from what would be expected on the theory of pure chance, but is quite consistent with the conception that some individuals, through the possession of certain personal qualities, are unduly liable to accident. It has also been found that the specially susceptible individuals constitute a comparatively small group. If, therefore, an answer could be obtained to the second of the above questions; if, that is, it were found possible to detect and measure this abnormal susceptibility by appropriate tests, it might become possible to arrange that unsafe persons were placed in occupations involving the minimum of risk to themselves and others, and thus reduce substantially the number of industrial accidents.

* A Psychological Study of Individual Differences in Accident Rates.—Industrial Fatigue Research Board; Report No. 38. H.M. Stationery Office; price 2s. 6d. net.
† See Report No. 34 of the Industrial Fatigue Research Board (H.M. Stationery Office; price 5s. net). A notice of this Report appeared in the April, 1926, issue of this GAZETTE, page 123.

The present Report embodies the result of a first step towards the discovery of an answer to this question. Briefly, the method adopted has been to apply selected psychological tests to a large number of workers in different occupations, and to compare the results of the tests with the accident records of the subjects examined.

Six hundred and fifty-one subjects were chosen, of whom 611 were boy apprentices in Government dockyards and in the Royal Air Force, while 40 were women workers in a sweet factory. The final weighted results show a difference of 48 per cent. in accident rate between those above and those below the averages in the tests. The majority of tests yielded positive indications, and differentiation by the tests was consistently associated with differentiation by accident rate. In short, the present results suggest that it is practicable to determine in a rough way the probability of any individual sustaining an undue number of accidents; and, as more research work is done and the methods become more refined, this probability should tend to approximate more and more to certainty.

THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF LABOUR STATISTICIANS.

THE issue of the *International Labour Review** for January, 1927, contains a Report on the Third International Conference of Labour Statisticians, convened by the International Labour Office, which was held at Geneva from 18th to 23rd October, 1926, and was attended by representatives of twenty-six Governments, including that of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.†

Four subjects were included in the Agenda of the Conference:—

- (1) Methods of Family Budget Inquiries;
- (2) Statistics of Collective Agreements;
- (3) Statistics of Industrial Disputes;
- (4) Classification of Industries.

For the first three of these subjects the procedure adopted was that all members of the Conference sat on each of the Committees; for the fourth, a special small Committee was appointed. Apart from one minor alteration, the Reports and Resolutions of the Committees were adopted at the closing plenary session of the Conference without amendment. The full text of the Resolutions adopted is given in the *International Labour Review* mentioned above.

(1) Family Budgets.

The Committee on Family Budgets resolved that, in order to provide adequate information with regard to actual standards of living, enquiries should be conducted at intervals generally of not more than ten years into the income, expenditure and conditions of living of families representative of large homogeneous sections of the population. On the question whether the extensive or intensive method of inquiry is preferable, it was decided that it is desirable to cover as many families as possible, even though this may interfere with the determination of a number of details. In view of the great difficulties involved in obtaining an adequate number of conscientious reports covering a whole year, it was finally agreed, after detailed discussion, that although this method should undoubtedly be given the preference, as it alone can offer complete and fully comparable results, yet for the determination of current expenditure it is sufficient if the inquiry covers four weeks in all—either one week in each quarter, or two fortnights in different seasons of the year. For expenditure which occurs at irregular intervals supplementary annual accounts would be needed or records on which to estimate the annual expenditure.

It was decided that, for a complete inquiry, information should be collected as to the district in which the family resides, the composition of the household (by sex and age), the industries and occupations of members of the family, the nature of the housing accommodation, and the amount of each important item of family income and expenditure, together with quantities of purchases, where practicable. It was agreed, however, that a less detailed investigation, omitting the particulars of the family income, would be sufficient where the sole object of an inquiry is to provide "weights" for the calculation of cost-of-living index-numbers. Further resolutions related to the method and detail of presentation of the results of the inquiries.

(2) Collective Agreements.

After considerable discussion as to whether collective agreements could in general be regarded as a suitable subject for statistical treatment, a resolution was adopted giving expression to the general wish that information on collective agreements should be collected and published in summary form, and urging that any statistics compiled on the basis of this information should be compiled in accordance with general principles which were laid down. These principles provided for the classification of collective agreements according to the nature of the contracting parties, the territorial scope of the agreement, the period of its validity, the method of its conclusion, the subjects dealt with in it, and the industries and the numbers of establishments and of workers covered by it.

* Published in the United Kingdom by George Allen & Unwin, Ltd.; price 2s. 6d.

† For some account of previous conferences see the issues of this GAZETTE for December, 1923, and October, 1925.

(3) Disputes.

Two general questions occupied much of the time of the Committee on Statistics of Industrial Disputes, viz., the definition of an industrial dispute and the distinction between strikes and lock-outs. The definition which was ultimately adopted defined an industrial dispute as a temporary stoppage of work wilfully effected by a group of workers or by one or more employers, with a view to enforcing a demand. This definition makes no limitation as to the motives of the dispute or the nature of the demand. A question which aroused much greater controversy was whether or not statistics should make a distinction between strikes and lock-outs. The International Labour Office had regarded this distinction as non-essential: the statistician was therefore not called upon to make so delicate a decision as the fixing of the responsibility for the stoppage of work in each particular case, this being the real meaning of the distinction between a strike and a lock-out. Many speakers were opposed to this view, and eventually, a vote being taken, it was resolved by a majority that it is desirable to make, as far as possible, a distinction between strikes and lock-outs.

Subsequently it was resolved that statistics should show the numbers of disputes, the numbers of establishments and workers affected, the duration and the number of man-days lost, and that there should be classifications according to the matters in dispute, the results and methods of settlement, the industries affected and the magnitude of the disputes. It was also recommended that for the purpose of comparing the risk of industrial disputes, frequency and severity rates of disputes should be calculated. It was decided that the classification of disputes by the amount of wages lost should be left to the domain of national statistics.

(4) Classification of Industries.

On this matter it was agreed that the International Labour Office should be requested to continue the comparative survey of existing classifications that it had begun, and in particular that, with the assistance of the Governments, it should define clearly the contents of the industrial groups in each national list, after which an attempt should be made to compare the existing classifications and to adapt them by degrees to a uniform schedule.

EMPLOYMENT OF DISABLED EX-SERVICE MEN.

THE latest returns show that there are approximately 27,500 firms on the King's National Roll. The number of disabled ex-Service men employed by these firms is approximately 375,000.

At 26th January, 1927, the number of men in training was 386, and the number awaiting training 86. Since August, 1919, 99,825 men have terminated training.

COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS IN HOLLAND IN 1925-26.

ACCORDING to a Report* recently published by the Dutch Central Statistical Office, the number of collective agreements concluded in Holland during recent years continues to show a general tendency to decline. Although the number recorded as being in force on 1st June, 1926, was slightly higher than the figure for the corresponding date in the previous year, the number of establishments and workers covered was less. The highest point, as regards the number of agreements in force, was reached in June, 1920, when 983 agreements were in force, covering 22,500 establishments and 273,600 workers. (See this GAZETTE for July, 1925, page 236.) The corresponding figures for the last three years are:—

Date (1st June).	Number of Agreements in force.	Number of Establishments Covered.	Number of Workers Covered.
1924	819	16,500	285,300
1925	748	16,800	266,100
1926	763	16,400	261,600

The principal groups of industries covered by the collective agreements in force on 1st June, 1926, were building (103,312 workers), mining and peat-digging (34,709 workers), transport (22,745 workers), and foodstuffs (21,227 workers).

The period of validity of 70 of the 763 collective agreements in force on 1st June, 1926, was unknown; of the remainder, 666 were concluded for a period of one year or less, while the validity of the rest varied between one and five years, one only having a duration of five years. In the case of 488 agreements, covering 234,990 workers, provision was made for the settlement of disputes by mediation, while in 706 agreements, covering 232,539 workers, provision was made for the payment of wages in case of sickness. Paid holidays (in the majority of cases for periods up to eleven days per annum) were provided for in 546 collective agreements affecting 106,384 workers.

* Overzicht van den Omvang en den voornaamsten Inhoud der collectieve Arbeidsvereenkomsten op 1 Juni 1926. Central Statistical Office, The Hague, October, 1926.

THE OCCUPIED POPULATION OF FRANCE IN 1921.*

THE results of the French population census of 6th March, 1921, classified according to the occupations of the people, have now been published. The classification of the total occupied population covers heads of undertakings, manual and non-manual workers, unemployed, and "isolated" workers (small employers, workers in irregular employment working for various employers, and home workers). In order that a comparison may be made with previous censuses the results of the 1921 census have been shown both excluding and including Alsace-Lorraine, i.e., for 87 and for 90 departments respectively. In 1921 the total population of France was 38,797,540 in 90 departments and 37,102,417 in 87 departments, and in 1906, 38,844,653. The following Table indicates the total numbers of persons engaged in the main occupational groups, the figures for 1906 being added for purposes of comparison:—

Group.	Total Number of Persons engaged.		
	1921.		1906.
	90 Departments.	87 Departments.	87 Departments.
Fishing	72,450	72,283	78,000
Agriculture and forestry ...	8,951,039	8,660,248	8,777,053
Mining and quarrying ...	317,607	276,725	281,027
Manufacturing	6,181,441	5,909,182	5,979,216
Transport	1,184,414	1,130,499	887,337
Commerce, banking and entertainments	2,253,529	2,171,640	2,002,681
Professional occupations ...	590,492	567,555	483,179
Domestic services	847,566	823,307	1,012,232
Public services	1,322,006	1,232,366	1,220,154
Total	21,720,604	20,843,805	20,720,879

The number of unemployed persons included in the figures in the above Table for 1921 is 537,150 in 90 departments and 522,917 in 87 departments, as compared with 238,657 in 1906.

The total number of manual workers in all branches in 1921 was 8,761,682 in 90 departments and 8,307,361 in 87 departments, as against 7,906,959 in 1906; the corresponding figures for non-manual workers are 2,698,630, 2,559,970 and 2,117,487 respectively. The distribution of manual and non-manual workers (excluding employers, unemployed and "isolated" workers) over the various occupational groups was as shown in the following Table:—

Group.	Numbers of Manual and Non-Manual Workers occupied.					
	1921.		1906.			
	90 Departments.		87 Departments.		Manual.	Non-Manual.
	Manual.	Non-Manual.	Manual.	Non-Manual.		
Fishing	24,404	420	24,365	419	27,503	363
Agriculture and forestry	2,809,723	5,245	2,687,941	5,184	2,658,153	5,677
Mining and quarrying	294,198	13,170	255,489	11,548	256,509	8,202
Manufacturing	3,622,527	390,546	3,426,806	370,881	3,180,944	211,286
Transport	505,642	242,589	465,765	234,051	265,667	164,300
Commerce, banking and entertainments	248,362	836,571	237,800	807,446	269,482	567,234
Professional occupations	59,757	294,814	57,001	281,801	40,422	196,309
Domestic services	768,971	21,367	748,354	20,114	913,499	38,742
Public services	428,098	893,908	403,840	828,526	294,780	925,374
Total	8,761,682	2,698,630	8,307,361	2,559,970	7,906,959	2,117,487

One of the striking features of the census is the increase of more than 450,000 in the number of female non-manual workers between 1906 and 1921. On the other hand, the increase in the number of female manual workers was proportionately lower than that for males.

CHANGES IN WAGES IN DENMARK: SECOND QUARTER OF 1926.‡

RECENT issues of the journal of the Danish Statistical Department contain statistics of wages for the second quarter of 1926, compiled from returns furnished by the Danish Employers' Association.

The number of workpeople covered by the latest returns is approximately 98,000, all of whom are employed by members of the Association; the industries most strongly represented being metal and engineering (22,900), building (12,300), pottery, glass and stone (10,100), food preparation (9,600), printing and paper (6,800), textile (6,600) and tobacco (5,600).

The average earnings in each group of occupations are obtained by dividing the total amounts paid out in the quarter by the aggregate number of hours worked, whether such work be on a time or piece basis. The general result of the computation shows that, if the

* Bulletin du Ministère du Travail et de l'Hygiène, July-August-September, 1926, Paris; and Bulletin de la Statistique générale de la France, July, 1926, Paris.

† The previous census, taken in 1911, dealt also with occupations; but the method of classification followed does not permit of a comparison being made with the 1921 figures.

‡ Statistiske Efterretninger, 18th and 29th December, 1926. Copenhagen.

country be taken as a whole, average hourly earnings amounted to 1.36 kroner (as compared with 1.42 kroner in the first quarter of 1926 and 1.53 kroner in the last quarter of 1925), and that average hourly earnings on the whole were 171 per cent. above the level of 1914. For skilled workmen they decreased from 1.87 kroner in the last quarter of 1925 to 1.67 kroner in the second quarter of 1926, and for unskilled workmen from 1.50 kroner to 1.32 kroner. The average hourly earnings of women also decreased, from 0.97 kroner to 0.90 kroner.*

It is stated that since June, 1926, there has been a further reduction in the majority of industrial earnings, and that at present these are estimated at about 1.59 kroner for skilled men, 1.26 kroner for unskilled men and 0.86 kroner for women.

The Danish Statistical Department has also collected details of earnings during the second quarter of 1926, relating to about 10,000 workpeople employed in establishments not belonging to the Employers' Association. These have been added to the number reported upon by the Association, and a weighted average of the hourly wages paid in each group has been computed by taking into account the trade union membership of each industry at the end of 1924. The results show some slight variations from the earnings computed from the employers' data, which are based on a simple average. The general weighted average of hourly earnings throughout the country in the second quarter of 1926 was 1.37 kroner (as compared with 1.36 kroner computed on the employers' data alone). For skilled workmen the average was 1.64 kroner (as compared with 1.67 kroner); the average for unskilled workmen (1.32 kroner) was the same in both cases; while that of women workers was 0.87 kroner (as compared with 0.90 kroner).

LABOUR DISPUTES ABROAD.

(1) CZECHOSLOVAKIA, 1925.

A RECENT report† of the Czechoslovak Statistical Office deals with the labour disputes that occurred in 1925. In that year there were 280 strikes, directly affecting 135,692 workers and involving a loss of 1,080,960 working days, with a consequent loss in wages of 31,339,400 Czech crowns. In addition, 2,862 persons, not being the actual strikers, were rendered idle by strikes and lost 37,700 working days and wages to the extent of 1,178,394 Czech crowns.

The following Table classifies the principal causes of the strikes and the results attained from the point of view of the workpeople:—

Principal Cause of Strikes.	Results of Strikes.				
	Successful.	Partially Successful.	Failed.	Result not known.	Total.
Wage questions	18	118	35	15	186
Questions respecting employment of particular classes or persons	13	5	11	3	32
Other causes	13	16	8	4	41
Cause not known ... ..	...	...	...	21	21
Total	44	139	54	43	280

The number of lock-outs which occurred in 1925 was 14, affecting 28,172 workers and involving a loss of 364,197 working days and of 7,502,268 Czech crowns in wages. The results of the lock-outs are given from the employers' point of view, viz., successful 2, partially successful 6, and result unknown 6. Seven of the lock-outs occurred in the metal industry: these affected 27,952 workers directly, and involved a loss of 359,533 working days and of 7,387,703 Czech crowns in wages.

(2) DENMARK, 1921-1925.

THE following particulars regarding labour disputes in Denmark during the period 1921-1925 have been taken from a Report‡ recently issued by the Danish Statistical Department:—

Year.	Number of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople affected.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days.
1921	103	48,089	1,321,184
1922	29	48,841	2,271,991
1923	57	1,981	19,677
1924	71	9,758	174,987
1925	47	102,351	4,138,486
Total	307	211,000	7,926,325

In addition to the disputes shown in the above Table, there were others for which the Danish Statistical Department had no detailed information; of such disputes there were 7 in 1921, 2 in 1922, 1 in 1923, and 2 in 1925.

Two important disputes occurred during the period under review, one in 1922 and the other in 1925. The first was a lock-out affecting 47,958 workers and causing a loss of 2,265,463 working days; the second, partly lock-out and partly strike, affected 95,090 workpeople and involved the loss of 4,021,901 working days. This latter dispute is the most serious ever experienced in Denmark, and the loss in wages is estimated at about 48,000,000 kroner.*

* The exchange value of the Danish krone is approximately 1s. 1d.
† Rapports de l'Office de Statistique de la République Tchécoslovaque, Nos. 29-32, 1926. Prague. The exchange value of the Czech crown is approximately 1s. 1d.

‡ Strejker og Lockout i Danmark, 1921-25. Copenhagen, 1926.

LABOUR DISPUTES AND COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS IN NORWAY IN 1925.

THE Norwegian Central Statistical Office has recently published a report* dealing with labour disputes and collective agreements in 1925.

(1) Labour Disputes.—In 1925, there were 84 disputes affecting 13,752 workpeople and causing a loss of 666,650 working days, as compared with 61 disputes in the previous year, which affected 63,117 workpeople and involved the loss of 5,152,386 working days. Of the 84 disputes, 10 were lockouts (affecting 1,226 workpeople, and causing a loss of 61,803 working days); 72 were strikes (12,517 workpeople and 604,466 days); and 2 were boycotts (9 workpeople, and 381 days).

The chief cause of disputes during 1925 was disagreement about new collective agreements, mainly in connection with questions of wages or other conditions established by such agreements.

In the following table are shown the industries most severely affected by disputes in 1925, measured by the loss in working days.

Industry.	Number of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople Affected.	Aggregate Loss in Working Days.
Food preparation	9	3,180	159,680
Stone, pottery, etc.	10	2,054	167,929
State undertakings	8	4,933	132,817
Woodworking	20	599	69,028
Engineering	1	480	41,260

(2) Collective Agreements.—At the end of 1925, there were in existence 464 collective agreements covering 121,095 workpeople; the corresponding figures for the end of 1924 are 409 and 111,476 respectively. The agreements of 1925 include 40 national agreements affecting 83,000 workpeople.

In 203 out of 357 agreements for which wages data are available for both years, wage rates increased from 1924 to 1925, 72,066 workpeople being affected. Wage increases varied considerably in the different trades and industries. So far as information on the point is available, minimum rates of wages were laid down in 170 agreements covering 54,550 workpeople, and standard rates in 26 agreements covering 4,281 workpeople; while one agreement, affecting 6,610 workpeople, contained provisions for both minimum and standard rates.

Of the total number of agreements in force at the end of 1925, provision for an annual paid holiday of eight days was made in 162 agreements affecting 56,949 workpeople, and for a holiday of twelve days (two weeks) in 230, affecting 55,917 workpeople.

TRADE UNIONS ABROAD.

(1) CZECHOSLOVAKIA, 1924.

THE Statistical Office of the Czechoslovak Republic has published recently in one of its Reports† statistics showing the number of workers organised in trade unions and confederations of trade unions at 31st December, 1924.

At this date there were in existence 467 trade unions with 1,669,456 members, of whom 1,420,118 were members of 314 trade unions which were themselves affiliated to twelve confederations of trade unions. The twelve confederations were composed of seven federations of Czechoslovak trade unions comprising 225 trade unions with 898,893 members, four federations of German trade unions comprising 73 trade unions with 310,614 members, and one federation of communist trade unions comprising 16 trade unions with 210,611 members. Of the 249,338 members of 153 trade unions which were not affiliated to any confederation, 214,532 were members of 113 Czechoslovak trade unions and 34,806 were members of 40 German trade unions.

The following Table shows, for 1923 and 1924, the federated and non-federated membership of each type of trade union as a percentage of the total membership of all trade unions for the year in question, and the number of federated and non-federated trade unions of each type:—

Type of Trade Union.	Membership as a Percentage of Total Trade Union Membership for the year.				Actual numbers of Trade Unions concerned.			
	1923.‡		1924.		1923.		1924.	
	Federated.	Non-Federated.	Federated.	Non-Federated.	Federated.	Non-Federated.	Federated.	Non-Federated.
Czechoslovak	53.90	14.97	53.84	12.85	210	116	225	113
German	18.73	2.04	18.61	2.08	77	37	73	40
Communist	10.36	...	12.62	...	12	...	16	...
TOTAL	82.99	17.01	85.07	14.93	299	153	314	153

It should be noted that the membership of Czechoslovak and German trade unions is not confined to persons of these nationalities. In 1924, in the Czechoslovak unions, 93.18 per cent. were Czechoslovaks, 4.67 per cent. Germans and 2.15 per cent. persons of other nationalities; whilst in the German unions 98.68 per cent. were

* Møttingsinstitusjonens virksomhet. Tariffavtaler og arbeidskonflikter, 1925. Oslo, 1926.

† Rapports de l'Office de Statistique de la République Tchécoslovaque, Nos. 29-32, 1926. Prague.

‡ The total membership of all trade unions in 1923 was 1,627,506.

Germans, 1.02 per cent. Czechoslovaks, and 0.30 per cent. persons of other nationalities. The Communist unions contained 80.47 per cent. Czechoslovaks, 12.73 per cent. Germans, 3.68 per cent. Hungarians, and 3.12 per cent. persons of other nationalities.

(2) NETHERLANDS, 1925.

ACCORDING to a report in the monthly journal* published by the Central Statistical Office of Holland, the total membership of the Dutch trade unions on 1st January, 1926, was 493,400, representing a decrease of 4,000 as compared with the total for the corresponding date in 1925. As will be seen from the summary given below, there was a slight increase during 1925 in the number of organised manual workers, but a considerable decrease in the number of non-manual workers, both in public and in private employment:—

Date.	Manual Workers.	Non-Manual Workers.		Total.
		In Private Employment.	In Public Employment.	
1st January, 1925 ...	272,800	45,000	179,600	497,400
1st January, 1926 ...	273,800	43,800	175,800	493,400

The following Table shows the distribution of membership among the seven central federations:—

Federation.	Number of Members.	
	1st January, 1925.	1st January, 1926.
N.V.V. (Social Democratic) ...	184,500	190,200
Christian Trade Union Federation ...	50,050	48,300
Roman Catholic Federation ...	91,900	90,500
Neutral Federation ...	23,800	13,200
N.A.S. (Communist) ...	13,750	13,600
Syndicalist Federation ...	7,300	6,200
Federation of Non-manual Workers ...	16,600	16,300
Unaffiliated to any federation ...	109,600	115,200
Total ...	497,500	493,500

(3) SWITZERLAND, 1925.

ACCORDING to the *Rapports Economiques*† of the Swiss Federal Department of Public Economy, the majority of Swiss trade unionists are members of unions affiliated to the *Union Syndicale Suisse*, and the total membership of such unions in the years 1913, 1916, 1919, and 1922-25 was as follows:—

Year.	Membership at end of Year.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
1913 ...	80,706	8,692	89,398
1916 ...	77,772	10,876	88,648
1919 ...	179,682	43,906	223,588
1922 ...	133,427	21,265	154,692
1923 ...	135,603	15,798	151,401
1924 ...	138,230	13,272	151,502
1925 ...	137,433	12,564	149,997

The decline in membership in 1925, as compared with 1924, is stated to be due chiefly to the fact that, during the year, about 1,000 workers withdrew from the Federation of Swiss Lithographers.

The total number of wage earners in Switzerland, according to the 1920 Census, was 1,327,089, and the 149,997 persons who were members of the *Union Syndicale Suisse* at the end of 1925 therefore represent 11.3 per cent. of this total.

An analysis of the membership of the *Union* shows that, of its 149,997 members, 93,619 (or 62.4 per cent.) were employed in private undertakings and 56,378 (or 37.6 per cent.) were employed in public undertakings, of which latter number 36,533 (or 24.3 per cent.) were employed in railway undertakings. Of the 93,619 in private undertakings, 42,709 (28.5 per cent.) were engaged in the metal and watch and clock making industries, 17,753 (11.8 per cent.) in building, 11,602 (7.7 per cent.) in commerce, transport and food industries, 11,322 (7.6 per cent.) in textiles, and the remaining 10,233 (6.8 per cent.) in various other industries.

REORGANISATION OF MINISTRIES IN DENMARK.†

A ROYAL Resolution dated 14th December, 1926, provides for the creation of a Danish Ministry of Health and, at the same time, for the abolition of the Ministry of Social Affairs set up in April, 1924 (see the issue of this GAZETTE for June, 1924, p. 197). The new Ministry will take over the functions of the Ministry of Social Affairs, with the exception of matters relating to labour conditions, conciliation and arbitration in labour disputes, employment exchanges and unemployment insurance, and extraordinary unemployment relief, which will be transferred to the Ministry of the Interior. In addition, the Ministry of Health will take over from the Ministry of the Interior all matters concerning health, hygiene, etc., and also from the Ministry of Justice, matters relating to the quarantine service and opium legislation.

* Maandschrift van het Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek, 30th November, 1926. The Hague.

† *Rapports Economiques de la Feuille Officielle Suisse du Commerce*, November, 1926. Berne.

‡ *Socialt Tidsskrift*, December, 1926. Copenhagen.

THE FIVE-DAY WEEK IN AMERICAN INDUSTRY.

THE issue of the *Monthly Labour Review* for December, 1926 (published by the United States Bureau of Labour Statistics) contains an article on the five-day week in American industry. No general survey of the subject, it is stated, has ever been made, but a good deal of information is available in the material obtained by the Bureau of Labour Statistics in its recent investigation regarding wages and hours in various industries and its studies of collective agreements in organised trades.

Of the larger industries, the five-day week is most common in the men's clothing trade, in which no less than 45 per cent. of the establishments covered, and nearly one-third of the workers, were found to be working the five-day week. The forty-hour week, however, was not usual, the average hours being 44.3 per week.

Under recent agreements, most of the fur workers are working a five-day week of forty hours, provision being made for some Saturday work in the busy autumn season. This industry employs about 14,000 persons.

Similarly, organised cloth hat and cap makers in New York and Philadelphia have concluded agreements whereby they work a five-day week of 44 hours, which is to be reduced to 40 hours a week in 1927. In addition, the following workers work a five-day and, in most cases, a forty-hour week: in New York—waterproof clothing makers, cutters, pressers and buttonhole makers, the members of the cloak, skirt, dress and reefer makers' unions, and of the ladies' tailors and dressmakers' union, and, in Boston, the organised cloak, skirt and dressmakers.

In some of the building trades, the five-day week is fairly well established. More than six per cent. of the union membership covered by the 1926 inquiry of the Labour Statistics Bureau were working on this basis, the trades most affected being lathers, painters and plasterers. In addition, the five-day week is not infrequent in the granite and stone trades.

In the printing and publishing of newspapers, especially those in foreign languages, a working week of forty hours or less, but worked variously in five or six days, is quite frequent. In about five per cent. of all the newspaper printing trades covered by the Bureau's 1926 inquiry the weekly working time was found not to exceed 40 hours.

Other organised industries, in which the five-day week was found to exist to a greater or less extent, were: bakers, 1.4 per cent. of those covered by the inquiry, and laundry workers, 7.8 per cent.

In the cardboard box industry, the inquiry made by the Bureau early in 1925 showed that in 60 per cent. of the establishments, employing about two-thirds of the workers, the persons engaged on productive work were working a regular five-day week.

In foundries and machine shops, 3.8 per cent. of the undertakings employing 3.5 per cent. of the workers, had a regular five-day week. In addition, about 1 per cent. of the undertakings and workers alternated between a five-day week and a full six-day week. The actual weekly hours were usually in excess of forty, although a few undertakings limited their working time to a five-day week of forty hours.

The iron and steel industry as a whole still has many workers on rather long hours, but the five-day week exists in some occupations in certain undertakings. Thus 2.1 per cent. of all the employees covered by the Bureau's inquiry of 1926 worked a regular five-day or five-night week. Most of the five-shift workers were in the bar mills (13 per cent. of the total number of workers) or in the puddling furnaces (6 per cent. of the total number of workers).

In addition, there has been, of recent years, a significant extension of the practice of Saturday closing in the summer months. The practice is most extensive in shops and offices, but is known to exist also in other lines of business, although no very satisfactory data are available on this subject.

PAID HOLIDAYS FOR WORKERS IN LUXEMBURG.*

By an Act, dated 6th December, 1926, all Luxemburg workers, irrespective of sex, are to be granted annual holidays with pay. The holidays, which may be divided into two approximately equal periods, will be granted as follows: Four days after one year's service, five days after five years', seven days after ten years', and twelve days after twenty years' service with the same employer. Seven days' holiday will be granted to wage-earners and apprentices under eighteen years of age after an uninterrupted service of one year with the same employer. During the holiday the worker will be entitled to the same wages as he was earning when the holiday began; in the case of piece-workers, the pay will be the average of the worker's earnings during the three months preceding the holiday. These provisions do not apply to workers in agriculture, forestry or viticulture, to seasonal workers, home workers, domestic servants, or to establishments normally employing 20 or fewer workpeople, with the exception of workers under 18 and those engaged in mines and slate quarries. For the purpose of making up time lost on account of holidays employers may require workers to work overtime for not more than two hours a day up to an annual maximum of 30 hours, such overtime to be paid for at the accustomed rates.

* *Mémorial du Grand Duché de Luxembourg* No. 58, 11th December, 1926.

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

Summary: Average Increases since July, 1914.

All Items included ...	72%
Food only ...	64%

FOOD.

At 1st February the average level of the retail prices of the principal articles of food showed a decline as compared with 1st January. This downward movement was chiefly due to a further seasonal reduction of nearly ½d. each in the average price of eggs; there was also a further drop, of about 1d. per lb., in the average price of bacon, and a fall of ¾d. in that of tea, as well as smaller decreases in the prices of flour, bread and margarine. On the other hand, there were slight advances in the average prices of butter, cheese, sugar and fish.

As a net result of all the changes recorded, the average increase over the level of July, 1914, in the retail prices (in Great Britain and Northern Ireland) of the articles of food included in these statistics was about 64 per cent. above the pre-war level, as compared with 67 per cent. a month earlier and 68 per cent. a year ago.

In the following Table is given a comparison of retail prices of these articles of food in July, 1914, and at 1st January and 1st February, 1927:—

Article.	Average Price (per lb. unless otherwise indicated—to the nearest ¼d.)			Average Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) at 1st Feb., 1927, as compared with	
	July, 1914.	1st Jan., 1927.	1st Feb., 1927.	July, 1914.	1st Jan., 1927.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Beef, British—					
Ribs ...	0 10	1 5	1 5	+0 7	...
Thin Flank ...	0 6½	0 9½	0 9½	+0 3	...
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—					
Ribs ...	0 7½	0 10	0 10	+0 2½	...
Thin Flank ...	0 4½	0 5½	0 5½	+0 0½	...
Mutton, British—					
Legs ...	0 10½	1 6½	1 6½	+0 7½	...
Breast ...	0 6½	0 10½	0 10½	+0 3½	...
Mutton, Frozen—					
Legs ...	0 6½	0 11½	0 11½	+0 5	...
Breast ...	0 4	0 5½	0 5½	+0 1½	...
Bacon (streaky)* ...	0 11½	1 6½	1 5½	+0 6½	-0 1
Flour ... per 7 lb.	0 10½	1 6	1 5½	+0 7½	-0 0½
Bread ... per 4 lb.	0 5½	0 10	0 9½	+0 4	-0 0½
Tea ...	1 6½	2 5½	2 4½	+0 10½	-0 0½
Sugar (granulated) ...	0 2	0 3½	0 3½	+0 1½	...
Milk ... per quart	0 5½	0 6½	0 6½	+0 3	...
Butter—					
Fresh ...	1 2½	1 11½	1 11½	+0 8½	...
Salt ...	1 2½	1 9½	1 9½	+0 7½	+0 0½
Cheese† ...	0 8½	1 1½	1 1½	+0 5	+0 0½
Margarine ...	0 7	0 8	0 7½	+0 0½	-0 0½
Eggs (fresh) ... each	0 1½	0 2½	0 2½	+0 1½	-0 0½
Potatoes per 7 lb.	0 4½	0 7½	0 7½	+0 3	...

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

Article.	Average Percentage Increase at 1st February, 1927, as compared with July, 1914.			Corresponding General Average for 1st Jan., 1927.
	Large Towns (Populations over 50,000).	Small Towns and Villages.	General Average.	
Beef, British—				
Ribs ...	72	69	71	71
Thin Flank ...	44	42	43	43
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—				
Ribs ...	39	36	37	39
Thin Flank ...	10	14	12	13
Mutton, British—				
Legs ...	74	76	75	75
Breast ...	58	54	56	56
Mutton, Frozen—				
Legs ...	74	65	70	71
Breast ...	27	27	27	27
Bacon (streaky)* ...	56	56	56	65
Fish ...	144	111	127	124
Flour ...	67	71	69	71
Bread ...	71	69	70	72
Tea ...	52	60	56	60
Sugar (granulated) ...	95	82	88	86
Milk ...	84	89	87	87
Butter—				
Fresh ...	56	63	60	59
Salt ...	53	53	53	52
Cheese† ...	60	58	59	57
Margarine ...	14	8	11	15
Eggs (fresh) ...	102	90	96	135
Potatoes ...	79	47	63	63
All above articles of Food (Weighted Percentage Increase) ...	66	62	64	67

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

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

‡ The decrease was nearly ¼d., the average price having been over 2½d. at 1st January and under 2½d. at 1st February.

RENT, CLOTHING, FUEL AND LIGHT.

As regards rents, inquiries which have been made into the changes which have taken effect under the Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Acts indicate that the average increase in the rents (including rates) of working-class dwellings between July, 1914, and 1st February, 1927, was approximately 51 per cent. Of the total increase about two-fifths is accounted for by increases on account of rates and water charges, and about two-fifths is on account of the landlord's responsibility for repairs, increases on account of the higher level of mortgage interest permitted by the Acts falling within the remaining one-fifth.

As regards clothing, owing to the wide range of quotations, both now and before the war, to changes in qualities and in stocks held by retailers, and to variations in the extent to which different articles and qualities have been affected by price changes, it is impossible to make an exact calculation of the increase in prices; but information as to the movements of prices of men's suits and overcoats, underclothing and hosiery, textile materials and boots, received from retailers in the principal towns, indicates that at 1st February the level of retail prices of articles in this group, taking goods of the kinds purchased by the working classes and so far as possible the same qualities of goods at each date, averaged about 115 per cent. higher than in July, 1914.

In the fuel and light group, the retail prices of coal at 1st February averaged about 120 per cent. above those of July, 1914, as compared with between 125 and 130 per cent. at 1st January. The average price of gas was between 80 and 85 per cent. above the pre-war level, or about the same as a month earlier. For the fuel and light group as a whole (including coal, gas, oil, candles and matches), the average increase at 1st February, as compared with July, 1914, was about 110 per cent.

ALL ITEMS.

If the average increases in the cost of all the foregoing items are combined in accordance with their relative importance in pre-war working-class family expenditure, allowance being also made for the increase in the prices of soap, soda, domestic ironmongery, brushware and pottery, tobacco, fares and newspapers (averaging about 80 per cent.), the resultant general average increase for 1st February is, approximately 72 per cent.* over the level of July, 1914, as compared with 75 per cent. at 1st January, and 73 per cent. at 1st February, 1926.

The result of this calculation (in which the same quantities and, as far as possible, the same qualities of each item are taken in 1927 as in 1914) is to show the average increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the pre-war standard of living of working-class families (i.e., the standard actually prevailing in working-class families before the war, irrespective of whether such standard was adequate or not). Owing to the variations in the amounts of increase in the prices of different commodities it is probable that economies or re-adjustments in expenditure have been effected in many families, especially in those cases where incomes have not increased so much as prices. On the other hand, it is probable that the standard of living has been raised in some families in which wages have been increased in greater proportion than prices. No allowance is made in the figures for any such alterations in the standard of living, as to which trustworthy statistics are not available.

SUMMARY TABLE: 1918 TO 1927.

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

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

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

Figures for dates prior to 1918, together with the average increases for each of the five main groups of items (i.e., food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, and other items) month by month from January, 1915, to December, 1925, are published in the "Eighteenth Abstract of Labour Statistics" (Cmd. 2740).

NOTE.

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

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

EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

Following the usual seasonal decline immediately after Christmas, employment during January showed considerable improvement. There were further substantial improvements in those industries which had been most affected by the stoppage in the coal-mining industry, notably in the iron and steel, iron-ore mining and tinplate industries, and also among workers at coke ovens and by-product works. General, marine and constructional engineering, and shipbuilding, showed reductions in the numbers unemployed, and a slight improvement also took place in the cotton and linen industries. In some other industries, however, such as building, the distributive trades, and certain food industries, the seasonal decline continued during January, while there was also a slight decline in the wool textile industry.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

Among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts, numbering approximately 12,000,000, and working in practically every industry except agriculture and private domestic service, the percentage unemployed at 24th January, 1927, was 12.1, as compared with 11.9 at 20th December, 1926, and 11.0 at 25th January, 1926. If coal mining is excluded at both dates, the percentage for all other industries taken together shows a reduction from 12.1 at 20th December, 1926, to 11.6 at 24th January, 1927. For males alone, the percentage at 24th January was 13.3, as compared with 13.1 at 20th December, 1926; for females, the corresponding figures were 8.5 and 8.4. The total number of persons (insured and uninsured) registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 31st January, 1927, was approximately 1,375,000, of whom 1,083,000 were men and 213,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls; at 20th December, 1926, it was 1,357,000, of whom 1,075,000 were men and 222,000 were women; and at 1st February, 1926, it was 1,237,000, of whom 956,000 were men, and 209,000 were women. The figures relating to 20th December, 1926, were exclusive of those workpeople in the coal-mining industry who were disqualified for unemployment benefit on account of the dispute.

The following Table shows, month by month since January, 1926, (a) the percentages unemployed among members of certain Trade Unions from which returns are obtained, (b) the percentages unemployed among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and (c) the approximate number (to the nearest 1,000) of applicants for employment registered at Employment Exchanges, etc., in Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The two columns of unemployment total percentages are given on the following bases: in the first, the coal-mining industry is included*; in the second, the coal-mining industry is excluded altogether, both from the numbers insured and the numbers unemployed.

Month.	Trade Unions making Returns.	Percentage Unemployed (at or near end of month) among Insured Workpeople.				Numbers (Insured and Uninsured) registered at Employment Exchanges, etc.
		Males.		Females.		
		Including coal mining.	Excluding coal mining.	Including coal mining.	Excluding coal mining.	
1926.						
January	10.6	12.1	8.1	11.0	11.2	1,237,000
February	10.4	11.4	7.7	10.4	10.6	1,169,000
March	10.1	10.8	7.1	9.8	9.9	1,070,000
April	10.0	10.0	6.7	9.1	9.4	1,034,000
May	13.2	14.9	12.6	14.3*	15.1	1,675,000*
June	12.9	15.4	12.2	14.6*	15.3	1,699,000*
July	13.2	15.1	12.7	14.4*	15.1	1,664,000*
August	13.3	14.9	11.6	14.0*	14.6	1,606,000*
September	13.6	14.7	11.0	13.7*	14.2	1,582,000*
October	13.6	14.8	10.3	13.6*	14.1	1,610,000*
November	13.2	14.8	10.0	13.5*	14.1	1,545,000*
December	12.2	13.1	8.4	11.9*	12.1	1,357,000*
1927.						
January	†	13.3	8.5	12.1*	11.6	1,375,000

EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

Mining and Quarrying.—In coal-mining employment was slack on the whole. The total number of wage-earners on the colliery books on 29th January was 996,148, an increase of 7.6 per cent. as compared with December; the average number of days worked per week was 5.02, as compared with 5.33 days in December.

In the iron-mining industry there was a further improvement. The average number of days worked per week by the mines that made returns (excluding those that were closed) was 5.34 in January, 1927, compared with 5.27 in December, 1926, and 5.81 in January, 1926. In the shale mines in West Lothian there was practically no change in the number of workpeople employed compared with the previous month. At slate quarries in North Wales employment was again fairly good. Among chalk quarrymen employment continued very slack. At tin mines it remained good, and at china clay quarries fair.

Manufacture of Pig Iron, Iron and Steel, and Tinplate.—In the pig-iron industry employment, though still bad, showed a con-

* In the coal-mining industry only those unemployed persons who were not disqualified for benefit under the Unemployment Insurance Acts by reason of the trade dispute are taken into account in the unemployment statistics.
† For insured workpeople and for numbers registered the figures relate to 20th December, 1926.
‡ This series is discontinued—see note on page 59.

siderable improvement. Of a total of 464 furnaces the number in blast at the end of January, 1927, was 152, compared with 78 in December and 144 in January, 1926.

In the iron and steel trades employment, though still slack on the whole, showed considerable improvement as compared with the previous month. In the tinplate and steel sheet trades employment showed a considerable improvement and was fairly good. The number of tinplate and steel sheet mills in operation at the end of January, 1927, was 537, as compared with 506 in December, 1926, and 529 in January, 1926.

Engineering, Shipbuilding and Metal Trades.—In the engineering trades employment remained bad, but continued to show improvement, although recovery was still retarded to some extent by shortage of materials. In the marine engineering section, employment, though still very bad, showed an appreciable improvement; in the motor, cycle and aircraft sections; while in electrical work a decline was experienced and employment was only fair.

In the shipbuilding and ship repairing trades employment continued very bad, but showed a further improvement in most districts. In the other metal trades employment continued to improve, but was only moderate on the whole. It was fairly good in the lock, latch, and key trades; fair in the stove and grate, needle and fishing tackle, sheet metal, file and hollow-ware trades; moderate in the brasswork, wire, tube, and nut and bolt trades; and slack or bad in the metallic bedstead, cutlery, jewellery and plated ware, and chain and anchor trades.

Textile Trades.—Employment in the cotton trade showed a further improvement. In the American spinning section, though there was no organised short time, the machinery ran only to the extent of about 70 per cent., on the average, of the normal week of 48 hours; in the Egyptian spinning section, practically full time continued. In the weaving department employment showed some improvement, but was still slack. In the wool textile trade employment, taken as a whole, showed a slight decline.

Employment in the hosiery trade showed little change as compared with December; in the silk and artificial silk trades, taken together, it continued fairly good generally; in the lace trade it remained bad, with much short time and unemployment; in the linen trade there was a further improvement, but employment was still slack on the whole; in the jute trade it also showed an improvement and was moderate. In the textile bleaching, printing, dyeing, etc. trades, employment continued very slack.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the retail bespoke branch of the tailoring trade was generally slack or moderate and subject to seasonal depression; a further improvement was reported in the wholesale bespoke and ready-made branch of the trade, and employment continued generally fair. In the dressmaking trade employment remained slack in most districts; there was some improvement, however, in the wholesale branch in the London area. In the corset trade employment remained quiet; in the shirt and collar trade it was fairly good generally, some improvement being reported in certain centres. In the felt hat trade employment showed some improvement, but was still slack, with short-time working. In the boot and shoe trades employment showed little change, on the whole, as compared with the previous month.

Leather Trades.—In the leather trades employment showed a decline in all sections; in the tanning and currying branch it was fair; in the portmanteau, trunk, and fancy leather section it was moderate; with saddlery and harness makers it was slack.

Building, Woodworking, etc.—Employment in the building trades showed a further seasonal decline; though slack in some districts it was fair, on the whole, with skilled operatives (except painters). It continued good with plasterers in most districts; fairly good with bricklayers; moderate to fair generally with carpenters and joiners, and slack or quiet, on the whole, with masons, slaters and plumbers. With painters employment was bad in most districts; with tradesmen's labourers it was slack. With brickmakers employment showed a further improvement and was fairly good.

Employment in the furnishing trades declined during the month, but was fair on the whole; with millwrights it also continued fair; with coachbuilders it showed a further improvement; with coopers and packing-case makers it continued bad.

Paper Manufacture, Printing and Bookbinding.—Employment in the paper trade showed a further improvement and was fairly good. With letter-press printers a decline was reported and employment was slack or moderate on the whole; with electrotypers and stereotypers it was very good in London, fair at Manchester, and fairly good elsewhere; in the lithographic printing trade it showed a decline and was moderate generally. In the bookbinding trade employment also showed a decline.

Pottery and Glass.—Employment in the pottery trade in North Staffordshire showed a further improvement, and some sections were fairly well employed. In the glass trade employment showed a further improvement, but was still bad on the whole.

Agriculture and Fishing.—In agriculture in England and Wales the supply of labour at the end of January was generally equal to the demand, but there was some scarcity of skilled men in most districts. Casual labour was available when required, but there was little unemployment. With fishermen employment showed a further slight improvement.

Dock Labour and Seamen.—With seamen employment showed a slight improvement at the majority of the ports and was moderate on the whole; with dock labourers it was also moderate.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED INDUSTRIES.

The following Table shows the variations in the rates of unemployment among insured persons in the respective divisions into which the country is divided for the purpose of the administration of the Unemployment Insurance Acts. It will be seen that in Great Britain the rates of unemployment continue to be highest in the areas which include the greatest proportions of coal mining and the heavy iron and steel industries:—

Divisions.	Estimated Numbers Insured at July, 1926. (Totals.)	Percentage Unemployed at 24th January, 1927.			Increase (+) or Decrease (−) in Total Percentages as compared with a	
		Males.	Females.	Total.	Month before.	Year before.
London	2,105,400	8.6	4.8	7.4	+0.9	−0.3
South-Eastern	849,200	6.8	5.0	6.4	+0.7	−0.4
South-Western	810,900	9.9	5.8	9.0	+0.4	−0.5
Midlands	1,777,400	9.3	10.0	9.5	−0.4	+1.3
North-Eastern	2,020,500	18.4	10.6	16.8	−0.2	+2.6
North-Western	2,145,700	13.7	10.8	12.7	−0.3	+1.7
Scotland	1,323,100	17.2	9.0	15.0	−1.0	−0.7
Wales	626,800	25.1	8.5	21.8	+4.2	+7.4
Northern Ireland	256,000	23.1	13.1	19.2	−0.7	−5.5
Special Schemes	125,000	2.3	0.5	1.8	...	−0.1
TOTAL	12,041,000	13.3	8.5	12.1	+0.2	+1.0

NEW ENTRANTS INTO UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

TABLE SHOWING, BY DIVISIONAL AREAS, THE NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT BOOKS RECEIVED AT LOCAL OFFICES OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR IN GREAT BRITAIN DURING THE MONTH OF JANUARY, 1927.

Area.	Men.	Boys.	Women.	Girls.	Total.	
					Number.	Percentage of numbers insured at July, 1926.
South-Eastern:						
(a) London	1,761	6,389	2,274	5,424	15,848	0.75
(b) Rest of South-Eastern	1,232	2,693	756	1,824	6,505	0.77
South-Western	1,095	2,478	788	1,417	5,778	0.71
Midlands	1,260	4,712	912	3,593	10,477	0.59
North-Eastern	1,483	7,206	1,075	3,014	12,778	0.63
North-Western	1,533	5,266	1,240	3,664	11,703	0.55
Scotland	1,208	3,632	800	2,395	8,035	0.61
Wales	613	3,147	358	622	4,740	0.76
GREAT BRITAIN	10,185	35,523	8,203	21,953	75,864	0.65

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

SUMMARY OF EMPLOYERS' RETURNS.

INFORMATION as to employment, derived from returns furnished by employers and employers' associations, is summarised below:—

(a) CERTAIN MINING AND METAL TRADES.

Trade.	Workpeople included in the Returns for January, 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (−) as compared with a	
		Month before.	Year before.
Coal Mining	996,148	+ 0.31	− 0.45
Iron	5,810	+ 2.07	− 0.47
Shale	2,765	− 0.03	+ 0.17
Pig Iron	...	Days Worked per week by Mines.	Days.
		5.02	− 0.31
		5.34	+ 2.07
		5.84	− 0.03
Tinplate and Steel Sheet	...	Furnaces in Blast	Number.
		152	+ 74
		537	+ 31
Iron and Steel	70,284	Mills working (one week).	Per cent.
		381,741	+ 38.9
			− 3.1

(b) OTHER TRADES.

Trade.	Number of Workpeople Employed.		Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople.			
	Week ended 29th Jan., 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (−) on a	Week ended 29th Jan., 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (−) on a		
					Month before.	Year before.
Textiles:—		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Cotton	84,479	+ 3.2	− 0.2	152,027	+ 6.6	− 0.2
Woolen	61,898	− 0.3	− 0.2	126,220	+ 1.2	+ 3.3
Worsted	90,852	− 0.5	− 1.2	171,627	− 1.6	− 3.7
Boat and Shoes	50,832	+ 0.0	− 1.3	114,891	− 0.8	− 4.4
Pottery	10,832	+ 3.2	− 4.7	20,651	+ 0.0	+ 1.6
Brick	9,065	+ 5.1	− 1.7	23,266	+ 0.5	− 0.3*

* Comparison of earnings is affected by changes in rates of wages in some districts.

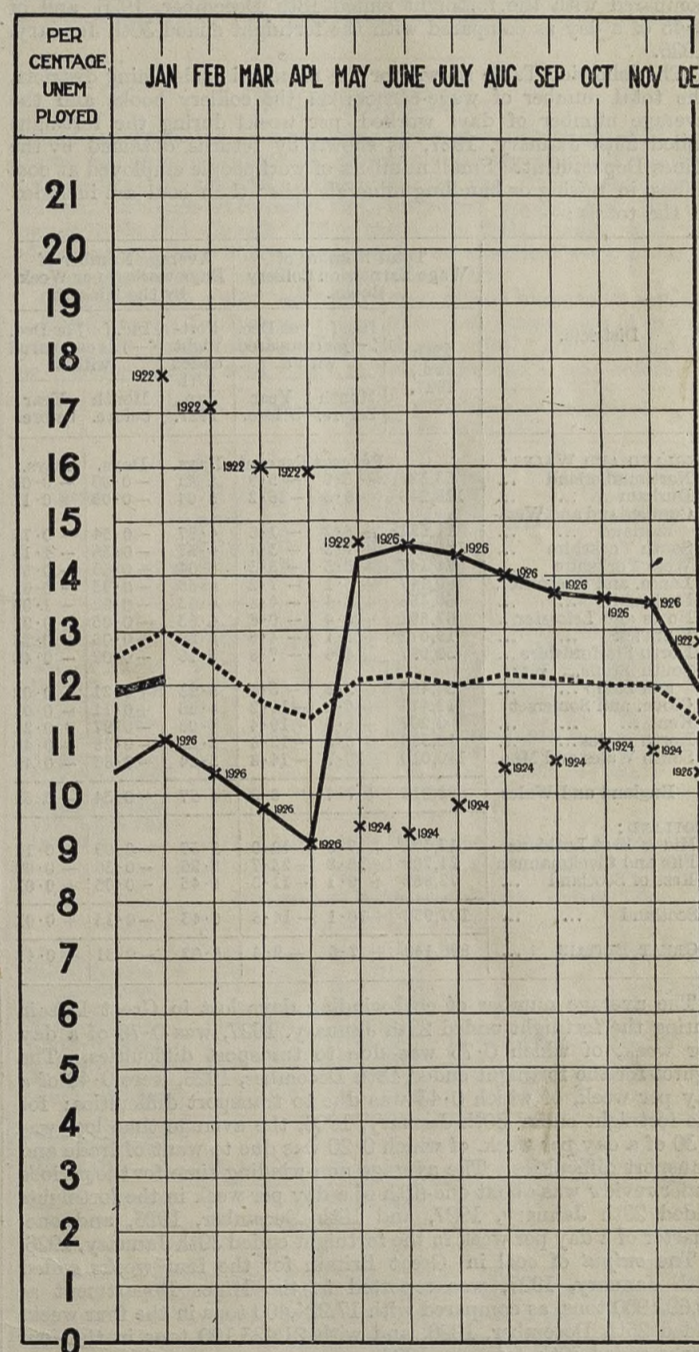
UNEMPLOYMENT CHART.

GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.

PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AMONG WORKPEOPLE INSURED AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT UNDER THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTS:—

Thick Curve - = 1927.
Dotted Curve - = Mean of 1922-26.
Thin Curve - = 1926.

× The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages unemployed, in the months named, during the years 1922-1926.



NOTE.—As comprehensive statistics showing the percentages unemployed, month by month, among 11 to 12 millions of insured workpeople are now available for a period of 6 years (1921-1926), it has been decided to discontinue the calculation of the percentages unemployed among members of certain Trade Unions furnishing returns, hitherto published each month in this GAZETTE (see page 17 of the January issue), the total membership in respect of which returns have been received having fallen from over 1,600,000 in 1920 to little more than 800,000 in recent months. The curves relating to unemployment among members of these Trade Unions, therefore, no longer appear in the diagram.

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.

COAL MINING.

EMPLOYMENT during January was slack on the whole. Short-time working due to a shortage of railway wagons was reported from some districts.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 16.3* at 24th January, 1927, as compared with 10.2* at 20th December, 1926, and 10.1 at 25th January, 1926.

The total number of wage-earners on the colliery books at 29th January, 1927, showed an increase of 7.6 per cent. as compared with 18th December, 1926, but a decrease of 9.4 per cent. as compared with 30th January, 1926.

The average number of days worked per week in the fortnight ended 29th January, 1927, was 5.02, a decrease of 0.31 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 18th December, 1926, and of 0.45 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 30th January, 1926.

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 29th January, 1927, as shown by returns obtained by the Mines Department.

Table with columns: Districts, Total Number of Wage Earners on Colliery Books, Average Number of Days worked per Week by the Mines, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a, etc.

The average number of coal-winding days lost in Great Britain during the fortnight ended 29th January, 1927, was 0.78 of a day per week, of which 0.75 was due to transport difficulties.

The output of coal in Great Britain for the four weeks ended 29th January, 1927, was reported to the Mines Department as 20,692,900 tons, as compared with 17,224,400 tons in the four weeks ended 25th December, 1926, and with 21,423,100 tons in the four weeks ended 30th January, 1926.

The exports of coal, including coal shipped for the use of steamers engaged in foreign trade, and the coal-equivalent of coke and manufactured fuel, amounted to 5,557,800 tons in January, compared with 2,333,400 tons in December, 1926.

The percentages unemployed among insured workpeople in different areas are shown in the following Table:—

* The figures are exclusive of those persons who remained disqualified for benefit under the trade dispute provisions of the Unemployment Insurance Acts. † 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.

Table showing Percentage Unemployed at 24th January, 1927, and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Total percentages as compared with a, by Area.

IRON AND SHALE MINING.

IRON MINING.

A FURTHER great increase in employment during January brought the number of workpeople employed in those iron mines from which returns were received to less than 5 per cent. short of that of a year before.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed in the iron ore and ironstone mining industry, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 20.8 at 24th January, 1927, as compared with 45.0 at 20th December, 1926, and 22.7 at 25th January, 1926.

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

Table showing Number of Workpeople employed at Mines included in the Returns, and Average No. of Days worked per week by the Mines, by Districts.

SHALE MINING.

According to the returns received 2,765 workpeople were employed in the West Lothian mines during the fortnight ended 29th January, 1927, showing practically no change compared with the previous month.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT in January, although still bad, showed a considerable improvement as compared with December. According to returns received by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, 152 furnaces were in operation at the end of January, compared with 78 at the end of December, and 144 at the end of January, 1926.

* See footnote * in previous column. † See footnote † in previous column.

TINPLATE AND STEEL SHEET TRADES.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 20.3 on 24th January, 1927, compared with 44.7 on 20th December, 1926, and with 19.8 on 25th January, 1926.

The following Table shows the number of furnaces in operation at the end of January, 1927, December, 1926, and January, 1926:—

Table showing Total Number of Furnaces in Blast, and Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a, by District.

The production of pig iron in January amounted to 434,600 tons as compared with 98,000 tons in December, 1926, and 533,500 tons in January, 1926.

IRON AND STEEL TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in January, though slack on the whole, showed a great improvement as compared with December.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the number of unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 20.4 on 24th January, 1927, as compared with 34.5 on 20th December, 1926, and 22.0 on 25th January, 1926.

According to returns received from firms employing 70,284 workpeople in the week ended 29th January, 1927, the volume of employment in that week (as indicated by the number of workpeople employed, combined with the number of shifts during which work was carried on in each department) increased by 38.9 per cent. as compared with December, but showed a decrease of 3.1 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

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

Table showing No. of Workpeople employed by firms making returns, and Aggregate number of Shifts, by Departments and Districts.

The production of steel ingots and castings, as returned by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, amounted to 730,700 tons in January, 1927, as compared with 319,300 tons in December, 1926, and 640,400 tons in January, 1926.

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

EMPLOYMENT in January was fairly good and showed considerable improvement as compared with the previous month. At the end of January, 1927, 537 tinplate and steel sheet mills were in operation at the works for which information is available, compared with 506 in December, 1926, and with 529 a year ago.

The following Table shows the number of mills in operation at the end of January, 1927, at the works covered by the returns received:—

Table showing Number of Works Open and Number of Mills in Operation, by Works.

The exports of tinned and galvanised plates and sheets in January, 1927, amounted to 92,068 tons, or 26,337 tons more than in December, 1926, but 16,171 tons less than in January, 1926.

ENGINEERING.

EMPLOYMENT during January remained bad on the whole, but continued to show improvement, although recovery was still retarded by shortage of materials.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed at 24th January, 1927, and the increase or decrease as compared with a month before and a year before:—

Table showing Number of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 24th January, 1927, and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a, by Divisions.

Percentages Unemployed at 24th January, 1927.

Table showing Percentages Unemployed at 24th January, 1927, by Divisions.

On the North-East Coast employment continued very bad, but showed distinct improvement in general, marine and heavy engineering. In Yorkshire and Lincolnshire it was still bad, but continued to improve.

In London and the South-Eastern Counties employment was fair, on the whole, but showed a slight decline. In the South-Western Counties it was fair on the whole and showed an improvement; but short time was in operation at the Swindon railway works.

In South Wales conditions were still very bad, but showed a further marked improvement. In Scotland employment remained very bad, but continued to improve in nearly all sections.

SHIPBUILDING AND SHIP-REPAIRING.

EMPLOYMENT continued very bad during January, but showed a further improvement in most districts, sufficient supplies of steel becoming available in some cases, though in others the progress of work was still hindered by scarcity of material. Compared with a year ago there was little change in the general percentage unemployed.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed at 24th January, 1927, and the increase or decrease as compared with 20th December, 1926, and with a year before:—

Divisions.	Total Number of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 24th Jan., 1927.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Percentage Unemployed at 24th Jan., 1927.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage as compared with a	
	Month before.	Year before.	Month before.	Year before.	Month before.	Year before.	Month before.	Year before.
London ...	3,007	+ 611	- 170	26.4	+ 5.3	+ 0.9		
South-Eastern ...	826	+ 107	+ 30	9.3	+ 1.2	+ 1.3		
South-Western ...	2,785	- 551	- 1,062	11.7	- 2.3	- 3.6		
Midlands ...	45	- 5	- 46	15.0	- 1.7	- 17.5		
North-Eastern ...	30,906	- 6,653	- 2,248	49.1	- 10.6	- 0.4		
North-Western ...	9,042	- 142	- 1,338	28.0	- 0.5	- 3.9		
Scotland ...	26,477	- 4,127	- 1,122	44.6	- 7.0	+ 1.9		
Wales ...	3,632	- 928	- 181	34.4	- 8.8	+ 2.7		
Northern Ireland ...	6,037	- 131	- 1,032	41.4	- 0.9	+ 3.4		
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND ...	82,757	- 11,819	- 6,867	36.9	- 5.3	- 0.2		

On the North-East Coast nearly 50 per cent., and in Scotland and Northern Ireland more than 40 per cent., of the insured workpeople were still recorded as unemployed, though in the case of the North-East Coast and Scotland these figures show a substantial improvement on the previous month. There was also considerable improvement on repair work at the Welsh ports, and some improvement on the Mersey. In London and the Southern Counties there was a slight decline on the whole, though employment in this part of the country remained better than in other districts.

WOOL TEXTILE INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT in this industry, taken as a whole, showed a slight decline during January, and was also slightly worse than in January, 1926. In the majority of centres short time working remained prevalent.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 12.3 on 24th January, 1927, as compared with 11.0 on 20th December, 1926, and with 11.1 on 25th January, 1926.

Employment with wool sorters and wool combers showed a slight seasonal improvement; in the merino section employment was fair, but in the crossbred section it was slack, and many firms were still working short time. It was also slack, with much short time, in the preparing branch. About 36 per cent. of the workpeople in the sorting, combing and preparing branches of the worsted industry covered by the returns received worked short time in the week ended 29th January, 1927, with a loss of about 1 1/2 hours each on the average. In worsted spinning there was a slight decline as compared with the previous month; about 34 per cent. of the spinners covered by the returns received lost about 9 hours each, on an average, in the week ended 29th January.

In worsted weaving there was very little change in the Bradford district either in the dress goods trade or in the coating trade. There was an improvement in Silsden and Keighley, but in the fine cloth trade of Huddersfield employment became worse; there was also a decline at Leeds. The returns received from employers for the week ended 29th January showed that about 21 per cent. of the weavers worked short time, with a loss, on the average, of nearly 10* hours each.

In the woollen section employment continued slack, being a little worse than in the previous month. In both the spinning and the weaving sections about 36 per cent. of the operatives covered by the employers' returns worked short time in the week ended 29th January, with a loss on the average of about 11* hours each in both departments; on the other hand, about 9 per cent. of the spinners were on overtime to the extent of 9 hours each on the average, while about 3 per cent. of the weavers worked on an average 7 hours per week overtime. In the Huddersfield and Colne Valley area a slight improvement was reported; one or two firms were running night shifts. In the Heavy Woollen District of Dewsbury and Batley employment was described as definitely worse than in December; on the other hand, under-employment decreased in the low woollen trade of the Morley district. In the Leeds district employment was generally slack and there was much short time, but in the Yeadon district it was fairly good. Employment with woollen workers at Stockport remained good.

In the blanket manufacturing trade of the Heavy Woollen District employment continued abnormally depressed, and was worse than a month earlier; but at Witney employment continued good. There was some improvement in the flannel trade of Rochdale, Saddleworth and Apperley Bridge.

* These figures do not take into account other forms of under-employment, such as "playing for warps" and tending one instead of two looms.

In Scotland activity in the tweed industry continued, and full time was in operation in nearly all factories; a scarcity of experienced weavers and darners was again reported. A slight decline was reported, however, with woollen spinners at Alloa, Ayr and Greenock.

In the carpet trade there was little change as compared with December. At Bridgnorth employment continued fairly good. At Soverby Bridge a shortage of orders was reported and at Liversedge short time was still common, though rather more work was available than before Christmas. In Scotland employment was reported as good at Johnstone, and as quiet at Stirling.

The following Table summarises the returns received from employers:—

	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 29th Jan., 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a month before.	Index figure. (Jan., 1926 = 100.)	Week ended 29th Jan., 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a month before.	Index figure. (Jan., 1926 = 100.)
Departments :	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	£	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.
WORSTED SECTION :						
Wool Sorting and Combing ...	10,960	+ 0.0	99.4	26,768	+ 6.0	93.9
Spinning ...	43,448	+ 0.1	97.8	65,958	- 2.9	96.2
Weaving ...	21,967	- 1.7	99.0	44,254	- 2.1	96.9
Other Depts. ...	12,485	- 0.9	100.7	23,503	- 5.5	97.0
Not specified ...	1,992	- 0.7	106.8	4,144	+ 7.8	108.6
Total—Worsted	90,852	- 0.5	98.8	171,627	- 1.6	96.3
WOOLLEN SECTION :						
Wool Sorting and Combing ...	992	- 0.1	99.6	2,362	- 1.8	104.0
Spinning ...	14,429	+ 0.3	97.1	30,104	- 1.1	102.9
Weaving ...	25,676	- 0.4	101.9	46,056	- 0.7	105.3
Other Depts. ...	18,287	- 0.9	98.6	42,171	- 1.9	101.0
Not specified ...	2,514	+ 1.2	100.2	5,527	- 0.5	104.9
Total—Woollen	61,898	- 0.3	99.8	126,220	- 1.2	103.3
CARPET SECTION ...	9,273	- 0.6	99.1	16,403	- 1.4	80.2
Total—Wool Textile Industry ...	162,023	- 0.4	98.9	314,250	- 1.5	98.1
Districts :						
WORSTED SECTION :						
Bradford ...	41,462	- 0.3	97.6	82,586	+ 1.5	93.4
Huddersfield ...	10,060	- 1.0	103.9	21,270	- 5.4	101.8
Halifax ...	10,368	- 0.3	95.3	16,920	- 4.2	88.7
Leeds ...	9,262	- 0.6	100.1	16,259	- 4.0	96.1
Keighley ...	9,763	- 0.5	100.6	17,993	- 0.3	110.3
Heavy Woollen (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.) ...	3,232	- 1.6	98.3	4,957	- 10.3	99.2
Total West Riding ...	84,147	- 0.5	98.7	159,985	- 1.3	95.9
West of England and Midlands :						
Lancs ...	4,367	- 0.8	100.1	7,873	- 6.2	94.5
West of England ...	343	+ 1.8	119.3	664	+ 0.2	116.0
Scotland ...	1,995	+ 0.3	100.7	3,105	- 8.1	131.6
Total—Worsted	90,852	- 0.5	98.8	171,627	- 1.6	96.3
WOOLLEN SECTION :						
Huddersfield ...	11,380	+ 1.1	99.9	26,742	+ 4.7	105.1
Heavy Woollen (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.) ...	12,476	- 2.1	96.3	23,942	- 6.9	98.6
Leeds ...	9,070	+ 0.9	96.7	19,179	+ 0.7	102.2
Halifax and Calder Vale ...	3,020	- 1.4	99.6	5,793	- 5.0	87.0
Bradford ...	1,375	- 3.0	103.7	3,201	- 3.3	103.0
Total West Riding ...	37,321	- 0.4	97.9	78,857	- 1.1	100.5
Lancs ...	5,828	+ 0.3	100.6	12,432	+ 2.4	111.2
West of England and Midlands ...	4,580	- 1.4	105.4	7,962	- 4.3	110.6
Scotland ...	13,961	+ 0.2	102.3	26,683	- 2.5	106.8
Wales ...	208	+ 3.0	188.7	286	+ 7.5	208.0
Total—Woollen	61,898	- 0.3	99.8	126,220	- 1.2	103.3
CARPET SECTION ...	9,273	- 0.6	99.1	16,403	- 1.4	80.2
Total—Wool Textile Industry ...	162,023	- 0.4	98.9	314,250	- 1.5	98.1

In the worsted section of the industry, taken as a whole, the returns received from employers showed that 30 per cent. of their workpeople were on short time in the week ended 29th January, with a loss, on the average, of nearly 10* hours each. In the woollen section the returns showed that, in the same week, about 33 per cent. of the workpeople lost about 11* hours each on the average. In the carpet section the employers' returns showed about 24 per cent. on short time, with a loss of about 12 1/2 hours each on the average. The corresponding particulars for overtime were 4 per cent., averaging 6 1/2 hours each, in the worsted section; and 5 per cent., averaging 8 hours each, in the woollen section. There was very little overtime in the carpet section.

The following Table shows, by districts and departments, the percentage increase or decrease in the numbers employed, in the week ended 29th January, by firms who supplied returns for the purpose of the foregoing Table (excluding the carpet section), as

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

COTTON INDUSTRY.

compared with the numbers employed by the same firms in the week ended 18th December:—

	Percentage Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in numbers employed as compared with the previous month.				
	Wool Sorting and Combing.	Spinning.	Weaving.	Other Depts.	All Depts. (including not specified.)
WORSTED SECTION :					
Bradford ...	+ 0.6	- 0.1	- 0.9	- 1.4	- 0.3
Huddersfield ...	- 5.8	- 0.1	- 1.0	- 0.8	- 1.0
Halifax ...	- 4.8	+ 0.8	- 5.7	+ 0.2	- 0.3
Leeds ...	- 3.1	+ 0.7	- 3.7	- 0.2	- 0.6
Keighley ...	- 1.7	+ 0.1	- 1.9	+ 0.7	- 0.5
Heavy Woollen (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.) ...	- 0.7	- 1.4	- 2.3	- 2.3	- 1.6
Total, West Riding ...	- 0.1	+ 0.1	- 1.7	- 0.8	- 0.5
West of England and Midlands :					
Lancashire ...	+ 2.4	- 0.7	- 0.6	- 1.9	- 0.8
Scotland ...	- 0.4	+ 1.1	-	+ 27.6	+ 1.8
Total ...	+ 0.0	+ 0.1	- 1.7	- 0.9	- 0.5
WOOLLEN SECTION :					
Huddersfield ...	+ 1.4	+ 0.6	+ 1.7	+ 0.3	+ 1.1
Heavy Woollen (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.) ...	+ 4.8	- 1.2	- 3.3	- 1.8	- 2.1
Leeds ...	+ 7.4	+ 1.4	+ 0.9	+ 0.5	+ 0.9
Halifax and Calder Vale Bradford ...	- 14.0	+ 1.5	- 1.9	- 3.4	- 1.4
Total, West Riding ...	+ 1.6	+ 0.3	- 0.6	- 0.9	- 0.4
Lancashire ...	- 3.3	+ 0.1	+ 1.8	- 1.4	+ 0.3
West of England and Midlands ...	- 3.3	- 0.6	- 3.9	+ 0.6	- 1.4
Scotland ...	+ 0.3	+ 1.4	+ 0.3	+ 1.3	+ 0.2
Wales ...	+ 18.2	- 8.5	+ 2.5	+ 9.5	+ 3.0
Total ...	- 0.1	+ 0.3	- 0.4	- 0.9	- 0.3

The following Table shows the number of men and of women (other than casuals) on the registers of Employment Exchanges in the principal wool textile trade centres at 24th January, 1927:—

Department.	Numbers (excluding Casuals) on the Register at 24th January, 1927.					
	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.		
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.
Wool Sorting and Combing ...	175	5	180	261	1	262
Wool Washing and Preparing ...	268	156	424	615	416	1,031
Wool Combing ...	188	85	273	530	351	881
Wool Carding ...	425	59	484	703	178	881
Woolen Spinning ...	346	81	427	518	261	779
Worst Drawing and Spinning ...	315	594	909	426	2,534	2,960
Wool Winding and Warping ...	89	27	116	239	199	438
Worst Winding and Warping ...	58	91	149	179	716	895
Woolen Weaving ...	169	331	500	325	3,056	3,361
Worst Weaving ...	104	328	432	132	1,284	1,416
Other Processes ...	696	58	754	1,209	226	1,435
TOTAL ...	2,833	1,815	4,648	5,137	9,202	14,339

The following Table shows the increases and decreases as compared with the 20th December, 1926:—

Department.	Numbers (excluding Casuals) on the Register at 24th January, 1927.					
	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.		
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.
Wool Sorting ...	- 47	- 4	- 51	+ 72	- 7	+ 65
Wool Washing and Preparing ...	- 1	+ 12	+ 11	+ 41	+ 159	+ 200
Wool Combing ...	+ 22	- 1	+ 21	+ 2	- 61	- 59
Wool Carding ...	+ 35	+ 9	+ 44	- 33	+ 72	+ 39
Woolen Spinning ...	+ 25	+ 8	+ 33	+ 92	+ 20	+ 112
Worst Drawing and Spinning ...	- 23	+ 7	- 16	+ 60	+ 1,194	+ 1,254
Wool Winding and Warping ...	+ 13	+ 6	+ 19	+ 11	+ 42	+ 53
Worst Winding and Warping ...	+ 11	+ 5	+ 16	+ 46	+ 155	+ 201
Woolen Weaving ...	+ 59	- 46	+ 13	+ 82	+ 114	+ 196
Worst Weaving ...	- 18	- 97	- 115	+ 1	+ 145	+ 146
Other Processes ...	+ 75	+ 9	+ 84	+ 123	+ 41	+ 164
TOTAL ...	+ 151	- 92	+ 59	+ 497	+ 1,874	+ 2,371

The imports, less re-exports of raw wool (sheep's or lambs') were 80,064,000 lbs. in January, 1927, compared with 36,381,700 lbs. in December, 1926, and 69,821,000 lbs. in January, 1926.

The exports of woollen and worsted yarns were 3,356,500 lbs. compared with 3,639,700 lbs. in December, 1926, and with 2,868,000 lbs. in January, 1926.

The exports of woollen and worsted tissues were 15,906,600 square yards, compared with 12,465,300 square yards in December, 1926, and 17,315,200 square yards in January, 1926.

The exports of blankets were 91,009 pairs, 63,988 pairs and 109,149 pairs in January, 1927, December, 1926, and January, 1926.

DURING January there was an improvement in all the principal departments of the cotton industry. Employment was, however, still very slack, except in that part of the spinning section which is engaged upon Egyptian cotton. In the American spinning section, though there was no organised short time, the machinery, ran only to the extent

workpeople were on short time in that week, with a loss of about 12 hours each on the average.

The following Table shows the number of men and of women (other than casuals) on the registers of Employment Exchanges in the principal cotton trade centres at 24th January, 1927 :—

Department.	Numbers (excluding Casuals) on the Register at 24th January, 1927.						Total.
	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.			
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	
Card and Blowing Room ...	472	1,389	1,861	1,118	3,741	4,859	6,720
Spinning ...	1,969	1,389	3,358	3,929	4,110	8,039	11,597
Beaming, Winding and Warping ...	558	1,103	1,761	1,650	6,167	7,817	9,578
Weaving ...	2,242	3,888	6,130	3,349	10,019	13,368	19,498
Other Processes ...	554	78	632	532	250	782	1,414
Total ...	5,895	7,847	13,742	10,578	24,287	34,865	48,607

The following Table shows the increases and decreases as compared with 20th December, 1926 :—

Department.	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.			Total.
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	
	Card and Blowing Room ...	- 23	- 101	- 124	- 222	- 1,856		- 2,078	- 2,202
Spinning ...	- 161	- 167	- 328	- 1,756	- 1,538	- 3,294	- 3,622
Beaming, Winding and Warping ...	+ 62	- 277	- 215	- 103	- 2,692	- 2,795	- 3,010
Weaving ...	+ 103	- 346	- 243	- 529	- 423	- 952	- 1,195
Other Processes ...	+ 25	- 23	+ 2	- 221	-	- 221	- 219
Total ...	+ 6	- 914	- 908	- 2,831	- 6,509	- 9,340	- 10,248

The imports (less re-exports) of raw cotton (including cotton linters) were 227,320,400 lbs. in January, 1927, compared with 244,953,800 lbs. in December, 1926, and with 188,981,700 lbs. in January, 1926.

The exports of cotton yarn were 15,906,100 lbs. in January, 1927, compared with 14,822,000 lbs. in December, 1926, and with 16,791,100 lbs. in January, 1926.

The exports of cotton piece goods were 322,344,800 square yards, as compared with 239,775,600 square yards in the previous month, and with 356,096,900 square yards in January, 1926.

BOOT AND SHOE INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT showed an improvement in some districts and a decline in others. Taking all districts together it showed very little change in January as compared with December, and was slightly worse than in January, 1926. Short time was still very prevalent.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges was 9.8 on 24th January, 1927, as compared with 10.4 on 20th December, 1926, and with 8.7 on 25th January, 1926.

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

—	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 29th Jan., 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 29th Jan., 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month before.	Year before.		£	Per cent.
England and Wales :—		Per cent.	Per cent.		Per cent.	Per cent.
London ...	2,018	+ 2.0	- 10.6	4,549	+ 4.9	- 13.8
Leicester ...	9,046	+ 0.7	- 4.7	23,243	+ 3.6	- 10.6
Leicester Country District ...	1,872	- 2.0	+ 1.5	4,045	- 6.1	- 5.3
Northampton ...	5,820	- 2.1	+ 0.2	13,854	- 3.6	- 2.8
Northampton Country District ...	7,652	- 1.9	- 1.6	17,502	- 3.2	- 3.0
Kettering ...	3,497	- 1.5	+ 1.3	8,816	- 4.2	- 0.7
Stafford and District ...	3,117	+ 0.4	+ 5.8	6,168	- 9.9	+ 6.1
Norwich and District ...	4,185	+ 4.5	+ 4.1	9,109	+ 11.2	+ 4.2
Bristol, Kingswood and District ...	1,729	- 6.0	- 0.4	2,905	- 22.5	- 6.9
Leeds and District ...	1,972	+ 2.3	+ 0.9	4,351	- 4.5	+ 4.7
Lancashire (mainly Rossendale Valley) ...	4,680	+ 3.2	- 7.7	9,483	+ 8.6	- 11.7
Birmingham and District ...	1,038	+ 1.0	- 0.7	1,984	+ 8.2	- 4.9
Other parts of England and Wales ...	1,809	+ 0.3	+ 3.7	3,578	- 1.6	+ 0.1
England and Wales ...	48,435	+ 0.1	- 1.5	109,587	- 0.6	- 4.7
Scotland ...	2,503	- 0.4	+ 2.5	5,304	- 3.9	+ 2.0
Great Britain ...	50,938	+ 0.0	- 1.3	114,891	- 0.8	- 4.4

Returns from firms employing about 44,400 operatives in the week ended 29th January, 1927, showed that 28½ per cent. of these operatives worked short time in that week, losing, on an average, about 11¼ hours each.

Employment in London showed a slight improvement, and was moderate. At Leicester it also showed an improvement, and was described as fair; though 27 per cent. of the operatives covered by the returns were still on short time, to the extent of 12½ hours each, on the average. At Northampton employment remained only moderate; 33 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns were on short time, to the extent of 10 hours each, on the average. At Higham and Rushden employment improved, and was fair; at Wellingborough it was very quiet, and a considerable amount of short time was worked. In the Irthlingborough district, however, overtime was worked at some factories, and employment, generally, was fairly good. Employment at Kettering was moderate; short time was not so prevalent as at some centres, but the number of workers totally unemployed was still considerable.

Employment showed a decline at Stafford, and short time was prevalent: 37 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns were on short time in the last week of the month. At Norwich there was a recovery from the depressed end-of-the-year conditions, and some firms resumed full-time working; but large numbers of operatives were still unemployed or on short time.

In the Bristol and Kingswood district employment was quiet, especially with firms engaged in the manufacture of heavy boots, and a number of firms reverted to short-time working. An improvement was reported at Street. At Leeds the improvement reported last month was not maintained, and short time was prevalent. There was a considerable seasonal improvement in the Rossendale Valley; but much short time was still worked, and employment was below the level of January, 1926.

Employment showed a slight improvement at Dundee and at Kilmarnock, and was fairly good at the latter place; elsewhere in Scotland it was poor, and showed a decline at Glasgow and at some other centres.

The following Table shows the number of men and of women (other than casuals) on the registers of Employment Exchanges in the principal centres of the boot and shoe industry at 24th January, 1927 :—

Department.	Numbers (excluding Casuals) on the Registers at 24th January, 1927.						Total.
	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.			
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	
Boot and Shoe Manufacture :							
Preparing Department ...	106	10	116	76	21	97	213
Rough Stuff Department ...	300	8	308	138	14	152	460
Clicking Department ...	459	1	460	402	3	405	865
Closing Department ...	11	484	495	11	579	590	1,085
Making Department ...	1,509	34	1,543	870	20	890	2,433
Finishing Department ...	1,130	355	1,485	488	99	587	2,073
Slipper Making ...	331	56	387	791	715	1,506	1,893
Clog Making ...	19	1	20	3	—	3	23
Repairing and Hand-sewn Work ...	505	3	508	30	—	30	538
TOTAL ...	4,370	953	5,323	2,809	1,451	4,260	9,583

The following Table shows the increases and decreases as compared with 20th December, 1926 :—

Department.	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.			Total.
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	
	Boot and Shoe Manufacture :						
Preparing Department ...	—	- 15	- 15	- 11	+ 7	- 4	- 19
Rough Stuff Department ...	- 37	—	- 37	- 24	+ 5	- 19	- 56
Clicking Department ...	- 61	- 3	- 64	- 262	- 4	- 266	- 330
Closing Department ...	- 8	- 70	- 78	+ 6	- 35	- 29	- 107
Making Department ...	- 161	- 11	- 172	+ 131	+ 7	+ 138	- 34
Finishing Department ...	+ 35	- 64	- 29	- 158	- 25	- 183	- 212
Slipper Making ...	- 22	+ 18	+ 4	- 200	- 41	- 241	- 245
Clog Making ...	+ 8	+ 1	+ 9	- 2	—	- 2	+ 7
Repairing and Hand-sewn Work ...	+ 28	+ 1	+ 29	+ 7	—	+ 7	+ 36
TOTAL ...	- 218	- 143	- 361	- 513	- 86	- 599	- 960

The exports of boots and shoes in January, 1927, amounted to 82,644 dozen pairs, or 8,135 dozen pairs less than in December, 1926, and 1,680 dozen pairs less than in January, 1926.

BUILDING TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT during January showed a further seasonal decline; it was reported as slack in some districts, including Cardiff, Bath, Burnley and Blyth, but it was fair, on the whole, with skilled operatives (except painters) in most districts; compared with January, 1926, there was a decline in the Midland and Northern Counties of England and in Wales, and a slight improvement, on the whole, in other areas. Unfavourable weather was responsible for a certain amount of short time working in a number of districts.

As regards individual occupations, employment showed a general decline with all classes as compared with the previous month; it continued good, however, with plasterers in most districts and fairly good with bricklayers, some shortage of these classes being reported from a few centres. With carpenters and joiners it was moderate to fair generally, and with masons, slaters and plumbers it was slack or quiet on the whole. Employment was bad with painters in most districts, and slack with tradesmen's labourers.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts who were unemployed at 24th January, 1927, together with the increase or decrease in the percentages as compared with the previous month and with January, 1926 :—

OCCUPATIONS.	Estimated Number of Insured Workpeople at July, 1926.	Total Number Unemployed at 24th Jan., 1927.	Number included in previous Column who were Temporarily Stopped.	Per-centage Unem-ployed.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage as compared with a	
					Month before.	Year before.
Carpenters ...	126,460	10,910	527	8.6	+ 1.4	+ 1.5
Bricklayers ...	72,150	5,177	506	7.2	+ 0.7	+ 2.3
Masons ...	25,240	2,780	406	11.0	+ 2.5	+ 0.9
Slaters ...	5,710	605	83	10.6	+ 4.8	—
Plasterers ...	19,720	984	74	5.0	+ 0.9	+ 1.8
Painters ...	112,930	33,073	1,219	29.3	+ 3.5	- 0.8
Plumbers ...	31,860	3,053	155	9.6	+ 1.3	+ 1.6
Labourers to above ...	245,860	39,119	1,919	15.9	+ 2.0	—
All other occupations ...	161,110	26,188	1,366	16.3	+ 0.5	+ 0.2
TOTAL ...	801,040	121,889	6,255	15.2	+ 1.7	+ 0.3

DIVISIONS.	Estimated Number of Insured Workpeople at July, 1926.	Total Number Unemployed at 24th Jan., 1927.	Number included in previous Column who were Temporarily Stopped.	Per-centage Unem-ployed.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage as compared with a	
					Month before.	Year before.
London ...	162,020	24,215	19	14.9	+ 1.9	- 0.1
South-Eastern ...	123,470	10,209	153	8.3	+ 1.7	- 0.8
South-Western ...	98,750	11,046	142	11.2	+ 1.4	- 0.4
Midlands ...	91,230	12,957	1,561	14.2	+ 1.8	+ 1.3
North-Eastern ...	103,190	20,377	1,672	19.7	+ 1.1	+ 0.7
North-Western ...	104,350	18,585	1,467	17.8	+ 1.8	+ 1.3
Scotland ...	73,690	12,719	734	17.3	+ 2.2	- 0.7
Wales ...	29,310	6,499	494	22.2	+ 0.2	+ 6.0
Northern Ireland ...	15,030	5,282	13	35.1	+ 3.3	- 1.0
Great Britain and Northern Ireland ...	801,040	121,889	6,255	15.2	+ 1.7	+ 0.3

BUILDING PLANS APPROVED.

Returns from Local Authorities in 139 of the principal urban areas in Great Britain (except the London County Council area), with a total population of 15,716,000, show that in January, 1927, plans were passed for buildings of an estimated cost of £4,665,600, as compared with £4,831,900 in December, 1926, and £6,246,200 in January, 1926. Of the total for January, 1927, dwelling-houses accounted for £3,218,400; factories and workshops for £245,600; shops, offices, warehouses and other business premises for £450,300; and other buildings, and additions and alterations to existing buildings, for £751,300.

BRICK TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT during January was fairly good on the whole and showed an improvement as compared with the previous month. In the Peterborough district it continued good. Short time working due to bad weather was reported from some districts.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed in the brick, pipe, tile, etc., trades, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 8.8 at 24th January, 1927, as compared with 11.2 at 20th December, 1926, and 8.3 at 25th January, 1926.

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

Districts.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 29th Jan., 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 29th Jan., 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month before.	Year before.		£	Per cent.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.	
Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire.	2,026	+ 18.4	+ 3.7	4,976	+ 16.0	+ 3.7
Midlands and Eastern Counties.	5,288	+ 1.0	- 2.7	14,042	- 3.9	+ 0.8
South and South-West Counties and Wales.	1,583	+ 3.8	- 4.0	3,776	- 1.4	- 7.9
Scotland ...	168	+ 7.0	+ 8.7	472	+ 11.6	- 5.4
TOTAL ...	9,065	+ 5.1	- 1.7	23,266	+ 0.5	- 0.3

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

PAPER MANUFACTURE, PRINTING, AND BOOKBINDING.

EMPLOYMENT in the paper trade showed a further improvement during January and, generally, was fairly good, full time being worked in most of the districts covered by the reports.

With letterpress printers employment was slack to moderate on the whole and again showed a decline compared with the previous month, and was considerably worse than during January, 1926. The most marked decline occurred in London, where employment was reported as bad; it was also reported to be bad at Liverpool and Birmingham. At Derby, Nottingham and Cardiff, on the other hand, employment was reported as fair and slightly better than in December. Employment with electrotypers and stereotypers remained very good in London, improved to fair at Manchester, and was fairly good elsewhere.

In the lithographic printing trade employment was moderate generally, and showed a decline on the previous month, and on January 1926; short time was reported from many centres. With lithographic artists employment continued moderate in London and bad at Manchester; in other towns it was generally fair.

In the bookbinding trade employment generally was not so good as during December, 1926.

The percentage unemployed among insured workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts in the printing and book-binding trades was 6.0 at 24th January, compared with 5.1 at 20th December and 4.9 at 25th January, 1926. In the paper and paper-board industry, the percentage was 5.2 at 24th January, compared with 5.5 at 20th December and 5.5 at 25th January, 1926. In the cardboard-box, paper bag and stationery trades, the percentage was 6.3 at 24th January, compared with 4.9 at 20th December and 6.0 at 25th January, 1926.

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

—	No. of Members of Unions at end of January, 1927.	Percentage Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on a	
		Jan., 1927.	Dec., 1926.	Jan., 1926.	Month before.	Year before.
		Letterpress Printing :				
London ...	41,782	7.2	6.2	3.2	+ 1.0	+ 4.0
Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire.	17,375	5.7	6.5	3.1	+ 0.2	+ 2.6
Midlands and Eastern Counties.	12,107	2.9	2.7	2.5	+ 0.2	+ 0.4
Scotland ...	7,346	6.0	5.3	3.3	+ 0.7	+ 0.7
Other Districts ...	13,207	3.1	3.7	3.0	- 0.6	+ 0.1
TOTAL ...	91,817	5.6	5.2	3.1	+ 0.4	+ 2.5
Lithographic Printing	10,656	5.2	4.2	2.9	+ 1.0	+ 2.3
Bookbinding ...	21,751	4.0	3.4	4.3	+ 0.6	- 0.3

POTTERY TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in North Staffordshire showed a further improvement, and some sections were fairly well employed. At Worcester employment was good; at Bristol it was moderate and much short time was worked; in the stoneware section in Scotland it was slack.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

EMPLOYMENT during January continued moderate on the average, but was distinctly better at some ports, particularly in the coal-exporting districts.

Among insured workpeople in the canal, river, dock and harbour service, 26·9 per cent. were unemployed at 24th January, 1927, as compared with 28·2 per cent. at 20th December, 1926, and with 26·5 per cent. at 25th January, 1926.

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

Period.	Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London.				
	In Docks.		Total.	At Wharves making Returns.	Total Docks and Principal Wharves.
	By the Port of London Authority or through Contractors.	By Ship-owners, etc.			
Week ended—					
1st January, 1927	4,674	2,180	6,854	7,377	14,231
8th " "	4,725	2,134	6,859	8,065	14,924
15th " "	4,897	2,519	7,416	7,924	15,340
22nd " "	4,841	2,189	7,030	7,537	14,567
29th " "	4,664	2,162	6,826	7,639	14,465
Average for 5 weeks ended 29th January 1927	4,763	2,239	7,002	7,720	14,722
Average for Dec., 1926	4,906	2,051	6,957	8,414	15,371
Average for Jan., 1926	5,318	2,592	7,910	8,534	16,444

Tilbury.—The average daily number of dock labourers employed during January was 1,109, compared with 1,324 in December, 1926, and with 1,318 in January, 1926.

East Coast.—There was a fairly general improvement at the North-East Coast ports and on the Humber, and employment was moderate or fair on the whole. It remained moderate generally at the East Anglian ports.

Liverpool.—Employment continued fair generally, and with coal trimmers and heavers was better than in the previous month. The average weekly number of dock labourers registered at the clearing houses under the Liverpool Docks Scheme as employed in the four weeks ended 28th January was 15,635, compared with 16,448 in December, 1926, and with 16,962 in January, 1926. The average weekly amount of wages paid to these men through the clearing houses was £43,232 in the four weeks ended 28th January, compared with £47,870 in December, 1926, and £49,160 in January, 1926.

Other Ports in England and Wales.—Employment was fair at the South Wales ports, and generally better than in the previous month. At Bristol there was a decline and employment was slack. At Avonmouth it was fair. Employment was poor at Southampton, and worse than in December. It remained slack at Plymouth and other South-Western ports. It declined and was slack at Manchester.

Scottish and Irish Ports.—At Dundee employment was good for the first three weeks of the month, but showed a falling off subsequently. It was bad at Leith and Granton, and remained moderate at Glasgow and Grangemouth and fair at Belfast.

SEAMEN.

DURING January employment was moderate on the whole, and was rather better than in December at the majority of the ports. The improvement was particularly noticeable at the coal-exporting centres. Among insured workpeople in the shipping service, the percentage unemployed at 24th January, 1927, was 20·3, compared with 21·4 at 20th December, 1926, and 20·7 at 25th January, 1926.

The demand for men on the Thames was very active at the commencement of January, and was moderate to fair afterwards. It was fair to good on the Tyne, and generally moderate on the Wear. The demand was moderate on the Tees at the beginning of the month, but declined later, being described as very small in the closing stages. It fluctuated at Hull, and was moderate on the average. At Southampton the demand was moderate; it increased in the latter part of January, partly on account of the manning of troopships. At Bristol it was fair in the first half of the month, and quiet subsequently; it was fair on the whole at Avonmouth. The demand was generally fair at Newport, and fairly good at Cardiff. The demand at Swansea was good in the first half of the month, and fair afterwards. It was moderate in the foreign-going trade on the Mersey, and there was a substantial improvement in the last week of January. The demand continued mainly fair at Manchester, and was quiet to good on the Clyde. It was rather quiet at Leith, and was good in the first half of the month at Belfast, but declined subsequently.

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

Principal Ports.	Number of Seamen* shipped in		
	Jan., 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month before.	Year before.
ENGLAND & WALES:			
Liverpool ...	10,551	- 119	- 479
Manchester ...	1,025	- 140	+ 219
London ...	9,614	+ 902	+ 1,171
Southampton ...	8,127	+ 1,365	+ 438
Tyne Ports ...	2,737	+ 645	+ 1,271
Sunderland ...	237	- 11	- 5
Hull ...	445	+ 222	+ 5
Middlesbrough ...	1,582	+ 305	+ 69
Bristol ...	1,128	- 160	+ 37
Newport, Mon. ...	657	+ 228	- 545
Cardiff ...	3,477	+ 1,524	+ 1,111
Swansea ...	755	+ 127	- 326
SCOTLAND:			
Leith ...	383	+ 82	- 107
Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth ...	219	+ 51	- 208
Glasgow ...	2,834	+ 221	- 134
NORTHERN IRELAND:			
Belfast ...	259	+ 88	+ 106
TOTAL ...	44,030	+ 5,330	+ 2,623

WORK OF EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES.

At 31st January, 1927, the total number of persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain was 1,331,543; in Great Britain and Northern Ireland it was 1,375,399.

Comparative figures for men, boys, women and girls, separately, for 24th December, 1926, and 31st January, 1927, are given below:—

Total.	24th Dec., 1926.		31st January, 1927.		
	Total.	Persons normally unemployed.	Persons normally in regular employment.		Total.
			Wholly Unemployed.	Temporary Stoppages.	
Great Britain.					
Men ...	1,063,329	775,489	204,414	70,224	1,050,127
Boys ...	32,501	32,945	5,099	119	38,163
Women ...	224,494	108,068	94,048	852	202,968
Girls ...	30,721	33,973	6,298	14	40,285
Total...	1,351,045	950,475	309,859	71,209	1,331,543
Great Britain and Northern Ireland.					
Men ...	1,098,438	804,167	205,791	72,729	1,082,687
Boys ...	33,029	33,283	5,151	120	38,554
Women ...	240,055	115,746	96,840	852	213,438
Girls ...	31,533	34,264	6,442	14	40,720
Total...	1,403,055	987,460	314,224	73,715	1,375,399

The following Table gives particulars relating to certain branches of the work of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland during the five weeks ended 31st January, 1927. Of the 116,139 vacancies filled, 60,794 were for men, 29,476 for women, and 25,869 for juveniles:—

Week ended	Applications from Employers.		Vacancies Filled.**	Number of Work-people on Registers.†
	During Week.	At end of Week.		
24th Dec., 1926 ...	12,954	15,690	11,396	1,403,055
3rd Jan., 1927 ...	23,955	15,719	21,762	1,545,246
10th " " ...	23,263	15,760	25,817	1,481,051
17th " " ...	27,826	15,874	24,954	1,437,262
24th " " ...	24,932	15,072	22,649	1,394,630
31st " " ...	24,688	16,102	20,957	1,375,399
Total (5 weeks) ...	130,664	...	116,139	...

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

† Including Birkenhead and Garston.

‡ Including Avonmouth and Portishead.

§ Including Barry and Penarth.

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

** The figures include all workpeople on the Registers of Exchanges with the exception of those in the coal-mining industry who remained disqualified for unemployment benefit on account of the dispute. They include persons "suspended" or "stood off," and those who, although employed on a basis of systematic short time, were not actually at work on the date in question.

*** "Vacancies filled" include certain types of cases (described as Class B placings) in which the work of the Exchanges was limited; for instance, obtaining for an employer former employees, or placing the same men on relief works in alternate weeks. During the four weeks ended 20th December 1926, the average number of such placings was 6,247 per week. The average number of placings of casual workers, such as dock labourers and coal porters, during the five weeks ended 31st January, 1927, was 975 per week.

The following Table shows for each of the Employment Exchange administrative areas, and for the principal towns therein, the number of persons registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland on 31st January, 1927. In certain cases (e.g., Bristol, Birmingham, Sheffield, Liverpool, Glasgow, etc.) the figures cover more than one Exchange area:—

Area.	Number of Persons on Registers at 31st January, 1927.				Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with 24th Dec., 1926.
	Men.	Women.	Juv.-iles.	Total.	
London Division ...	110,239	23,536	10,904	144,679	+ 24,281
South-Eastern Division ...	39,514	6,328	4,637	50,479	+ 7,713
Brighton ...	1,815	467	426	2,708	+ 740
Chatham ...	1,801	237	550	2,588	+ 138
Ipswich ...	2,017	316	220	2,553	+ 618
Norwich ...	2,859	490	102	3,451	+ 345
Rest of South-Eastern	31,022	4,818	3,339	39,179	+ 6,562
South-Western Division ...	55,742	7,711	5,281	68,734	+ 793
Bristol ...	11,006	1,685	1,005	13,696	+ 1,070
Plymouth ...	4,452	663	579	5,694	+ 790
Portsmouth ...	5,320	654	560	6,534	+ 649
Reading ...	1,135	90	295	1,520	+ 421
Southampton ...	4,378	516	670	5,564	+ 242
Swindon ...	1,896	136	186	2,218	+ 765
Rest of South-Western	27,555	3,967	1,986	33,508	+ 1,011
Midlands Division ...	112,927	39,122	7,667	159,716	+ 14,648
Birmingham ...	22,743	11,009	1,199	34,951	+ 1,143
Coventry ...	1,858	600	57	2,515	+ 177
Cradley Heath ...	2,182	501	98	2,781	+ 1,316
Derby ...	2,406	860	362	3,628	+ 133
Letchworth ...	2,843	1,822	91	4,816	+ 894
Northampton ...	1,583	331	119	2,033	+ 137
Nottingham ...	6,350	2,166	488	9,004	+ 456
Smethwick ...	2,572	864	192	3,628	+ 40
Stoke-on-Trent ...	7,438	5,384	636	13,458	+ 6,002
Walsall ...	3,780	881	397	5,058	+ 71
West Bromwich ...	2,594	473	188	3,255	+ 147
Wolverhampton ...	4,080	1,286	401	5,767	+ 1,143
Rest of Midlands ...	52,498	12,885	3,439	68,822	+ 6,109
North-Eastern Division ...	276,690	35,726	16,841	329,257	+ 6,025
Barnsley ...	7,083	498	168	7,749	+ 5,003
Bradford ...	7,978	3,081	647	11,706	+ 383
Darlington ...	3,148	227	252	3,627	+ 622
Dewsbury ...	1,351	1,114	233	2,678	+ 448
Doncaster ...	9,709	2,822	311	12,842	+ 8,624
Gateshead ...	9,660	877	985	11,522	+ 484
Grimsby ...	3,183	207	341	3,731	+ 469
Halifax ...	2,730	2,180	132	5,042	+ 242
Hartlepool ...	6,478	160	430	7,068	+ 2,428
Huddersfield ...	2,979	1,413	250	4,642	+ 459
Hull ...	11,797	783	1,071	13,651	+ 2,034
Leeds ...	14,275	4,477	624	19,373	+ 499
Lincoln ...	2,204	255	170	2,629	+ 177
Middlesbrough ...	9,877	506	375	10,758	+ 5,505
Newcastle-on-Tyne...	16,012	1,489	1,219	18,720	+ 283
Rotherham ...	2,348	247	395	2,990	+ 1,929
Sheffield ...	21,613	3,063	1,763	26,439	+ 1,116
South Shields ...	7,954	429	596	8,979	+ 2,408
Stockton-on-Tees ...	6,626	232	430	7,288	+ 1,463
Sunderland ...	16,255	902	438	17,595	+ 1,525
Wakefield ...	877	353	310	1,540	+ 291
York ...	2,821	504	287	3,612	+ 1,282
Rest of North-Eastern	109,752	12,462	5,117	127,331	+ 5,865
North-Western Division ...	179,860	62,354	17,079	259,293	+ 17,804
Accrington ...	2,577	1,066	188	3,831	+ 3,925
Ashton-under-Lyne ...	2,498	4,477	624	7,399	+ 656
Barrow ...	2,975	229	289	4,493	+ 856
Birkenhead ...	5,390	363	359	6,112	+ 583
Blackburn ...	4,053	3,421	234	7,708	+ 5,373
Blackpool ...	1,505	795	258	2,558	+ 262
Bolton ...	5,787	2,385	384	8,556	+ 2,171
Burnley ...	3,299	2,486	154	5,939	+ 872
Bury ...	1,558	1,192	174	2,924	+ 269
Chorley ...	1,525	929	115	2,573	+ 164
Liverpool ...	38,718	5,724	4,365	48,807	+ 5,200
Manchester ...	21,612	7,227	2,546	31,385	+ 406
Nelson ...	1,661	801	61	2,523	+ 642
Oldham ...	6,258	2,522	266	9,046	+ 1,975
Preston ...	4,252	3,450	271	7,973	+ 3,553
Rochdale ...	3,327	2,237	235	5,799	+ 64
Sk. Helens ...	4,009	272	490	4,771	+ 908
Salford ...	7,585	3,269	1,269	12,123	+ 1,094
Stockport ...	2,887	1,173	215	4,275	+ 58
Warrington ...	2,076	581	278	2,735	+ 156
Wigan ...	5,119	2,173	329	7,621	+ 402
Rest of North-Western	50,185	18,591	4,375	73,151	+ 11,875
Scotland Division ...	147,939	24,164	10,508	182,611	+ 20,059
Aberdeen ...	4,328	1,098	303	6,329	+ 41
Clydebank ...	3,055	312	189	3,556	+ 126
Dundee ...	4,777	2,089	233	7,099	+ 240
Edinburgh ...	12,274	2,319	1,053	15,646	+ 1,404
Glasgow ...	55,069	8,540	4,435	68,044	+ 8,209
Greenock ...	8,463	554	284	9,301	+ 1,191
Motherwell ...	2,433	221	240	2,894	+

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED INDUSTRIES.

The statistics here presented show, industry by industry, the estimated number of persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, the number and percentage of such persons who were unemployed on the 24th January 1927, and the increase or decrease at that date in the total percentages unemployed compared with a month earlier, a year ago, and two years ago, respectively.

The Unemployment Insurance Acts provide, subject to certain exceptions, for the compulsory insurance against unemployment of persons who are exempted from such compulsory insurance are juveniles under 16 years of age, 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 exempted.

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.

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

The files of "lodged" books at the Employment Exchanges thus furnish for each industrial group a record of the unemployment of insured persons. In arriving at this figure the books of those persons who are known to be working in an uninsured trade, or to be sick or deceased, or who are known to have emigrated or gone

abroad, are of course excluded. In cases where information on these points is lacking the books remain in the "lodged" files, and are included in the statistics of unemployment, for a period of two months from the date on which the insured person was last in touch with the Employment Exchange.

This last item determines in the main the difference between the total number of unemployed persons given in the following Table and the figure given on page 66 showing the total number of persons registered at Employment Exchanges. The difference would be greater were it not that this latter figure includes uninsured persons who are maintaining registration. These do not appear in the figures of "books lodged," which relate solely to insured persons.

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

Each of these Tables gives an analysis of the figures, distinguishing between persons who are wholly unemployed (in the sense that they are definitely without a job) and those who are temporarily stopped or suspended from the service of an employer. The figures under the heading "temporary stoppages" include those persons recorded as unemployed on the date of the return who were either on short time or were otherwise stood off or suspended on the definite understanding that they were to return to their former employment within a period of six weeks from the date of suspension. In cases where there was no definite prospect of return within six weeks the individuals have been included in the statistics as "wholly unemployed." The only exception to this rule arises in the small number of cases where, although the expectation of resumption within the six weeks' period was not realised, a definite date for resumption of work had nevertheless been fixed. In such cases the individuals concerned have been included under the heading "temporary stoppages." The figures given in the grand total columns in both Tables are strictly comparable with the corresponding figures published each month since July, 1925.

NUMBERS OF INSURED PERSONS RECORDED AS UNEMPLOYED AT 24TH JANUARY, 1927.

INDUSTRY.	GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.									GREAT BRITAIN ONLY.		
	WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED (INCLUDING CASUALS).			TEMPORARY STOPPAGES.			TOTAL.			WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED, TEMPORARY STOPPAGES AND CASUALS.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Fishing	4,554	165	4,719	135	133	268	4,689	298	4,987	4,646	297	4,943
Mining —	145,989	751	146,740	53,592	276	53,868	195,581	1,027	200,608	199,449	1,027	200,476
Coal Mining	2,337	1	2,338	850	1	851	3,187	2	3,189	3,174	2	3,176
Iron Ore and Ironstone Mining and Quarrying	684	3	687	35	...	35	719	3	722	719	3	722
Lead, Tin and Copper Mining	3,383	7	3,390	1,102	2	1,104	4,485	9	4,494	4,069	9	4,078
Stone Quarrying and Mining	184	...	184	48	...	48	232	...	232	232	...	232
Slate Quarrying and Mining	2,103	59	2,162	457	101	558	2,560	160	2,720	2,457	159	2,616
Other Mining and Quarrying	871	23	894	82	...	82	953	23	976	920	23	943
Clay, Sand, Gravel and Chalk Pit Digging	1,939	12	1,951	573	1	574	2,512	13	2,525	2,510	13	2,523
Non-Metalliferous Mining Products —	1,936	70	2,006	668	18	686	2,604	88	2,692	2,592	88	2,680
Coke Ovens and By-Product Works	948	35	983	76	3	79	1,024	38	1,062	972	38	1,010
Artificial Stone and Concrete Manufacture	5,442	540	5,982	1,167	127	1,294	6,609	667	7,276	6,301	667	6,968
Cement, Limekilns and Whiting Works	2,124	2,272	4,396	3,008	4,811	7,819	5,132	7,083	12,215	5,121	7,082	12,203
Brick, Tile, etc., Making	2,041	314	2,355	497	84	581	2,538	398	2,936	2,534	398	2,932
Pottery, Earthenware, etc.	2,682	162	2,844	784	70	854	3,466	232	3,698	3,464	232	3,696
Glass Trades —	5,832	789	6,621	741	248	989	6,573	1,037	7,610	6,487	1,031	7,518
Glass (excluding Bottles and Scientific Glass) Manufacture	1,004	489	1,493	69	24	93	1,073	513	1,586	1,072	513	1,585
Glass Bottle Making	810	175	985	55	24	79	865	199	1,064	865	199	1,064
Ammunition Explosives, Chemicals, etc. —	4,322	930	5,252	1,003	207	1,210	5,325	1,137	6,462	5,288	1,074	6,362
Explosives Manufacture	62,528	1,681	64,209	22,944	544	23,488	85,472	2,225	87,697	83,838	2,222	86,060
Paint, Varnish, Japan, Red and White Lead Manufacture	13,847	771	14,618	727	272	999	14,195	1,043	15,238	14,173	1,043	15,216
Oil, Grease, Glue, Soap, Ink, Match, etc., Manufacture	3,893	53	3,946	991	11	1,002	4,884	64	4,948	4,877	64	4,941
Metal Manufacture —	3,122	40	3,162	1,800	5	1,805	4,922	45	4,967	4,917	45	4,962
Pig Iron Manufacture (Blast Furnaces)	22,612	162	22,774	16,608	131	16,739	39,220	293	39,513	39,201	293	39,494
Steel Melting and Iron Puddling Furnaces, Iron and Steel Rolling Mills and Forges	4,073	274	4,347	1,121	25	1,146	5,194	299	5,493	5,171	299	5,470
Manufacture of Brass, Copper, Zinc, Tin, Lead, etc.	1,453	169	1,622	1,065	69	1,134	2,518	238	2,756	2,516	238	2,754
Manufacture of Tin Plates	2,194	92	2,286	1,412	22	1,434	3,606	114	3,720	3,600	114	3,714
Iron and Steel Tube Making	1,843	246	2,089	1,692	74	1,766	3,535	320	3,855	3,525	320	3,845
Wire, Wire Netting, Wire Rope Manufacture	62,528	1,681	64,209	22,944	544	23,488	85,472	2,225	87,697	83,838	2,222	86,060
Engineering, etc. —	13,847	771	14,618	727	272	999	14,195	1,043	15,238	14,173	1,043	15,216
General Engineering: Engineers' Iron and Steel Founding	3,893	53	3,946	991	11	1,002	4,884	64	4,948	4,877	64	4,941
Electrical Engineering	1,453	169	1,622	1,065	69	1,134	2,518	238	2,756	2,516	238	2,754
Marine Engineering, etc.	2,194	92	2,286	1,412	22	1,434	3,606	114	3,720	3,600	114	3,714
Constructional Engineering	1,843	246	2,089	1,692	74	1,766	3,535	320	3,855	3,525	320	3,845
Construction and Repair of Vehicles —	14,887	1,211	16,098	2,189	277	2,466	17,076	1,488	18,564	16,845	1,486	18,331
Construction and Repair of Motor Vehicles, Cycles and Aircraft	2,217	167	2,384	257	31	288	2,474	198	2,672	2,384	198	2,582
Construction and Repair of Carriages, Carts, etc.	3,724	45	3,769	3,073	11	3,084	6,797	56	6,853	6,788	56	6,844
Railway Carriage, Wagon and Tram-car Building ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

INDUSTRY.	GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.									GREAT BRITAIN ONLY.		
	WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED (INCLUDING CASUALS).			TEMPORARY STOPPAGES.			TOTAL.			WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED, TEMPORARY STOPPAGES AND CASUALS.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing	80,914	158	81,072	1,670	15	1,685	82,584	173	82,757	76,556	164	76,720
Metal Trades —	6,891	441	7,332	2,176	246	2,422	9,067	687	9,754	8,946	687	9,633
Stove, Grate, Pipe, etc., and General Iron Founding	1,014	30	1,044	69	...	69	1,083	30	1,113	1,025	30	1,055
Electrical Wiring and Contracting	4,004	2,521	6,525	378	422	800	4,382	2,943	7,325	4,365	2,943	7,308
Electrical Cable, Wire and Electric Lamp Manufacture	2,788	851	3,639	1,526	381	1,907	4,314	1,232	5,546	4,314	1,232	5,546
Hand Tool, Cutlery, Saw, File Making	1,288	942	2,230	933	325	1,258	2,221	1,267	3,488	2,221	1,267	3,488
Bolts, Nuts, Screws, Rivets, Nails, etc., Manufacture	1,804	870	2,674	369	292	661	2,173	1,162	3,335	2,168	1,162	3,330
Brass and Allied Metal Wares Manufacture	451	11	462	98	11	109	549	22	571	547	22	569
Heating and Ventilating Apparatus	2,377	1,368	3,745	707	855	1,562	3,084	2,223	5,307	3,060	2,223	5,283
Watches, Clocks, Plate, Jewellery, etc., Manufacture	9,409	5,050	14,459	2,855	2,092	4,947	12,264	7,142	19,406	12,110	7,139	19,249
Other Metal Industries	9,502	13,517	23,019	13,324	28,973	42,297	22,826	42,490	65,316	22,822	42,478	65,300
Textile Trades —	5,467	4,280	9,747	8,269	13,340	21,609	13,736	17,620	31,356	13,649	17,664	31,313
Cotton	884	1,055	1,939	1,145	2,280	3,425	2,029	3,335	5,364	2,027	3,335	5,362
Woolen and Worsted	3,186	5,650	8,836	1,039	2,468	3,507	4,225	8,118	12,343	549	1,154	1,703
Silk	1,560	2,132	3,692	364	502	866	1,924	2,634	4,558	1,923	2,634	4,557
Linen	604	929	1,533	185	610	795	789	1,539	2,328	649	1,253	1,902
Hemp Spinning and Weaving, Rope, Cord, Twine, etc., Making	658	2,472	3,130	779	4,706	5,485	1,437	7,178	8,615	1,410	7,045	8,455
Hosiery	570	471	1,041	895	827	1,722	1,465	1,298	2,763	1,465	1,297	2,762
Lace	472	469	941	374	890	1,264	846	1,359	2,205	843	1,358	2,201
Carpet Manufacture	941	2,276	3,217	373	1,390	1,763	1,314	3,666	4,980	1,161	3,178	4,339
Other Textile Industries	4,191	1,429	5,620	12,130	4,329	16,459	16,321	5,758	22,079	15,717	4,945	20,662
Textile, Bleaching, Printing, Dyeing, etc.	2,561	584	3,145	882	220	1,102	3,443	804	4,247	3,442	804	4,246
Leather and Leather Goods —	1,248	785	2,033	265	341	606	1,513	1,126	2,639	1,485	1,125	2,610
Tanning, Currying and Dressing	8,138	7,552	15,690	1,795	8,535	10,330	9,933	16,087	26,020	9,202	15,821	25,023
Saddlery, Harness and other Leather Goods Manufacture	861	5,399	6,260	81	2,657	2,738	942	8,056	8,998	915	7,651	8,566
Other Trades —	742	711	1,453	512	565	1,077	1,254	1,276	2,530	1,250	1,271	2,521
Tailoring	479	2,778	3,257	49	1,812	1,861	528	4,590	5,118	408	2,713	3,321
Dress and Mantle Making and Millinery	639	567	1,206	194	591	785	833	1,158	1,991	830	1,156	1,986
Hat and Cap (Including Straw Plait) Manufacture	7,010	1,806	8,816	3,628	1,915	5,543	10,638	3,721	14,359	10,415	3,711	14,126
Blouses, Shirts, Collars, Underclothing, etc., Making	8,778	3,001	11,779	541	492	1,033	9,319	3,493	12,812	8,667	3,347	12,014
Other Dress Industries	1,819	194	2,013	786	57	843	2,605	251	2,856	2,464	247	2,711
Boot, Shoe, Slipper and Clog Trades	1,909	3,017	4,926	539	5,554	6,093	2,448	8,571	11,019	2,434	8,556	10,990
Food, Drink and Tobacco —	5,176	6,493	11,669	373	865	1						

NUMBERS INSURED AND PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED.

INDUSTRY.	GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.												GREAT BRITAIN ONLY. TOTAL PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 24TH JAN., 1927.			
	PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 24TH JANUARY, 1927.											INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN TOTAL PERCENTAGES AS COMPARED WITH				
	ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AT JULY, 1926.			WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED (including Casuals).			TEMPORARY STOPPAGES.			TOTAL.						
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.			Total.	20TH DEC., 1926.	25TH JAN., 1926.	26TH JAN., 1925.
Fishing	26,090	880	26,970	17.5	18.8	17.5	0.5	15.1	1.0	18.0	33.9	18.5	- 4.1	+ 3.8	+ 3.8	18.5
Mining:																
Coal Mining	1,220,550	7,320	1,227,870	12.0	10.3	12.0	4.4	3.7	4.3	16.4	14.0	16.3	+ 6.1*	+ 6.2	+ 8.4	16.3
Iron Ore and Ironstone Mining and Quarrying	15,280	40	15,320	15.3	2.5	15.3	5.6	2.5	5.5	20.9	5.0	20.8	- 24.2	- 1.9	+ 2.4	20.9
Lead, Tin and Copper Mining	5,250	40	5,290	13.0	7.5	13.0	0.7	...	0.6	13.7	7.5	13.6	- 1.6	+ 2.3	- 5.3	13.6
Stone Quarrying and Mining	40,820	330	41,150	8.3	2.1	8.2	2.7	0.6	2.7	11.0	2.7	10.9	- 2.8	- 0.3	+ 4.3	10.2
Slate Quarrying and Mining	10,860	10	10,870	1.7	...	1.7	0.4	...	0.4	2.1	...	2.1	+ 0.4	- 0.9	- 0.1	2.1
Other Mining and Quarrying	17,920	1,630	19,550	11.7	3.6	11.1	2.6	6.2	2.8	14.3	9.8	13.9	- 1.5	- 2.0	+ 6.3	13.8
Clay, Sand, Gravel and Chalk Pit Digging	14,960	170	15,130	5.8	13.5	5.9	0.6	...	0.6	6.4	13.5	6.5	- 0.7	+ 1.4	+ 1.5	6.3
Non-Metallic Mining Products:																
Coke Ovens and By-Product Works	11,560	160	11,720	16.8	7.5	16.6	4.9	0.6	4.9	21.7	8.1	21.5	- 18.4	+ 7.3	+ 10.0	21.5
Artificial Stone and Concrete Manufacture	15,230	1,230	16,460	12.7	5.7	12.2	4.4	1.5	4.2	17.1	7.2	16.4	- 2.4	- 5.1	- 1.9	16.4
Cement, Limekilns and Whiting Works	17,970	950	18,920	5.3	3.7	5.2	0.4	0.3	0.4	5.7	4.0	5.6	- 2.2	- 1.4	- 1.7	5.5
Brick, Tile, etc., Making	75,230	7,680	82,910	7.2	7.0	7.2	1.6	1.7	1.6	8.8	8.7	8.8	- 2.4	+ 0.5	+ 0.9	8.5
Pottery, Earthenware, etc.	35,220	38,590	73,810	6.0	5.9	6.0	8.6	12.5	10.5	14.6	18.4	16.5	- 3.1	- 2.7	- 0.4	16.6
Glass Trades:																
Glass (excluding Bottles and Scientific Glass) Manufacture	21,320	5,270	26,590	9.6	6.0	8.9	2.3	1.6	2.1	11.9	7.6	11.0	- 0.4	+ 1.1	- 2.9	11.0
Glass Bottle Making	15,910	2,100	18,010	16.9	7.7	15.8	4.9	3.3	4.7	21.8	11.0	20.5	- 2.6	+ 0.3	- 6.7	20.5
Ammunition Explosives, Chemicals, etc.:																
Chemicals Manufacture	72,680	21,850	94,530	8.0	3.6	7.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	9.0	4.7	8.1	- 0.9	- 0.8	- 1.2	8.0
Explosives Manufacture	12,520	6,070	18,590	8.0	8.1	8.0	0.6	0.4	0.5	8.6	8.5	8.5	- 0.1	+ 0.7	+ 0.9	8.5
Paint, Varnish, Japan, Red and White Lead Manufacture	13,450	3,900	17,350	6.0	4.5	5.7	0.4	0.6	0.4	6.4	5.1	6.1	+ 0.4	+ 1.3	+ 0.2	6.1
Oil, Grease, Glue, Soap, Ink, Match, etc., Manufacture	59,550	20,850	80,400	7.3	4.5	6.5	1.6	1.0	1.5	8.9	5.5	8.0	- 0.2	+ 1.1	+ 0.9	8.0
Metal Manufacture:																
Pig Iron Manufacture (Blast Furnaces)	24,210	280	24,490	12.9	14.3	12.9	7.4	1.8	7.4	20.3	16.1	20.3	- 24.4	+ 0.5	+ 2.7	20.3
Steel Melting and Iron Puddling Furnaces, Iron and Steel Rolling Mills and Forges	189,980	3,870	193,850	11.9	4.2	11.7	8.7	3.4	8.7	20.6	7.6	20.4	- 14.1	- 1.6	- 3.3	20.4
Manufacture of Brass, Copper, Zinc, Tin, Lead, etc.	39,120	3,370	42,490	10.4	8.1	10.2	2.9	0.8	2.7	13.3	8.9	12.9	- 2.6	+ 2.1	+ 1.3	13.0
Manufacture of Tin Plates	27,290	4,500	31,790	5.3	3.8	5.1	3.9	1.5	3.6	9.2	5.3	8.7	- 13.3	- 2.6	- 35.3	8.7
Iron and Steel Tube Making	26,580	1,760	28,340	8.3	5.2	8.1	5.3	1.3	5.0	13.6	6.5	13.1	- 7.7	- 2.5	- 5.5	13.1
Wire, Wire Netting, Wire Rope Manufacture	20,830	4,240	25,070	8.8	5.8	8.3	8.2	1.7	7.1	17.0	7.5	15.4	- 1.3	+ 3.1	+ 3.5	15.4
Engineering, etc.:																
General Engineering: Engineers' Iron and Steel Founding	572,820	43,100	615,920	10.9	3.9	10.4	4.0	1.3	3.8	14.9	5.2	14.2	- 1.5	+ 1.7	+ 0.2	14.1
Electrical Engineering	61,240	15,760	77,000	5.7	4.9	5.5	1.2	1.7	1.3	6.9	6.6	6.8	+ 0.7	+ 0.3	+ 1.2	6.8
Marine Engineering, etc.	67,370	1,000	68,370	24.1	5.0	23.8	1.0	0.2	1.0	25.1	5.2	24.8	- 3.1	+ 0.7	+ 2.3	23.2
Constructional Engineering	26,370	1,060	27,430	14.8	5.0	14.4	3.7	1.0	3.6	18.5	6.0	18.0	- 6.6	+ 5.9	+ 2.9	18.0
Construction and Repair of Vehicles:																
Construction and Repair of Motor Vehicles, Cycles and Aircraft	201,780	22,260	224,040	7.4	5.4	7.2	1.1	1.3	1.1	8.5	6.7	8.3	- 0.2	+ 1.6	+ 0.8	8.2
Construction and Repair of Carriages, Carts, etc.	19,350	2,350	21,700	11.5	7.1	11.0	1.3	1.3	1.3	12.8	8.4	12.3	+ 0.2	+ 1.3	- 0.7	12.1
Railway Carriage, Wagon and Tramcar Building	54,970	1,320	56,290	6.8	3.4	6.7	5.6	0.8	5.5	12.4	4.2	12.2	- 4.8	+ 4.5	+ 4.7	12.2
Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing	220,820	3,300	224,120	36.6	4.8	36.2	0.8	0.4	0.7	37.4	5.2	36.9	- 5.3	- 0.2	+ 5.2	36.6
Metal Trades:																
Stove, Grate, Pipe, etc., and General Iron Founding	82,160	8,330	90,490	8.4	5.3	8.1	2.6	2.9	2.7	11.0	8.2	10.8	- 2.4	+ 0.1	- 1.1	10.7
Electrical Wiring and Contracting	12,740	1,170	13,910	8.0	2.6	7.5	0.5	...	0.5	8.5	2.6	8.0	- 0.2	- 1.5	+ 0.4	7.8
Electrical Cable, Wire and Electric Lamp Manufacture	56,030	31,880	87,910	7.1	7.9	7.4	0.7	1.3	0.9	7.8	9.2	8.3	+ 1.2	+ 0.8	+ 0.6	8.3
Hand Tool, Cutlery, Saw, File Making	24,620	10,520	35,140	11.3	8.1	10.4	6.2	3.6	5.4	17.5	11.7	15.8	- 0.7	+ 1.6	+ 1.8	15.8
Bolts, Nuts, Screws, Rivets, Nails, etc., Manufacture	15,020	11,380	26,400	8.6	8.3	8.4	6.2	2.8	4.8	14.8	11.1	13.2	- 0.3	+ 2.1	- 3.3	13.2
Brass and Allied Metal Wares Manufacture	19,180	11,980	31,160	9.4	7.3	8.6	1.9	2.4	2.1	11.3	9.7	10.7	+ 1.5	+ 0.8	- 3.6	10.7
Heating and Ventilating Apparatus	6,610	490	7,100	6.8	2.2	6.5	1.5	2.3	1.5	8.3	4.5	8.0	+ 2.4	+ 1.8	+ 4.1	8.0
Watches, Clocks, Plate, Jewellery, etc., Manufacture	25,400	20,070	45,470	9.4	6.8	8.2	2.7	4.3	3.5	12.1	11.1	11.7	+ 3.0	+ 1.1	- 1.0	11.7
Other Metal Industries	117,970	68,450	186,420	8.0	7.4	7.8	2.4	3.0	2.6	10.4	10.4	10.4	...	+ 1.2	- 1.7	10.4
Textile Trades:																
Cotton	210,730	368,460	579,190	4.5	3.7	4.0	6.3	7.8	7.3	10.8	11.5	11.3	- 1.9	+ 3.1	+ 5.1	11.3
Woolen and Worsted	106,380	148,370	254,750	5.1	2.9	3.8	7.8	9.0	8.5	12.9	11.9	12.3	+ 1.3	+ 1.2	+ 0.3	12.3
Silk	21,350	29,870	51,220	4.1	3.5	3.8	5.4	7.7	6.7	9.5	11.2	10.5	+ 0.1	- 1.7	+ 2.1	10.5
Linen	28,000	61,590	89,590	11.4	9.2	9.9	3.7	4.0	3.9	15.1	13.2	13.8	- 3.1	- 13.2	+ 1.8	10.6
Jute	13,430	28,130	41,560	11.6	7.6	8.9	2.7	1.8	2.1	14.3	9.4	11.0	- 1.9	- 2.1	+ 1.0	11.0
Hemp Spinning and Weaving, Rope, Cord, Twine, etc., Making	7,490	12,250	19,740	8.1	7.6	7.8	2.4	5.0	4.0	10.5	12.6	11.8	- 1.2	- 1.7	- 3.0	11.4
Hosiery	21,190	76,700	97,890	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.7	6.2	5.6	8.8	9.4	8.8	+ 0.6	+ 4.1	- 0.9	8.7
Lace	8,110	10,890	19,000	7.0	4.3	5.5	11.1	7.6	9.0	18.1	11.9	14.5	- 0.5	- 3.9	- 6.9	14.5
Carpet Manufacture	10,730	15,510	26,240	4.4	3.0	3.6	3.5	5.8	4.8	7.9	8.8	8.4	+ 1.3	- 1.2	+ 0.6	8.4
Other Textile Industries	13,360	31,160	44,520	7.0	7.3	7.2	2.8	4.5	4.0	9.8	11.8	11.2	...	+ 0.7	- 2.3	10.7
Textile Bleaching, Printing, Dyeing, etc.	86,540	32,740	119,280	4.8	4.4	4.7	14.1	13.2	13.8	18.9	17.6	18.5	+ 0.9	+ 5.6	+ 6.2	18.8
Leather and Leather Goods:																
Tanning, Currying and Dressing	32,080	8,450	40,530	8.0	6.9	7.8	2.7	2.6	2.7	10.7	9.5	10.5	+ 1.0	- 0.7	- 0.7	10.5
Saddlery, Harness and other Leather Goods Manufacture	13,750	12,970	26,720	9.1	6.1	7.6	1.9	2.6	2.3	11.0	8.7	9.9	+ 1.1	- 0.4	- 2.1	9.8
Clothing Trades:																
Tailoring	66,830	126,930	193,760	12.2	5.9	8.1	2.7	6.8	5.3	14.9	12.7	13.4	+ 0.1	- 0.1	- 1.4	13.2
Dress and Mantle Making and Millinery	11,740	95,060	106,800	7.3	5.7	5.9	0.7	2.8	2.5	8.0	8.5	8.4	+ 0.8	- 1.2	- 3.6	8.2
Hat and Cap (including Straw Plait) Manufacture	13,400	20,940	34,340	5.5	3.4	4.2	3.9	2.7	3.2	9.4	6.1	7.4	- 3.6	- 0.2	- 2.5	7.3
Blouses, Shirts, Collars, Underclothing, etc., Making	7,240	65,750	72,990	6.6	4.2	4.5	0.7	2.8	2.5	7.3	7.0	7.0	- 0.5	- 0.3	- 2.4	5.5
Other Dress Industries	10,520	17,830	28													

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.

Rates of Wages.

In the industries covered by the Department's statistics* the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation in January in Great Britain and Northern Ireland resulted in an aggregate increase of nearly £20,000 in the weekly full-time wages of nearly 400,000 workpeople and in a reduction of nearly £38,000 in the weekly wages of 270,000 workpeople.

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

Group of Industries.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by		Amount of Changes in Weekly Wages.	
	Increases.	Decreases.	Increases.	Decreases.
Mining and Quarrying ...	2,500	152,000	440	26,350
Metal	7,000	23,500	720	1,400
Textile	83,000	55,000	800	3,750
Building and Allied Industries.	8,500	30,000	880	3,000
Gas, Water, and Electricity Supply.	38,000	...	3,750	...
Transport	214,000	7,000	11,150	2,850
Other	35,000	4,500	2,000	400
Total	388,000	272,000	19,740	37,750

The principal reductions in the mining group affected coal miners in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Warwickshire; in South Derbyshire the percentage addition to basis rates was reduced by about 7½ per cent. on the previous wages, and in the other districts there was a corresponding reduction of between 5 and 6 per cent. In the case of iron ore miners in Cumberland there were alterations in wages following the adoption of a revised sliding scale dependent on the selling price of pig iron, the majority of the workpeople receiving an increase.

In the metal group there were increases in the wages of bobbin makers in England and Wales, amounting to 1s. per week and 6d. per week in the case of men and women respectively. Blast furnace workers in North and South Staffordshire and the West of Scotland also received increases in wages. Iron puddlers and millmen in the North of England and West of Scotland had their wages reduced by about 6½ per cent. on the previous wages in the former district and by over 1½ per cent. in the latter. There was a reduction of about 1½ per cent. in the previous wages of blastfurnacemen and iron and steel workers in South Wales and Monmouthshire, and reductions also occurred in the wages of blastfurnace workers in Cumberland and Northamptonshire.

The increases in the textile group were mainly accounted for by small increases (less than 1 per cent. on the previous rates) in the

wages of workpeople employed in the bleaching, dyeing, finishing, etc. industries in Yorkshire, Lancashire and Scotland. There were reductions of varying amounts in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts for workpeople employed in the jute industry in Great Britain, and for those employed in the linen and cotton handkerchief and household goods and linen piece goods industry in Northern Ireland.

There was a reduction of ½d. per hour in the wages of men employed by civil engineering contractors in Great Britain. Men employed by public works contractors in London received an increase of ¼d. per hour.

Men employed by electricity supply undertakings received an increase of ¼d. per hour in most areas in Great Britain outside the North East Coast and East Midlands. There was a similar increase in the wages of waterworks employees in London and various districts in the North and Midlands.

In the transport group a considerable number of railway workers in Great Britain, including most of the lower-rated men, had their wages increased by 1s. per week. Road transport workers in Scotland received an increase of 1s. per week. There was also an increase in the wages of coal tippers at various ports. Coal trimmers sustained reductions, amounting in all to between 8 and 10 per cent. on their previous earnings.

In other industries, there were increases in the wages of workpeople employed in the seed crushing and oil milling industry, of wholesale warehouse workers at Manchester, and of employees in the non-trading services of various local authorities in the South Midlands, Kent, Surrey and Sussex, and Cornwall, Devon and Dorset.

Of the total increase of £19,740 per week, over £18,400 took effect under cost-of-living sliding scales, including £5,500 under scales arranged by joint standing bodies of employers and workpeople; other changes under agreements made by such bodies accounted for a further £600; nearly £450 took effect under sliding scales based on selling prices; the remaining sum was the result of direct negotiation between employers and workpeople.

Of the total reduction of £37,750 per week, over £3,700 took effect under Trade Board Orders; £3,500 took effect under cost-of-living sliding scales, including £3,000 under scales arranged by joint standing bodies of employers and workpeople; over £2,800 was the result of arbitration or conciliation proceedings; £1,500 took effect under sliding scales based on selling prices; and the remainder was mainly the result of direct negotiation between employers and workpeople.

Hours of Labour.

The principal change in January concerned coal tippers and trimmers at the Bristol Channel ports, and was the result of the adoption of a day and night shift system of working, in lieu of two continuous eight-hour shifts.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING JANUARY, 1927.

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
Agriculture	Cambridgeshire and Isle of Ely.	1 Jan.	Male agricultural workers under 18 years of age employed as horse-men, cowmen or shepherds (other than stockmen and yardsmen).	Rate fixed at 27s. per week.†
Coal Mining	Warwickshire ...	1 Jan.	Workpeople employed in or about coal mines other than those whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries.	Decrease of 10 per cent. on basis rates of 1911, leaving wages 65 per cent. above basis rates.‡
	Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire (excluding South Derbyshire).	1 Jan.		Decrease of 10 per cent. on basis rates of 1911, leaving wages 80 per cent. above basis rates.
	Leicestershire ...	5 Jan.		Decrease of 10 per cent. on basis rates of 1911, leaving wages 65 per cent. above basis rates.
	South Derbyshire ...	5 Jan.		Decrease of 12.5 per cent. on basis rates of 1911, leaving wages 52.5 per cent. above basis rates.
Iron Mining	Cumberland ...	31 Jan.	Workpeople employed at iron ore mines.	Revised selling-prices sliding scale adopted§ and basis rates increased for the principal classes, the temporary bonuses (4d. or 1s. 9d. per shift for adults) previously paid being cancelled. The new rates per shift, compared with previous rates (inserted in brackets), are as follows: miners' bargain price, 8s. 6d. (7s. 11d.); miners' minimum, 7s. (6s. plus 1s. 9d.); shiftmen, 8s. 6d. (5s. 9d., plus 1s. 9d.); leading underground labourers, 7s. 4d. (5s. 4d., plus 1s. 9d.); winding enginemen, 8s. 6d. (7s. 2d., plus 1s. 9d.); pumping enginemen, loco. drivers and crane drivers, 8s. (varying rates, plus 4d.); joiners and blacksmiths, 8s. 6d. (8s. 1d., plus 4d., plus 6d. per shift tool-money allowance for joiners); other classes to remain at same basis rates as previously.
	Furness and District	10 Jan.	Iron ore miners and surfacemen (except blacksmiths and fitters).	Decrease of 3d. per shift in the bargain price (1s. 9d. to 7s. 6d.), of 3d. per shift in the minimum wage (1s. to 6s. 9d.), of 3½d. per shift for surfacemen, and of 1½d. per shift for boys.
	Northamptonshire ...	18 Jan.	Ironstone miners and limestone quarrymen.	Decrease of ½ per cent.¶ on standard rates, leaving wages 44½ per cent. above the standard.
	Banbury and District	19 Jan.	Ironstone miners	Decrease of ½ per cent.¶ on standard rates, leaving wages 44½ per cent. above the standard.

* The particulars of numbers affected and amount of change in weekly wages exclude changes affecting agricultural labourers, shop assistants and clerks, for which classes the information available is not sufficient to form a basis for statistics. Where information is available, however, details of changes in the current rates of wages of agricultural labourers, shop assistants and clerks are included in the list of principal changes recorded. The statistics are based on normal conditions of employment, and do not take into account the effect of short-time working, etc.

† The minimum rates of wages referred to took effect under an Order of the Agricultural Wages Board, in accordance with the provisions of the Agricultural Wages (Regulation) Act, 1924.

‡ Under the terms of an agreement between the Warwickshire Colliery Owners' Association and the Warwickshire Miners' Association, the percentage quoted is to remain in operation until 30th June, 1927.

§ The wages as now fixed are to remain while the price of pig-iron is from 75s. to 80s. per ton and are to vary by 1d. per shift (for adults) for each 1s. per ton variation in price above or below these limits, subject to there being no movement under the scale when the price is below 70s. The minimum wage for miners is not to fall below 7s. per shift, and no adult worker is to receive less than 5s. 6d. per shift.

¶ Under selling-price sliding-scale arrangements.

‡ This percentage is arrived at by adding to the selling-price sliding scale percentage a subsistence allowance calculated by taking part of the difference between the sliding-scale percentage and the average cost-of-living figure for the period covered by the prices ascertainment.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING JANUARY, 1927 (continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
MINING AND QUARRYING (continued).				
Lead Mining	Wearhead and Allendale.	20 Dec., 1926. 17 Jan.	Underground and surface workers	Decreases* in bonuses of ¼d. or 1d. per shift for lead ore dressers, and of 1d. or 1½d. per shift for enginemen, surface labourers and other classes. Further decreases* in bonuses of ¼d. or 1d. per shift for lead ore dressers, and of 1d. per shift for enginemen, surface labourers and other classes. Rates after change (including bonus) for labourers: underground, 7s. 9d. per shift; surface, 6s. 8d. Decrease† of 4d. per ton on the making price of setts.
Quarrying	Aberdeen and Kemnay.	1st pay after 19 Jan.	Settmakers employed in granite quarries.	
IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRIES.				
Pig Iron Manufacture.	West Cumberland and North Lancashire.	2nd full pay in Jan.	Workpeople (excluding skilled chitsmen and bricklayers on maintenance work, and also labourers) employed at blast-furnaces.	Decrease* of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 16 per cent. above the standard, plus, in some cases, an output bonus; plus bonuses of from 3s. 3-4d. to 8s. 5d. per week.
	North Staffordshire...	1st making up day in Jan.	Blastfurnacemen	Increase of 5 per cent. on standard rates, making wages 53½ per cent. above the standard for tonnage-men, 67 per cent. for labourers and 59½ per cent. for other daywagemen.‡
	South Staffordshire...	1st full pay after 10 Jan. 18 Jan.		Increase* of 4 per cent. on standard rates, making wages 14 per cent. above the standard of June, 1920. Rate after change for labourers, 5s. 6d. per shift, plus 14 per cent. Decrease of ½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 44½ per cent. above the standard of 1920. Minimum rate for labourers, 4s. 1d. and 4s. 3d. per shift, plus 4½ per cent.
	Northamptonshire ...	10 Jan.		Decrease* of 2 per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 49 per cent. above the standard. Minimum rate for labourers, 4s. 5½d. per shift, plus 49 per cent.
Iron and Steel Manufacture.	South Wales and Monmouthshire.	1 Jan.	Iron puddlers	Increase* of 3 or 9 per cent.** on standard rates, making wages 24 per cent. above the standard.
	West of Scotland ...	30 Jan.†	Iron millmen	Decrease* of 10 per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 39½ per cent. above the standard.
	North of England ...	31 Jan.	Men employed in melting shops and in iron and steel rolling mills.	Decrease* of 10 per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 37 per cent. above the standard.
	South Wales and Monmouthshire.	1 Jan.	Iron and steel sheet millmen ...	Decrease* of 2 per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 49 per cent. above the standard. Minimum rate for labourers, 4s. 5½d. per shift, plus 49 per cent.
Engineering, etc.	West of Scotland ...	31 Jan.	Iron puddlers and millmen ...	Decrease* of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 60 per cent. above the standard.
	Barrow-in-Furness ...	1st pay after 31 Dec., 1926	Bricklayers and masons, and labourers working with bricklayers, masons and plasterers employed in engineering departments.	Decrease of ¼d. per hour.†† Rates after change: bricklayers and masons, 1s. 7½d. per hour; labourers, 1s. 2½d.
Electrical Cable Manufacture.	Greater London	1 Jan.	Jointers and jointers' mates employed in the electrical cable-making industry.	Increase† of 1s. 11½d. per week. Rates after change: jointers, 78s. 2s. per week; jointers' mates, 68s. 9d.
	Other Districts in Great Britain (except North-East Coast).	1 Jan.	Plumber-jointers, jointers and jointers' mates employed in the electrical cable-making industry.	Increase† of 1s. 11½d. per week.
Bobbin and Shuttle Manufacture.	England and Wales...	1 Jan.	Workpeople employed in the bobbin-making industry; also shuttle makers employed by certain firms at Blackburn and Garston	Increase† of 1s. per week for men 21 years of age and over, and of 6d. per week for women 18 years and over. Rates after change: men—higher skilled, 64s. 6d.; lesser skilled, 55s.; labourers, 45s.; women, 26s.
	Yorkshire	1st pay day in Jan.	Journymen shuttlemakers:‡	Addition to base rate increased† from 55 to 62 per cent. Minimum daywork rate after change: 10½d. per hour, plus 62 per cent. (1s. 5-10d. per hour).
Stamped or Pressed Metal Wares.	Lancashire	1st pay day in Jan.	Apprentices to shuttlemakers ...	Addition to base rate increased† from 52 to 59 per cent. Minimum daywork rate after change: 1s. per hour, plus 59 per cent. (1s. 7-08d. per hour).
	Lancashire	1st pay day in Jan.	Female workers employed as dippers in the stamped or pressed-metal wares trades.	Addition to base rates increased† from 34½ to 41½ per cent. Rates after change: 9s. per week at 14 years, increasing to 13s. at 16 years, 17s. at 18 years, and to 21s. at 20 years, plus, in each case, 41½ per cent.
Laminated Spring Manufacture.	Sheffield	1st full pay after 18 Jan.	Laminated spring fitters, vicemen, smiths and strikers.	Scale of general minimum time rates adopted, beginning at 3½d. per hour for those under 15 years of age and increasing to 6d. per hour at 17 years, 7d. per hour during the first 12 months of employment after the age of 18, 8d. per hour after the completion of 12 months' employment after the age of 18 years; piecework basis time rate adopted of 9d. per hour. (See also page 41 of January GAZETTE.)
Woolen and Worsted Manufacture.	Leicester	1st pay day in Jan.	Workpeople employed in the lamb's wool and worsted yarn spinning industry (excluding enginemen, etc.).	Bonus increased† from 3½d. to 3½d. in the shilling on earnings. Minimum rates after change: timeworkers—men, 42s. 6d., women, 25s. 6d., plus in each case 3½d. in the shilling; pieceworkers, 25 per cent. above time rates.
	Leicester	1st pay day in Jan.	Workpeople employed in the preparing, spinning or weaving of (a) jute, or (b) jute and any other fibre except flax and hemp.—	Decreases in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of the following amounts for the classes named respectively (see also page 84).
Jute, etc., Manufacture.	Great Britain ...	24 Jan.	Male loom tenters, 21 years and over, with recognised full charge.	Decrease in minimum time rate of 2s. 3d. per week (58s. 11d. to 56s. 8d.).
	Great Britain ...	24 Jan.	Other male workers (except those employed on hessian weaving).	Decreases in minimum time rates of from 8½d. to 1s. 6½d. per week. Minimum rates after change: under 16 years, 15s. 3d., increasing to 35s. 2d. at 18 and under 21, and to 39s. 1d. at 21 and over.
Jute, etc., Manufacture.	Great Britain ...	24 Jan.	Female workers employed on hessian weaving in the areas of Aberdeen, Barrow-in-Furness, Dundee and Tayside, and male workers employed on hessian weaving in all districts.	Decrease in general minimum piece rates of 4 per cent. for male and female workers; and decreases in guaranteed time and general minimum time rates for male workers of from 8d. to 1s. 6½d. per week. Minimum rates after change: guaranteed time and general minimum time rates for male workers: under 16 years, 15s. 3d., increasing to 35s. 2d. at 19 and under 21, and to 39s. 1d. at 21 and over.

* Under selling-price sliding-scale arrangements. † Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements. ‡ The percentage on bonus earnings paid to keepers, slaggars, fillers, enginemen, etc., was reduced from 56 to 46 in the Workington Area, and from 51 to 41 in the Furness Area.

§ This increase was not granted under the selling-price sliding scale, the operation of which has been suspended. Lower-paid daywagemen on rates up to 8s. 6d. per shift are, in addition, paid temporary bonuses of from 3d. to 6d. per shift.

¶ This percentage is arrived at by adding to the selling-price sliding-scale percentage a subsistence allowance calculated by taking part of the difference between the sliding scale percentage and the average cost-of-living figure for the period covered by the prices ascertainment.

‡ The change took effect from the pay starting nearest 1st February—in most cases this was 30th January.

†† The increase of 3 per cent. applied to certain lower-paid daywagemen, whose wages were previously at 21 per cent. above the standard.

‡‡ The decrease is the first of four instalments of ¼d. per hour each. The remaining instalments are due to operate from the beginning of the pay period immediately following 31st January, 28th February, and 28th March.

§§ Excluding workpeople employed by certain firms at Blackburn and Garston.

¶¶ Provided that in the case of female workers employed as dippers for the first time at or over the age of 18 years, the rate applicable during the first two months of employment shall be 6d. per hour.

‡‡‡ Viz., the weaving of all hessian, floor-cloth and linoleum goods, other than those woven in looms the reed space of which is 32 inches or narrower.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING JANUARY, 1927 (continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
TEXTILE INDUSTRIES (continued).				
Jute, etc., Manufacture (contd.)	Great Britain	24 Jan.	Workpeople employed in the preparing, spinning, or weaving of (a) jute, or (b) jute and any other fibre except flax or hemp—contd. Female timeworkers:— Spinners other than orra (or spare) spinners).	Decreases in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of the following amounts for the classes named respectively (see also page 84):— Decreases in the minimum time rates, varying, according to size of bobbins and number of spindles, from 1s. 2d. to 1s. 11d. per week for single spinners and from 1s. 3d. to 1s. 10d. per week for double spinners. Decrease in minimum time rate of 1s. 2d. per week (39s. 10½d. to 29s. 8½d.). Decrease in minimum time rate of 1s. 6d. per week (39s. to 37s. 6d.). Decrease in minimum time rate of 8½d., 10½d., or 1s. per week. Minimum rates after change: under 16 years, 15s. 3d.; 16 and under 18 years, 20s. 10d.; 18 and over, 25s.* Decrease in piecework basis time rate of ¼d. per hour (7½d. to 7¼d.).
			Orra (or spare) spinners, 18 years and over. Spinning shifting mistresses Other workers	
Elastic Web Weaving	Leicester	1st pay day after 24 Jan.	Elastic web weavers (male workers)	Bonus decreased† from 16s. to 15s. in the pound.
	Yorkshire (majority of firms and certain firms in Lancashire)‡	1st pay day in Feb.‡	Workpeople employed in the dyeing and finishing trades.	Cost-of-living wage increased‡ from 78 per cent. to 79 per cent. on basic rates for timeworkers, from 62½ per cent. to 63½ per cent. for pieceworkers (except pressers) and from 46½ per cent. to 47½ per cent. for pressers. Minimum rates after change: timeworkers—The Bradford Dyers' Association, Ltd.; men, 21 and over, 28s., plus 8 per cent., plus 79 per cent. on total, plus 2s. per week. Other firms—men, 21 and over, 30s. 3d., plus 79 per cent., plus 2s. per week; women, 18 and over, 18s. plus 79 per cent., plus 1s. 3d. per week.
Textile Bleaching, Dyeing, Printing, etc.	Lancashire, Cheshire, and Derbyshire (majority of firms) and certain firms in Yorkshire,§ also Scotland.	1st pay day in Feb.‡	Workpeople employed in the bleaching, dyeing, calico printing and finishing trades (except waste bleachers, machine calico printers, engineers, mechanics, etc., employed in repair and maintenance of plant.	MALES: Cost-of-living wage increased† from 23s. 7d. to 23s. 10d. per week in Lancashire, Cheshire and Derbyshire and from 23s. 7d. to 23s. 11d. per week in Scotland for those 21 years and over, and by smaller amounts for those under 21. FEMALEs: Cost-of-living wage increased† from 14s. 1d. to 14s. 2d. per week for those 18 years and over in Lancashire, Cheshire and Derbyshire, and for those 21 years and over in Scotland, and by smaller amounts for those under these age limits in the respective districts. Minimum rates after change: Lancashire—men, 28s., plus 2s. 10d., plus 2s.; women, 18 and over, 18s., plus 14s. 2d., plus 1s. 3d. Scotland—men, 25s., plus 2s. 11d., plus 2s.; women, 21 and over, 15s., plus 14s. 2d., plus 1s. 3d.
	West Riding of Yorkshire.	1st pay day in Feb.‡	Mechanics employed in dyeworks ...	Increase† of 3d. per week. Rates after change: Bradford, Leeds and Shipley, 66s. 1d.; other towns, 65s. 1d.
Linen and Cotton Handkerchief and Household Goods and Linen Piece Goods.	Northern Ireland	3 Jan.	Engravers employed in engraving works.	Cost-of-living wage increased† from 32s. 2d. to 32s. 6d. per week for engravers and from 23s. 7d. to 23s. 10d. per week for turners, polishers and varnishers.
			Workpeople employed in the linen and cotton handkerchief and household goods and linen piece-goods trade:— Lappers, measurers, and sample makers who have served five years' apprenticeship. All other male workers (other than apprentices and those engaged on Swiss Embroidery machines.) Male apprentices to lapping, measuring and samplmaking. Female timeworkers (other than learners). Female learners ... Female pieceworkers (other than those employed on the punch hemstitching of handkerchiefs).	Decreases in the minimum time rates fixed under the Trade Boards Act (Northern Ireland), 1923, of the following amounts for the classes named respectively (see page 41 of January GAZETTE):— Decrease of 1d. per hour. Minimum rates after change: lappers, 1s. 5d., 1s. 1½d.; measurers and samplmakers, 1s. 3½d., 1s. 1½d. Decreases of ¼d. or ½d. per hour. Minimum rates after change: with not less than 2 years' employment, 2½d., 2½d., at under 15 years, increasing to 7½d., 6½d., at 18 and under 19, and to 10d., 9d., at 21 and over. Other workers, 2½d., 2½d., at under 15 years, increasing to 5½d., 5d., at 18 and under 19 and to 8d., 7½d., at 21 and over. Decreases of ¼d. or ½d. per hour. Minimum rates after change: 2½d., 2½d. during 1st year increasing to 7½d., 6½d., during 5th year. Decreases of ¼d. per hour for those 18 and over and of ½d. or ¼d. per hour for those under 18. Minimum time rate after change at 18 and over, 6½d. Decreases of ¼d. or ½d. per hour. Decrease of 3½ per cent. in general minimum piece rates, and of ¼d. per hour in piecework basis time rate (1d. to 6½d.).
CLOTHING INDUSTRIES.				
Felt Hat Making	Atherstone and Bedworth.	Week ending 22 Jan.	Male pieceworkers ...	Bonus of 35 per cent. on piece price lists reduced† to 32½ per cent.
Clogging	Lancashire (excluding Manchester).	1st pay day in Jan.	Apprentices employed in the clogging industry.	Scale of minimum weekly rates adopted starting at 10s. at 14 years, increasing to 21s. at 18 years and to 27s. 6d. at 20 years.
FOOD, DRINK AND TOBACCO INDUSTRIES.				
Baking and Confectionery.	Various towns in Yorkshire.**	Pay day in week ending 29 Jan.	Adult male workers employed in the baking and confectionery trades (other than those employed by co-operative societies).	Decrease† of 1s. 6d. per week. Minimum rates after change for breads, 68s. 6d.; doughmakers and ovenmen, 63s. 6d.; tablehands, 58s. 6d.

* Female weaving learners are to receive for a period of learnership not exceeding two months, 12s. 6½d. per week at under 16 years, 13s. 5d. at 16 and under 18, and 14s. 1d. at 18 and over.
† Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements.
‡ The change applied to workers employed by firms who are members of the British Cotton and Wool Dyers' Association, Ltd. (Slubbing Section), the Leeds Dyers and Finishers' Federation, the Yorkshire Indigo, Scarlet and Colour Dyers, Ltd., the Leeds and District Worsted Dyers' and Finishers' Association, Ltd., the Huddersfield and District Master Dyers' Association, the West Riding of Yorkshire Master Slubbing Dyers' Association, The Bradford Dyers' Association, Ltd., and the Employers' Federation of Cotton Yarn Bleachers, Dyers and Sizers (certain firms). Except in a few cases in the Bradford area the change did not apply to workpeople employed in the home dyeing and finishing departments of woollen and worsted manufacturers.
§ In respect of the preceding pay period.
|| The change applied to workpeople employed by firms who are members of the Federation of Calico Printers, the Employers' Federation of Dyers and Finishers, the Employers' Federation of Bleachers, and the Employers' Federation of Cotton Yarn Bleachers, Dyers and Sizers (certain firms). At Hebden Bridge the increases for timeworkers were similar to those in Lancashire (see above); for pieceworkers the cost-of-living wages were increased from 67 per cent. to 68 per cent. for netherwood cutters, from 51 per cent. to 52 per cent. for menders, and from 57 per cent. to 58 per cent. for all other pieceworkers (except hand cutters whose cost-of-living wage remained unchanged).
¶ The first rate applies to workers employed in the County Borough of the City of Belfast and in districts situated not more than 30 miles by rail from Belfast, and the second rate to those employed in other districts.
** Barnsley, Bradford, Bridlington, Doncaster, Halifax, Dewsbury, Huddersfield, Hull, Keighley, Leeds, Rotherham, Sheffield, Wakefield.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING JANUARY, 1927 (continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
Seed Crushing and Oil Milling.	Great Britain*	1st full pay week in Jan.	FOOD, DRINK, AND TOBACCO INDUSTRIES—(continued). Workpeople employed in the seed crushing and oil milling industry (except those whose wages are regulated by movements in the engineering and other industries).	Increase† of 2s. per week for men 21 years and over and of 1s. per week for youths and women, and special bonuses of 1s. per week for men and 6d. per week for youths and women previously granted withdrawn. Minimum rates after change: Liverpool—men: Grade I, 57s. 6d.; Grade II, 55s.; Grade III, 50s. 6d.; youths: 22s. at 16 years, increasing to 34s. 6d. at 18 and to 45s. 6d. at 20½ years; women: 20 and over, 36s.; Hull—labourers, 50s.
			WOODWORKING AND FURNITURE INDUSTRIES. Apprentices employed in furniture manufacture (other than upholstresses' and carpet sewers' apprentices). Cabinet makers, carvers, machinists, french polishers and upholsterers. Cabinet makers, chairmakers, carvers, machinists, upholsterers and french polishers. Female workers ...	Scale of minimum rates adopted starting at 9s. 6d. per week at 14 to 15 years increasing to 19s. per week at 18 to 18½, and to 40s. per week at 20½ to 21. Increase† of ¼d. per hour. Rates after change: french polishers and upholsterers, 1s. 7½d.; other workers, 1s. 7½d., plus ¼d. per hour "tool" money. Increase† of ¼d. per hour. Rate after change, 1s. 8d.; carvers and spindle hands who are all-round machinists, 1s. 9d. Increase† of ¼d. per hour. Rate after change for skilled upholstresses, 10½d. Decrease† of ¼d. per hour. Rates after change: those engaged on skilled processes, 1s. 6d.; Windsor, cane, and cheap rush-bottom chairmakers, packers, markers-out and benders, 1s. 5½d. Decrease† of ¼d. per chair on bedroom chairs bored 21 and 23 (9d. to 8½d.), and of ¼d. per hour on Manchester rockers, odd chairs and other cane work (9d. to 8½d.). Decrease† of ¼d. per chair on ordinary chairs (9½d. to 9d.) and of proportionate amounts on children's and kindergarten chairs. Decrease† of 3d. to 10d. per week. Rates after change: 1st six months, 10s. 6d., increasing to 16s. 6d. during 4th six months and to 32s. during 8th six months.
Furniture Manufacture.	Liverpool and District	†	WOODWORKING AND FURNITURE INDUSTRIES—(continued). Apprentices employed in furniture manufacture (other than upholstresses' and carpet sewers' apprentices). Cabinet makers, carvers, machinists, french polishers and upholsterers. Cabinet makers, chairmakers, carvers, machinists, upholsterers and french polishers. Female workers ...	Scale of minimum rates adopted starting at 9s. 6d. per week at 14 to 15 years increasing to 19s. per week at 18 to 18½, and to 40s. per week at 20½ to 21. Increase† of ¼d. per hour. Rates after change: french polishers and upholsterers, 1s. 7½d.; other workers, 1s. 7½d., plus ¼d. per hour "tool" money. Increase† of ¼d. per hour. Rate after change, 1s. 8d.; carvers and spindle hands who are all-round machinists, 1s. 9d. Increase† of ¼d. per hour. Rate after change for skilled upholstresses, 10½d. Decrease† of ¼d. per hour. Rates after change: those engaged on skilled processes, 1s. 6d.; Windsor, cane, and cheap rush-bottom chairmakers, packers, markers-out and benders, 1s. 5½d. Decrease† of ¼d. per chair on bedroom chairs bored 21 and 23 (9d. to 8½d.), and of ¼d. per hour on Manchester rockers, odd chairs and other cane work (9d. to 8½d.). Decrease† of ¼d. per chair on ordinary chairs (9½d. to 9d.) and of proportionate amounts on children's and kindergarten chairs. Decrease† of 3d. to 10d. per week. Rates after change: 1st six months, 10s. 6d., increasing to 16s. 6d. during 4th six months and to 32s. during 8th six months.
	North East Coast‡	1st full pay week in Jan.	WOODWORKING AND FURNITURE INDUSTRIES—(continued). Apprentices employed in furniture manufacture (other than upholstresses' and carpet sewers' apprentices). Cabinet makers, carvers, machinists, french polishers and upholsterers. Cabinet makers, chairmakers, carvers, machinists, upholsterers and french polishers. Female workers ...	Scale of minimum rates adopted starting at 9s. 6d. per week at 14 to 15 years increasing to 19s. per week at 18 to 18½, and to 40s. per week at 20½ to 21. Increase† of ¼d. per hour. Rates after change: french polishers and upholsterers, 1s. 7½d.; other workers, 1s. 7½d., plus ¼d. per hour "tool" money. Increase† of ¼d. per hour. Rate after change, 1s. 8d.; carvers and spindle hands who are all-round machinists, 1s. 9d. Increase† of ¼d. per hour. Rate after change for skilled upholstresses, 10½d. Decrease† of ¼d. per hour. Rates after change: those engaged on skilled processes, 1s. 6d.; Windsor, cane, and cheap rush-bottom chairmakers, packers, markers-out and benders, 1s. 5½d. Decrease† of ¼d. per chair on bedroom chairs bored 21 and 23 (9d. to 8½d.), and of ¼d. per hour on Manchester rockers, odd chairs and other cane work (9d. to 8½d.). Decrease† of ¼d. per chair on ordinary chairs (9½d. to 9d.) and of proportionate amounts on children's and kindergarten chairs. Decrease† of 3d. to 10d. per week. Rates after change: 1st six months, 10s. 6d., increasing to 16s. 6d. during 4th six months and to 32s. during 8th six months.
Building	Leeds	1 Jan.	WOODWORKING AND FURNITURE INDUSTRIES—(continued). Apprentices employed in furniture manufacture (other than upholstresses' and carpet sewers' apprentices). Cabinet makers, carvers, machinists, french polishers and upholsterers. Cabinet makers, chairmakers, carvers, machinists, upholsterers and french polishers. Female workers ...	Scale of minimum rates adopted starting at 9s. 6d. per week at 14 to 15 years increasing to 19s. per week at 18 to 18½, and to 40s. per week at 20½ to 21. Increase† of ¼d. per hour. Rates after change: french polishers and upholsterers, 1s. 7½d.; other workers, 1s. 7½d., plus ¼d. per hour "tool" money. Increase† of ¼d. per hour. Rate after change, 1s. 8d.; carvers and spindle hands who are all-round machinists, 1s. 9d. Increase† of ¼d. per hour. Rate after change for skilled upholstresses, 10½d. Decrease† of ¼d. per hour. Rates after change: those engaged on skilled processes, 1s. 6d.; Windsor, cane, and cheap rush-bottom chairmakers, packers, markers-out and benders, 1s. 5½d. Decrease† of ¼d. per chair on bedroom chairs bored 21 and 23 (9d. to 8½d.), and of ¼d. per hour on Manchester rockers, odd chairs and other cane work (9d. to 8½d.). Decrease† of ¼d. per chair on ordinary chairs (9½d. to 9d.) and of proportionate amounts on children's and kindergarten chairs. Decrease† of 3d. to 10d. per week. Rates after change: 1st six months, 10s. 6d., increasing to 16s. 6d. during 4th six months and to 32s. during 8th six months.
	Leicester	1 Jan.	WOODWORKING AND FURNITURE INDUSTRIES—(continued). Apprentices employed in furniture manufacture (other than upholstresses' and carpet sewers' apprentices). Cabinet makers, carvers, machinists, french polishers and upholsterers. Cabinet makers, chairmakers, carvers, machinists, upholsterers and french polishers. Female workers ...	Scale of minimum rates adopted starting at 9s. 6d. per week at 14 to 15 years increasing to 19s. per week at 18 to 18½, and to 40s. per week at 20½ to 21. Increase† of ¼d. per hour. Rates after change: french polishers and upholsterers, 1s. 7½d.; other workers, 1s. 7½d., plus ¼d. per hour "tool" money. Increase† of ¼d. per hour. Rate after change, 1s. 8d.; carvers and spindle hands who are all-round machinists, 1s. 9d. Increase† of ¼d. per hour. Rate after change for skilled upholstresses, 10½d. Decrease† of ¼d. per hour. Rates after change: those engaged on skilled processes, 1s. 6d.; Windsor, cane, and cheap rush-bottom chairmakers, packers, markers-out and benders, 1s. 5½d. Decrease† of ¼d. per chair on bedroom chairs bored 21 and 23 (9d. to 8½d.), and of ¼d. per hour on Manchester rockers, odd chairs and other cane work (9d. to 8½d.). Decrease† of ¼d. per chair on ordinary chairs (9½d. to 9d.) and of proportionate amounts on children's and kindergarten chairs. Decrease† of 3d. to 10d. per week. Rates after change: 1st six months, 10s. 6d., increasing to 16s. 6d. during 4th six months and to 32s. during 8th six months.
Public Works Contracting.	London (Metropolitan Police Area)**	1 Jan.	WOODWORKING AND FURNITURE INDUSTRIES—(continued). Apprentices employed in furniture manufacture (other than upholstresses' and carpet sewers' apprentices). Cabinet makers, carvers, machinists, french polishers and upholsterers. Cabinet makers, chairmakers, carvers, machinists, upholsterers and french polishers. Female workers ...	Scale of minimum rates adopted starting at 9s. 6d. per week at 14 to 15 years increasing to 19s. per week at 18 to 18½, and to 40s. per week at 20½ to 21. Increase† of ¼d. per hour. Rates after change: french polishers and upholsterers, 1s. 7½d.; other workers, 1s. 7½d., plus ¼d. per hour "tool" money. Increase† of ¼d. per hour. Rate after change, 1s. 8d.; carvers and spindle hands who are all-round machinists, 1s. 9d. Increase† of ¼d. per hour. Rate after change for skilled upholstresses, 10½d. Decrease† of ¼d. per hour. Rates after change: those engaged on skilled processes, 1s. 6d.; Windsor, cane, and cheap rush-bottom chairmakers, packers, markers-out and benders, 1s. 5½d. Decrease† of ¼d. per chair on bedroom chairs bored 21 and 23 (9d. to 8½d.), and of ¼d. per hour on Manchester rockers, odd chairs and other cane work (9d. to 8½d.). Decrease† of ¼d. per chair on ordinary chairs (9½d. to 9d.) and of proportionate amounts on children's and kindergarten chairs. Decrease† of 3d. to 10d. per week. Rates after change: 1st six months, 10s. 6d., increasing to 16s. 6d. during 4th six months and to 32s. during 8th six months.
	Leeds	1 Jan.	WOODWORKING AND FURNITURE INDUSTRIES—(continued). Apprentices employed in furniture manufacture (other than upholstresses' and carpet sewers' apprentices). Cabinet makers, carvers, machinists, french polishers and upholsterers. Cabinet makers, chairmakers, carvers, machinists, upholsterers and french polishers. Female workers ...	Scale of minimum rates adopted starting at 9s. 6d. per week at 14 to 15 years increasing to 19s. per week at 18 to 18½, and to 40s. per week at 20½ to 21. Increase† of ¼d. per hour. Rates after change: french polishers and upholsterers, 1s. 7½d.; other workers, 1s. 7½d., plus ¼d. per hour "tool" money. Increase† of ¼d. per hour. Rate after change, 1s. 8d.; carvers and spindle hands who are all-round machinists, 1s. 9d. Increase† of ¼d. per hour. Rate after change for skilled upholstresses, 10½d. Decrease† of ¼d. per hour. Rates after change: those engaged on skilled processes, 1s. 6d.; Windsor, cane, and cheap rush-bottom chairmakers, packers, markers-out and benders, 1s. 5½d. Decrease† of ¼d. per chair on bedroom chairs bored 21 and 23 (9d. to 8½d.), and of ¼d. per hour on Manchester rockers, odd chairs and other cane work (9d. to 8½d.). Decrease† of ¼d. per chair on ordinary chairs (9½d. to 9d.) and of proportionate amounts on children's and kindergarten chairs. Decrease† of 3d. to 10d. per week. Rates after change: 1st six months, 10s. 6d., increasing to 16s. 6d. during 4th six months and to 32s. during 8th six months.
Asphalting	London	1 Jan.	WOODWORKING AND FURNITURE INDUSTRIES—(continued). Apprentices employed in furniture manufacture (other than upholstresses' and carpet sewers' apprentices). Cabinet makers, carvers, machinists, french polishers and upholsterers. Cabinet makers, chairmakers, carvers, machinists, upholsterers and french polishers. Female workers ...	Scale of minimum rates adopted starting at 9s. 6d. per week at 14 to 15 years increasing to 19s. per week at 18 to 18½, and to 40s. per week at 20½ to 21. Increase† of ¼d. per hour. Rates after change: french polishers and upholsterers, 1s. 7½d.; other workers, 1s. 7½d., plus ¼d. per hour "tool" money. Increase† of ¼d. per hour. Rate after change, 1s. 8d.; carvers and spindle hands who are all-round machinists, 1s. 9d. Increase† of ¼d. per hour. Rate after change for skilled upholstresses, 10½d. Decrease† of ¼d. per hour. Rates after change: those engaged on skilled processes, 1s. 6d.; Windsor, cane, and cheap rush-bottom chairmakers, packers, markers-out and benders, 1s. 5½d. Decrease† of ¼d. per chair on bedroom chairs bored 21 and 23 (9d. to 8½d.), and of ¼d. per hour on Manchester rockers, odd chairs and other cane work (9d. to 8½d.). Decrease† of ¼d. per chair on ordinary chairs (9½d. to 9d.) and of proportionate amounts on children's and kindergarten chairs. Decrease† of 3d. to 10d. per week. Rates after change: 1st six months, 10s. 6d., increasing to 16s. 6d. during 4th six months and to 32s. during 8th six months.
			WOODWORKING AND FURNITURE INDUSTRIES—(continued). Apprentices employed in furniture manufacture (other than upholstresses' and carpet sewers' apprentices). Cabinet makers, carvers, machinists, french polishers and upholsterers. Cabinet makers, chairmakers, carvers, machinists, upholsterers and french polishers. Female workers ...	Scale of minimum rates adopted starting at 9s. 6d. per week at 14 to 15 years increasing to 19s. per week at 18 to 18½, and to 40s. per week at 20½ to 21. Increase† of ¼d. per hour. Rates after change: french polishers and upholsterers, 1s. 7½d.; other workers, 1s. 7½d., plus ¼d. per hour "tool" money. Increase† of ¼d. per hour. Rate after change, 1s. 8d.; carvers and spindle hands who are all-round machinists, 1s. 9d. Increase† of ¼d. per hour. Rate after change for skilled upholstresses, 10½d. Decrease† of ¼d. per hour. Rates after change: those engaged on skilled processes, 1s. 6d.; Windsor, cane, and cheap rush-bottom chairmakers, packers, markers-out and benders, 1s. 5½d. Decrease† of ¼d. per chair on bedroom chairs bored 21 and 23 (9d. to 8½d.), and of ¼d. per hour on Manchester rockers, odd chairs and other cane work (9d. to 8½d.). Decrease† of ¼d. per chair on ordinary chairs (9½d. to 9d.) and of proportionate amounts on children's and kindergarten chairs. Decrease† of 3d. to 10d. per week. Rates after change: 1st six months, 10s. 6d., increasing to 16s. 6d. during 4th six months and to 32s. during 8th six months.
Waterworks Undertakings.	London	1st full pay in Jan.	WOODWORKING AND FURNITURE INDUSTRIES—(continued). Apprentices employed in furniture manufacture (other than upholstresses' and carpet sewers' apprentices). Cabinet makers, carvers, machinists, french polishers and upholsterers. Cabinet makers, chairmakers, carvers, machinists, upholsterers and french polishers. Female workers ...	Scale of minimum rates adopted starting at 9s. 6d. per week at 14 to 15 years increasing to 19s. per week at 18 to 18½, and to 40s. per week at 20½ to 21. Increase† of ¼d. per hour. Rates after change: french polishers and upholsterers, 1s. 7½d.; other workers, 1s. 7½d., plus ¼d. per hour "tool" money. Increase† of ¼d. per hour. Rate after change, 1s. 8d.; carvers and spindle hands who are all-round machinists, 1s. 9d. Increase† of ¼d. per hour. Rate after change for skilled upholstresses, 10½d. Decrease† of ¼d. per hour. Rates after change: those engaged on skilled processes, 1s. 6d.; Windsor, cane, and cheap rush-bottom chairmakers, packers, markers-out and benders, 1s. 5½d. Decrease† of ¼d. per chair on bedroom chairs bored 21 and 23 (9d. to 8½d.), and of ¼d. per hour on Manchester rockers, odd chairs and other cane work (9d. to 8½d.). Decrease† of ¼d. per chair on ordinary chairs (9½d. to 9d.) and of proportionate amounts on children's and kindergarten chairs. Decrease† of 3d. to 10d. per week. Rates after change: 1st six months, 10s. 6d., increasing to 16s. 6d. during 4th six months and to 32s. during 8th six months.
			WOODWORKING AND FURNITURE INDUSTRIES—(continued). Apprentices employed in furniture manufacture (other than upholstresses' and carpet sewers' apprentices). Cabinet makers, carvers, machinists, french polishers and upholsterers. Cabinet makers, chairmakers, carvers, machinists, upholsterers and french polishers. Female workers ...	Scale of minimum rates adopted starting at 9s. 6d. per week at 14 to 15 years increasing to 19s. per week at 18 to 18½, and to 40s. per week at 20½ to 21. Increase† of ¼d. per hour. Rates after change: french polishers and upholsterers, 1s. 7½d.; other workers, 1s. 7½d., plus ¼d. per hour "tool" money. Increase† of ¼d. per hour. Rate after change, 1s. 8d.; carvers and spindle hands who are all-round machinists, 1s. 9d. Increase† of ¼d. per hour. Rate after change for skilled upholstresses, 10½d. Decrease† of ¼d. per hour. Rates after change: those engaged on skilled processes, 1s. 6d.; Windsor, cane, and cheap rush-bottom chairmakers, packers, markers-out and benders, 1s. 5½d. Decrease† of ¼d. per chair on bedroom chairs bored 21 and 23 (9d. to 8½d.), and of ¼d. per hour on Manchester rockers, odd chairs and other cane work (9d. to 8½d.). Decrease† of ¼d. per chair on ordinary chairs (9½d. to 9d.) and of proportionate amounts on children's and kindergarten chairs. Decrease† of 3d. to 10d. per week. Rates after change: 1st six months, 10s. 6d., increasing to 16s. 6d. during 4th six months and to 32s. during 8th six months.
Electricity Supply Undertakings.	Various Districts in Great Britain.‡	1st full pay in Jan.	WOODWORKING AND FURNITURE INDUSTRIES—(continued). Apprentices employed in furniture manufacture (other than upholstresses' and carpet sewers' apprentices). Cabinet makers, carvers, machinists, french polishers and upholsterers. Cabinet makers, chairmakers, carvers, machinists, upholsterers and french polishers. Female workers ...	Scale of minimum rates adopted starting at 9s. 6d. per week at 14 to 15 years increasing to 19s. per week at 18 to 18½, and to 40s. per week at 20½ to 21. Increase† of ¼d. per hour. Rates after change: french polishers and upholsterers, 1s. 7½d.; other workers, 1s. 7½d., plus ¼d. per hour "tool" money. Increase† of ¼d. per hour. Rate after change, 1s. 8d.; carvers and spindle hands who are all-round machinists, 1s. 9d. Increase† of ¼d. per hour. Rate after change for skilled upholstresses, 10½d. Decrease† of ¼d. per hour. Rates after change: those engaged on skilled processes, 1s. 6d.; Windsor, cane, and cheap rush-bottom chairmakers, packers, markers-out and benders, 1s. 5½d. Decrease† of ¼d. per chair on bedroom chairs bored 21 and 23 (9d. to 8½d.), and of ¼d. per hour on Manchester rockers, odd chairs and other cane work (9d. to 8½d.). Decrease† of ¼d. per chair on ordinary chairs (9½d. to 9d.) and of proportionate amounts on children's and kindergarten chairs. Decrease† of 3d. to 10d. per week. Rates after change: 1st six months, 10s. 6d., increasing to 16s. 6d. during 4th six months and to 32s. during 8th six months.
			WOODWORKING AND FURNITURE INDUSTRIES—(continued). Apprentices employed in furniture manufacture (other than upholstresses' and carpet sewers' apprentices). Cabinet makers, carvers, machinists, french polishers and upholsterers. Cabinet makers, chairmakers, carvers, machinists, upholsterers and french polishers. Female workers ...	Scale of minimum rates adopted starting at 9s. 6d. per week at 14 to 15 years increasing to 19s. per week at 18 to 18½, and to 40s. per week at 20½ to 21. Increase† of ¼d. per hour. Rates after change: french polishers and upholsterers, 1s. 7½d.; other workers, 1s. 7½d., plus ¼d. per hour "tool" money. Increase† of ¼d. per hour. Rate after change, 1s. 8d.; carvers and spindle hands who are all-round machinists, 1s. 9d. Increase† of ¼d. per hour. Rate after change for skilled upholstresses, 10½d. Decrease† of ¼d. per hour. Rates after change: those engaged on skilled processes, 1s. 6d.; Windsor, cane, and cheap rush-bottom chairmakers, packers, markers-out and benders, 1s. 5½d. Decrease† of ¼d. per chair on bedroom chairs bored 21 and 23 (9d. to 8½d.), and of ¼d. per hour on Manchester rockers, odd chairs and other cane work (9d. to 8½d.). Decrease† of ¼d. per chair on ordinary chairs (9½d. to 9d.) and of proportionate amounts on children's and kindergarten chairs. Decrease† of 3d. to 10d. per week. Rates after change: 1st six months, 10s. 6d., increasing to 16s. 6d. during 4th six months and to 32s. during 8th six months.
Electricity Supply Undertakings.	Devon and Cornwall¶	1 Jan.	WOODWORKING AND FURNITURE INDUSTRIES—(continued). Apprentices employed in furniture manufacture (other than upholstresses' and carpet sewers' apprentices). Cabinet makers, carvers, machinists, french polishers and upholsterers. Cabinet makers, chairmakers, carvers, machinists, upholsterers and french polishers. Female workers ...	Scale of minimum rates adopted starting at 9s. 6d. per week at 14 to 15 years increasing to 19s. per week at 18 to 18½, and to 40s. per week at 20½ to 21. Increase† of ¼d. per hour. Rates after change: french polishers and upholsterers, 1s. 7½d.; other workers, 1s. 7½d., plus ¼d. per hour "tool" money. Increase† of ¼d. per hour. Rate after change, 1s. 8d.; carvers and spindle hands who are all-round machinists, 1s. 9d. Increase† of ¼d. per hour. Rate after change for skilled upholstresses, 10½d. Decrease† of ¼d. per hour. Rates after change: those engaged on skilled processes, 1s. 6d.; Windsor, cane, and cheap rush-bottom chairmakers, packers, markers-out and benders, 1s. 5½d. Decrease† of ¼d. per chair on bedroom chairs bored 21 and 23 (9d. to 8½d.), and of ¼d. per hour on Manchester rockers, odd chairs and other cane work (9d. to 8½d.). Decrease† of ¼d. per chair on ordinary chairs (9½d. to 9d.) and of proportionate amounts on children's and kindergarten chairs. Decrease† of 3d. to 10d. per week. Rates after change: 1st six months, 10s. 6d., increasing to 16s. 6d. during 4th six months and to 32s. during 8th six months.
			WOODWORKING AND FURNITURE INDUSTRIES—(continued). Apprentices employed in furniture manufacture (other than upholstresses' and carpet sewers' apprentices). Cabinet makers, carvers, machinists, french polishers and upholsterers. Cabinet makers, chairmakers, carvers, machinists, upholsterers and french polishers. Female workers ...	Scale of minimum rates adopted starting at 9s. 6d. per week at 14 to 15 years increasing to 19s. per week at 18 to 18½, and to 40s. per week at 20½ to 21. Increase† of ¼d. per hour. Rates after change: french polishers and upholsterers, 1s. 7½d.; other workers, 1s. 7½d., plus ¼d. per hour "tool" money. Increase† of ¼d. per hour. Rate after change, 1s. 8d.; carvers and spindle hands who are all-round machinists, 1s. 9d. Increase† of ¼d. per hour. Rate after change for skilled upholstresses, 10½d. Decrease† of ¼d. per hour. Rates after change: those engaged on skilled processes, 1s. 6d.; Windsor, cane, and cheap rush-bottom chairmakers, packers, markers-out and benders, 1s. 5½d. Decrease† of ¼d. per chair on bedroom chairs bored 21 and 23 (9d. to 8½d.), and of ¼d. per hour on Manchester rockers, odd chairs and other cane work (9d. to 8½d.). Decrease† of ¼d. per chair on ordinary chairs (9½d. to 9d.) and of proportionate amounts on children's and kindergarten chairs. Decrease† of 3d. to 10d. per week. Rates after change: 1st six months, 10s. 6d., increasing to 16s. 6d. during 4th six months and to 32s. during 8th six months.
Electricity Supply Undertakings.	Belfast	1 Jan.	WOODWORKING AND FURNITURE INDUSTRIES—(continued). Apprentices employed in furniture manufacture (other than upholstresses' and carpet sewers' apprentices). Cabinet makers, carvers, machinists, french polishers and upholsterers. Cabinet makers, chairmakers, carvers, machinists, upholsterers and french polishers. Female workers ...	Scale of minimum rates adopted starting at 9s. 6d. per week at 14 to 15 years increasing to 19s. per week at 18 to 18½, and to 40s. per week at 20½ to 21. Increase† of ¼d. per hour. Rates after change: french polishers and upholsterers, 1s. 7½d.; other workers, 1s. 7½d., plus ¼d. per hour "tool" money. Increase† of ¼d. per hour. Rate after change, 1s. 8d.; carvers and spindle hands who are all-round machinists, 1s. 9d. Increase† of ¼d. per hour. Rate after change for skilled upholstresses, 10½d. Decrease† of ¼d. per hour. Rates after change: those

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING JANUARY, 1927 (continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
TRANSPORT.				
Railway Service	Great Britain	1 Jan.	Certain classes of railway servants in conciliation grades:— Male workers* Female workers	Increase of 1s. per week.* Increase of 1s. per week for women in receipt of a war wage of 15s. per week, and of 6d. per week for girls in receipt of a war wage of 7s. 6d. per week.
			Certain other classes of workers employed by Railway Companies:— Female part-timers (charwomen, cleaners, etc.).	Bonus previously paid increased by 6d. per week on base rates up to 9s. 11d. and by 9d. per week on base rates of 10s. and over.
			Gatekeepers (wives of companies' servants).	War wage increased from 3s. to 3s. 6d. per week
			Certain classes of workpeople employed by Railway Companies at docks (including men on hydraulic and steam pumping plants), on dredgers and hopper barges, tug boats, small passenger and lake steamers, tenders and ferry boats.	Increase of 1s. per week.
			Railway police (except uniform or detective inspectors).	Increase of 1s. per week. Rates after change: constables, 62s. per week for those under 18 years, rising to 72s. per week after 10 years' service (plus 3s. if working in London).
			Stationmasters, goods agents, supervising and technical staffs and clerks employed by Railway Companies.	Residuary bonus, where still applicable, increased by £5 per annum, or 2s. per week, for adult males 18 years of age and over, by £2 10s. per annum, or 1s. per week, for male juniors under 18 years, by 1s. 6d. per week for women clerks, and by 9d. per week for girl clerks.
			Adult male workers employed on railway-owned canals (excluding supervisory and shop staff).	Increase of 1s. per week.
			Canal boatmen employed in the transport of coal, iron, glass, chemicals, etc.	Increase of 2½ per cent.
			Coal tipplers, teamers, weighers, hoistmen and boxmen.	Increase of 5 per cent., making wages 105 per cent. above pre-war tariffs and payment for incidentals, subject to the minimum wage of 60s. per week previously paid.
			Coal trimmers	Decrease of 6½ per cent. on national tariff rates of 16th August, 1920, making a total reduction of 40 per cent. since August, 1920.
Canal Service	Great Britain	1 Jan.	Adult male workers employed on railway-owned canals (excluding supervisory and shop staff).	Increase of 1s. per week for those 18 years of age and over and of 6d. per week for those under 18 years. Rates after change: one-horse drivers, 53s. per week; two-horse drivers, 58s.; petrol wagon drivers—2 tons and over, 63s.; 15 cwt. to 2 tons, 58s.; under 15 cwt., 53s.; electric vehicle drivers—1 ton and over, 60s.; under 1 ton, 53s.; loaders and garage hands, 53s.
			Canal boatmen employed in the transport of coal, iron, glass, chemicals, etc.	Increase of 1s. per week. Rates after change: one-horse carters, 52s.; two-horse carters, 54s.
			Coal tipplers, teamers, weighers, hoistmen and boxmen.	Increase of 1s. per week. Rates after change at Dundee: one-horse carters, 52s. per week; two-horse carters, 54s.
			Coal trimmers	Increase of 1s. per week (42s. to 43s.).
			Carters employed by railway contractors.	Increase of 1s. 6d. per week for workpeople over 18 years of age, and of 9d. per week for those under 18. Minimum rate after change for labourers, 44s. 6d. per week.
			Road transport workers	Increase of 1s. 6d. per hour. Rates after change: street sweepers, 1s.; general labourers, 1s. 2½d.; roadmen and carters, 1s. 3½d. per hour.
			Road transport workers	Increase of 1s. 8d. per week. Rates after change: labourers, scavengers, roadmen and horse drivers, 44s. 4d. per week; refuse collectors, 46s. 4d.
			Carters and labourers	Increase of 1/60th of the minimum basic rates recommended by the Provincial Joint Industrial Council in November 1921, making the reduction now applicable to such rates 12/60ths. Scheduled minimum weekly rates after change (including the special increase of 2s. given in 1925): Grade A1 Areas: 49s. 3d.; A2, 47s. 7d.; B1, 46s.; B2, 42s.; C1, 40s. 5d.; C2, 38s. 10d.
			Road transport workers	Increase of 2s. per week in Grades V, IIIA, and II Areas. Minimum rates after change: Grade V, 57s.; Grade IIIA, 50s. 7d.; Grade II, 44s. 9d.
			Road transport workers	Increase of 2s. 6d. per week in Grades V, IIIA and II areas. Minimum rates after change: Grade V, 68s. 6d.; Grade IIIA, 62s. 7d.; Grade II, 57s. 3d.
Dock, Wharf, Riverside, etc. Labour.	Various ports in Great Britain	1 Jan.	Adult male workers employed on railway-owned canals (excluding supervisory and shop staff).	Increase of 2s. per week. Rates after change: road labourers and sweepers, 50s. 7d.; refuse collectors, 52s. 7d.; general yard labourers and waterworks labourers, 51s. 6d.
			Canal boatmen employed in the transport of coal, iron, glass, chemicals, etc.	Increase of 2s. per week. Rates after change: road labourers and sweepers, 50s. 7d.; refuse collectors, 52s. 7d.; general yard labourers and waterworks labourers, 51s. 6d.
			Coal tipplers, teamers, weighers, hoistmen and boxmen.	Increase of 2s. per week. Rates after change: road labourers and sweepers, 50s. 7d.; refuse collectors, 52s. 7d.; general yard labourers and waterworks labourers, 51s. 6d.
			Coal trimmers	Increase of 2s. per week. Rates after change: road labourers and sweepers, 50s. 7d.; refuse collectors, 52s. 7d.; general yard labourers and waterworks labourers, 51s. 6d.
			Carters employed by railway contractors.	Increase of 2s. per week. Rates after change: road labourers and sweepers, 50s. 7d.; refuse collectors, 52s. 7d.; general yard labourers and waterworks labourers, 51s. 6d.
			Road transport workers	Increase of 2s. per week. Rates after change: road labourers and sweepers, 50s. 7d.; refuse collectors, 52s. 7d.; general yard labourers and waterworks labourers, 51s. 6d.
			Carters and labourers	Increase of 2s. per week. Rates after change: road labourers and sweepers, 50s. 7d.; refuse collectors, 52s. 7d.; general yard labourers and waterworks labourers, 51s. 6d.
			Carters employed by railway contractors.	Increase of 2s. per week. Rates after change: road labourers and sweepers, 50s. 7d.; refuse collectors, 52s. 7d.; general yard labourers and waterworks labourers, 51s. 6d.
			Road transport workers	Increase of 2s. per week. Rates after change: road labourers and sweepers, 50s. 7d.; refuse collectors, 52s. 7d.; general yard labourers and waterworks labourers, 51s. 6d.
			Carters and labourers	Increase of 2s. per week. Rates after change: road labourers and sweepers, 50s. 7d.; refuse collectors, 52s. 7d.; general yard labourers and waterworks labourers, 51s. 6d.
Road Transport.	Various towns in Scotland (excluding those in Forfarshire).	1st pay day after 24 Jan.	Road transport workers	Increase of 2s. per week. Rates after change: road labourers and sweepers, 50s. 7d.; refuse collectors, 52s. 7d.; general yard labourers and waterworks labourers, 51s. 6d.
			Carters employed by railway contractors.	Increase of 2s. per week. Rates after change: road labourers and sweepers, 50s. 7d.; refuse collectors, 52s. 7d.; general yard labourers and waterworks labourers, 51s. 6d.
			Road transport workers	Increase of 2s. per week. Rates after change: road labourers and sweepers, 50s. 7d.; refuse collectors, 52s. 7d.; general yard labourers and waterworks labourers, 51s. 6d.
			Carters and labourers	Increase of 2s. per week. Rates after change: road labourers and sweepers, 50s. 7d.; refuse collectors, 52s. 7d.; general yard labourers and waterworks labourers, 51s. 6d.
			Carters employed by railway contractors.	Increase of 2s. per week. Rates after change: road labourers and sweepers, 50s. 7d.; refuse collectors, 52s. 7d.; general yard labourers and waterworks labourers, 51s. 6d.
			Road transport workers	Increase of 2s. per week. Rates after change: road labourers and sweepers, 50s. 7d.; refuse collectors, 52s. 7d.; general yard labourers and waterworks labourers, 51s. 6d.
			Carters and labourers	Increase of 2s. per week. Rates after change: road labourers and sweepers, 50s. 7d.; refuse collectors, 52s. 7d.; general yard labourers and waterworks labourers, 51s. 6d.
			Carters employed by railway contractors.	Increase of 2s. per week. Rates after change: road labourers and sweepers, 50s. 7d.; refuse collectors, 52s. 7d.; general yard labourers and waterworks labourers, 51s. 6d.
			Road transport workers	Increase of 2s. per week. Rates after change: road labourers and sweepers, 50s. 7d.; refuse collectors, 52s. 7d.; general yard labourers and waterworks labourers, 51s. 6d.
			Carters and labourers	Increase of 2s. per week. Rates after change: road labourers and sweepers, 50s. 7d.; refuse collectors, 52s. 7d.; general yard labourers and waterworks labourers, 51s. 6d.
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.	Cumberland	1 Jan.	Workpeople (excluding masons) employed in Highways and Bridges Departments of County Council.	Increase of 1s. 6d. per week for workpeople over 18 years of age, and of 9d. per week for those under 18. Minimum rate after change for labourers, 44s. 6d. per week.
			Manual workers	Increase of 1s. 6d. per hour. Rates after change: street sweepers, 1s.; general labourers, 1s. 2½d.; roadmen and carters, 1s. 3½d. per hour.
			Manual workers employed in non-trading and Water Departments.	Increase of 1s. 8d. per week. Rates after change: labourers, scavengers, roadmen and horse drivers, 44s. 4d. per week; refuse collectors, 46s. 4d.
			Able-bodied male manual workers	Increase of 1/60th of the minimum basic rates recommended by the Provincial Joint Industrial Council in November 1921, making the reduction now applicable to such rates 12/60ths. Scheduled minimum weekly rates after change (including the special increase of 2s. given in 1925): Grade A1 Areas: 49s. 3d.; A2, 47s. 7d.; B1, 46s.; B2, 42s.; C1, 40s. 5d.; C2, 38s. 10d.
			Unskilled and semi-skilled men ...	Increase of 2s. per week in Grades V, IIIA, and II Areas. Minimum rates after change: Grade V, 57s.; Grade IIIA, 50s. 7d.; Grade II, 44s. 9d.
			Skilled men	Increase of 2s. 6d. per week in Grades V, IIIA and II areas. Minimum rates after change: Grade V, 68s. 6d.; Grade IIIA, 62s. 7d.; Grade II, 57s. 3d.
			Manual workers in non-trading and Water Departments.	Increase of 2s. per week. Rates after change: road labourers and sweepers, 50s. 7d.; refuse collectors, 52s. 7d.; general yard labourers and waterworks labourers, 51s. 6d.
			Manual workers in non-trading and Water Departments.	Increase of 2s. per week. Rates after change: road labourers and sweepers, 50s. 7d.; refuse collectors, 52s. 7d.; general yard labourers and waterworks labourers, 51s. 6d.
			Manual workers in non-trading and Water Departments.	Increase of 2s. per week. Rates after change: road labourers and sweepers, 50s. 7d.; refuse collectors, 52s. 7d.; general yard labourers and waterworks labourers, 51s. 6d.
			Manual workers in non-trading and Water Departments.	Increase of 2s. per week. Rates after change: road labourers and sweepers, 50s. 7d.; refuse collectors, 52s. 7d.; general yard labourers and waterworks labourers, 51s. 6d.

* The increase of 1s. per week applied to all lower-rated men (porters, permanent-way men, labourers, etc.) other than new entrants to the permanent service on and from 1st February, 1926. No increase took place in the case of engine drivers and firemen, guards, shunters, cloakroom attendants, shed enginemen and their mates, ticket and excess luggage collectors, station and yard foremen, carriage and wagon examiners, hydraulic enginemen and chargemen, cleaners in loco, sheds, and fire-brigade men. In the case of signalmen and traffic regulators (other than new entrants to the permanent service on and from 1st February, 1926) the increase of 1s. per week was confined to those who were in receipt of a sliding-scale bonus of 1s. or more, immediately prior to 1st July, 1926.

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

‡ Including Aston, Bilston, Birmingham, Kidderminster, Netherton, Oldbury, Old Hill, Smethwick, Tamworth, Tipton, Walsall, West Bromwich and Wolverhampton.

§ The increase applied to the principal coal-exporting centres, including those on the North East Coast, the East Coast, the East of Scotland and the Bristol Channel. At certain North-East Coast ports an extra 5 per cent. is paid in addition to the 105 per cent. quoted above, and higher percentages are also paid at certain docks at Bristol Channel ports.

|| The decrease took effect following the recommendations of a Court of Investigation (see pages 399-400 of the November, 1926, GAZETTE). The decrease applied generally to the coal-exporting centres where the men work on a tonnage basis (including the North East Coast, Humber and South Wales ports); it did not apply to Glasgow, Liverpool and Manchester, where wages are governed by those paid to dock labourers. In addition to the percentage reduction of 6½ on the National Tariff rates of 1920, certain modifications were made in the Tariff list in regard to coke charges, over-estimated payments, etc., resulting in further reductions in earnings. The total effect of all the changes, including the reduction of 6½ per cent., is estimated normally to have been a reduction of from rather over 8 to 10 per cent., or rather less, on the previous earnings.

¶ The change took effect from the first pay in February—in respect of the week beginning 31st January.

** Including Glasgow, Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Leith, Dundee, Paisley, Barrhead, Greenock, Dumbarton, Coatbridge, Airdrie, Hamilton, Falkirk, Alloa and Stirling.

†† The Authorities affected are those which follow the wages agreements of the South Midlands Division Provincial Council for Local Authorities' Non-Trading Services, and include:—Grade A1: Bournemouth, Oxford; Grade B1: Basingstoke, Winchester, Farnborough, Slough; Grade B2: Marlow; Grade C1: Hampshire County Council; Grade C2: Windsor R.D.C. The rates paid by some of the Authorities differ slightly from the rates quoted above.

‡‡ The Authorities affected are those which follow the wages agreements of the Kent, Surrey and Sussex Joint Industrial Council for Local Authorities' Non-Trading Services, and include:—Grade V: Croydon, Barnes; Grade IIIA: Brighton, Margate, Dartford R.D.C. (partly); Grade II: Bognor, Frimley, Leatherhead, R.D.C.s of Bromley, Dartford, Epsom. The rates paid by some of the Authorities differ slightly from the rates quoted above. The rates for Grades IV, III and I remain unchanged at 52s. 6d., 46s. 8d., 38s. 11d. respectively for unskilled men and at 64s., 58s. 8d., 51s. 11d. respectively for skilled men.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING JANUARY, 1927 (continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change.
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION—(continued).				
Non-Trading Services of Local Authorities—(cont.)	Certain Authorities in Cornwall, Devon, and Dorset,* Ayrshire (Northern District), Lanarkshire... (Middle Ward), Edinburgh	1st full pay in Jan. 4 Jan.	Manual workers employed in non-trading departments.	Increase of 2s. per week. Scheduled minimum weekly rates after change: Grade A Authorities, 53s.; Grade B, 46s. Grade C, 42s.; Grade D, 40s.; Grade E, 38s.; Grade F, 36s. Increase of 1s. per week (53s. to 54s.).
			Road labourers employed by County Council.	Increase of 1s. 6d. per week. Rate after change for road surfacemen and scavengers, 52s. 6d.
			Manual workers (excluding carters and masons) employed by County Council.	Increase of 1s. 7d. per week for adult able-bodied males, of 10d. for youths under 18 years, and of 8d. per week for whole-time females. Rates after change: road labourers, scavengers and waterworks labourers, 54s. 3d.; paviers, 72s. 3d.; sett beaters, 58s. 9d.
			Able-bodied unskilled and semi-skilled workers in non-trading and Water Departments, also paviers and sett beaters in Roads Department.	Increase of 1s. per week. Rates after change: scavengers, 45s.; road labourers, 45s. and 47s.; asphaltmen, 49s.
Warehousing	Manchester	1st pay day in Jan.	Workpeople employed in wholesale warehouses (clothing, millinery, cotton, etc.).	Increase of from 3d. to 1s. 3d. per week for male workers and of from 3d. to 8d. per week for female workers. Minimum rates after change: male workers—10s. 9d. at 14 years, increasing to 52s. 9d. at 23; female workers—10s. 3d. at 14 years, increasing to 29s. 6d. at 21.
			Manual workers	Increase of 1s. per week. Rates after change: scavengers, 45s.; road labourers, 45s. and 47s.; asphaltmen, 49s.
MISCELLANEOUS INDUSTRIES.				

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED DURING JANUARY, 1927.

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change.
Dock Labour	Bristol Channel Ports.†	31 Jan.	Coal trimmers, tipplers, etc. ...	Adoption of a day and night system in lieu of two continuous eight-hour shifts previously worked, the number of working hours after change to be 45 per week on day shift and 40 per week on night shift.‡

* The Authorities affected are those which follow the wages agreements of the Cornwall, Devon, and Dorset Provincial Joint Industrial Council for Local Authorities' Non-Trading Services, and include:—Grade B: Bideford, Exeter (increase of 1s. only granted owing to the previous reduction not having been enforced), Ilfracombe, Newton Abbot, Poole, Weymouth, also Torquay and Paignton, scheduled at 48s. 6d. Grade C: Exmouth, Tiverton, Grade D: Launceston; Grade E: Seaton. The rates paid by some of the Authorities are higher than those quoted above.

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

‡ Including Cardiff, Penarth, Barry, Swansea, Port Talbot and Newport.

§ The hours of labour under the day and night shift system are—day shift: 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., with 1 hour interval for meals, Monday to Friday, from 7 a.m. to 12 noon on Saturday; night shift: 8.30 p.m. to 5.30 a.m., with 1 hour interval for meals, Monday to Friday. In respect of the night shift 16 per cent. was added to the tariff rates for tipplers.

TRADE DISPUTES IN JANUARY.*

Number, Magnitude and Duration.—The number of trade disputes involving a stoppage of work, reported to the Department as beginning in January in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was 28, as compared with 11 in the previous month and 40 in January, 1926. The total number of workpeople involved in these disputes (including those thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, though not themselves parties to the disputes) was approximately 9,100. In addition, about 6,200 workpeople were involved, either directly or indirectly, in eight disputes which began before January and were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The number of new and old disputes was thus 36, involving about 15,300 workpeople, and resulting in a loss of approximately 130,000 working days.

Causes.—Of the 28 disputes beginning in January, 13, directly involving 4,200 workpeople, arose out of questions as to wages; eight, directly involving 2,100 workpeople, on questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons; four, directly involving 2,100 workpeople, on questions of Trade Union principle; and three, directly involving 100 workpeople, on other questions.

Results.—Settlements were effected in the case of 20 new disputes, directly involving 5,400 workpeople, and three old disputes, directly involving 4,300 workpeople. Of these new and old disputes, six, directly involving 700 workpeople, were settled in favour of the workpeople; ten, directly involving 2,900 workpeople, in favour

of the employers; and seven, directly involving 6,100 workpeople, were compromised. In the case of four other disputes, directly involving 2,500 workpeople, work was resumed pending negotiations.

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

Groups of Industries.	Number of Disputes in progress in January.			Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress in January.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress in January.
	Started before 1st January.	Started in January.	Total.		
Mining and Quarrying...	4	8	12	13,000	119,000
Textile	2	4	6	1,000	4,000
Other	2	16	18	1,300	7,000
Total, Jan., 1927 ...	8	28	36	15,300	130,000
Total, Dec., 1926 ...	8	11†	19†	464,00†	3,176,000†
Total, Jan., 1926 ...	23	40	63	26,000	412,000

PRINCIPAL DISPUTES INVOLVING STOPPAGES OF WORK DURING JANUARY, 1927.

Occupations and Locality.	Approximate Number of Workpeople Involved.		Date when Dispute		Cause or Object.	Result.	
	Directly.	Indirectly.‡	Began.	Ended.			
Coal miners, etc.	Newport, Mon. (near). Sunderland Newbridge, Mon.	3,000	...	1926. 8 Dec.	1927. 15 Jan.	Against local concessions as to wages, etc., demanded on termination of national stoppage.	Amicable settlement effected.
				— Dec.	...	Against local reduction in piece-work rates of wages offered on termination of national stoppage.	No settlement reported.
				1927. 3 Jan.	8 Jan.	Dispute arising out of the refusal of a haulier to drive an alleged dangerous horse.	Work resumed pending negotiations.
Cotton weavers—Burnley	430	60	7 Jan.	7 Jan.	7 Jan.	Against discontinuance of bonus granted when workpeople returned to work prior to termination of national stoppage.	Work resumed.
				7 Jan.	7 Jan.	Alleged non-payment of list prices for weaving a certain kind of cloth.	List prices to be paid.
Workpeople employed at cold-air stores—London.	400	...	31 Jan.	31 Jan.	Objection of "first-preference" men to non-members of the Cold Storage Workers' Branch of the Trade Union obtaining preferential employment when extra rates of pay were in operation.	Work resumed pending negotiations.	

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

† Revised figures. At the beginning of December, about 450,000 workpeople in the coal-mining industry were still involved in the general dispute in that industry. The aggregate number of working days lost by workpeople taking part in this dispute was over three million in December.

‡ I.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes. The statements of cause and result do not apply to these persons.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.

The total number of cases of poisoning, anthrax, and epitheliomatous and chrome ulceration in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, reported during January, 1927, under the Factory and Workshop Act or under the Lead Paint (Protection against Poisoning) Act, 1926,* was 36. Four deaths were reported during the month, two due to lead-poisoning, one due to arsenical poisoning, and one due to epitheliomatous ulceration. In addition, two cases of lead poisoning among house plumbers came to the knowledge of the Home Office during January, but notification of these latter cases is not obligatory.

Table with 4 columns: (a) CASES OF LEAD POISONING, (b) CASES OF OTHER FORMS OF POISONING, (c) CASES OF ANTHRAX, (d) CASES OF EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCERATION. Lists various occupations and their corresponding number of cases.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

The number of workpeople, other than seamen, reported as killed in the course of their employment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland during January, 1927, was 208, as compared with 184 in the previous month and with 213 in January, 1926. Fatal accidents to seamen numbered 59 in January, 1927, as compared with 91 in the previous month, and with 95 a year ago.

Table showing fatal industrial accidents by industry: RAILWAY SERVICE, MINES, QUARRIES over 20 feet deep, and FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS. Includes sub-sections for Railway Service, Mines, Quarries, and Factories/Workshops.

* This Act renders cases of lead poisoning among persons employed in the painting of buildings notifiable as from 1st January, 1927. (See the January issue of this GAZETTE, page 13.)
† The persons affected in the Pottery industry were females.
‡ In addition to these cases reported under the Act, one case of anthrax among dock labourers was reported.

POOR LAW RELIEF IN GREAT BRITAIN.

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

THE number of persons* relieved on one day† in January, 1927, in the thirty-one selected areas named below was 860,543, approximately the same total as in the previous month, but 4·5† per cent. more than in January, 1926. The numbers relieved at these three dates were equivalent, respectively, to rates of 481, 481, and 462‡ per 10,000 of the estimated population.

Table showing Poor Law Relief in Great Britain. Columns include: Selected Urban Areas, England and Wales (Metropolis, Other Districts), Scotland, and Total. Sub-columns show Indoor, Outdoor, and Total relief, along with rates per 10,000 population and percentage changes.

ASSISTED PASSAGES UNDER THE EMPIRE SETTLEMENT ACT, 1922.

THE number of assisted passages granted during January, 1927, in connection with agreed schemes under the Empire Settlement Act, and the total number of such passages granted from the inception of these schemes, together with the number of departures during the same periods, are shown in the following Table:—

Table showing Assisted Passages under the Empire Settlement Act, 1922. Columns include: Assisted Passage Schemes, Departures, and Total. Sub-columns show January and 1922 to 1926 figures.

The figures given include both applicants and dependants of applicants to whom assisted passages have been granted.

* The figures include dependants, but exclude casuals, lunatics in asylums, registered hospitals and licensed houses, and persons receiving out-door medical relief only.
† The figures for England and Wales relate to 29th January, and those for Scotland to 15th January.
‡ The rates previously published for January, 1926, have been revised.
§ Revised figures.

RETAIL PRICES OVERSEAS.

[N.B.—While the percentages given in the following Summary Tables are derived from the most authoritative sources of statistical information, certain differences in the nature and scope of the data used, in the methods of combining such data and in the 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. It is also to be observed that in every case the percentage calculation is based on the assumption that the standard of living is identical at the various periods compared.]

I.—FOOD.

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

Table showing Percentage Increase in Retail Food Prices in various countries (United Kingdom, Foreign Countries, British Dominions, etc.) compared with July 1914. Columns include Country, July 1923, July 1924, July 1925, July 1926, and Latest figures available.

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 food, house-rent, clothing, fuel and light, and other household requirements in various countries compared with July 1914. Columns include Country, Items on which computation is based, July 1923, July 1924, July 1925, July 1926, and Latest figures available.

* Exceptions to this are: France (other towns), August, 1914; The Hague, January to July, 1914; Rome and Milan, January to June, 1914; Switzerland, June, 1914; Amsterdam, Spain, South Africa, average, 1914; Germany, average, 1913-1914. † Figure for June. ‡ Fuel and light are also included in these figures. § Figure for August. ¶ A = Food; B = House-Rent; C = Clothing; D = Fuel and light; E = Other or Miscellaneous Items. † Exceptions to this are: Amsterdam, 1911-1913; France, Poland, Australia and South Africa, average for 1914; Belgium, April, 1914; Greece, March, 1914; Rome and Milan, January to June, 1914; Germany, Egypt, average, 1913-1914; Switzerland and Luxembourg, June, 1914; United States, 1913. ** Figure for 3rd Quarter. †† These figures are calculated on a gold basis.

EMPLOYMENT OVERSEAS.

[N.B.—The following paragraphs include an abstract of such official information as is available with regard to the state of employment abroad, in order to indicate, as far as possible, the fluctuations in employment in each country from period to period. The bases of the official statistics published in the various countries are, however, not the same as those of the United Kingdom statistics; and therefore the figures quoted below cannot properly be used with those on pp. 58-59 to compare the actual level of employment in the United Kingdom with that of other countries. For details of the bases of the unemployment statistics of the various countries, reference should be made to the Reports on Statistics of Unemployment issued by the International Labour Office. (Studies and Reports, Series C., No. 7, and Series N., No. 7.)]

FRANCE.*

Unemployment in January.—The total number of unemployed persons remaining on the "live register" of the Exchanges on 29th January, 1927, was 73,074 (51,646 men and 21,428 women). At the end of December the corresponding total was 21,439, and in January, 1926, 12,830. (The increase in the total at the latest date is largely due to a statistical adjustment which has recently been effected, whereby the number of persons in receipt of unemployment relief is now in the majority of departments, included in the total remaining on the "live register.") The total number of vacancies remaining unfilled on 29th January was 4,620 (2,282 men and 2,338 women), as compared with 3,432 at the end of December, and 8,079 in January, 1926. During the last week of January, 1927, the Exchanges succeeded in placing 21,941 persons in situations, including 8,764 dock workers at seaports, and, in addition, found employment for 97 foreign immigrants.

GERMANY.†

Employment in December.—According to the Reichsarbeitsblatt the effect of the season on the labour market was more marked in December than in preceding months. The unusually mild weather during the past year made it possible for building to be carried on to some extent up to the first week in December. Seasonal discharges were consequently fewer than usual, and it was not until December, and in some cases the second half of the month, that there was any marked decline in outdoor occupations, in the building materials industry or in the building industry itself. On the other hand, the increase in employment during the last months of the year on account of Christmas trade was belated. Consequently the month under review (which usually witnesses a falling-off from November) showed improved employment for certain branches of industry and handicrafts. The reports from handicraft guilds indicate that the Christmas trade was on the whole less active than in 1925. Employers' returns and commercial reports describe it as good in part. Reports from employers indicate that the proportion of establishments in which employment was bad was smaller than in November.

Statistical returns to the number of 4,045 from representative establishments in various industries, covering the period from 15th November to 15th December, show an increase from 1,519,000 to 1,531,000, or 1 per cent., in the aggregate number of workpeople employed. The proportion of establishments which reported employment as good or satisfactory showed an increase, while those reporting it as bad formed 37 per cent. of the total, as against 40 per cent. in the preceding month.

Returns relating to 3,419,599 organised workers were submitted by 38 national trade unions. Of these 572,653, or 16·7 per cent. were totally unemployed on 31st December, as compared with 14·2 per cent. on 27th November, and 19·4 per cent. at the end of December, 1925. In addition 249,628, or 7·3 per cent., were working short time, as against 8·3 per cent. on 27th November, and 19·8 per cent. at the end of December, 1925.

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

Table showing Unemployment among principal Unions. Columns include Unions, Membership reported on at end of December, 1926, and Percentage Unemployed at end of Month (Dec. 1926, Nov. 1926, Dec. 1925).

* Bulletin du Marché du Travail, 4th February, 1927. Paris.
† Reichsarbeitsblatt, 20th January and 1st February, 1927, Berlin.

Figures showing the number of persons in receipt of benefit in respect of total unemployment are available for 1st January, 1927, on which date the total was 1,745,559. On 15th December the corresponding total was 1,466,991, and on 1st December, 1,369,769.

On 31st December the Employment Exchanges making returns reported 2,390,029 persons on the "live register," as against 2,007,193 at the end of November and 1,923,806 on 31st December, 1925. The number of vacant situations at the end of December was 21,380, as compared with 19,465 at the end of November and 20,159 on 31st December, 1925.

During the month of December there were, on an average, 707 applications for each 100 vacancies registered at the Exchanges, as compared with 568 in November.

AUSTRIA.

Unemployment in December.—According to the issue of *Statistische Nachrichten* (the journal of the Austrian Department of Statistics) for 25th January, 1927, the number of persons in receipt of unemployment benefit in Austria was 205,350 at the end of December, as compared with 168,820 at the end of the preceding month and 207,832 at the end of December, 1925. In Vienna alone there were 108,199 persons in receipt of benefit at the middle of January, 1927, and 101,692 at the end of December, 1926.

SWITZERLAND.*

Unemployment in December.—On 31st December, 1926, the number of applications remaining on the "live register" of Employment Exchanges making returns to the Federal Labour Department was 17,900 (or 13.6 per cent. of the employed population according to the census of 1920), as compared with 16,366 (12.5 per cent.) at the end of November and 17,027 at the end of December, 1925. Offers of situations made by employers on these dates numbered 1,303, 1,287 and 1,398 respectively. There were thus on an average 1,374 applications for each 100 vacancies on 31st December, as compared with 1,272 on 30th November, and 1,218 on 31st December 1925.

DENMARK.†

Unemployment in December.—Returns supplied to the Danish Statistical Department by trade unions and by the Central Employment Exchange show that out of 271,503 workpeople, 32.7 per cent. were unemployed on 31st December, 1926, as against 22.1 per cent. at the end of the preceding month and 31.7 per cent. at the end of December, 1925.

NORWAY.

Unemployment in December.—According to information supplied by the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics, out of 14,612 members of trade unions making returns 27.7 per cent. were unemployed on the last day of December. The corresponding figure for the end of November was 24.6 per cent., and that for December, 1925, 23.7 per cent.

SWEDEN.‡

Unemployment in December.—The percentage of members of trade unions making returns who were unemployed on 31st December, 1926, was 19.1, as compared with 13.0 on 30th November, and 19.4 on 31st December, 1925.

UNITED STATES.§

Employment in December.—Figures relating to the volume of employment in December, 1926, based on returns from 10,117 establishments in 54 manufacturing industries, are published by the Federal Bureau of Labour Statistics. These establishments reported 2,974,001 persons employed in December, as against 3,014,589 in November. The aggregate wages paid for December show a decrease of 0.2 per cent. as compared with November.

Index Number of Employment, December.—If the monthly average index number of employment in manufacturing industries in 1923 be taken as 100, the corresponding figure for December, 1926, is 90.9, as compared with 91.4 in November and 92.6 in December, 1925.

CANADA.

Employment in January.—For 1st January, 1927, returns were received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from 5,851 firms, with an aggregate of 781,559 upon their pay rolls. On 1st December the same firms reported 833,638 employed, and the total for January thus shows a decrease of 52,079 persons. If employment in the week ended 17th January, 1920, be represented by 100, the index number of employment for 1st January, 1927, is 94.8, as compared with 101.1 at the beginning of the preceding month and 89.6 on 1st January, 1926.

Trade Union Unemployment in December.—On 31st December, 1926, 5.9 per cent. of the aggregate membership of trade unions making returns were unemployed, as compared with 4.7 at the end of November and 7.9 per cent. at the end of December, 1925.

* *Sozialstatistische Mitteilungen*, January, 1927. Berne. The figures relate to exchanges affiliated to the Association of Swiss Employment Exchanges.

† *Statistiske Efterretninger*, 22nd January, 1927. Copenhagen.

‡ Information supplied by the Swedish Department of Social Affairs.

§ *Employment in Selected Manufacturing Industries*, December, 1926. Washington.

¶ *The January Employment Situation*, 1927. Ottawa.

‡ Information supplied by the Canadian Department of Labour. Ottawa.

AUSTRALIA.*

Unemployment in Fourth Quarter, 1926.—The proportion of members of trade unions making returns who were unemployed in the fourth quarter of 1926 amounted to 5.7 per cent., as compared with 7.6 per cent. in the preceding quarter and 8.1 per cent. in the fourth quarter of 1925. (These figures relate to persons out of work for three days or more during a specified week in each quarter.)

NEW ZEALAND.†

Unemployment in November.—Returns relating to unemployment in the week ending 13th November, 1926, were furnished to the Census and Statistics Office by trade unions having an aggregate membership of 47,147. Of these, 3,172, or 6.7 per cent., were out of work for more than three days during the week, as compared with 8.3 per cent. in the week ending 14th August, 1926. These returns are published at quarterly intervals.

COMPARATIVE REAL WAGES IN LONDON AND CERTAIN CITIES ABROAD.

THE series of computations of comparative "real wages" in London and certain other cities abroad, compiled by the International Labour Office from returns supplied by official statistical departments in the various cities, is carried down to 1st October, 1926, in the January, 1927, issue of the *International Labour Review*, published by that Office. Corresponding index numbers for 1st July, 1926, were reproduced in the issue of this GAZETTE for December last (p. 441). For particulars of the origin, method of compilation, significance and limitations of these index numbers, reference should be made to the issue of this GAZETTE for November, 1924. These figures have for their object a comparison of working-class real wages, so far as these can be gauged by the purchasing power (in terms of food) of the wage paid for an hour's work at the normal time rate (i.e., apart from extra payment for overtime) to male adult workers in certain typical occupations which are common to large cities. In the index numbers shown in the following Table, which is taken from the *International Labour Review*, an attempt has been made to measure the purchasing power of wages in each city, not only by the working-class standard of food consumption of the country in which the city is situated, but also by corresponding standards appropriate to the various groups of countries, and, finally (columns 7 and 8), by an international standard of working-class food consumption.

Index Numbers of Comparative Real Wages (or Comparative Purchasing Power of Money-Wages) in London and certain Cities Abroad at 1st October, 1926.

Average for all Occupations covered by the Inquiry. (London = 100.‡)

City.	Index Numbers based on Quantities of each Kind of Food Consumed in Working-class Households in							
	Belgium and France.	Central European Countries.	Great Britain.	Southern European Countries.	Scandinavian Countries.	Overseas Countries (Canada, U.S.A., etc.).	General Average Index Nos. (Based on food only).	General Average Index Nos. (with allowance for rent).
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
London ...	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Amsterdam ...	95	105	84	92	106	94	96	96
Berlin ...	61	79	61	64	77	69	69	63
Brussels ...	44	44	42	43	48	45	44	43
Copenhagen ...	108	142	111	113	148	125	125	125
Dublin ...	98	103	100	96	104	100	100	109
Lisbon § ...	32	32	31	32	32	34	32	...
Lodz ...	47	54	41	49	53	47	49	54
Oslo ...	72	88	72	74	95	80	80	82
Ottawa ...	151	154	155	153	174	168	159	157
Philadelphia ...	174	174	177	178	205	191	183	183
Prague ...	47	52	46	50	53	49	50	53
Riga ...	42	61	46	46	56	51	50	53
Rome § ...	43	45	43	46	49	48	46	48
Stockholm || ...	82	90	87	87	110	94	92	90
Sydney ...	125	119	137	138	164	138	137	137
Tallinn ...	36	50	37	39	51	43	43	44
Vienna ...	36	50	39	40	53	45	44	50
Warsaw ¶ ...	56	61	45	56	59	53	55	56

If comparisons are made between these figures and corresponding index numbers for earlier dates previously published, it should be noted that the difference between the index numbers for any city at different dates may indicate a change in the levels of real wages either in that city or in London, or in both cities. In other words, the difference in the figures compared may be due to changes in money wages and food prices in either or both cities, and not necessarily to changes in one of them alone.

* Information supplied by the Commonwealth Prime Minister's Department. Melbourne.

† *Monthly Abstract of Statistics*, December, 1926. Wellington.

‡ Although London is taken arbitrarily as base (= 100), the ratios would be the same whichever city were chosen as base.

§ The figures for Lisbon and Rome are relatively low. This may be accounted for in part by the differences in the items of food consumption in the Southern European countries from those ordinarily consumed in most of the other countries included in the table.

|| The figures are based on wages in the building, furniture-making, and printing industries only. For other cities the metal industry is also included.

¶ Based on a weighted average wage. For other cities an unweighted average has been used.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

Trade Union Act, 1913.

TRADE UNION FUNDS—POLITICAL OBJECTS—DECISION OF REGISTRAR OF FRIENDLY SOCIETIES—SUBSEQUENT ACTION IN THE HIGH COURT—"RES JUDICATA."

In this case the plaintiff claimed an injunction against the National Amalgamated Union of Shop Assistants, Warehousemen and Clerks, of which he was a member, to restrain the Union from making contributions out of its general funds to the funds of the Trades Union Congress contrary to the provisions of the Trade Union Act, 1913.

By Section 3 of the Trade Union Act, 1913, it is provided (*inter alia*) as follows:—

"3.—(1) The funds of a trade union shall not be applied, either directly or in conjunction with any other trade union, association, or body, or otherwise indirectly, in the furtherance of the political objects to which this section applies (without prejudice to the furtherance of any other political objects), unless the furtherance of those objects has been approved as an object of the union by a resolution for the time being in force passed on a ballot of the members of the union taken in accordance with this Act for the purpose by a majority of the members voting; and, where such a resolution is in force, unless rules, to be approved, whether the union is registered or not, by the Registrar of Friendly Societies, are in force providing—

(a) That any payments in the furtherance of those objects are to be made out of a separate fund (in this Act referred to as the political fund of the union), and for the exemption in accordance with this Act of any member of the union from any obligation to contribute to such a fund if he gives notice in accordance with this Act that he objects to contribute.

"(2) If any member of a trade union alleges that he is aggrieved by a breach of any rule made in pursuance of this section, he may complain to the Registrar of Friendly Societies, and the Registrar of Friendly Societies, after giving the complainant and any representative of the union an opportunity of being heard, may, if he considers that such a breach has been committed, make such order for remedying the breach as he thinks just under the circumstances; and any such order of the Registrar shall be binding and conclusive on all parties without appeal, and shall not be removable into any Court of Law or restrainable by injunction, and, on being recorded in the County Court, may be enforced as if it had been an order of the County Court.

"(3) A resolution under this section approving political objects as an object of the union shall take effect as if it were a rule of the union, and may be rescinded in the same manner and subject to the same provisions as such a rule."

The plaintiff complained that the general funds of the defendant union were applied indirectly to political objects by means of affiliation fees paid to the Trades Union Congress, and that such fees had been expended on political objects to which only the political fund of the defendant union could properly be applied.

It was contended, on behalf of the defendant union, that the question at issue was *res judicata*, by reason of the fact that the plaintiff in 1925 complained as to these matters to the Registrar of Friendly Societies, pursuant to Section 3, sub-section 2 of the Trade Union Act, 1913, and the Registrar determined that the union had committed no breach of its rules.

Mr. Justice Eve gave judgment dismissing the action, with costs. His Lordship referred to the provisions of Section 3 of the Trade Union Act, 1913, under which the plaintiff claimed relief, and continued as follows:—

"It is admitted that a valid resolution has been passed, and that rules approved by the Registrar of Friendly Societies providing for all and each of the matters referred to in paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection 1 were, at the date of the writ, and still are, in force. In these circumstances all the conditions precedent have been complied with, and, in my opinion, the statutory restrictions have ceased to operate. . . . If the facts on which the plaintiff relies constitute a misapplication of the general funds of the defendant union, his cause of action is a breach of the rules, the rule in particular being rule 45, sub-rule 2. Now this appears to have been the plaintiff's own opinion when he first desired to raise the question, because, so soon as he became aware of the matters of which he complained, he availed himself of his statutory right under Section 3 (2) of the Act and laid a complaint before the Registrar of Friendly Societies. . . . According to the construction which I put on Section 3 (2) of the Act, the Legislature contemplated that the matter, dealt with as it has now been dealt with by the rules, should be determined by the tribunal indicated in that subsection (the Registrar), and did not contemplate that it should be open to the member, after he had submitted the matter to the Registrar, and having failed to convince the Registrar, to resort to the Courts. Whether the subsection left him entitled to elect whether he would go to the Registrar or to the Court has not been argued; but, assuming that there were such an election, it appears to me that this plaintiff adopted an attitude which showed what his election was, and that it is not open to him, having failed before the Registrar, to proceed by action in this Court. That does not arise on the pleadings as they stand.

"The relief sought for in this action is not founded on any breach by the defendant union of the rules, but on an alleged breach of the

statute; and, no such breach having been established, I have no alternative but to dismiss this action, and to dismiss it with costs."—*Forster v. National Amalgamated Union of Shop Assistants, Warehousemen, and Clerks. High Court of Justice, 19th, 20th, and 21st January, 1927.*

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTS, 1920-26.

DECISIONS GIVEN BY THE UMPIRE.

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

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

The following are recent decisions of general interest:—

Case No. 19/27. (3/1/27.) Section 7 (1) (iv) of Principal Act (as amended)—Genuinely seeking Work.

WAITRESS, IN LAST THREE YEARS, WORKED ONLY BETWEEN APRIL AND OCTOBER—KNOWING HER EMPLOYMENT WAS SEASONAL, HAD MADE NO EFFORT TO FIND WINTER WORK BEFORE MAKING CLAIM—NO SATISFACTORY EVIDENCE OF EFFORTS AFTER MAKING CLAIM—HELD NOT GENUINELY SEEKING WORK AT DATE OF CLAIM.

The applicant, a waitress, lost her employment on the 23rd October, 1926, and made a claim for unemployment benefit on the 27th October, which was disallowed on the ground that she was not genuinely seeking work.

The report of an interview with an investigating officer indicated that the applicant's employment was of a seasonal nature. She had had a season's employment since a previous period of disallowance in 1925, and intended to wait until the next season before looking for work of any kind.

The applicant stated that she was willing to accept work as housemaid, or chambermaid, either locally or outside her home district. She had applied for work as housemaid-general, but not recently. She was unable to do general domestic work, and had not applied for work as a cleaner. She had not seen any advertisements for suitable domestic situations, although it was adduced at the hearing before the Court of Referees that such situations had, in fact, been advertised in the local newspapers.

Recommended by the Court of Referees (by a majority) that the claim should be allowed, the Chairman dissenting.

The Insurance Officer did not agree with the Court's recommendation, and referred the case to the Umpire, who gave the following decision:—

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

"The applicant became unemployed on Saturday, 23rd October. Her claim for benefit, made on Wednesday, 27th October, was disallowed by the Insurance Officer as from that date; and the question for decision is whether she was then genuinely seeking work.

"I have often held that when benefit is suspended after an applicant has been in receipt of it for a considerable time, the fact that the applicant has made no real effort to obtain work until after benefit is suspended is cogent evidence that the applicant is not genuinely seeking work, and evidence of efforts made after disallowance is of little value. But when a claim for benefit is disallowed before an applicant has had any opportunity of seeking work, evidence as to search for work after disallowance of the claim is relevant, as showing whether the applicant was genuinely seeking work when the claim was made.

"Now in this case the applicant might have made some inquiries at registry offices and elsewhere, and have applied for advertised situations before she became unemployed. She must have known that her employment was seasonal, and if she had genuinely wanted work for the autumn and winter I think she would have tried to secure it before her employment came to an end. But one must also consider her record and what she did after her claim was disallowed, as in a case of this kind such evidence is of value. Her record does not help much. Though she is 47 she can only show three spells of work from April to October in three successive years. Nor does the report of the applicant's interview with the Investigating Officer, or her evidence at the Court of Referees, lead me to think that when she made her claim she was genuinely seeking work."

Case No. 128/27. (5/1/27.) Section 8 (1) of Principal Act—Trade Dispute.

MINERS' DISPUTE—COLLIERY ELECTRICIAN WORKED FOR TWO DAYS DURING STOPPAGE ON EMPLOYERS' FRESH TERMS—CEASED WHEN COLLIERY CLOSED OWING TO INTIMIDATION OF MINERS WHO HAD NOT RESUMED—DISPUTE BETWEEN "STRIKERS" AND EMPLOYERS A TRADE DISPUTE WITHIN MEANING OF ACT.

The applicant, a colliery electrician, lost his employment owing to the national mining stoppage, which commenced on the

* Volumes containing selected decisions of the Umpire are published by H.M. Stationery Office. Decisions given prior to 31st December, 1925, have been published in pamphlet form and later embodied in bound volumes, the latest being a volume of selected decisions given during the year 1925 (H.M. Stationery Office: price 7s. 6d. net). Decisions given subsequent to December, 1925, are printed in pamphlet form and may be obtained as and when issued, on payment of an annual subscription. All inquiries and applications should be made to H.M. Stationery Office at any of the addresses shown on the front cover of this GAZETTE.

30th April, 1926. Subsequently, during the stoppage, he accepted the fresh terms offered by the employers as a condition of employment, and resumed work on the 27th October. He ceased work on the following day, however, in consequence of intimidation by miners who had not returned to work. Accordingly, his claim for unemployment benefit, made on the 28th October, was disallowed on the ground that he had lost employment by reason of a stoppage of work due to a trade dispute.

The applicant maintained that his acceptance of the employers' terms automatically removed any dispute between himself and the employers. He was willing to work, but was prevented from doing so owing to the pit being closed down on account of the action of others, and by working for two days during the stoppage he had incurred the risk of being debarred from continued membership of his trade union.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim should be allowed. They pointed out that the applicant had actually worked for two days, and then the colliery had been closed as a precautionary measure for which the workman was not responsible. The Court took the view that the intimidation was not a dispute between employees and employers, since the "strikers" were no longer employees within the meaning of Section 47 of the principal Act, having terminated their contract of employment with the employers when the national stoppage commenced.

The Insurance Officer did not agree with the Court's recommendation. In his opinion the disqualification continued, as the applicant had not become employed elsewhere. He referred the case to the Umpire, who gave the following decision:—

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

"The applicant clearly lost employment by reason of the stoppage of work, which was due to a trade dispute at the colliery at which he was employed.

"The Chairman of the Court of Referees was of the opinion that 'strikers' are not 'employees,' and that therefore a dispute between such persons and employers is not a dispute between employers and employees, and is not a trade dispute.

"In the definition of 'trade dispute' in the Act of 1911, the expression used was 'workmen' instead of the now more fashionable expression 'employees'; and there was a definition of 'workmen' so framed as to include not only persons in actual employment, but unemployed persons who, when employed, fulfilled the conditions of the definition. This definition was taken from the Trade Disputes Act, 1906, in which also the expression 'workmen' is so defined as to be capable of including unemployed persons.

"I am of opinion that it was not intended, by substituting the term 'employees' for 'workmen' in the Act of 1920, to make such a far-reaching change in the definition of a trade dispute as would result from construing 'employees' to mean only persons in actual employment. In my opinion the expression 'employees' includes not only persons actually working under contracts of service, but also persons who, when not unemployed, work under contracts of service; and the expression 'employers' has a corresponding meaning."

Case No. 169/27. (7/1/27.) Section 7 (1) (ii) of Principal Act—Not Unemployed.

APPLICANT LEFT EMPLOYMENT TO RUN MATRIMONIAL AGENCY—AGENCY UNSUCCESSFUL, AND NO REMUNERATION RECEIVED FROM IT—AFTER CLAIMING, DID NO WORK IN CONNECTION WITH AGENCY, AND TRIED TO FIND OTHER WORK—NOT EMPLOYED.

The applicant, whose last insurable employment was in the capacity of an office caretaker, made a claim for unemployment benefit on the 12th June, 1926, which was disallowed on the ground that he was not unemployed.

It appeared that he had left his employment on the 24th April, 1926, in order to take up a matrimonial agency. The agency proved to be unsuccessful, however, and since the date of his claim his wife had done whatever work there was. He had not performed any work in connection with it, nor had he received any remuneration from it. He had made efforts to obtain other kinds of work. The applicant admitted that the agency had been advertised in current publications, and that if the business improved he would undertake the work himself.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim should be disallowed. The Court took the view that the applicant was the proprietor of the agency and was responsible for all liabilities attached thereto; and that, until he proved that the business had been closed down, he could not be considered to be unemployed.

The Insurance Officer formally disagreed with the Court's recommendation. In his opinion the evidence that the applicant was participating in the business was not strong, and he referred the case to the Umpire, who gave the following decision:—

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

"It has been held in many cases that, when a person is following an occupation of a kind which usually yields profit, it lies upon him to show that he does not receive any profit from that occupation; and

in the case of some occupations it is impossible to ascertain until a considerable time has elapsed whether or not the occupation is in fact yielding a profit. But a person cannot be deemed to be not unemployed by reason of his following an occupation unless he derives profit or remuneration from so doing, and when once it is shown that no profit or remuneration is received the applicant may claim to have been unemployed whilst following the occupation.

"The first paragraph in Decision 4226/20* may require some modification in this connection; at any rate it has no application to such an occupation as that which the applicant in this case was following. I think it only applies to persons who are really devoting their whole time to some substantial business, and might be disallowed on the ground that they are not available for, or not genuinely seeking, work of some other kind. Decision 2285/25† is nearer to this case.

"In this case I am satisfied that the applicant in fact made no profit from his agency, and there is no ground for disallowing his claim."

Case No. 198/27. (10/1/27.) Section 8 (2) of Principal Act—Employment left Voluntarily.

MEMBERS OF TYPOGRAPHICAL ASSOCIATION LEFT EMPLOYMENT WHEN EMPLOYERS FORMED "HOUSE UNION"—EMPLOYERS REFUSED TO RECOGNISE ANY AGREEMENT OTHER THAN WITH "HOUSE UNION"—PROPOSED APPOINTMENT OF MORE APPRENTICES THAN AGREED BETWEEN EMPLOYERS' FEDERATION AND TYPOGRAPHICAL ASSOCIATION—EMPLOYERS WILLING TO PAY RATE OF WAGES RECOGNISED AS TRADE UNION STANDARD—MEN LEFT VOLUNTARILY WITHOUT JUST CAUSE.

The applicants, who were members of the Typographical Association, were employed by a newspaper company up to the 25th September, 1926, when they resigned, having tendered a fortnight's notice to their employers on the instruction of their association. Their claims for unemployment benefit, made on the 27th September, were accordingly disallowed for six weeks, on the ground that they had left their employment voluntarily without just cause.

Their association appealed to the Court of Referees on their behalf against the disallowance, explaining that on the 11th September the employers formed what was termed a "house union," an organisation to govern the relationship between employees and the company, independent of any other trade union. While agreeing to pay the recognised standard of wages, the company refused to be bound by agreements made with any other body than the "house union." The consequence was that, since the company refused to treat with the applicants' association, they were compelled either to accept the scheme or resign their employment. By accepting membership the men concerned would have sacrificed all benefits to which they were entitled from their trade union. One of the rules of the Typographical Association limited the number of apprentices employed by a firm. The number allotted to the firm in question was originally 8 but subsequently increased to 12. Under the new scheme, however, the firm proposed to appoint 17 apprentices. The apprentice question was one of national agreement; and although the association had many interviews with the employers, the latter refused to be bound by agreements in existence made between the association and the federation of employers, although most of the agreements originally in force were adopted. The association maintained that the case was governed by Decision 3421/26,‡ and that in the circumstances they were justified in instructing their members to give notice.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claims should be disallowed. The Court pointed out that, at the time notice to leave was given, the number of apprentices had not been fixed, and took the view that the time when the society should have decided whether the applicants should terminate their services was when the number was so fixed, if it was found that the number was contrary to the rules of the society.

The Court were of the opinion that the case was governed by Decision 2096/26,§ since the employers were willing to pay the rates of wages agreed by the applicants' trade union.

The applicants' association appealed to the Umpire against the disallowance, and there was an oral hearing on 6th January, 1927.

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

"The applicants, who had been employed by a newspaper company, were members of the Typographical Association. The company had issued to its employees proposals for establishing a new trade union to govern the relations between the company and its employees; but if this union had come into existence the applicants would not have been required by the company to join it, and would have been permitted by the company to retain their membership of the Typographical Association.

"The Typographical Association nevertheless objected to its members continuing to work for the company, and would have expelled them from membership if they had continued to do so. Various reasons were put forward, but in substance I think it comes to this, that they object to their members working for an employer who employs compositors who are not members of their union.

* See Umpire's Selected Decisions, Vol. II. (Pamphlet No. 18).
† See Vol. IV. of Umpire's Selected Decisions, page 288 (Pamphlet No. 18/1925.)
‡ See Vol. V. of Umpire's Selected Decisions, page 219. (Pamphlet No. 9/1926.)
§ See Vol. V. of Umpire's Selected Decisions, page 180. (Pamphlet No. 8/1926.)

"I cannot regard this as just cause for leaving. If men like to refuse to work with men who are not members of their own union they are at liberty to do so, but they cannot expect to receive unemployment benefit when this objection results in their leaving employment which is otherwise suitable.

"I agree with the recommendation of the Court of Referees."

Case No. 452/27. (28/1/27.) Section 8 (1) of Principal Act and 4 (1) of 1924 (No. 2) Act—Trade Dispute.

MINERS' DISPUTE—DISPUTE SETTLED BY AGREEMENT, BUT COLLIERY NOT RE-OPENED, ALTHOUGH 40 PER CENT. OF MEN COULD HAVE BEEN ABSORBED AT ONCE—EMPLOYMENT NOT POSSIBLE FOR SOME WEEKS BECAUSE OF CONDITION OF MINES, BUT REPAIRS NOT STARTED—AGREEMENT NOT SIGNED UNTIL FORTNIGHT AFTERWARDS—IN INTERIM OWNERS NOT PREPARED TO RE-EMPLOY MEN ON ANY TERMS DURING FIRST WEEK—SUBSEQUENTLY OFFERED WORK ON TERMS IN CONTRAVENTION OF DRAFT AGREEMENT.

The applicants were South Wales colliery workers who had lost their employment on the 30th April, 1926, when the national mining stoppage began, and were not re-instated upon a general settlement being reached on the 30th November. They made claims for unemployment benefit on the 1st December, which were disallowed under the provisions of Section 8 (1) of the principal Act.

The applicants, whose cases were representative of many others, appealed to the Court of Referees against the disallowance, and were represented at the hearing on the 17th December by officials of their unions. Representatives of the colliery owners were also present.

It appeared that towards the end of November the control of the colliery was transferred to another company. The pits were situated in Monmouthshire, and were within the area and jurisdiction of the Conciliation Board for Monmouthshire and South Wales. On the 30th November the representatives of the Coal Owners' Association and the Miners' Federation for this district reached an agreement as to the terms and conditions to be applied to the industry within the area of the Conciliation Board; and such terms and conditions were subsequently embodied in a formal agreement, a copy of which was produced at the hearing. The applicants were prepared to resume work on the 1st December on the terms and conditions of the agreement, but the owners failed to re-open the pits, although no physical mining difficulties were alleged by the owners.

A deputation of miners waited on the management on the 8th December, and the management suggested variations in some of the conditions contained in the agreement, alleging that the pits could not be worked economically on such conditions. The workmen's representatives, however, were not prepared to accept the new proposals, on the ground that they were in contravention of certain clauses of the agreement.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claims should be allowed. The Court were of the opinion that the stoppage ceased when the new agreement was concluded, but that the owners did not act in a manner so as to contravene the terms of the new agreement within the meaning of Section 4 (1) of the 1924 (No. 2) Act, since the provisions of this section could apply only after the agreement became operative at the colliery. They did not consider that employment offered on terms contrary to the new agreement was suitable, because the terms agreed upon and embodied in the agreement were the suitable conditions applicable to the colliery.

The Insurance Officer did not agree with the Court's recommendation. In his opinion the stoppage of work due to the mining dispute continued at the colliery after the 30th November. He referred the case to the Umpire.

At a hearing before the Umpire on the 21st January the legal representative of the Miners' Federation explained that, although a settlement of the dispute was reached on the 30th November, the agreement was not signed until the 13th December.

In answer to the Umpire's question the owners' representative stated that, had the colliery re-opened on the 30th November, 40 per cent. of the men could have been absorbed at once, and the remainder in the course of the ensuing three months. The full complement of men could not have been immediately employed owing to the condition of the mine. Repairs to the mine had not, however, commenced at the date of the hearing. He did not dispute that the terms offered on 8th December departed in some respects from those agreed between the two associations.

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

"I agree with the recommendation of the Court of Referees. The dispute in Monmouthshire and South Wales was settled by an agreement which was actually made on 30th November, though it was not drawn up and signed till 13th December. This agreement was an agreement existing between a group of employers where the stoppage took place, to which the employers and employees were contracting parties.

"From 1st December until 8th December the applicants' late employers were not prepared to re-employ the men at the colliery on any terms. This state of things may have been due to change of control in the management, or to the fact that the owners were considering whether they could offer employment in accordance with the terms of settlement. On the 8th December they made new proposals, which admittedly would (if accepted) have been in contravention of the terms of the district agreement to which the employers were parties.

"From 30th November onwards until the present time the employers made no attempt to put the colliery in repair for resumption of work. If they had been willing to employ men on the terms of the settlement they could have started about 40 per cent. of them at once, but it would have been some weeks before the colliery would have been sufficiently repaired to enable all of them to restart.

"The position, then, is as follows: From 30th November onwards for some weeks the stoppage of work which was due to the trade dispute would probably have continued, in the sense that only a partial resumption would have been possible. But in fact even that partial resumption of work was impossible, at first because the employers were not offering employment on any terms, and afterwards because they were so acting as to contravene the terms of the district agreement.

"In these circumstances I agree that the stoppage of work which was due to the trade dispute may properly be considered to have come to an end on 30th November."

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

Recent Proceedings.

(A.)—INDUSTRIAL COURT DECISIONS.

RAILWAY SHOPMEN—BOILERMAKERS IN LOCOMOTIVE DEPARTMENT, FURNACE SECTION OF L. M. & S. RAILWAY.—Boilermakers' and Iron and Steel Shipbuilders' Society v. L. M. & S. Railway. *Difference.*—Withdrawal of "Dirty Money" allowance. *Decision.*—The Court decided that the Company were entitled to withdraw the allowance in question. Issued 3rd January, 1927. (1273.)

SENIOR FOREMEN OF THE YARD AND OF ENGINEERING BRANCH, ADMIRALTY.—Staff Side v. Official Side of Admiralty Administrative Whitley Council. *Difference.*—Salary scales—claim for increase. *Decision.*—The Court awarded the following basic scales of pay:—£400-20-480 per annum. Operative as from 1st January, 1927. Issued 21st January, 1927. (1274.)

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

[There were no cases under this heading during January.]

(C.)—OTHER SETTLEMENTS.

COTTON TRADE: SKIPTON.—Skipton and District Weavers' and Winders' Association v. Messrs. Mark Nutter & Co., Firth Mills, Skipton. *Difference.*—Strike of operatives owing to the dismissal of a weaver on the grounds of alleged unsatisfactory service. *Settlement.*—Weaver reinstated on three months' trial. Settled 27th January, 1927.

**RAILWAYS ACT, 1921.
NATIONAL WAGES BOARD.**

The following findings have recently been issued by the Railway National Wages Board on cases referred to them:—

Drivers and Firemen, Edinburgh (Waverley) and Driver J. Barrett, Gorton: Application for certain turns to be considered as Train turns of duty.—The Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen submitted the question whether the work performed at Edinburgh (Waverley) station by the drivers and firemen on pilot engines on Turns Nos. 1 and 2, and the work done by Driver Barrett at Gorton in moving coaches from the main line into the Wash House Sidings, come within the category of shunting engine work, for which the top rate of payment for the driver is 14s. a day, or are train turns of duty for which the top rate is 15s. a day.

The Board expressed the opinion, on the evidence submitted, that the turns in question should not be considered as train turns of duty, the two representatives of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen on the Board dissenting.

Fireman E. Price, Colwick: Claim for payment of travelling time.—The Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen submitted a claim on behalf of Fireman E. Price, who on 8th November, 1924, was booked to work the 1.55 a.m. goods train, Colwick to Deansgate, Manchester, and the turn was rostered for him and the driver to return home as passengers. On arrival at Deansgate, they were informed that the roster had been cancelled and that they were to lodge and work a return train at 7.50 p.m. Fireman Price refused to do this and returned by the passenger train as originally rostered. He claimed payment for the time so occupied in travelling home. The Company contended that the instruction given to Fireman Price was a lawful one and as he travelled home in breach of it, the Company were under no obligation to pay him for the time so occupied.

The Board, one representative of the Associated Society dissenting, expressed the opinion that the claim of Fireman Price had not been made out.

Driver R. Brown, Kippis; Driver A. Ferguson, Eastfield; Driver McTear, Stobcross, L.N.E.R.: Claim for retrospective payment.—Before the National Agreement of 1919, promotion of cleaners, firemen and drivers was made by a multiplicity of methods in the various railway companies, but in that year and subsequently agreements

were entered into for the purpose of regularising the method of promotion, and eventually in February, 1922, it was agreed to recommend those companies which had not already done so to adjust their seniority lists according to the agreements.

The three men concerned in the case submitted to the Board by the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen were employed by the North British Railway. At the material time, the factor governing seniority on this railway was the date of registration as driver and fireman. In the event of it being necessary to put men back, the man with the shortest driving or firing service at a depôt was the first to be put back. The men concerned were so put back in October, 1921.

Following the Agreement of February, 1922, the North British Railway completely overhauled their seniority lists. The men in question are now in their correct places on the seniority lists, but the present difference arises from their being put back in October, 1921, which has affected their pay.

The Board expressed the opinion that the claims failed as in putting back the men in question the Company were carrying out the method which at the time was generally acquiesced in and agreed to in that Company. The two representatives of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen did not agree with this opinion.

Cleaners, Bournemouth, Higher Duty Pay: Claim to retrospective payment.—The Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen asked for a ruling on the applications of certain Cleaners employed at the Bournemouth Running Shed for higher duty pay for the full period during which they worked as Stores Issuers, and others whilst employed as Barmen.

During the hearing, the representatives of each side referred to an offer made by the other by way of compromise, but as there was some uncertainty as to whether either offer had been fully appreciated, the Board referred the application back to the parties for settlement.

Sunday to Monday payment.—The Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen referred to the Board a claim that Fireman Challis, of Battersea Park, Southern Railway, was not correctly paid for duty commencing on 5th April, 1925. Fireman Challis booked on for duty at 11.15 p.m. on Sunday, 5th April, 1925, as fireman of a goods train and booked off at 4.25 a.m. on the Monday morning, for which he was paid 7 hours. This payment was calculated by the Company on the Finding of the National Wages Board of the 18th December, 1923, Clause 61 (1).

The Society claimed that by their Finding above referred to the Board did not alter the guaranteed day for a Sunday to Monday turn of duty, and that the man was entitled to the rate for a guaranteed day.

The opinion of the Board was that the conditions of the National Agreement, as supplemented by the Board's Finding of the 18th December, 1923, had been complied with, the two representatives of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen dissenting.

Rate of Pay of Drivers J. Douglas and J. D. Wilmot, Blyth.—The Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen submitted an application on behalf of Drivers Douglas and Wilmot, who were promoted to be drivers in February and March, 1920, respectively, and were transferred to train link working on 15th February, 1924. They continued link working until the 5th December, 1924, when two drivers were transferred from Percy Main depôt. These two drivers were senior to Douglas and Wilmot and consequently when they were transferred Douglas and Wilmot were reduced from link working to shunting engine work.

The Society claimed that the men were entitled to be advanced to the rate of 15s. a day when this became due by reason of their service. This advance had, however, been refused.

The Board found that up to 1st January, 1925:—(1) Percy Main, Blyth and North Blyth were one promotional area; (2) Permanent transfer from link to link in that area was made according to seniority; (3) in February, 1924, Douglas and Wilmot were not the senior men in the area; (4) Their appointments, therefore, to link working were temporary. Therefore the claim failed.

Timekeeper H. E. Marshall, Ardsley, London and North Eastern Railway: "Mean" Rate.—The National Agreement of June, 1919, provided that a driver taken off a footplate owing to failing eyesight and put into a lower-rated position, should receive the mean between the position he vacates and the position he assumes. On 30th March, 1925, the Central Wages Board agreed that such a man subsequently promoted to a higher rated job should receive the mean between his new rate and his old rate as a driver.

Timekeeper Marshall, whose case was brought to the National Wages Board by the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen, was taken from the footplate in February, 1920, owing to inability to pass the eyesight test and was given a post in the foreman's office. He was graded as a shed labourer and received the mean between his former driver's rate of 72s. per week and the shed labourer's rate of 43s. per week, until the 5th October, 1924, when he was made a Timekeeper, the rate for which is 60s. a week, and this rate was paid to him. In April, 1925, a claim was made that his rate of pay should be raised to 66s. per week. The Company agreed to pay 66s. per week as from 30th March, 1925, the date on which the decision of the Central Wages Board referred to above was come to. The Society claimed payment at the higher rate as from 5th October, 1924, when Marshall was appointed Timekeeper.

The Board came to the conclusion that the concession made by the Companies on a hypothetical case on 30th March, 1925, was a fair compromise of a disputed interpretation and that the claim for retrospective payment before that date is not sustained.

Signalmen's Settlement: Application for Allowance for Portering, Booking Office work, etc.—The National Union of Railwaymen, in

submitting this case, pointed out that in the Signalmen's Settlement of May, 1922, a system was devised for determining the relative importance of signal boxes. Under the system a specified number of marks is allocated for operations performed in connection with signalling. At some boxes signalmen perform extraneous duties for which no marks are given, and the Union asked that the divisor of hours should be restricted to those when signalling work proper was being performed.

For the Companies, it was pointed out that, as part of the general claim submitted by the Union in November, 1925, a similar claim was made and was rejected by the Board. It was contended that there has been no change of circumstances so far as Signalmen are concerned since that date. Attention was also directed to the point that the duties in question were performed by Signalmen at the time when the marks basis was agreed and when the final settlement of rates of pay was made in May, 1922; further that the Signalmen's Settlement of 1922 proceeded on the same principle as for other grades, namely, the new standard rates were on the average 100 per cent. above the pre-war average for the grade. To grant the concession asked for would put the Signalmen concerned in a preferential position.

The Board decided against the claim.

Regrading of Signal Lampman's Post, Ibrox, London, Midland and Scottish Railway.—The National Union of Railwaymen again referred the question of the grading of this post which matter came before the National Wages Board in October, 1926, and was remitted to the parties to determine whether the work was in fact proper to a junior.

For the Union, it was submitted that the post had for some considerable time past been held by an adult and ought not to be regarded as a junior post without substantial change in the duties. It was also submitted generally that juniors should not be called upon to clean points and that signal lampmen's work ought always to be done by adults. For the Company, it was contended that the post never should have been graded as an adult post and, in support of this contention, it was submitted that similar work is done in many other places by juniors and that the great majority of such posts in Scotland are, and were before April, 1923, graded as junior posts.

The Board expressed the opinion that the Union's case had not been established.

TRADE BOARDS ACTS.

Orders, Notices, etc., Recently Issued.

I.—CONFIRMING ORDERS.

Jute Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order J (43), dated 20th January, 1927, confirming the variations of general minimum time rates, piecework basis time rates, guaranteed time rates, general minimum piece rates and overtime rates for male and female workers, and specifying 24th January, 1927, as the date from which such rates should become effective.

II.—NOTICES OF PROPOSAL.

Coffin Furniture and Cerement Making Trade Board (Great Britain).

Proposal U (19), dated 15th January, 1927, to vary general minimum time rates and overtime rates for female workers in the Cerement Making Section of the trade. Objection period expires 11th March, 1927.

Paper Bag Trade Board (Great Britain).

Proposal P (14), dated 3rd February, 1927, to vary general minimum time rates and overtime rates for female workers for periods dependent upon the cost-of-living index figure. Objection period expires 1st April, 1927.

III.—ALTERATION IN THE COST-OF-LIVING INDEX FIGURE.

Lower wages rates have become operative as from the 1st February, 1927, in the undermentioned trades. The minimum rates of wages now applicable are those appropriate to the cost-of-living figure of 75, and are set out in the Confirming Orders quoted below:—

Brush and Broom Trade Board (Great Britain), M (39), (40) and (41), col. 10.

Coffin Furniture and Cerement Making Trade Board (Great Britain):—

(1) Male workers in the Coffin Furniture Section of the trade, U (13), col. 4.

(2) Female workers in the Cerement Making Section of the trade, U (16), col. 2.

TRADE BOARDS INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT (GREAT BRITAIN).

For the purpose of the inspection of firms engaged in industries covered by Trade Boards, and the enforcement of Trade Board Orders in Great Britain, the country is divided into eight divisions, in each of which there is a divisional office in charge of a senior officer; and all Trade Boards inspection is now undertaken locally from the appropriate divisional office. There is a sub-office in the South-Western division at Plymouth.*

* This office will be closed as from 25th March, 1927.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.

LIST OF NEW CONTRACTS, JANUARY, 1927.

ADMIRALTY.

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

Chatham: Timber: Jewson & Sons, Ltd., Norwich. **Devonport: Creosoted Wood Blocks:** Plymouth & Oreston Timber Co., Ltd., Plymouth.—**Steelwork:** J. Lysaght, Ltd., Bristol.—**Stoneware, Ducts:** Albion Clay Co., Ltd., Woodville, nr. Burton-on-Trent. **Pembroke: Steel Tanks:** Tees Side Bridge & Engineering Co., Ltd., Middlesbrough. **Peterhead: Portland Cement:** Casebourne & Co., Ltd., Haverton Hill-on-Tees, nr. Middlesbrough. **Portsmouth: Portland Cement:** The Cement Marketing Co., Ltd., London, S.W. **Steel Rails:** T. Summerson & Sons, Ltd., Darlington.

(Contract and Purchase Department.)

Alternators, Motors and Spare Armature: Mackie & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Aluminium Plating for Cables:** British Aluminium Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; G. A. Harvey & Co. (London), Ltd., London, S.E.; Bulpitt & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Aluminium Sheets, etc.:** British Aluminium Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Bamboo Stretchers:** P. I. Headley, Ashford, Kent.—**Batteries:** Chloride Electrical Storage Co., Ltd., Manchester; D. P. Battery Co., Ltd., Bakewell, Derbyshire.—**Blades, Hack Saw:** Fry's (London), Ltd., London, S.E.; Charles Baynes, Ltd., Blackburn.—**Blocks, Geared:** Tangyes, Ltd., Birmingham; H. Morris, Ltd., Loughborough.—**Boilers, M.C.I.:** Ruston & Hornsby, Ltd., Grantham.—**Boiler, Exhaust Heated:** Clarkson Thimble Tube Boiler Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Boots, India Rubber:** Liverpool Rubber Co., Ltd., Liverpool; North British Rubber Co., Ltd., Edinburgh.—**Boxes, Junction:** L. Weekes (Luton), Ltd., Luton; Hawkers, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Brooms and Brushes:** W. H. Vowles & Sons, Ltd., Stonehouse, Glos.; E. A. & W. Greenslade, Ltd., Bristol; John Palmer, Ltd., Portsmouth; S. Ludbrook & Co., Ltd., London, E.; C. H. Leng & Sons, Birmingham; Brushes, Ltd., St. Albans; Beechwood, Ltd., Chesham, Bucks; A. Reid & Sons, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Brushes, Painters':** Vale & Bradnack, Walsall; W. Morier & Co., Ltd., Glasgow; F. Brockley & Son, Epsom; J. Root & Son, London, N.; Chadwick & Shapcott, Ltd., London, W.C.; A. Reid & Sons, Ltd., London, S.E.; Webb & Foulger, Ltd., London, S.E.; C. H. Leng & Sons, Birmingham; Hamilton & Co. (London), Ltd., London, E.C.—**Brushes, Steel Wire:** Mechanical Appliances Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; J. & R. Whyte, Glasgow; N. Greening & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.; W. Riddell, Coulsland & Co., Ltd., Glasgow; C. H. Leng & Sons, Birmingham; Thornton, Williams & Co., London, S.E.—**Brushes, Tooth:** Titterton & Howard, Ltd., London, W.; W. R. Tilbury & Sons, London, E.—**Cable, Chain:** S. Taylor & Sons (Brierley Hill), Ltd., Brierley Hill.—**Cable, Electric:** Anchor Cable Co., Ltd., Leigh, Lancs; General Electric Co., Ltd., Southampton; Enfield Cable Works, Ltd., Brimsdown; Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Cable, Mining:** Hoopers Telegraph & India Rubber Works, Ltd., London, E.; Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Carpenters' and Joiners' Work:** East & Son, Ltd., Berkhamsted; J. Gerrard & Sons, Ltd., Manchester; J. L. Green & Vardy, Ltd., London, N.; Lawson & Co., Glasgow; Scott, Morton, & Tyneastle Co., Ltd., Edinburgh; F. Troy & Co., Ltd., London, N.W.; Vickers, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Cells:** Premier Accumulator Co. (1921), Ltd., Northampton; London Battery & Cable Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Chassis, Guy 30-cwt. W.D.:** Guy Motors, Ltd., Wolverhampton.—**Chests of Drawers:** Hoskins & Son, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Cleats and Eye-plates:** Carron Co., Falkirk.—**Cloth, Cotton Cleaning:** A. Robertshaw & Sons, Ltd., Mytholmroyd; The Fairlea Mill Co., Ltd., Luddendenfoot; Hodgkinson & Gillibrand, Ltd., Bolton.—**Cocks, Asbestos Packed:** W. N. Baines & Co., Ltd., Rotherham.—**Collars, White Soft:** R. H. & S. Rogers, Ltd., London, S.E., and Coleraine, Ireland; John Desmond & Co., Ltd., Londonderry.—**Collars, White Stiff:** R. H. & S. Rogers, Ltd., Londonderry.—**Compressors, Air:** Peter S. M. Kennedy & Co., London, E.—**Cranes:** Sir William Arrol Brotherhood, Ltd., Peterborough.—**Drills and Drill Sockets, Ordinary Speed:** Sheffield Twist Drill & Steel Co., Ltd., Sheffield; Stalker Drill Works, Ltd., Sheffield; Thomas Chatwin, Ltd., Birmingham; A. A. Jones & Shipman, Ltd., Leicester.—**Drills, Pneumatic:** Howard Pneumatic Engineering Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Drums, Cans, etc.:** L. Berger & Sons, Ltd., London, E.; H. Brown (Ships' Supplies), Ltd., London, S.E.; Jukes, Coulson, Stokes & Co., London, E.; F. Francis & Sons, Ltd., London, S.E.; P. D. Mitchell, Ltd., Dundee.—**Duck, Cotton:** Sir E. Armitage & Sons, Ltd., Manchester.—**Fan Spares, Electric:** General Electric Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Veritys, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Felt, Hair:** G. Butterworth & Son, Leeds; J. Newton & Co., London, S.E.; Mitchells, Ashworth, Stanfield & Co., Ltd., Waterfoot, nr. Manchester.—**Fire Extinguishers:** Pyrene Co., Ltd., London, N.—**Flour:** W. Vernon & Sons, Ltd., London, E.; Spillers & Bakers, Ltd., Bristol.—**Fuse Holders:** Pinnacle Switchgear, Ltd., Weybridge.—**Gauges, Pressure:** Dewrance & Co., London, S.E.; G. Salter & Co., Ltd., West Bromwich.—**Gear, Forward Capstan:** Napier Bros., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Gearing, Turbine:** Vickers, Ltd., Barrow in Furness.—**Generator Set, Motor:** British Thomson-Houston Co., Rugby.—**Generators, Motor:** Newton Bros. (Derby), Ltd., Derby; Laurence Scott & Co., Ltd., Norwich.—**Glass Plates for Indicators:** John Baird, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Gunmetal Cocks, Torpedo Fittings, etc.:** W. N. Baines & Co., Ltd., Rotherham; Peter Brotherhood, Ltd.,

The addresses and telephone numbers of the divisional offices and sub-office, and the areas they respectively cover, are given below. Communications should be addressed to "The Senior Officer, Ministry of Labour, Trade Boards Division," at the addresses shown:—

South-Eastern Division (I) (comprising London north of the Thames and Middlesex):—
Montagu House, Whitehall, London, S.W.1.
(Tel. No.: Victoria 9200.)

South-Eastern Division (II) (comprising London south of the Thames, and Essex, Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, Huntingdonshire, Cambridgeshire, Suffolk and Norfolk):—
Montagu House, Whitehall, London, S.W.1.
(Tel. No.: Victoria 9200.)

South-Western Division (comprising Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Hampshire and Isle of Wight, Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Dorset, Somerset, Devon and Cornwall):—
Grove House, 34, Tyndall's Park Road, Bristol.
(Tel. No.: Bristol 7801.)

***Sub-Office:** Barclays Bank Chambers, Princess Square, Plymouth. (No telephone.)

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

North-Eastern Division (comprising Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, Durham and Northumberland):—
Quebec Chambers, Quebec Street, Leeds.
(Tel. No.: Leeds, Central 20801.)

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

Scottish Division (comprising the whole of Scotland):—

44, Drumshugh Gardens, Edinburgh.

(Tel. No.: Edinburgh 21061.)

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

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

HEALTH INSURANCE.—*National Health Insurance. Report by the Government Actuary on the second valuation of the assets and liabilities of approved societies.* (Cmd. 2785; price 2s. 6d.)

HOUSING.—*Inter-Departmental Committee appointed to survey the prices of building materials. Chairman's Report for the period up to November, 1926.* (Cmd. 2787; price 4d.)

IMPERIAL CONFERENCE.—*Appendices to the summary proceedings.* (In continuation of Cmd. 2768.) (Cmd. 2769; price 4s.)

Include the Reports of the Oversea Settlement and Workmen's Compensation Special Sub-Committees.

INDUSTRIAL EFFICIENCY.—*Factors in industrial and commercial efficiency.* Committee on Industry and Trade. (S.O. publication; price 5s.) (See page 49.)

LEAD POISONING.—*Factory and Workshop. Lead Paint (Protection against poisoning). Rule, dated December 24, 1926, made by the Secretary of State, as to the method of treatment to be applied for the purpose of ascertaining whether any paint or other material used in painting is "lead paint" within the meaning of the Lead Paint (Protection against Poisoning) Act, 1926.* S. R. & O. 1926, No. 1621. (S.O. publication; price 1d.)

MINING.—(a) *Output and employment at metalliferous mines, quarries, etc., during the quarter ended 30th September, 1926.* (S.O. publication; price 4d.) (b) *Reports of H.M. Inspectors of Mines for the year 1925.* 1. *Scotland division.* 3. *Yorkshire division.* 8. *Midland and Southern division.* Board of Trade, Mines Department. (S.O. publications; price 1s. each.) (c) *The relation of atmospheric conditions to the working capacity and the accident rate of coal miners.* Report No. 39. Industrial Fatigue Research Board. (S.O. publication; price 1s. 3d.) (See page 48.) (d) *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 1926.* Board of Trade, Mines Department. (S.O. publication; price 4d.) (See page 51.)

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.—(a) *Report of the Unemployment Insurance Committee. First volume.* Ministry of Labour. (S.O. publication; price 1s.) (See page 46.)

(b) *Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920-1926. Decisions given by the Umpire on claims to benefit during the month of December, 1926.* (U.I. 440.) Pamphlet No. 12, 1926. Ministry of Labour. (S.O. publication; price 4d.)

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION.—(1) *Survey of technical and further education in England and Wales.* Educational Pamphlets No. 49. Board of Education. (S.O. publication; price 1s.)

Appeared originally as Chapter 1 of the Annual Report of the Board of Education for the year 1924-25.

(2) *Report of the Consultative Committee on the education of the adolescent.* Board of Education. (S.O. publication; price 2s.)

* This office will be closed as from 25th March, 1927.

Peterborough; G. Clark & Sons (Hull), Ltd., Hull; Cockburns, Ltd., Glasgow; Hayward, Tyler & Co., Ltd., London; Sir J. Laing & Sons, Ltd., Sunderland; Shipham & Co., Ltd., Hull; C. Winn & Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—Gymnastic Apparatus: Barrow, Hepburn & Gale, Ltd., London, S.E.; F. Bryan, Ltd., London, S.E.; G. G. Bussey & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; C. Ockwell & Co., Cricklade, Wilts; Spencer, Heath & George, Ltd., London, N.; Wilkinson Sword Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—Hawfers, Steel Wire: British Ropes, Ltd., Dagenham, Cardiff, Falmouth, Liverpool, Glasgow, Airdrie, Newcastle and Gateshead.—Helmets, Sun: J. Compton, Sons & Webb, Ltd., London, E.; R. Z. Bloomfield, Ltd., London, S.W.—Heterodyne and Stabiliser Units: Radio Instruments, Ltd., London, W.C.—Hides, Leather and Leather Goods: G. Angus & Co., Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne; Barrow, Hepburn & Gale, Ltd., London, S.E.; Barrowfield Leather Co., Ltd., Glasgow; D. Mason & Sons, Ltd., Walsall; S. E. Norris & Co., Ltd., London, E.—Hops: Elliott & Sons, Liverpool.—Hose, Light Leather Ventilating: G. Angus & Co., Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne.—Hoses, Flexible Bronze: Power Flexible Tubing Co., Ltd., London, N.—Installation, Electric Light and Bell: G. E. Taylor & Co., London, E.C.—Ironmongery: J. Allen & Sons, Old Hill, Staffs; Fellows Bros., Ltd., Cradley Heath, Staffs; S. J. & E. Fellows, Ltd., Wolverhampton; J. Golcher, Ltd., Wednesbury; R. Green, Ltd., Cradley Heath; J. Hill & Sons, Stourbridge; G. Hughes & Sons, Wolverhampton; A. E. Jenks & Cattell, Ltd., Wolverhampton; S. Lewis & Co., Ltd., Dudley; Leys Malleable Castings Co., Ltd., Derby; Old Hill Co., Old Hill; Emma Orton, Willenhall; E. Partridge & Co., Old Hill; H. J. & E. Shorthouse, Birmingham; Swindell & Co., Ltd., Dudley; W. H. Tildesley, Ltd., Willenhall; T. B. Wellings & Co., Ltd., Old Hill.—Kersey: L. Harwood & Co., Ltd., Luddendenfoot.—Lamps, Electric: General Electric Co., Ltd., London, W.—Lamps, Lanterns and Gear: T. G. Blood, Birmingham; Bulpitt & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham; Howes & Burley, Ltd., Birmingham; Parkinson & Cowan (Gas Meters), Ltd., Birmingham.—Lockers, Steel Kit: G. A. Harvey & Co. (London), Ltd., London, S.E.—Machines, Jarring, Pneumatic: Macnab & Co., London, N., and Misterton.—Mackintoshes, Blue: Chas. Macintosh & Co., Ltd., Manchester.—Malt: Edward Fison, Ltd., Ipswich.—Marmalade: Lipton, Ltd., London, E.C.—Methylated Spirit: Jones & Co. (Methylators), Ltd., London, E.—Mill, Boring and Turning: Webster & Bennett, Ltd., Coventry.—Mopheads: T. M. Clewes & Son, Cradleigh.—Oak Timber: J. S. Elliott & Son, Cranleigh; H. Longley & Sons, East Grinstead; R. Mulford, Ltd., Basingstoke; A. Turner & Son, Ltd., Lewes; E. C. White & Son, Ltd., Basingstoke.—Oils, Linseed: Owen Parry, Ltd., Colchester; Young-husband, Barnes & Co., London, S.E.; Dixon & Cardus, Ltd., Southampton; Smith Bros. & Co., London, E.—Pipes, Charging, etc.: Interlock Metal Hose Co., London, N.—Plants, Steam Generating and Hot Water Supply: Sturtevant Engineering Co., Ltd., Aylesbury and Nottingham.—Polish, Metal (Bluebell): Reckitt & Sons, Ltd., London, S.W.—Plates, Steel, Ship: Dorman, Long & Co., Ltd., Middlesbrough; Guest, Keen & Nettlefolds, Ltd., Cardiff; South Durham Steel & Iron Co., Ltd., West Hartlepool.—Pump, Centrifugal and Spares: Drysdale & Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—Razors, Hollow Ground, Hand Forged: J. Allen & Sons, Ltd., Sheffield.—Ribbon, Silk: Brough, Nicholson & Hall, Ltd., Leek; J. & J. Cash, Ltd., Coventry.—Ropes, Steel Wire: Glanholm & Robson, Ltd., Sunderland; Glover Bros., Mossley, nr. Manchester; Binks Bros., Ltd., London, E.; British Ropes, Ltd., Dagenham and Liverpool; R. Hood, Haggie & Son, Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne; Whitecross Co., Ltd., Warrington; J. & E. Wright, Ltd., Birmingham.—Sailcloth, Canvas: Baxter Bros. & Co., Ltd., Dundee; The Boase Spinning Co. (1920), Ltd., Dundee; Richards, Ltd., Aberdeen; F. Webster & Sons, Arbroath.—Screws and Slips, etc.: Carron Co., Falkirk; Douglass Bros., Ltd., Blaydon-on-Tyne; Hughes, Johnson Stampings, Ltd., Birmingham; Ruston & Hornsby, Ltd., Grantham.—Smiths' Work: Brown, Lenox & Co., Ltd., Pontypridd; Bullers, Ltd., Tipton; Carron Co., Falkirk; Douglass Bros., Ltd., Blaydon-on-Tyne; Horseley Bridge & Engineering Co., Ltd., Tipton; Hughes, Johnson Stampings, Ltd., Birmingham; Laird & Son, Ltd., Irvine; Nixon & Whitfield, Blaydon-on-Tyne; Old Hill Co., Old Hill; W. Renwick, Blaydon-on-Tyne; Ruston & Hornsby, Ltd., Grantham; Vaughan Bros., Willenhall; T. B. Wellings & Co., Ltd., Old Hill.—Soap, Hard: J. Watson & Sons, Ltd., Leeds; J. Knight, Ltd., London, E.—Soap, Soft: Hull Chemical Works Co., Hull; Peter Lunt & Co., Ltd., Liverpool.—Socks, Thin: Dickens, Armitage & Co., Ltd., Leicester; A. Kemp, Leicester; A. Yates & Co., Leicester.—Stoves, Core and Mould Drying: Augusts Muffle Furnaces, Ltd., Halifax, Yorks.—Thermometers, Hydrometers, etc.: B. Black & Son, London, E.C.; T. O. Buss, London; S. & A. Calderara, London, E.; A. C. Cossor & Son, London, N.; J. J. Hicks, London, E.C.; Short & Mason, Ltd., London, E.—Tinplate Discs: Cheswright & Nicholls, Ltd., London, E.—Tools, Engineers' and Shipbuilders': F. G. Pearson & Co., Ltd., Sheffield; Wm. Hunt & Sons (The Brades), Ltd., Birmingham; Swindell & Co., Ltd., Dudley; C. Whitehouse & Sons, Ltd., Cannock, Staffs; E. Partridge & Co., Old Hill, Staffs; Wm. Ridgway & Sons, Ltd., Sheffield; Wynn, Timmins & Co., Ltd., Birmingham; J. Evans & Sons, Ltd., Sheffield; Rope Works Co., Dudley; J. Beardshaw & Son, Ltd., Sheffield; J. H. Andrew & Co., Ltd., Sheffield; Wm. Gilpin, Senr., & Co. (Tools), Ltd., Cannock; Hardy Patent Pick Co., Ltd., Sheffield.—Tubes, Brass: William Bayliss, Ltd., Birmingham; Aston Chain & Hook Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—Tubes, Condenser: Allen, Everitt & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham.—Tubes, Manganese Bronze: Manganese Bronze & Brass Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—Tubing, Canvas Hose: Richards, Ltd., Aberdeen; F. Reddaway & Co., Ltd., Manchester; G. Angus & Co., Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne.—Turbo-Alternators, 3,000 K.W.: C. A. Parsons

& Co., Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne.—Twillette, Brown: Eaton & Caldwell, Manchester.—Urns, Tea: M. J. Hart & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham; Bulpitt & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham.—Valves, W.T.: Mullard Radio Valve Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—Zed and Angle-Bars: D. Colville & Sons, Ltd., Glasgow.

WAR OFFICE.

Aluminium Ingot: The British Aluminium Co., Ltd., Warrington.—Bandoliers, Cotton: W. S. Thomson & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—Bearings: Rudge, Whitworth, Ltd., Birmingham.—Bedsteads, McDonalds: T. Adshad & Sons, Ltd., Dudley, Worcs.—Binoculars, Repair of: Ross, Ltd., London, S.W.; Amalgamated Photographic Mfrs., Ltd., Leeds.—Blankets, White: A. Early & Co., Ltd., Witney.—Blankets, G.S.: Wormalds & Walker, Ltd., Dewsbury.—Bogie Parts: Kryn & Laly Metal Works, Ltd., Letchworth.—Brass, Sheet: P. H. Muntz & Co., Ltd., West Bromwich.—Bronze Stampings: Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth & Co., Ltd., Elswick, Newcastle-on-Tyne.—Brushes, Hair: G. B. Kent & Sons, Ltd., Hemel Hempstead.—Brushes, Shaving: Busst & Marlow, Walsall.—Brushes, Clothes: Webb & Foulger, Chesham.—Brushes, Polishing: Vale & Bradnack, Walsall.—Brushes, Brass: W. Hawes, Chesham.—Cable, Electric: Standard Telephones & Cables, Ltd., London, E.—Calico, White: J. H. Greenhow & Co., Ltd., Manchester.—Carbon Tetrachloride: Allbright & Wilson, Ltd., Oldbury, nr. Birmingham.—Cells, Secondary Portable: Tudor Accumulator Co., Ltd., Dukinfield, near Manchester.—Copper Ingot: The British Metal Corp., Ltd., London, E.C.—Cordage, Spun Yarn: Frost Bros., Ltd., London, E.C.—Diphenylamine: L. B. Holliday & Co., Ltd., Deighton, Huddersfield.—Dowlas: Richards, Ltd., Aberdeen.—Drill, Brown: Fothergill & Harvey, Ltd., Littleborough; Hart & Co. (Manchester), Ltd., Manchester.—Drums, Steel, Lead-lined: T. Davies, Ltd., Widnes.—Duck, Linen: Richards, Ltd., Aberdeen; Baxter Bros. & Co., Ltd., Dundee.—Emery Cloth, Powder, etc.: John Oakey & Sons, Ltd., London, S.E.—Engines, Fire: Merryweather & Sons, Ltd., London, S.E.—Ethyl-iodoacetate: British Dyestuffs Corp., Ltd., Manchester.—Expanded Metal: Expanded Metal Co., Ltd., West Hartlepool; Glasgow Expanded Metal Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—Flanges and Hubs: Kent Brass Foundry Co., Maidstone.—Frequency Charger 5 k.w.: Newton Bros. (Derby), Ltd., Derby.—Gabardine, Drab, W.P.: Greengates Worsted Co., Ltd., Apperley Bridge; J. Halliday & Sons, Ltd., Bradford; G. Garnett & Sons, Ltd., Apperley Bridge.—Galvanised Ware (Buckets, Pails, etc.): Froggatt & Tyler, Ltd., Bilston; Sargeant Turner & Sons, Ltd., Stourbridge; John Hill & Sons, Stourbridge.—Glass, Window: Pilkington Bros., Ltd., St. Helens.—Glasses (Port, Beer, etc.): Stevens & Williams, Ltd., Brierley Hill, Staffs.—Gloves, Cotton, Drab: H. R. Hopewell & Sons, Ltd., Kegworth, Derby.—Glycerine: Lever Bros., Ltd., Port Sunlight.—Hessian, Packing: Craiks, Ltd., Forfar.—Lathes: Joshua Buekton & Co., Ltd., Leeds.—Lead, Pig: H. J. Enthoven & Sons, Ltd., London, S.E.—Leather: City Tannery, Ltd., Liverpool.—Locomotive, Electric: Electro-motive, Ltd., Otley.—Locomotive, Steam: Sentinel Waggon Works, Ltd., Shrewsbury.—Logs, Quebec Pine: R. H. Keeping, London, E.C.—Methylated Spirit: The Methylating Co., Ltd., Liverpool.—Mess Tins, M.S.: J. & J. Siddons, Ltd., West Bromwich.—Milling Machines: J. Archdale & Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Brown & Ward, Ltd., Birmingham; Smith & Coventry, Ltd., Manchester.—Mincing Machines: A. Kenrick & Sons, Ltd., West Bromwich.—Mop Heads: T. M. Clewes & Son, Cradley.—Motor Cycles: Triumph Cycle Co., Ltd., Coventry.—Motor Spares: Rolls Royce, Ltd., Derby.—Oil, Lubricating: Frank How & Co., Ltd., London, E.; London Lubricants (1920), Ltd., London, E.—Pannels, Numnah: T. W. Lees, Walsall.—Petrol Tanks: Kensington Sheet Metal Co., London, W.—Piping, "Spun" Iron: The Stanton Ironworks Co., Ltd., near Nottingham.—Repairs to W. D. Vessels (Boiler for W. D. V. "May"): Muir & Findlay, Glasgow.—Roofing Composition: Industrial Engineering Co., London, N.W.—Saddles, Mark V, Large: D. Mason & Sons, Ltd., Walsall.—Sheets, Barrack Linen: R. Buckton & Son, Leeds; T. McLaren & Sons, Kirkcaldy; W. Thomson & Son, Strathmiglo.—Sheets, Cotton, M.S.: J. H. Greenhow & Co., Ltd., Manchester.—Shoes, Canvas: Adams Bros. (Raunds), Ltd., Raunds; R. Coggins & Sons, Ltd., Raunds.—Spoons: Mappin & Webb, Ltd., Sheffield.—Stampings: Bean Cars, Ltd., Smethwick.—Steel Tubes, Weldless: The Weldless Steel Tube Co., Ltd., Wednesfield.—Strappings, Leather: Barrow, Hepburn & Gale, Ltd., London, S.E.—Sulphuric Acid: Spencer, Chapman & Messel, Ltd., London, E.—Ticken, Linen: J. Johnson & Sons, Belfast.—Timber, Deals: W. R. Crow & Son, Ltd., London, E.C.; Louis Bamberger & Sons, London, E.C.; Horsley, Smith & Co. (London) Ltd., London, E.C.; G. H. Renton & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Ashton, Grant & Co., Ltd., London; Wm. Mallinson & Sons, Ltd., London, E.; Denny, Mott & Dickson, Ltd., London, E.C.; Marshall, Knott & Barker, Ltd., Grimby; Cox, Long & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—Tin Ingot: Rudolf, Wolf & Co., London, E.C.—Towels, Hand, Turkish: Barlow & Jones, Ltd., Bolton; Stott & Smith, Ltd., Congleton.—Tractor Trailers & Gully Emptier: Herwin, Canny & Co., Woolwich, Warwick and Manchester.—Trailer Assemblies: Weybridge Motor Engr. Co., Ltd., Weybridge.—Turpentine: Langley-Smith & Co., Ltd., London, E.—Vehicles, 1/2-tracked: Crossley-Kegresse, Spares: Crossley Motors, Ltd., Manchester. Burford Kegresse, Spares: H. G. Burford & Co., London, S.W.—Vulcanisation of Cloth: India Rubber, Gutta Percha & Tel. Works Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—X-Ray Sets, Mobile: "Solus" Electrical Co., London, W.C.—Zinc Ingot: H. Gardner & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—Works Services: Building Works and Services: Devonport—N. & S. Raglan Bks., Bath-houses: Burston & Hawkins, Clevedon; York, Military Hospital

—Barrack Block & Sergeants' Mess: F. Shepherd & Son, Ltd., York, Newport, Mon.—Married Soldiers' Quarters: S. C. Taverner, Newport, Mon. Feltham—Re-roofing, etc. Hangar: R. Mansell, Croydon. Woolwich Mfg. Dist.—Artificers' Work: Triggs & Co., London, S.W. Lichfield, Whittington Barracks—Repairs to Roads: A. Monk & Co., Irlam, Lancs. Lichfield, Whittington Barracks—Bath House: W. Willetts & Son, Ltd., Kingswinford, near Dudley. Lydd—Erection of Ordnance Workshops: Wm. Bain & Co., Coatbridge. Richmond—Provision of Recreation Ground: Conways, Ltd., Halifax. Woolwich—Grand Depot Bks. Bath House and Kitchen Equipment and Installation of Steam Heating: Ed. Deane & Beal, Ltd., London, E.C.—Installations: Smallshot—Electric Cable System: Standard Telephones & Cables, Ltd., London, E. Sandhurst—Officers' Quarters, etc., Installation of Electrical Services: A. V. Giffins & Co., Ltd., London, S.W.

AIR MINISTRY.

Aircraft: Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth Aircraft, Ltd., Parkside, Coventry; G. Parnall & Co., Coliseum Works, Bristol; Supermarine Aviation Works, Ltd., Woolston, Southampton; Westland Aircraft Works, Yeovil.—Aircraft, Duralumin Floats for: Short Bros. (Rochester & Bedford), Ltd., Rochester.—Aircraft, Modifications to: Vickers, Ltd., Weybridge.—Aircraft, Reconditioning of: De Havilland Aircraft Co., Ltd., Edgware; S. E. Saunders, Ltd., East Cotes; Short Bros. (Rochester & Bedford), Ltd., Rochester.—Aircraft Spares: Fairey Aviation Co., Ltd., Hayes; Gloster Aircraft Co., Ltd., Cheltenham; A. V. Roe & Co., Ltd., Manchester; Vickers, Ltd., Weybridge.—Aircraft, Test of Experimental Wings for: Supermarine Aviation Works, Ltd., Woolston, Southampton.—Aircscrews and Cases: Aircscrew Co., Weybridge; Blackburn Aeroplane & Motor Co., Ltd., Leeds.—Aircscrew Blades (Metal): Metal Propellers, Ltd., Croydon.—Boxes, Bomb: Vickers, Ltd., Dartford.—Buildings and Works Services: Alternator Set (Croydon): Aster Engineering Co. (1913), Ltd., Wembley. Bulk Petrol Installation (Northolt): Bywater & Co., London, W.C. Heating and Hot Water Installation (Suttons Farm and North Weald): The Brightside Foundry & Engineering Co., Ltd., Birmingham. Heating and Hot Water Installation (Croydon): W. Cowen, Ltd., London, W. Test House Extension (Farnborough): Geo. Kemp, Stroud & Co., Aldershot.—Wireless Tower (various Stations): Milliken Bros., Ltd., London, W.C.—Cartridges, Signal: Nobel Industries, Ltd., Roslin.—Control Resistance and Voltmeters: British Radio Corporation, Ltd., Weybridge.—Duralumin: J. Booth & Co. (1915), Ltd., Birmingham.—Engines, Aircraft: Armstrong, Siddeley Motors, Ltd., Coventry.—Engines, Aircraft, Conversion of: W. Beardmore & Co., Ltd., Parkhead, Glasgow.—Engines, Aircraft, Induction System for: W. Beardmore & Co., Ltd., Parkhead, Glasgow.—Engines, Aircraft, Reconditioning of: Rolls-Royce, Ltd., Derby.—Engines, Aircraft, Spares: Rolls-Royce, Ltd., Derby.—Engine, Aircraft, Test on: Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Filton, Bristol; Rolls-Royce, Ltd., Derby.—Engine, Aircraft, Type Test on: D. Napier & Son, Ltd., London, W.—Equipment, Webb: The Mills Equipment Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—Fabric, Linen, Solid, Aeroplane: The Ravarnette Weaving Co., Ltd., Ravarnette, Lisburn, Ireland.—Film, Panchromatic: Wellington & Ward, Ltd., Elstree.—Ford Vans: A. E. Gould, Ltd., London, W.—F.W.D. Chassis: Four Wheel Drive Lorry Co., London, S.W.—Hangar Frames, Portable: Bullers, Ltd., Tipton.—Indicators, Turn: R. W. Munro, Ltd., London, N.—Oil, Mineral Lubricating, for Aircraft Engines (Summer Grade): F. How & Co., Ltd., London, E.; Sterns, Ltd., London, E.C.; C. C. Wakefield & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—Oil, Mineral, Lubricating, Motor, Heavy: F. How & Co., Ltd., London, E.—Parachute Spares: Irving Air Chute of Great Britain, Ltd., Letchworth.—Plates, Photographic: Iford, Ltd., Iford.—Plugs, Sparking: Lodge Plugs, Ltd., Rugby; Robinhood Engineering Works, Ltd., London, S.W.—Tyres, Outer Covers (Aircraft): Palmer Tyre, Ltd., London, E.C.

POST OFFICE.

Apparatus, Telephonic: Automatic Telephone Mfg. Co., Ltd., Liverpool; Ericsson Telephones, Ltd., Beeston, Notts; International Electric Co., Ltd., London, N.; Peel-Comner Telephone Works (General Electric Co., Ltd.), Coventry; Phoenix Telephone & Electric Works, Ltd., London, N.W.; Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Standard Telephones and Cables, Ltd., London, N. or N.W.—Apparatus, Wireless: General Electric Co., Ltd., London, W.; Marconis Wireless Telegraph Co., Ltd., Chelmsford, Essex.—Arms, wood: British Australian Timber Co., Ltd. (Burt, Boulton & Hayward, Ltd.), London, E.; Neil Small & Sons, Kilwinning, Ayrshire.—Bicycles, parts for: New Alldays & Onions, Ltd., Birmingham.—Bodies, Motor Vehicle: W. H. Perry, London, N.—Boxes, Packing, Cardboard: E. J. Bradstreet & Sons, Ltd., London, E.—Cabinets, Telephone: Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—Cable, Various: British Insulated Cables, Ltd., Prescott, Lancs.; Callenders Cable & Construction Co., Ltd., Belvedere, Kent; Connollys (Blackley), Ltd., Blackley, Manchester; Wm. Geipel, Ltd., London, S.E.; W. T. Glover & Co., Ltd., Trafford Park, Manchester; W. T. Henley's Telegraph Works, Co. Ltd., Gravesend; Pirelli General Cable Works, Ltd., Southampton; Standard Telephones & Cables, Ltd., London, E.; Union Cable Co., Ltd., Dagenham Dock, Essex.—Chloride of Ammonia: F. S. Bayley Clanahan & Co. (Brunner, Mond & Co.), Northwich.—Coils, Loading: General Electric Co., Ltd., Salford.—Combinations, Motor Cycle: B.S.A. Cycles, Ltd., Redditch and Birmingham.—Cords for Telephones: London Electric Wire Co. & Smiths, Ltd., London, E.; Phoenix Telephone & Electric Works, Ltd., London, N.W.; Standard Telephones & Cables, Ltd., London, E.—Covers, Cycle Tyre: North British Rubber Co., Ltd., Edinburgh.—Ducts: J. Place & Sons, Ltd., Darwen; Standard Brick & Terra Cotta Co., Ltd., Blackley, nr. Chester.—Gas, Carbonic Acid: John Bennet Lawes

& Co., Ltd., London, E.; Washington Chemical Co., Ltd., Washington and Liverpool.—Hand Lamps, Electric: Ward & Goldstone, Ltd., Pendleton, Salford.—Ironwork, Telegraphic: J. H. Allen, Halesowen, Birmingham; Bert Birks & Co., Cradley Heath, Staffs; Bullers, Ltd., Tipton, Staffs; T. W. Leach, Ltd., Blackheath, Staffs; Chas. Richards & Sons, Ltd., Darlaston.—Lamps, Acetylene: A. Miller & Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—Oil, Kerosene: Scottish Oil Agency, Ltd., Glasgow.—Oil, Fuel: Shell-Mex, Ltd., London, Manchester, etc.—Pipe, Mild Steel: E. Lewis & Sons, Ltd., Wolverhampton.—Poles, Telegraph: T. Hay Wilson, Grangemouth; Peter McAinch, Ltd., Crieff; Spa & Warwick Timber Co., Leamington Spa; W. J. Taylor & Sons, Ltd., Bath.—Solder: British Insulated Cables, Ltd., Prescott, Lancs.; Du Bois Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Tyne Solder Co., Newcastle-on-Tyne.—Spirit, Methylated: W. H. Palmer & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—Vehicles, Motor: Albion Motor Car Co., Ltd., Glasgow; Shelbroke & Drury, Ltd., Letchworth.—Wire, Cadmium Copper: R. Johnson & Nephew, Ltd., Manchester.—Wotton-under-Edge P.O. Alterations: Albert Keynton & Sons, Wotton-under-Edge.

Cable-Manufacture, Supply, Drawing In and Jointing: Godalming-Haslemere: Johnson & Phillips, Ltd., London, S.E. Hull-Grimby; G.P.O. (S)-Wallington Jc.: Standard Telephones & Cables, Ltd., London, W.C. Bristol-Temple Cloud: Pirelli-General Cable Works, Ltd., Southampton. London-Amersham (London-Chorley Wood Section): W. T. Henley's Telegraph Works Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—Submarine Cable—Manufacture, Supply and Laying: Portsmouth-Gosport: Pirelli-General Cable Works, Ltd., Southampton.—Conduits—Laying: Gosport (Hants); Petersfield (Hants): J. Mowlem & Co., Ltd., London, S.W. Hornsey, etc.; Hackney (Cazenove Road); Willesden, etc.: O. C. Summers, London, N. Ash (near Sandwich) and Ham Street (Kent); Pluckley (Kent); Chelwood Gate, Peacehaven, Warbleton and Framfield; Farnham (Surrey) and Medstead (Hants); Newcastle (East); Manchester-Ashton-under-Lyne: Hodge Bros. (Contractors), Ltd., Northfield, Birmingham. South Shields: J. McLaren, Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne. Tipton; Birmingham Area; Winton (Bournemouth): E. E. Jeavons & Co., Ltd., Tipton, Staffs. Southgate, N. (Green Lanes): H. Farrow, Ltd., London, N.W. Sidecup-Chislehurst: H. Collingridge, London, W.C. G.P.O. (S)-Purley-Mertham-Redhill-Reigate Jc.: Greig & Matthews, London, E.C. Birkdale (Southport) Whittaker Ellis, Ltd., London, S.W. Stoke Newington, N.: W. Griffiths & Co., Ltd., London, E.C. Nottingham-Carlton: W. P. & P. G. Hayes, Grappenhall, Warrington. Putney-Southfields, S.W.; St. Quintin's Park and Old Oak Estate, W.; Battersea, etc.: A. Thomson & Co. (London), Ltd., London, W.C. Loughton; Redhill (Surrey): J. E. Billings & Co., Ltd., London, S.W. Nottingham-Bulwell Junction; Wath-on-Dearne and Hoyland; Ruddington and Melton Mowbray; Moore & Rowley, Northfield, Birmingham. Woolacombe: J. F. Hodge, Rednal, Birmingham. Helensburgh and Kilsreggan: P. & F. McCallion, Dumbaron. Nottingham-Beeston Jc.: C. S. Tomlinson, Alfreton. Hexham: J. R. Surtees, Blackhill, co. Durham. Wallasey (Mill Lane); Walton (Cranehurst Road) and Maghull: Norwest Construction Co., Ltd., Liverpool.—Hydraulic Lifts, Six—Repair of: Mount Pleasant Sorting Office: Waygood-Otis, Ltd., London, E.C.—Telephone Exchange Equipment: Wandsworth, Wimbledon, and Epsom District Gas Co., Ltd.; Royal Arsenal Co-operative Society, Ltd. (S.E.18); Spillers & Bakers, Ltd. (Cardiff); John Player & Sons (Nottingham); Dorset County Council (Dorchester): Relay Automatic Telephone Co., Ltd., London, S.W. Middlesbrough (Middlesbrough Multi-Office Area); Stockton-on-Tees (do.): General Electric Co., Ltd., Stoke, Coventry. Sub-Contractors: Chloride Electrical Storage Co., Ltd., London, S.W., for Batteries; Crompton & Co., Ltd., Chelmsford, for Machine Plant. Linthorpe (Middlesbrough, Multi Office Area); Southbank (do.): General Electric Co., Ltd., Stoke, Coventry. Sub-Contractors: W. Jones & Co., Sydenham, S.E., for Ringing Machines. Horley (Surrey): General Electric Co., Ltd., Stoke, Coventry. Sherwood (Nottingham); Arkwright Street (do.); Malvern: Automatic Telephone Manufacturing Co., Ltd., London, W.C. Walsall (Walsall Multi Exchange Area): Ericsson Telephones, Ltd., London, W.C. Sub-Contractors: D. P. Battery Co., Ltd., Bakewell, Derbyshire, for Batteries; Crompton & Co., Ltd., Chelmsford, for Machine Plant. Bloxwich (Walsall Multi Exchange Area): Ericsson Telephones, Ltd., London, W.C. Sub-Contractors: Automatic Telephone Manufacturing Co., Ltd., London, W.C., for Ringing Machine. Bath (Bath Multi-Office Area): Ericsson Telephones, Ltd., London, W.C. Sub-Contractors: D. P. Battery Co., Ltd., Bakewell, Derbyshire, for Batteries; Crompton & Co., Ltd., Chelmsford and General Electric Co., Ltd., Stoke, Coventry, for Machine Plant. Weston (Bath Multi Office Area); Bath-easton (do.): Ericsson Telephones, Ltd., London, W.C. Sub-Contractors: Automatic Telephone Manufacturing Co., Ltd., London, W.C., for Ringing Machines. Bermondsey: Standard Telephones & Cables, Ltd., London, W.C. Sub-Contractors: Electric Construction Co., Ltd., Kingsway, W.C.2, for Charging Machines; Crompton & Co., Ltd., Chelmsford, for Ringing Machines; D.P. Battery Co., Ltd., Bakewell, Derbyshire, for Batteries.—Telephone Repeater Station—Power Plant: Marks Tey: Newton Bros. (Derby), Ltd., Derby. Sub-Contractors: Pritchett & Gold and E.P.S. Co., Ltd., London, S.W., for Batteries; Ruston & Hornsby, Ltd., Lincoln, for Engines.—Telephone Repeater Station—2-Wire Repeater Equipment (Temporary): Canterbury: General Electric Co., Ltd., Stoke, Coventry.

H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE.

Paper of various Descriptions: J. Brown & Co., Ltd., Penicuk, Midlothian; R. Craig & Sons, Ltd., Calderouix, Lanark; Golden Valley Paper Mills, Bitton, near Bristol; Imperial Paper Mills, Ltd., Gravesend; King's Norton Paper Mill, Ltd., King's Norton; London

Paper Mills, Dartford; New Northfleet Paper Mills, Ltd., Northfleet; Ryburndale Paper Mills Co., Ltd., Ripponden, near Halifax; T. H. Saunders & Co., Ltd., Dartford; Y. Trotter & Son, Ltd., Chirside, Berwickshire.—**Printing, Ruling, Binding, etc.:** Group 115 (1927), Various Offices Specified Items (S and N): W. P. Griffith & Sons, London, E.C. Wales—Group 2 (1927)—Jobwork Printing: Western Mail, Ltd., Cardiff. Binding 50,000 Books Mines and Quarries Form No. 42: Drake, Driver and Leaver, Ltd., London, E.C. Printing National Health and Pensions Insurance Contribution Cards: John Heywood, Ltd., Manchester. Printing 40,000 Pads S. 1322 Admiralty: McCorquodale & Co., Wolverton, Bucks. Binding 3,500 Guard Books "S.O. Book 22A": Waterlow & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.

CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

Bags: Low & Bonar, Dundee.—**Bagres:** Bow, McLachlan & Co., Ltd., Paisley.—**Bed Covers:** James Kippax & Sons, Ltd., Manchester.—**Belted:** F. Reddaway & Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—**Blankets:** Wormalds & Walker, Dewsbury.—**Boiler:** Cammell, Laird & Co., Ltd., Birkenhead.—**Brake Blocks:** Tees Side Bridge & Engineering Works, Ltd., Middlesbrough.—**Bricks:** C. Davidson & Co., Ltd., Buckley, nr. Chester.—**Bridges:** Rubery, Owen & Co., Darlaston, Staffs.—**Building for Mill:** Clyde Structural Iron Co., Scotstoun, Glasgow.—**Cables:** W. T. Henley's Telegraph Works Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Johnson & Phillips, Ltd., London, S.E.; Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Cement:** T. Beynon & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Cement Marketing Co., London, S.W.—**Chains:** Brown, Lenox & Co., Ltd., Pontypridd.—**Coal:** A. & G. Anderson, Glasgow; Watts, Watts & Co., London, E.C.—**Crane:** H. Morris, Ltd., Loughborough; Ransomes & Rapier, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Distemper:** Walpamur Co., Ltd., London, W.—**Drill:** Fothergill & Harvey, Manchester; E. Spinner & Co., Manchester.—**Engine:** Norris, Henty & Gardners, London, E.C.—**Fishplates and Bolts:** Westinghouse Brake & Saxby Signal Co., Ltd., London, N.—**Fluid:** Cooper, McDougall & Robertson, Ltd., Berkhamsted, Herts.—**Furniture:** Waring & Gillow, Ltd., London, W.—**Fuse Mountings:** Telephone Manufacturing Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Helmets:** Helmets, Ltd., St. Albans.—**Ingot:** The Glyco Metal Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Ironmongery:** V. & R. Blakemore, London, E.C.—**Lathes:** Dean, Smith & Grace, Ltd., Keighley, Yorks.—**Line Stores:** Shropshire Iron Co., Ltd., Hadley, Salop.—**Locomotives:** Hunslet Engine Co., Ltd., Leeds.—**Locomotives:** Beyer, Peacock & Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**"Lux" Cells:** Chloride Electric Storage Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Machines:** Butler Machine Tool Co., Ltd., Halifax; Thos. Robinson & Sons, Ltd., Rochdale; G. Swift & Sons, Ltd., Halifax; Waterlow & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.; Winget (1924), Ltd., London, S.W.—**Mills:** Webster & Bennett, Ltd., Foleshill, Coventry.—**Oil:** Vacuum Oil Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Painter:** T. Smith & Sons, London, E.; Torbay Paint Co., London, E.C.—**Paper:** J. Dickinson & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Petrol:** F. & A. Swanzy, Ltd., London, W.C.—**Pipes:** Babcock & Wilcox, Ltd., London, E.C.; Stewarts & Lloyds, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Plates:** The Brandon Bridge-Building Co., Ltd., Motherwell; Steel Co. of Scotland, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Plates and Angles:** P. & W. Maclellan, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Poles:** British Mannesmann Tube Co., Ltd., Newport, Mon.; J. Spencer, Ltd., Wednesbury.—**Rails and Fishplates:** Dorman, Long & Co., Ltd., Middlesbrough; United Steel Co's, Ltd., Moss Bay, Workington.—**Rifles:** Westley, Richards & Co., Ltd., Bournbrook, Birmingham.—**Rollers:** Aveling & Porter, Ltd., Rochester.—**Sanitary Fittings:** Doulton & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Sheets:** The Wolverhampton Corrugated Iron Co., Ltd., Ellesmere Port, nr. Birkenhead.—**Shirts:** Milns, Cartwright, Reynolds, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Sleepers:** Guest, Keen & Nettlefolds, Ltd., London, E.C.; Anderston Foundry Co., Ltd., Port Clarence, Middlesbrough.—**Spares for Dredger:** T. Firth & Sons, Ltd., Sheffield; Fleming & Ferguson, Ltd., Paisley; Wm. Simons & Co., Ltd., Renfrew, Scotland.—**Steel Doors and Windows:** Crittall Manufacturing Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—**Steelwork:** Armstrong Construction Co., Springburn, Glasgow; F. Braby & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Head, Wrightson & Co., Ltd., Thornaby-on-Tees; Horsehay Co., Ltd., Horsehay, Shropshire; Patent Shaft & Axletree Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Superheater Elements:** The Superheater Co., London, W.C.—**Switches and Crossings:** Darlington Rly. Plant & Foundry Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Telephone Apparatus:** Ericsson Telephones, Ltd., London, W.C.; Bullers, Ltd., London, E.C.; Peel Conner Telephone Works, Stoke, Coventry.—**Tents:** S. W. Silver & Co. & B. Edgington, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Textiles:** Rylands & Sons, Manchester.—**Timber:** C. Leary & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; **Train Lighting Spares:** Pritchett & Gold & E.P.S. Co., Ltd., London, S.W.; J. Stone & Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Tubes:** Howell & Co., Ltd., Sheffield; Yorkshire Copper Works, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Waterworks Material:** J. Blakeborough & Sons, Ltd., Brighouse, Yorks; Glenfield & Kennedy, Ltd., Kilmarnock.—**Washers:** Chas. Richards & Sons, Ltd., Darlaston.—**Wheels:** Newlay Wheel Co., Ltd., Leeds.—**Wheels and Axles:** Cravens Rly. Carriage & Wagon Co., Darnall, Sheffield.—**Wire:** F. Smith & Co., Ltd., Salford.—**X-Ray Equipment:** Watson & Sons, Ltd., London, W.C.

H.M. OFFICE OF WORKS.

Building Works: Aldershot Employment Exchange—Erection: H. J. & A. Wright, Ltd., Gt. Missenden. Batley P.O.—Extension: Wm. Irwin & Co., Ltd., Leeds. Beccles P.O.—Painting, etc.: B. Storey, Gt. Yarmouth; Roofing Felt: Standard Flat Roofing Co., London, E. Bermondsey Telephone Exchange—Plasterer: Telling Bros., London, S.E.; Plumber: W. H. Earley, London, S.W. Bury

Employment Exchange—Asphalte: Thomas Faldo & Co., Ltd., Manchester; Steelwork: Edward Wood & Co., Ltd., Manchester. Chorley Wood Telephone Exchange—Erection: H. J. & A. Wright, Ltd., Gt. Missenden. Colne P.O., etc.—Asphalte: John Dickinson & Co. (Bolton), Ltd., Bolton. Cowley, Oxford, Telephone Exchange—Erection: Ephraim Organ & Son, Oxford. Cricklewood Telephone Exchange—Excavator: Henry Boyer, London, W.; Mason: The Metropolitan Stone Co., Ltd., London, S.W.; Steelwork: Dorman, Long & Co., Ltd., London, S.W. Darlaston Employment Exchange—Grano. Dressings: Stuart's Granolithic Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—Steelwork: Rubery, Owen & Co., Darlaston. East Grinstead P.O.—Steelwork: A. D. Dawnay & Sons, Ltd., London, S.W. Garston Telephone Exchange, etc.—Glazier: J. G. Nicholls, Ltd., Liverpool. Glasgow Head P.O.—Concrete Blocks: Toffolo, Jackson & Co., Glasgow. Gt. Yarmouth Employment Exchange—Plumber, etc.: B. Storey, Gt. Yarmouth. Halifax Employment Exchange—Erection: Fielding & Bottomley, Halifax; Mason, etc.: W. Parker, Sowerby Bridge; Plumber: Albert Booth, Sowerby Bridge; Slater, etc.: Rushworth & Firth, Halifax; Steelwork: J. Webb & Sons, Ltd., Bury. Islington, N., P.O. Garage—Extension: Negus, Ltd., London, E.C. "Kensington" Telephone Exchange, S.W.—Joiner: Rippers, Ltd., Castle Hedingham. Leicester, Hincley Road Telephone Exchange—Erection: Hardington, Elliott & Co., Leicester. Maintenance Work—Hanley, etc.: W. Thomas & Son, Stoke-on-Trent; Sunderland (Painter): W. Carter & Sons, Ltd., Sunderland. Neath P.O.—Erection: J. Goodridge & Sons, Ltd., Neath. Niton Wireless Station—Drainage: H. Ingram & Sons, Ventnor. "Oval" Telephone Exchange, S.E.—Asphalte: London Asphalte Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Grano Paving, etc.: Malcolm Macleod & Co., Ltd., London, E.C. Southend Telephone Exchange—Erection: F. Hutton & Son, Birch. South Kensington Science Museum, S.W.—Mazzano Columns and Paving: Art Pavements & Decorations, Ltd., London, N.W. Southport Employment Exchange—Erection: John Sutcliffe & Sons (Builders), Ltd., St. Anne's-on-Sea; Plumber, etc.: Heap & Charlton, St. Anne's-on-Sea; Reinforced Concrete: J. W. Lee, Ltd., Chorley; Steelwork: T. Blackburn & Sons, Ltd., Preston. Stockport, Adaptation Work—Painter: J. A. Blackburn, Stockport. Plasterer: John W. Sprowson, Stockport; Plumber: Herbert Parkes & Nephew, Ltd., Stockport. Stockton-on-Tees Employment Exchange—Erection: W. Pearson & Son, West Hartlepool. Stoke-on-Trent Employment Exchange—Asphalte: Ragusa Asphalte Paving Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Painter: A. E. Magee, Macclesfield. Plumber: F. Mottershead, Macclesfield; Steelwork: John Booth & Sons, Bolton. Sutton Telephone Exchange—Erection: E. D. Winn & Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Engineering Services:** Kingsway, W.C., Adastral House—Wiring: J. G. Briggs & Co., London, W. Princes Risborough Laboratory—Wood Preservation Plant: J. W. Glahome, Berwick-on-Tweed. Southend Sorting Office—Heating: The Leeds Marble Works, Leeds.—**Miscellaneous:** Cabinets (Steel), etc.: G. A. Harvey & Co. (London), Ltd., London, S.E.; Romeo, Ltd., London, E.C. Carpet: The Carpet Trades, Ltd., Kidderminster. Casements (Steel), etc.: The West Bromwich Casement & Engineering Co., Ltd., West Bromwich. Metal Polish: Sunbeam Products, Ltd., London, S.W. Tricycles: The Stanley Engineering Co., Ltd., Egham.

COMMISSIONERS OF CROWN LANDS.

*Repair, etc. of 145, Piccadilly, London, W.1: Turner, Lord & Co. London, W.—Remedying damage by dry rot at 30, The Courtyard Eitham, Kent: S. T. Blackler, London, S.E.

MINISTRY OF PENSIONS.

Laundry (Leeds Hospital): The Horsforth Steam Laundry Co., Ltd., Horsforth, near Leeds.

METROPOLITAN POLICE.

Badges and Plates Contract 1927: Wildman & Meguyer, Birmingham.—Cell Calls Maintenance Contract 1927: Electrical Contractors, etc., Maintenance Co. (1925), London, S.W.—**Cornwall Road, Lambeth (Erection of Married Quarters):** F. & H. F. Higgs, London, S.E.—**Supply of 1,000 Reams of Printing Paper:** New Northfleet Paper Mills, Northfleet, Kent.—**Window Cleaning Contract 1927 (Met. Police Courts):** Haymarket & City Window Cleaning Co., Ltd., London, W.—**Window Cleaning Contract 1927 (N.S. Yd. and Lambeth Bldg.):** Haymarket and City Window Cleaning Co., Ltd., London, W.

* August, 1926, contract.

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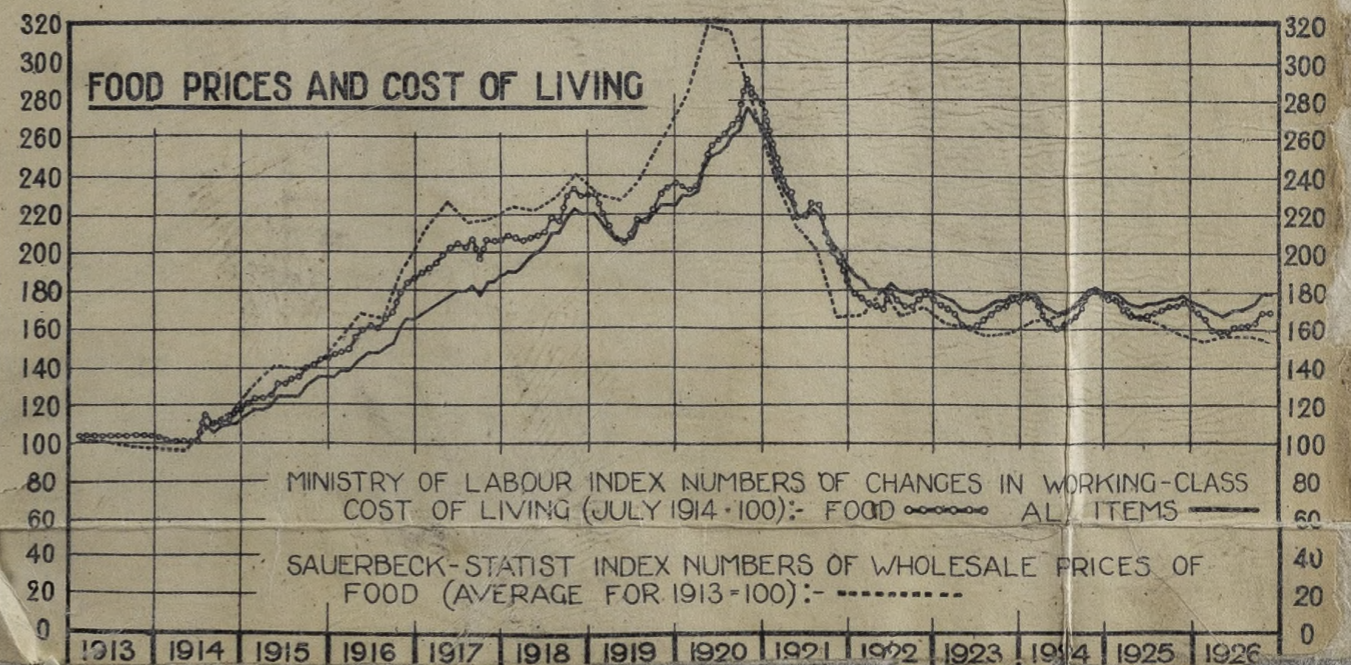
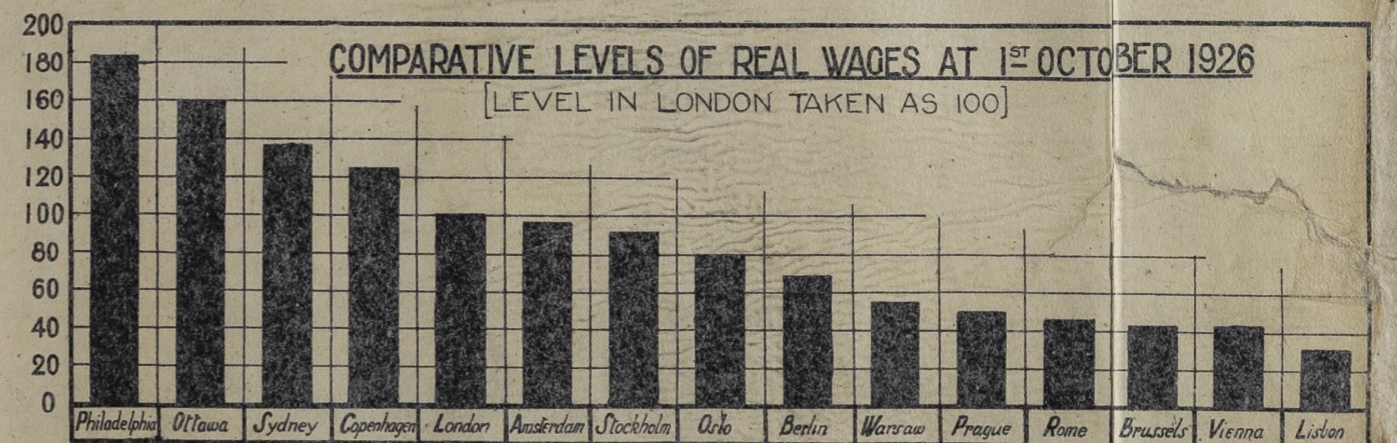
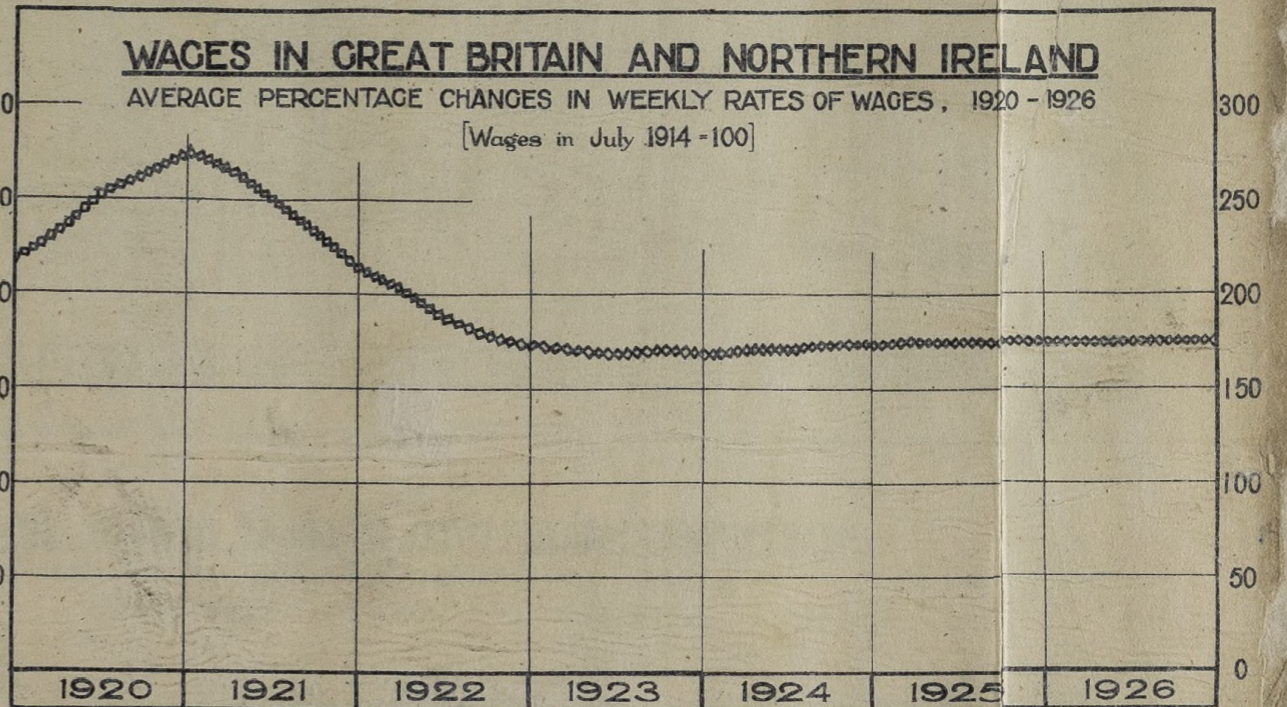
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SUPPLEMENT TO THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE FOR FEBRUARY, 1927

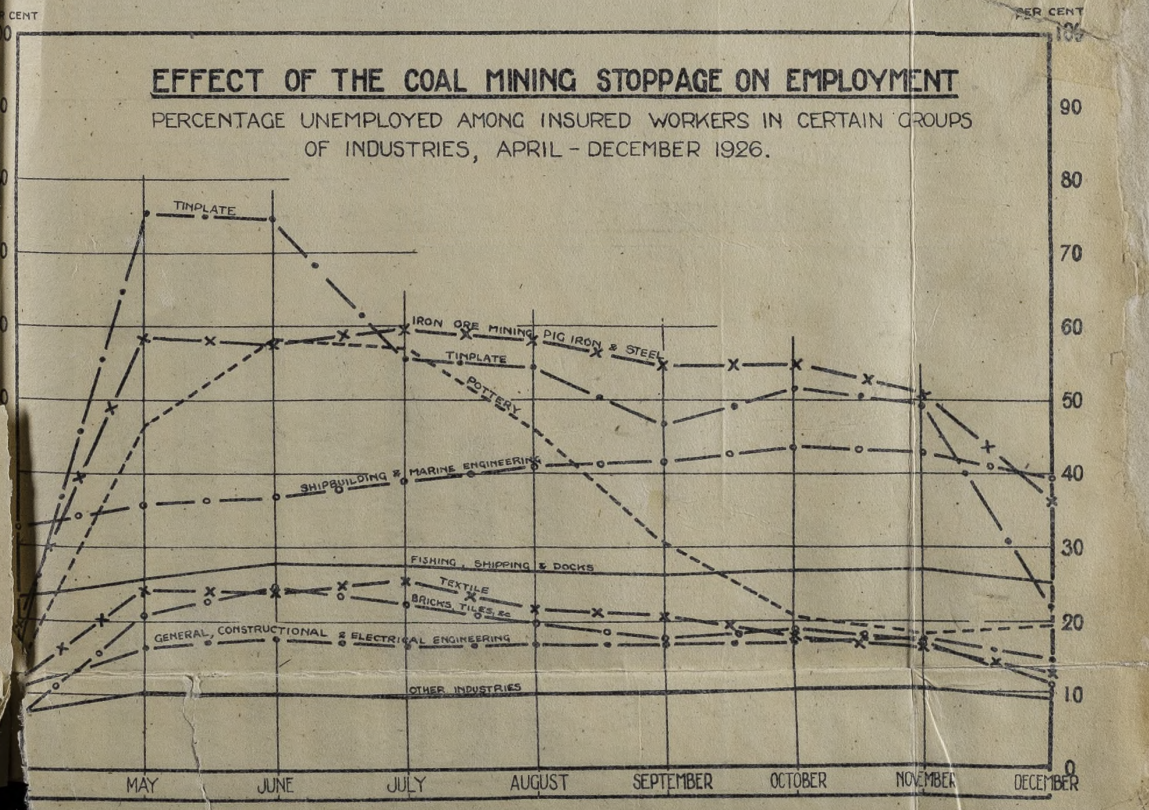
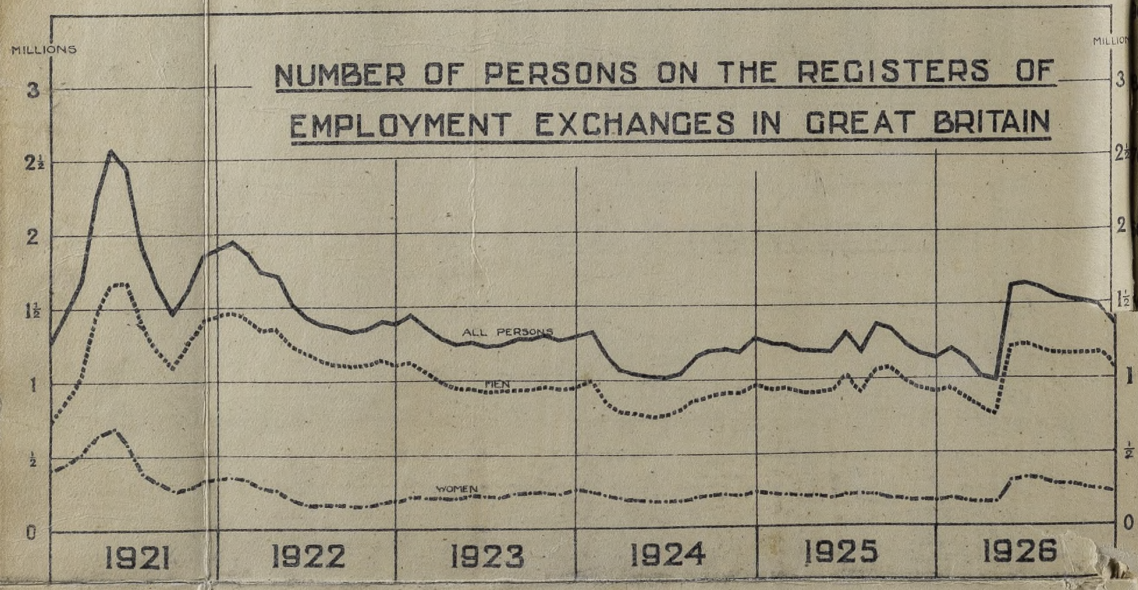
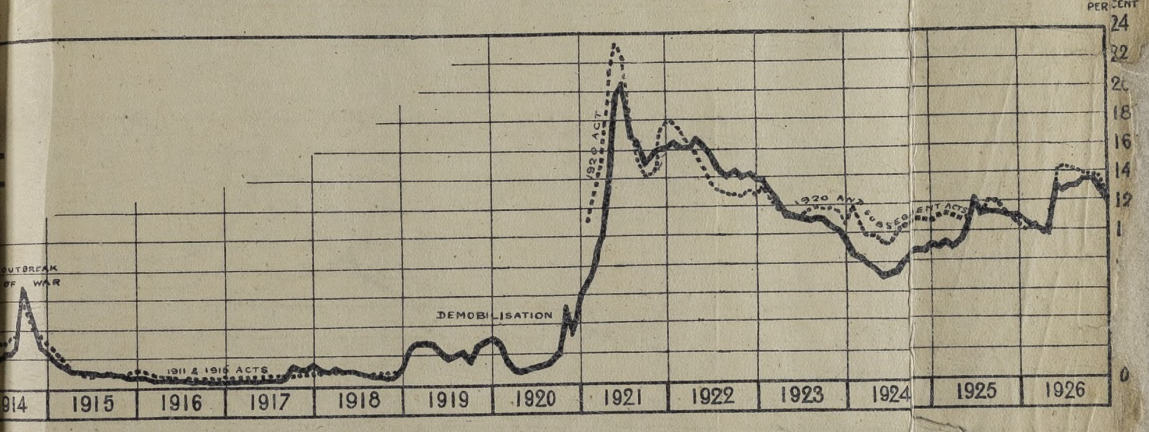
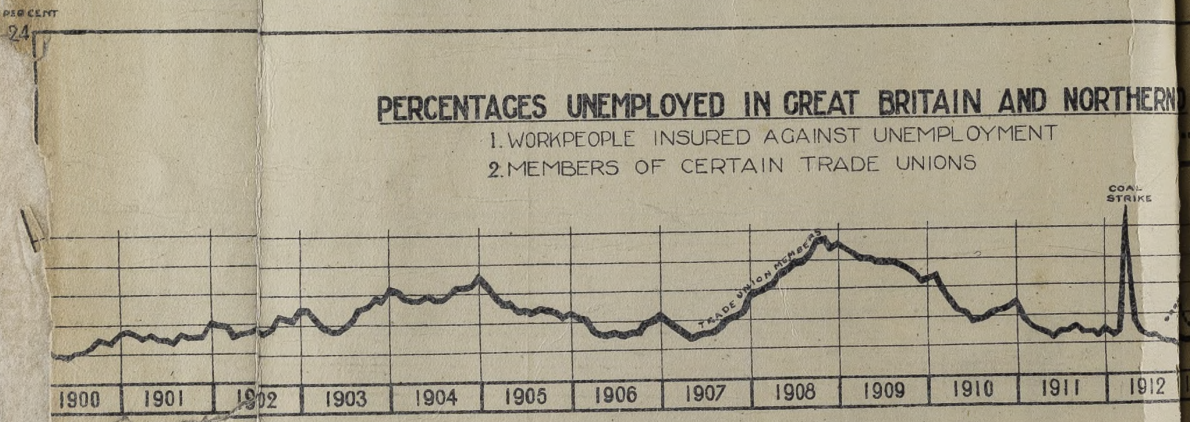
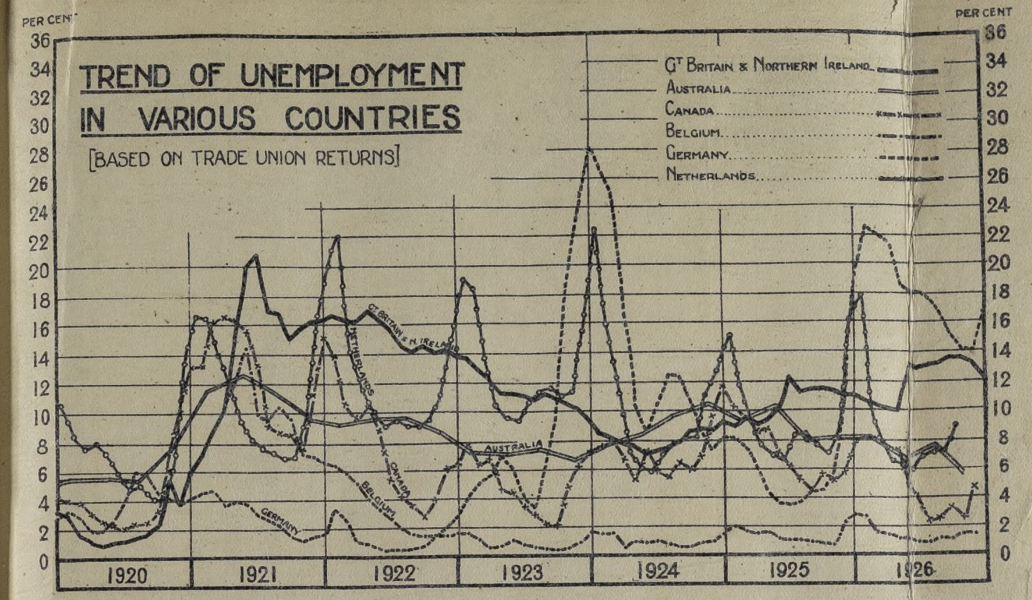
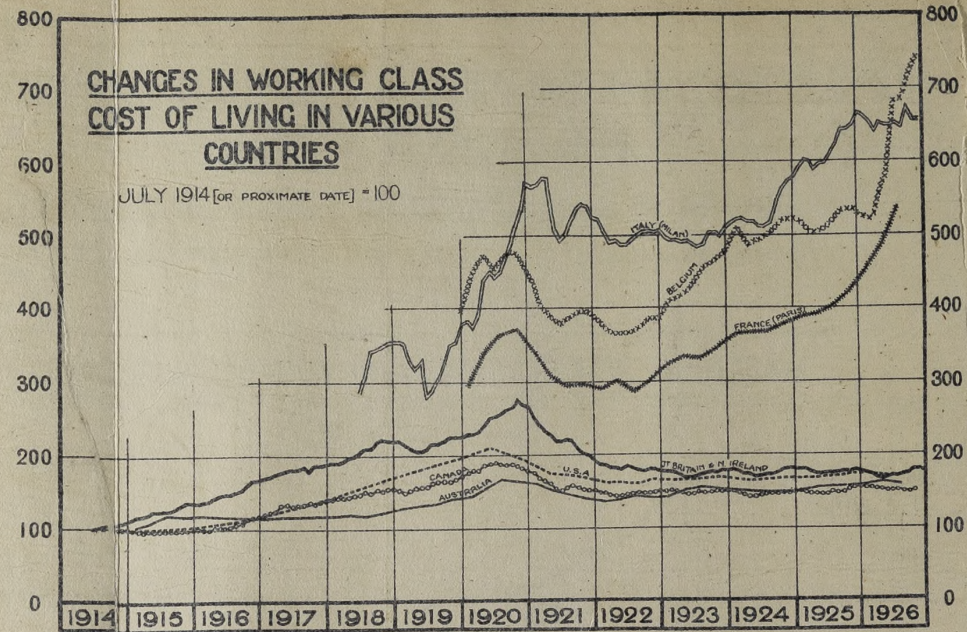
DIAGRAMS &c. ILLUSTRATING LABOUR STATISTICS

[For notes and explanations see the "Ministry of Labour Gazette" for February 1927.]



MINISTRY OF LABOUR INDEX NUMBERS OF CHANGES IN WORKING-CLASS COST OF LIVING (JULY 1914 = 100): FOOD ——— ALL ITEMS ———

SAUERBECK-STATIST INDEX NUMBERS OF WHOLESALE PRICES OF FOOD (AVERAGE FOR 1913 = 100): - - - - -

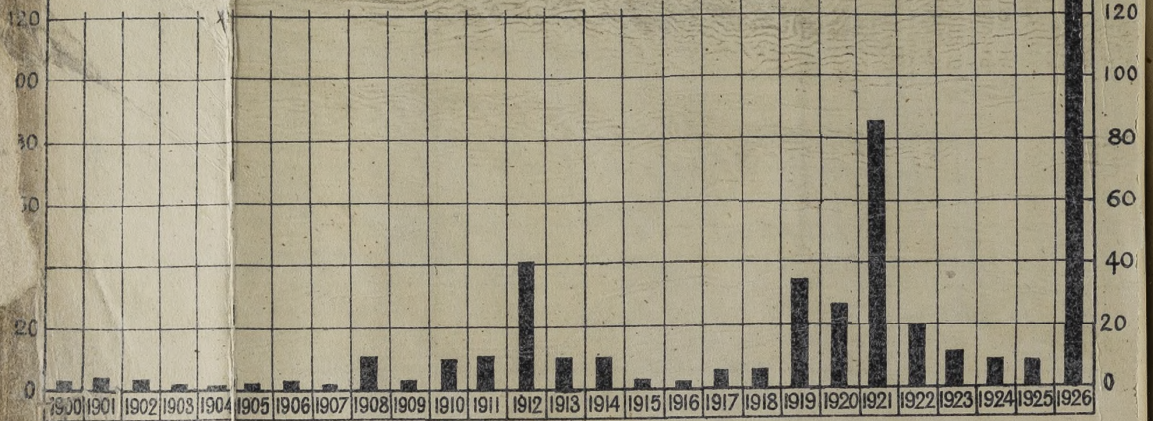


MILLIONS

MILLIONS

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES

AGGREGATE DURATION, IN WORKING DAYS, OF ALL DISPUTES REPORTED IN GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.



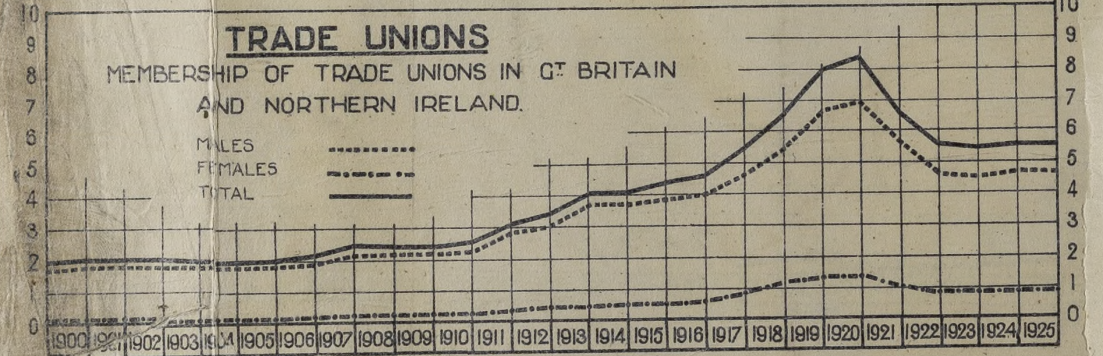
MILLIONS

MILLIONS

TRADE UNIONS

MEMBERSHIP OF TRADE UNIONS IN GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.

MALES
 FEMALES
 TOTAL



THOUS

THOUS

PROFIT-SHARING

NUMBER OF WORKPEOPLE COVERED BY SCHEMES IN OPERATION IN GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

