

THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

VOL. XXXVI.—No. 5.]

MAY, 1928.

[PRICE SIXPENCE NET.

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

EMPLOYMENT.

EMPLOYMENT during April was subject to considerable fluctuation, particularly after the Easter holidays and towards the end of the month. At the end of April it was not quite so good on the whole as at the end of March.

The seasonal improvement in the building trade, in public works contracting, and in the brick and tile and tailoring industries continued; and there was also some improvement in the tinplate industry, in railway carriage and wagon building, in paper manufacture and in the food and drink industries. There was, however, a decline in coal mining, in ship-building and ship repairing, in the iron and steel and glass industries, in boot and shoe manufacture, and in most of the textile industries, as well as in the canal, river, dock and harbour service.

Among the workpeople (aged 16-64 inclusive, and numbering approximately 11,800,000) insured against unemployment under the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the percentage unemployed (including those temporarily stopped as well as those wholly unemployed) in all industries taken together was 9.6 at 23rd April, 1928, as compared with 9.6 at 26th March, 1928, and 9.4 at 25th April, 1927.

The percentage wholly unemployed was 7.6 at 23rd April, 1928, as compared with 7.7 at 26th March, 1928; while the percentage temporarily stopped was 2.0 as compared with 1.9. The total number of applicants for employment registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 30th April, 1928, was approximately 1,171,000, of whom 942,000 were men and 160,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls. At 2nd April, 1928, it was 1,071,000, of whom 865,000 were men and 147,000 were women; and at 25th April, 1927, it was 1,075,000, of whom 867,000 were men and 144,000 were women.

WAGES.

In the industries for which statistics are regularly compiled by the Department, the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation during April resulted in a reduction of £9,350 in the weekly full-time wages of 204,000 workpeople, and in an increase of £1,500 in those of 9,000 workpeople. The principal group of workpeople affected by the reductions in April were textile bleaching, dyeing, printing, etc., operatives in Yorkshire, Lancashire, and Scotland, whose wages were reduced, under cost-of-living sliding scales, by about $1\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. on current rates in Yorkshire, and by 1s. and 8d. per week in the case of men and women respectively in Lancashire and Scotland. There were reductions, also under cost-of-living sliding scales, in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts for pieceworkers in the boot and shoe repairing industry, and for various classes of workpeople

in the brush and broom-making industry. Other groups of workpeople whose wages were reduced during April included blastfurnace workers in Cleveland, Cumberland and Scotland, iron puddlers and millmen in the North of England, and workpeople employed in the seed-crushing and oil-milling industry. Increases occurred in the wages of shale miners and oil workers in Scotland, and in those of furniture trade operatives at certain towns in Yorkshire.

During the first four months of 1928 the changes reported to the Department in the industries for which statistics have been compiled have resulted in net increases of £10,350 in the weekly full-time wages of 105,000 workpeople, and in net reductions of £115,100 in those of 1,114,500 workpeople. Of the total reduction just over one-half was accounted for by the coal-mining industry. In the corresponding period of 1927 there were net increases of over £33,500 in the weekly full-time wages of 517,000 workpeople, and net reductions of £99,800 in those of 685,000 workpeople.

COST OF LIVING.

At 1st May 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 64 per cent. above that of July, 1914, the same as a month ago and a year ago. For food alone the corresponding percentage for 1st May was 54, as compared with 55 a month ago and 54 a year ago.

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

TRADE DISPUTES.

The number of trade disputes involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as beginning in April, was 16. In addition, 24 disputes which began before April were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The number of workpeople involved in all disputes in April (including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes) was about 2,900, and the aggregate duration of all disputes during April was about 30,000 working days. These figures compare with totals of 38,000 workpeople involved and 168,000 working days lost in the previous month, and with 10,200 workpeople involved and 79,000 days lost in April, 1927.

The aggregate duration of all disputes in progress in the first four months of 1928 was about 360,000 working days, and the total number of workpeople involved in these disputes was about 63,000. The figures for the corresponding period of 1927 were 520,000 days and 34,000 workpeople respectively.

TRADE DISPUTES IN 1927.

In the issue of this GAZETTE for January, 1928 (page 5), some preliminary statistics were given of industrial disputes, involving stoppages of work, which occurred in Great Britain and Northern Ireland in 1927. More detailed statistics regarding these disputes, revised in accordance with the latest information received, are now available and are given below.

The number of disputes, involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as having begun in 1927 in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was 308*, the smallest number known to have occurred in any year during the whole period of forty years for which statistics are available. In these disputes about 89,700 workpeople were directly involved (i.e., on strike or locked-out), and 18,000 indirectly involved (i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes). In addition, 6,500 workpeople were involved, either directly or indirectly, in thirteen disputes which began in 1926 and were still in progress at the beginning of 1927. The total number of workpeople involved, either directly or indirectly, in all disputes in progress in 1927, was thus about 114,200. The aggregate time lost in 1927 by these workpeople, owing to the disputes, was approximately 1,174,000 working days; this figure is the lowest ever recorded by the Department.

In 1926 the number of disputes reported as having begun in the year in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was 323—a lower figure than that of any other year save 1927. The number of workpeople involved in all disputes in progress was 2,751,000 (including 1,580,000 in the general strike in May and 1,050,000 in the general stoppage in the coal-mining industry); and the total loss of time in these disputes was about 162,233,000 working days. These totals were the highest ever recorded.

The following Table summarises by industries the number of disputes reported as beginning in 1926 and 1927 in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the number of workpeople involved in and the aggregate duration of all disputes in progress in each of these years:—

Groups of Industries.	1926.			1927.		
	No. of Disputes beginning in 1926.	Number of Work-people involved in all Disputes in progress.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.	No. of Disputes beginning in 1927.	Number of Work-people involved in all Disputes in progress.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.
General Strike ...	1	1,580,000	15,000,000	...	...	...
Mining and Quarrying:—						
General Coal-mining Stoppages	1	1,050,000	145,200,000	...	...	...
Other Stoppages	68	55,100	1,256,000	115	73,400	695,000
Bricks, Pottery, Glass, etc. ...	5	2,600	45,000	10	300	12,000
Engineering ...	17	3,800	76,000	9	2,500	12,000
Shipbuilding ...	7	800	4,000	22	7,200	30,000
Other Metal ...	38	9,800	141,000	38	5,800	39,000
Textile ...	33	16,500	188,000	27	4,700	36,000
Clothing ...	12	1,000	8,000	10	9,200	199,000
Woodworking and Furnishing ...	12	1,500	29,000	18	800	10,000
Building, Public Works Contracting, etc. ...	43	3,500	38,000	34	7,800	129,000
Transport ...	42	21,300	167,000	16	2,100	7,000
Other ...	44	5,400	81,000	9	400	5,000
Total ...	323	2,751,300	162,233,000	308	114,200	1,174,000

Of the total numbers of workpeople shown as involved in all disputes, 10,400 in 1926 and 18,600 in 1927 were indirectly involved, i.e., thrown out of work in consequence of the disputes, at the establishments where the disputes occurred, though not actually on strike or locked-out.

PRINCIPAL DISPUTES IN 1927.

No dispute of outstanding magnitude occurred in 1927. The largest, judged by the total number of working days lost, was a lock-out of 5,000 workpeople employed in the slipper industry at Rossendale, which lasted from 20th July to 7th September, following alleged repeated threats of single-firm strikes for advances in wages and an actual strike of clikers at one firm consequent upon the suspension of a workman for refusing to rectify damaged work. The lock-out was terminated on the conclusion of an agreement establishing a Conciliation Board for the industry.

A dispute occurred at a group of collieries near Durham, owing to the refusal of 7,400 colliery workpeople to carry out an agreement providing for the working of one shift on each Saturday instead of two shifts on alternate Saturdays. This dispute caused a stoppage of work on Saturdays only from 14th May until the end of June (in the case of one colliery the stoppage continued until the end of July), when Saturday working was resumed on terms of the agreement.

About 5,500 coal-miners, etc., at Maesteg, Glamorganshire, ceased work on 5th July, objecting to work with non-members of the South Wales Miners' Federation. The non-members had joined the Federation by the next day, but in most cases work was not again available until 14th July.

* Disputes involving less than ten workpeople and those which lasted less than one day are 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.

Masons' and bricklayers' labourers in Glasgow and the West of Scotland ceased work on 1st March against a proposed reduction in the wages of labourers employed by members of a non-federated Employers' Association below the rate fixed under the national agreement. On 7th March the labourers were joined by other building operatives, bringing the total number involved in the dispute to 5,000. The dispute ended on 21st March, when the question was referred to the Industrial Court. The Court ruled that the rates fixed by the national agreement did not bind the Employers' Association in question, but was of opinion that no change in labourers' wages should take place.

In the following Table a list is given of the principal trade disputes, involving stoppages of work, beginning in 1927, with particulars of the classes of workpeople involved, the dates of the stoppages, the numbers involved, and the aggregate duration in each case:—

Classes of Workpeople involved.	Dates of beginning and end of Stoppage.	Approximate Number of Work-people involved.	Approximate Aggregate Number of Working Days lost.
MINING AND QUARRYING:—			
Colliery workpeople—	1927.		
Sunderland (near) ...	8 Jan.—Nov.	1,609	19,308*
Gwaun-cae-Gurwen, Glam.	27 Jan.—11 Feb.	1,500	18,175
Blaenavon, Mon. ...	29 Mar.—6 Apr.	2,100	15,200
Durham (near) ...	14 May—30 July†	7,400	28,000†
Ebbw Vale, Mon. ...	30 May—4 June	1,800	12,600
Ystradgynlais, Brecon ...	13 June—25 June	1,300	13,500
Durham (near) ...	18 June—Dec.	2,233	32,380
Maesteg, Glam. ...	5 July—6 July‡	5,500	35,000
Workington... ..	26 Aug.—24 Sept.	1,662	37,450
METAL, ENGINEERING AND SHIP-BUILDING INDUSTRIES:—			
Riveters, etc. (in shipyards)—			
Clyde	15 June—18 June	1,500	5,500
Workpeople in out-tracking and other departments (ball-bearing manufacture)—			
Newark	15 July—16 July	1,948	3,000
Riveters, etc. (in shipyards)—			
Clyde	26 July—3 Aug.	3,000	16,000
CLOTHING INDUSTRIES:—			
Slipper manufacture (all occupations)—Rossendale ...	20 July—7 Sept.	5,000	175,000
Tailors, pressers, machinists, cutters, etc.—Leeds ...	15 Nov.—25 Nov.	3,670	19,000
BUILDING, PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTING, ETC.:—			
Building operatives—			
Glasgow and West of Scotland	1 Mar.—21 Mar.	5,000	77,500
Londonderry	2 May—9 July	670	25,500

CAUSES.

The following Table shows the numbers and proportions of disputes in 1927, and of workpeople directly involved therein, arising from the principal classes of causes. In some cases disputes originate from a number of different causes; e.g., a claim for an advance in wages may be accompanied by one for a reduction in working hours. For the purpose of this and the following Tables such disputes are classified according to what appears to be the principal cause of the stoppage:—

Causes.	Number of Disputes.		Number of Workpeople directly involved.	
	Total.	Percentage.	Total.	Percentage.
Wage increases	35	11.4	4,600	5.2
Wage decreases	71	23.0	18,300	20.3
Other wage questions	59	19.2	7,900	8.9
All wage questions	165	53.6	30,800	34.4
Hours of labour	22	7.1	13,100	14.6
Employment of particular classes or persons	68	22.1	29,200	32.5
Other working arrangements, rules and discipline	22	7.1	5,200	5.8
Trade Unionism	26	8.5	6,000	6.7
Miscellaneous questions	5	1.6	5,400	6.0
Total	308	100.0	89,700	100.0

Wage questions of various kinds proved, as usual, the most fruitful causes of disputes in 1927, 165 disputes out of the total of 308, or more than half of all the disputes beginning in the year, arising on these questions. Of the remaining disputes the causes most frequently occurring were questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons, 68 disputes arising from such causes; while questions as to working hours, working arrangements, etc., and Trade Union principles, taken together, accounted for about the same number of disputes, viz., 70.

The following Table shows by groups of industries the proportion of workpeople who were directly involved in disputes arising in 1927 from the principal classes of causes:—

* The dispute caused stoppage of work on alternate Saturdays only, one Saturday per fortnight being customarily idle.
† The dispute caused stoppage of work on Saturdays only. By the end of June, Saturday work had been resumed at all but one of the collieries involved.
‡ In most cases work was not available until 14th July.

Groups of Industries.	Work-people directly involved in Disputes beginning in 1927.	Proportions directly involved in Disputes respecting					
		Wages	Hours of Labour.	Employment of particular Classes or Persons.	Working Arrangements.	Trade Unionism.	Other Questions.
Mining and Quarrying ...	57,600	29.1	21.4	35.0	6.3	7.6	0.6
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding ...	9,300	50.4	2.9	26.4	9.3	11.0	...
Textile	3,200	31.7	15.6	43.3	9.4	...	...
Clothing	9,100	4.3	...	40.8	...	...	54.9*
Building, Public Works Contracting, etc. ...	7,100	89.2	0.2	2.0	1.4	6.0	1.2
Transport and Communication ...	2,100	36.3	...	56.9	6.8	...	...
Other Industries and Services ...	1,300	63.3	...	11.0	10.2	15.5	...
All Industries ...	89,700	34.4	14.6	32.5	5.8	6.7	6.0

Judged by the numbers of workpeople directly involved, it will be seen from the above Table that wage questions were a preponderating cause of disputes in the metal, engineering and shipbuilding, the building, etc., and the other industries and services groups; and that questions as to the employment of particular classes or persons were of most weight in the mining and quarrying, the textile, and the transport and communication groups. Questions as to working hours were only of importance as a cause of disputes in the mining and quarrying and the textile groups, where they accounted for 21 and 16 per cent. respectively of all the workpeople. The largest single dispute respecting hours was the dispute in the Durham coalfield, referred to above, where the working of Saturday shifts was in question.

RESULTS.

The following Table shows the number and proportion of disputes beginning in 1927, and of workpeople directly involved therein, the results of which were (a) in favour of the workpeople, (b) in favour of the employers, (c) of the nature of a compromise, and (d) which still remain unsettled. Disputes classified as in favour of workpeople or in favour of employers, for the purpose of this and the following Table, are those in which the workpeople or employers, respectively, were completely successful, or practically so, in attaining or resisting the objects to which the stoppage of work was due. Disputes in which the workpeople, or employers, were partly, but not wholly, successful, are included under "compromised." In the case of one small dispute work had not yet been resumed at the time of going to press.

Results.	Number of Disputes.		Number of Workpeople directly involved.	
	Total.	Percentage.	Total.	Percentage.
In favour of workpeople	61	19.8	25,300	28.1
In favour of employers... ..	118	38.3	27,400	30.6
Compromised	128	41.6	36,900	41.2
Unsettled	1	0.3	100	0.1
Total	308	100.0	89,700	100.0

In most years disputes resulting in compromises are considerably more numerous than either the complete successes or the complete failures, but in 1927, as in 1926, the number of disputes in which the employers were successful (118) was not much less than that in which a compromise was effected (128) and was nearly twice that in which the workpeople attained their objects (61). So far as numbers of workpeople involved are concerned, compromises usually outweigh all other results, but in 1927 only 41 per cent. of the workpeople involved were in disputes which resulted in compromise. The remainder were nearly equally divided between disputes resulting in favour of the workpeople and of the employers (28 and 31 per cent., respectively).

The following Table shows, by groups of industries, the proportion of workpeople directly involved in disputes beginning in 1927, classified according to their results:—

Groups of Industries.	Work-people directly involved in Disputes beginning in 1927.	Proportions directly involved in Disputes beginning in 1927, the Results of which were			
		In favour of Work-people.	In favour of Em-ployers.	Compromised.	Un-settled.
Mining and Quarrying ...	57,600	29.0	37.6	33.4	...
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding ...	9,300	20.2	33.9	45.9	...
Textile	3,200	34.2	33.9	29.1	2.8
Clothing	9,100	5.0	0.4	96.6	...
Building, Public Works Contracting, etc. ...	7,100	69.9	6.3	23.8	...
Transport and Communication ...	2,100	9.2	28.4	62.4	...
Other Industries and Services ...	1,300	13.0	34.7	52.3	...
All Industries ...	89,700	28.1	30.6	41.2	0.1

* This figure relates to the dispute in the Rossendale slipper industry, which is referred to in the text above.

Judged by the number of workpeople directly involved, disputes were fairly evenly divided between the three categories of results in the mining and quarrying and the textile groups. In the clothing and building, etc., groups one dispute in each case accounted for the majority of the workpeople involved, and these disputes resulted in a compromise and in a success for the workpeople respectively. In the remaining groups settlements by compromise predominated.

The following Table shows the number of workpeople directly involved in disputes in 1927 classified both by the principal causes and by the results of the disputes:—

Principal Causes.	Number of Workpeople directly involved in Disputes beginning in 1927, the Results of which were				Total.
	In favour of Work-people.	In favour of Em-ployers.	Com-promised.	Un-settled.	
Wages:—					
For increase	100	1,700	2,800	...	4,600
Against decrease	5,200	5,700	7,300	100	18,300
Other	900	3,400	3,600	...	7,900
Total—Wages ...	6,200	10,800	13,700	100	30,800
Hours of labour	3,300	8,400	1,400	...	13,100
Employment of particular classes or persons ...	12,900	4,200	12,100	...	29,200
Working arrangements ...	100	3,400	1,700	...	5,200
Trade Unionism	2,500	500	3,000	...	6,000
Sympathetic disputes ...	300	...	5,000	...	5,300
Miscellaneous ... ..	...	100	...	...	100
Grand Total, 1927 ...	25,300	27,400	36,900	100	89,700

METHODS OF SETTLEMENT.

Of the disputes beginning in 1927, 307 had been finally settled at the time of going to press. The principal methods by which these disputes were settled are shown in the Table below:—

Methods of Settlement.	Number of Disputes.	Percentage of all Disputes.	Number of Workpeople directly involved.	Percentage of Workpeople directly involved in all Disputes.
By direct negotiations between the parties or their representatives	227	73.9	69,300	77.4
By conciliation	15	4.9	6,800	7.6
By arbitration	4	1.3	4,900	5.5
By return to work on employers' terms without negotiations	30	9.8	5,200	5.8
By replacement of workpeople	19	6.2	400	0.4
Otherwise	12	3.9	3,000	3.3
Total	307	100.0	89,600	100.0

Most final settlements are effected by direct arrangements or negotiations between the parties or their representatives, and nearly three-quarters (227) of all disputes occurring in 1927, involving over three-quarters of all workpeople involved, were settled in this manner. In the case of 30 disputes,—10 per cent. of the total number, involving 6 per cent. of all the workpeople involved—work was resumed on the employers' terms without negotiation. Two of the largest disputes of the year (those occurring in the Rossendale slipper industry and in the building industry of Glasgow and the West of Scotland) were settled by conciliation and by arbitration respectively. The 17 other disputes settled by conciliation or arbitration were all of relatively small importance. Strikers were replaced by other workpeople in the case of 19 disputes, all very small.

MAGNITUDE.

In the Table below the disputes of 1927 are analysed from three different aspects of magnitude, viz., numbers of workpeople involved, duration in weeks, and aggregate duration in working days. It will be seen from the figures given that the majority of the disputes occurring in 1927 were of relatively small importance, involving but a few workpeople and lasting for a few days only. More than half of all disputes, or 159 out of a total of 308, had a duration of less than a week, and only 53 disputes lasted for four weeks or more. Over two-thirds of the disputes, or 215, involved less than 250 workpeople, and only six disputes involved 2,500 or more workpeople. Twenty-eight disputes (or rather less than a tenth of the whole) caused a loss of 631,000 working days or nearly three-quarters of the total number of days lost in the 308 disputes; while 198 (or about two-thirds of the whole) caused a loss of 59,000 working days only, or less than 7 per cent. of the total aggregate duration of all disputes.

It should be observed that, for the purposes of this Table, the duration in weeks and aggregate duration in working days take account of time lost in 1928 by disputes which began in 1927 and were still in progress at the end of the year. On the other hand the aggregate duration of disputes which began before 1927 but continued into 1927 is excluded. As regards numbers involved, the Table relates only to disputes beginning in 1927. The figures in the Table, therefore, differ from those given in the first Table in this article (on page 158).

Limits.	Number of Disputes beginning in 1927.	Total Number of Workpeople involved directly and indirectly in these Disputes.	Aggregate Duration of these Disputes in Working Days.*
<i>Disputes classified by Total Numbers directly and indirectly involved.</i>			
Under 100 workpeople	148	5,000	72,000
100 and under 250	67	10,800	97,000
250 " 500	37	12,700	45,000
500 " 1,000	32	20,900	113,000
1,000 " 2,500	18	28,700	189,000
2,500 " 5,000	2	6,700	35,000
5,000 " 10,000	4	22,900	316,000
<i>Disputes classified by Duration in Weeks.</i>			
Under 1 week	159	51,000	139,000
1 and under 2 weeks	61	22,000	140,000
2 " " 4 "	35	20,500	184,000
4 " " 6 "	21	6,800	118,000
6 " " 10 "	17	5,900	209,000
10 " " 20 "	10	1,300	63,000
20 weeks and upwards	5	200	14,000
<i>Disputes classified by Aggregate Duration in Working Days.</i>			
Under 500 days	157	12,700	30,000
500 and under 1,000 days	41	7,700	29,000
1,000 " 5,000 "	82	36,500	177,000
5,000 " 25,000 "	21	23,300	220,000
25,000 " 50,000 "	5	17,500	158,000
50,000 " 100,000 "	1	5,000	78,000
100,000 days and upwards	1	5,000	175,000

COMPARATIVE FIGURES FOR 1893-1927.

The following Table shows the total number of disputes, involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as beginning in each of the years 1893-1927, together with the approximate number of workpeople involved in these disputes, and the aggregate number of working days lost in all disputes in progress during the year (irrespective of the date of commencement) at the establishments where the disputes occurred. It should be observed, in comparing these figures with the figures relating to 1926 and 1927 given in the first Table in this article, that in the Table below the particulars of numbers involved relate to persons involved in disputes beginning in each year, whilst in the first Table they relate to the total numbers involved in all disputes in progress, including those beginning earlier which were still unsettled at the beginning of the year:—

Year.	Number of Disputes beginning in year.	Number of Workpeople [†] involved in Disputes beginning in year.			Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress during year.
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.	
1893	599	597,000	37,000	634,000	30,440,000
1894	903	254,000	68,000	322,000	9,510,000
1895	728	205,000	54,000	259,000	5,700,000
1896	906	142,000	50,000	192,000	3,560,000
1897	848	166,000	63,000	229,000	10,330,000
1898	695	199,000	53,000	252,000	15,260,000
1899	710	137,000	42,000	179,000	2,500,000
1900	633	132,000	53,000	185,000	3,090,000
1901	631	111,000	68,000	179,000	4,130,000
1902	432	115,000	140,000	255,000	3,440,000
1903	380	93,000	23,000	116,000	2,320,000
1904	346	56,000	31,000	87,000	1,460,000
1905	349	67,000	25,000	92,000	2,370,000
1906	479	158,000	60,000	218,000	3,020,000
1907	585	100,000	46,000	146,000	2,150,000
1908	389	221,000	72,000	293,000	10,790,000
1909	422	168,000	129,000	297,000	2,690,000
1910	521	384,000	130,000	514,000	9,870,000
1911	872	824,000	128,000	952,000	10,160,000
1912	834	1,232,000	230,000	1,462,000	40,890,000
1913	1,459	497,000	167,000	664,000	9,800,000
1914	972	326,000	121,000	447,000	9,880,000
1915	672	401,000	47,000	448,000	2,950,000
1916	532	235,000	41,000	276,000	2,450,000
1917	730	575,000	297,000	872,000	5,650,000
1918	1,165	923,000	193,000	1,116,000	5,880,000
1919	1,352	2,401,000	190,000	2,591,000	34,970,000
1920	1,607	1,779,000	153,000	1,932,000	26,570,000
1921	763	1,770,000	31,000	1,801,000	85,870,000
1922	576	612,000	40,000	652,000	19,850,000
1923	628	343,000	62,000	405,000	10,670,000
1924	710	558,000	55,000	613,000	8,420,000
1925	603	401,000	40,000	441,000	7,950,000
1926	323	2,724,000	10,000	2,734,000	162,230,000
1927	308	90,000	18,000	108,000	1,170,000

It will be noticed that the figures show wide variations in different years, especially as regards the aggregate number of days lost, of which the maximum and minimum figures occurred in consecutive years, viz., over 162 millions in 1926 and less than 1½ million in 1927. The high total for 1926 and also those for 1893, 1912 and 1921 were largely due to prolonged general stoppages in the coal-mining industry.

* Inclusive of the aggregate duration in January-April, 1928, of one dispute, involving in all about 100 workpeople, of which no settlement has yet been reported.

† Workpeople involved in more than one dispute during the year are counted more than once in the totals for the year. The extent of such duplication is not very considerable except in the case of industries involved in the general strike in May, 1926, and in the coal-mining group, in which about 41,000 workpeople in 1926, 100,000 in 1921, 300,000 in 1920, 150,000 in 1919 and 106,000 in 1912 were involved in more than one dispute.

REPORT OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR FOR THE YEAR 1927.

THE fourth Annual Report of the Ministry of Labour, dealing with the work of the Ministry during 1927, has been issued.*

Industrial Relations, Conciliation and Arbitration.—The Report refers to the movement during the year towards industrial peace. As the movement progressed, there emerged a considerable volume of agreement in favour of a greater measure of co-operation between the parties in industry, culminating in a definite invitation from a number of employers to the General Council of the Trades Union Congress to meet them for the joint consideration of certain fundamental factors in industrial reorganisation and industrial relations. The invitation was accepted, and meetings of this joint body, and of a joint committee appointed by it, have been held during the current year.†

The number of trade disputes causing stoppage of work of which the Department had cognisance was the smallest recorded in any year during the whole period of forty years for which statistics are available. Only 103 cases were dealt with under the Conciliation Act, 1896, and the Industrial Courts Act, 1919; this was the same number as in 1922, and, with that exception, the smallest in any post-war year. No Court of Inquiry was set up during the year.

The Industrial Court issued 82 decisions on cases referred to them for decision under the Industrial Courts Act. About half of these related to Civil Service cases, one of these relating to over 140,000 workers in the Post Office—sorters, counter clerks, telegraphists, telephoneists, paper keepers, postmen, porters, messengers, cleaners, etc.

Each award of the Court is printed and published shortly after the date of decision, and an annual issue of all awards is made in volume form.‡ The cases are also summarised monthly in this GAZETTE; see, for example, page 197 of the present issue.

Employment.—The average rate of unemployment among insured persons in 1927 was 9.6 per cent., the lowest rate since 1920. The Report attributes this result partly to a substantial carry-over of work from the previous year, when production had been interrupted by the coal stoppage, and partly to a growing steadiness in some of the chief factors affecting industrial production, and an improvement in some directions in the export trade. "The year 1927," the Report proceeds, "may be regarded industrially as that which has made the nearest approach to normal since the War. There is some ground for thinking that the problems of employment and unemployment which have revealed themselves during the year ought to be considered, not merely as residual difficulties of the war period, but as the problems of a new industrial and commercial era. Of these problems undoubtedly the most serious is the continued irregularity in several of the basic industries, notably coal, iron and steel, cotton, and to a less extent shipbuilding, heavy engineering, and wool."

The Report refers to the unemployment in the coal-mining industry, which is much heavier in some coalfields than in others, and observes:—"It is now generally recognised that an appreciable number of those wholly unemployed in the northern coalfield, in South Wales, and in parts of the Scottish coalfield, are unlikely to obtain regular employment in their own industry in their own district; the same is probably true of a smaller proportion in some of the other coalfields." The work of the Industrial Transference Board is referred to in this connection. The Employment Exchanges are continually engaged in this work of facilitating transfers, in all industries and in all districts; but, if such transfers are to be effected with as little hardship and waste of effort as possible, all the agencies involved need to be brought into effective co-operation. Hence the Industrial Transference Board was set up, "to stimulate and assist the workers from distressed areas to openings in other areas and other industries, both at home and overseas."

Reference is also made in this connection to Section 18 of the Mining Industry Act, 1926, which empowers the Minister of Labour to make regulations to secure that preference should be given, in the recruitment of persons for employment in the coal-mining industry, to those who had been previously employed therein. In view of the situation which had developed in the industry, the Minister, instead of making regulations under Section 18, accepted for the time being a voluntary undertaking by the Mining Association to carry out the intention of the Act; this undertaking came into force on 1st August, 1927. Returns rendered by the coal owners in accordance with this undertaking show that there has been general compliance with its terms; and the Employment Exchanges are assisting to an increasing extent in the movement of colliery labour from depressed areas to fill vacancies in other pits.

Some modifications have been made in the organisation of Employment Exchanges during the year, with a view to increasing their usefulness as placing agencies. The new scheme has already been introduced on Clydeside, Tyneside, Merseyside, and in the Inner London and Birmingham areas, where it has proved very successful; and it is being extended to other areas.

The numbers on the live registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain at the end of each month during the year 1927 varied from a maximum of 1,331,543 in January to a minimum of 985,513 in May. During the greater part of the five years 1923-1927, viz., in 43 out of the 60 months of the period, the figures only varied between 1,000,000 and 1,300,000.

* Cmd. 3090. H.M. Stationery Office: price 2s. 6d. net.

† See the issues of this GAZETTE for February, 1928, page 43, and for April, 1928, page 124.

‡ The last issue is Vol. VIII, containing Decisions 1169 to 1272, given by the Industrial Court in 1926. H.M. Stationery Office: price 6s. net.

The numbers of vacancies notified to Employment Exchanges and of vacancies filled were slightly smaller than in 1925, but considerably greater than in any other of the last five years, as will be seen from the following Table:—

	Vacancies Notified.	Vacancies Filled.
1923	1,056,970	893,713
1924	1,345,394	1,143,742
1925	1,480,820	1,279,292
1926	1,246,967	1,082,917
1927	1,436,052	1,252,707

Of the vacancies notified in 1927 rather more than half (724,856) were for men; 393,090 were for women; and 318,106 for juveniles. Of the vacancies filled, 671,627 were filled by men; 316,418 by women, and 264,662 by juveniles.

The trade groups in which the largest number of vacancies for men were filled were: Building; transport trades; general labourers; engineering; and construction of works, in the order named. These five groups covered rather more than half of the total number of men's vacancies filled. Other trade groups with more than 15,000 men's vacancies filled were: Manufacture of metals; shipbuilding; agriculture; cotton; mining and quarrying; and commercial occupations, in the order named.

The trade groups in which the largest number of women's vacancies were filled were: Domestic service; cotton; dress; miscellaneous textiles; commercial occupations. Domestic service alone accounted for over 40 per cent. of the women's vacancies filled.

The number of employers on the King's National Roll at the end of 1927 was 27,500; they were employing approximately 380,000 disabled ex-service men. The total number of disabled ex-service men forming part of the industrial community is approximately 400,000; and of these only 5 per cent. were unemployed at the end of December, 1927. This is considerably lower than the proportion of unemployment among the general insured population, showing that disabled ex-service men receive an appreciable preference in the matter of employment.

Other subjects dealt with in this section of the Report include Local Employment Committees; Port Registration Committees; oversea employment; admission of foreign workers under the Aliens Order, 1920; unemployment relief works, etc.

Unemployment Insurance.—The Committee on Unemployment Insurance, under the chairmanship of Lord Blanesburgh, reported on 31st January, 1927; and the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1927, which follows in the main the recommendations of the Blanesburgh Committee, received the Royal Assent on 22nd December, 1927.* The new Act came into force, with certain exceptions, on 19th April, 1928.

One result of the new Act will be that the work of the Local Employment Committees in respect of claims for "extended" and for dependants' benefit will come to an end; and the Report places on record the Ministry's appreciation of the services which have been rendered by the Committees in this connection. From the inception of uncoventanted benefit in 1921 up to the end of 1927, Committees have dealt with approximately 25,250,000 applications for unemployment benefit (including reviews), and with nearly 1,300,000 applications for dependants' benefit; and the Report acknowledges with gratitude the sympathetic and thorough consideration which has been bestowed upon cases often difficult and complicated.

No changes were made in the rates of contributions during the year; but arrangements were made in anticipation of the coming into force, on 2nd January, 1928, of the amendments to the Unemployment Insurance scheme included in the Widows', Orphans', and Old Age Contributory Pensions Act, 1925. Under this scheme the payment of contributions by employed persons ceased, from the date mentioned, on their attaining the age of 65; only the employer's part of the contribution is now payable in respect of such persons.

The income of the Unemployment Fund showed a slight increase during the year, and the expenditure a considerable decrease, as a result of the reduction in the number of persons unemployed. The debt of the Fund was increased during the year to the extent of £540,000, owing to interest charges on borrowings in 1926, caused by the large increase in claims following the dispute in the coal-mining industry. The debt of the Fund on 31st December, 1927, was £23,180,000, as compared with £22,640,000 on 31st December, 1926, and with £7,262,569 on 31st December, 1925.

The rest of this section deals with the administration of unemployment insurance under various headings. Appended to the section are reports of three specially important decisions of the Umpire.

Juveniles.—The numbers of boys and of girls in Great Britain in July, 1927, insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, excluding those under the special schemes for the banking and for the insurance industries, were 570,000 boys and 408,000 girls, an increase of 6,000 boys and of 7,000 girls as compared with July, 1926. The boys were employed in the largest numbers in the distributive trades, coal mining, building, engineering (including iron and steel founding), cotton, construction and repair of motor vehicles, and printing (including publishing and bookbinding), in that order. The list is the same as for 1926, except that "construction and repair of motor vehicles" now appears in the list of principal trades for boys, ahead of printing. For insured girls the principal trades were the distributive trades, cotton, tailoring, dress and mantle making, printing (including publishing and bookbinding), laundries (including dyeing and dry cleaning), and woollen and worsted.

* A notice of this Act appeared in the January, 1928, issue of this GAZETTE, page 6.

There was a steady fall during 1927 in the number of boys and girls unemployed. The percentage of insured juveniles unemployed (3.5) was markedly lower than that for insured adults, which was 10.2.

On the other hand, a shortage of suitable boys and girls was beginning to be experienced in some districts. The shortage of boys and girls for the spinning sections of the cotton and of the woollen and worsted trades continued. The hosiery trade in Leicestershire, and the boot and shoe manufacturing trade in the Midlands, reported a shortage of juvenile labour; while in London there was an increased shortage in the West End clothing trades and in better class shops and offices. Local shortages are being relieved to some extent by a redistribution of the juvenile working population; thus, boys and girls are travelling into Oxford, Coventry, and Leeds from the surrounding districts to work in the motor trade, in the silk and metal trades, and in the clothing factories, respectively.

The problem of the supply of juvenile labour in future years, owing to the great fall in the birth rate, has begun to attract public attention. According to the estimate of the Committees on Education and Industry, the number of juveniles available for employment is likely to fall from 2,175,000 in 1927 to 1,756,000 in 1933. The Ministry have therefore set on foot, through the Advisory Committees for Juvenile Employment and through the Local Education Authorities, a special inquiry into the redistribution of juvenile labour: reports have been asked for as to the probable extent of the shortage in certain districts and of the surpluses in others, and of the possibilities of transferring boys and girls from the depressed areas to the areas where there is an unsatisfied demand for juvenile labour.

In England and Wales the work of advising boys and girls up to the age of 18 on the choice of a career, and of placing them in suitable employment, is divided between the Ministry and the Local Education Authorities; in Scotland the Ministry is directly responsible in all areas except Edinburgh. The general supervision of this choice-of-employment work, however, whether carried on through Juvenile Advisory Committees or through Local Education Authorities, was transferred to the Ministry of Labour in September last, in accordance with the recommendation of the Committee on Education and Industry (England and Wales).

The number of vacancies for juveniles notified to Exchanges and to Juvenile Employment Bureaux during 1927 was 318,106, as compared with 266,021 in 1926; and the numbers of vacancies for boys and for girls filled during the year were 140,066 and 124,596, respectively, as compared with 114,872 and 105,353, respectively, in 1926.

Juvenile Unemployment Centres were continued in a number of areas. The maximum number of centres open was 87, during the week ended 23rd December, 1927; and the maximum attendance was reached in the week ended 14th January, 1927, when the average attendance was 7,139, and altogether 8,403 juveniles attended. Special efforts were made, in the later months of the year, to develop the organisation of such centres in the depressed mining areas (South Wales, Durham and Northumberland, and the south of Scotland).

This section of the Report also contains a summary of Part I of the Report of the Committee on Education and Industry (Scotland), and a statement of the policy of the Government in regard to the Reports of the two Committees on Education and Industry.

Trade Boards.—There was no change during the year in the list of trades to which the Trade Boards Acts are applied. During the year there were 54 meetings of full Trade Boards, and 156 meetings of various committees of the Boards; 19 Boards did not meet at all. The meetings of the Boards were chiefly occupied with questions of minimum rates. 38,574 learners, as compared with 30,177 in the previous year, were certificated by 20 Trade Boards; and 486 indentured apprentices, compared with 424 in the previous year, were registered with seven Trade Boards.

Arrears were claimed on behalf of 6,591 workers, or roughly 6.3 per cent. of the workpeople whose wages were examined by the Ministry's inspecting staff.

International Labour.—This section gives an account of the proceedings at the tenth Session of the International Labour Conference, held at Geneva in May and June, 1927, at which two draft Conventions and a draft Recommendation were adopted; also a questionnaire concerning minimum wage-fixing machinery, and a number of resolutions. Officers of the Ministry attended the four meetings of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office; and the Report contains a brief account of the proceedings at these meetings.

H.M. Government ratified during the year the draft Convention concerning simplification of inspection of emigrants on board ship: the ratification is to become operative when the Convention has been ratified by France, Germany, Holland, Italy, Norway, and Spain. H.M. Government have also notified their acceptance of the recommendation regarding the protection of emigrant women and girls on board ship.

Training Centres for Young Unemployed Men.—The Ministry has two farm training centres, at Claydon, near Ipswich, and at Brandon, at which training is given chiefly for oversea employment, though there is also accommodation for a number of "handymen" for home employment. The course of training, which was originally six months, was soon reduced to four months, and later to 16 weeks at Brandon and to nine weeks at Claydon. The training—which is carried on as far as possible under the conditions the men will find in Canada or in Australia, with implements, wagons and harness largely of Canadian and Australian types—is designed (i) to eliminate men who would not be likely to succeed in the Dominions, and (ii) to teach those who are found suitable the rudiments of certain farm operations; and it has been found valuable in both directions. The training scheme taps a supply of men from the towns who would

not be accepted, or would only be accepted in small numbers, without some such training; and the possibility of obtaining the training attracts a good type of men from the towns, who would not be prepared to embark upon farm work overseas without the training. The upper age limit for applicants has been raised from 25 to 35, the lower age limit remaining at 19.

The success of the experiment has been such as to justify some expansion, particularly in view of the desirability of training an increased proportion of miners from the distressed mining areas. With the additional accommodation now provided, each of the centres is capable of taking 250 men for overseas employment, and 50 "handymen" for home employment. In addition, two summer camps have been established on Crown land near Brandon. Training is being provided for 200 men at each of these camps.

The numbers of men admitted to, and trained at, the two centres up to the end of December, 1927, were as follows:—

		Claydon. Brandon.	
Number of men passed through centre:—			
Overseas	778	702	
Home training	459	121	
Wastage—dismissals, withdrawals, etc.	290	208	
Received training:—			
Overseas	617	518	
Home training	330	97	
Proceeded overseas	607	516	
Known to have obtained employment (home training)			
	289	49	

The two centres at Birmingham and at Wallsend each provide accommodation for 400 men, who are in training for home employment. It has been shown that the training produces a marked improvement in the men's physique and morale, that it increases their chances of getting work, and that the work they get is of a better type than what most of them would have got without the training. Notwithstanding the continued depression in trade, no less than 92 per cent. of the men trained were able to secure employment; and the records of the Birmingham centre show that 89 per cent. of the men trained there were still in employment at the end of December, 1927. The trades in which the men have been placed include building and other works of construction, furniture making and other woodworking trades, engineering and allied trades, including the manufacture and repair of motors and cycles, electrical trades, electro-plating, road construction, road transport, railway work, and a number of miscellaneous occupations.

The following Table shows the number of men admitted at these two centres up to the end of the year 1927:—

		Birmingham. Wallsend.	
Number of men passed through centre			
	2,194	1,745	
Wastage—dismissals, withdrawals, etc.			
	201	392	
Completed training, or found employment before completing full course			
	1,993	1,353	
Number of men known to have found employment			
	1,892	1,191	

At the end of 1927 it was decided to extend the facilities for training on this side also, and, having regard particularly to the needs of men from the distressed mining areas, to provide two additional centres, with accommodation for 200 men at each. These two centres—at Dudley and at Bristol—have been opened during the current year. The number of men in training at Bristol has now been raised to 400, and the number at Dudley to 300.

RECENT CHANGES IN THE AVERAGE LEVEL OF "REAL" WAGES.

In reply to a question in the House of Commons on 19th April, as to the increase or decrease of "real" wages in this country for the years 1924, 1925, 1926, and 1927, respectively, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Labour stated that the information in the possession of the Ministry of Labour is not sufficient to provide a satisfactory basis for precise computations as to the changes in real wages during the period referred to. The following Table, however, was supplied, giving (i) such estimates as are available with regard to the average level of rates of wages for a full ordinary week's work at the beginning of each of the years 1924-28 in relation to the corresponding level in July, 1914 (taken as 100); (ii) the average level of working-class cost of living at the same dates; and (iii) figures indicating the average relative level of real wages for a full week which would be obtained by combining the figures in columns (1) and (2) of the Table:—

	Rate of Wages on the Basis of a Normal Working Week.	Cost of Living.	Real Wages, i.e., Rates of Wages and Cost of Living combined.
	(1)	(2)	(3)
July, 1914	100	100	100
1st January, 1924	165-170	177	93-96
" 1925	170-175	180	94-97
" 1926	175	175	100
" 1927	175	175	100
" 1928	170-175	168	101-104

The figures as to wages represent only approximate estimates arrived at after consideration of such data as are available, relating

almost wholly to those industries, or sections of industries, in which organised arrangements exist for the negotiation of changes in wage rates on a collective basis. The cost-of-living figures are those regularly calculated by the Ministry of Labour as to the average changes in the cost of maintaining the pre-war standard of living of working-class families. In view of the incompleteness of the data on which the estimates as to changes in wages rates are based, and of the fact that these estimates represent averages of conditions varying widely among different classes of workpeople, the figures given in the final column should not be regarded as affording more than a very general indication of the average movement of real wages, on the assumption of a full week's work. It should be noted that the figures relate to rates of wages and not to earnings. For those in employment, earnings have increased in a greater proportion than rates of wages as compared with 1914, owing to the greater prevalence of piece-work and for other reasons; but this greater increase of earnings is offset to some extent by the higher general average of unemployment.

NUMBER OF PERSONS REGISTERED AT EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES IN GREAT BRITAIN, OCTOBER, 1927, TO MAY, 1928.

In the issue of this GAZETTE for October (page 371), a statement was published bringing up to that date the record of the number of persons registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain in each week from 7th January, 1921, to 3rd October, 1927. In the Table below the series is continued to the latest date for which figures are available:—

Date.	Number.	Date.	Number.
1927:			
Oct. 10th	1,073,000	1928:	
17th	1,071,296	Feb. 6th	1,162,153
24th	1,074,032	13th	1,189,772
31st	1,106,057	20th	1,136,687
Nov. 7th	1,111,651	27th	1,108,676
14th	1,125,735	Mar. 5th	1,094,452
21st	1,126,254	12th	1,071,735
28th	1,145,230	19th	1,066,077
Dec. 5th	1,149,648	26th	1,033,845
12th	1,125,223	Apr. 2nd	1,041,935
19th	1,100,052	9th	No figures available.
26th	No figures available.	16th	1,083,774
1928:			
Jan. 2nd	1,336,303	23rd	1,062,285
9th	1,232,069	30th	1,136,003
16th	1,193,813	May 7th	1,103,822
23rd	1,178,750		
30th	1,168,941		

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS IN EMPLOYMENT.

In the Table below figures are given showing the results of an attempt to arrive at an approximate estimate of the number of insured persons in employment in Great Britain at 23rd April, 1928, with comparative figures for 23rd January, 20th February, and 26th March. The method by which the estimates have been computed is explained in the March issue of this GAZETTE, pages 81 and 82.

Date.	Estimated Total Insured, aged 16-64, (provisional figures).	Number Un-employed.	Difference (to nearest hundred).	Estimated Number in Employment, after allowing for sickness, etc. (A) including persons directly involved in Trade Disputes; (B) excluding such persons.	
				(A)	(B)
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
1928.					
23rd Jan.	11,590,000	1,227,435	10,362,600	9,957,000	9,954,000
20th Feb.	11,599,000	1,195,131	10,403,900	9,997,900	9,992,900
26th Mar.	11,608,000	1,095,858	10,512,100	10,105,800	10,100,800
23rd April	11,617,000	1,093,158	10,523,800	10,117,200	10,116,200

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION IN 1927.

The issues of the *Board of Trade Journal* for 22nd and 29th March, and for 12th and 19th April, give statistics of the emigration and immigration of British subjects during the year 1927, with some particulars of the occupations and ages of the migrants.

The number of British subjects who were recorded as leaving permanent residence in Great Britain and Northern Ireland to take up permanent residence (*i.e.*, residence for a year or more) in non-European countries was 153,505 in 1927, as compared with 166,601 in 1926 and with 140,594 in 1925. The number of British subjects who were recorded as leaving permanent residence in non-European countries to take up permanent residence in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was 55,715 in 1927, as compared with 51,065 in 1926 and with 56,335 in 1925.

The following Table shows the numbers of emigrants of British nationality from Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the principal countries in each of the last two years:—

Country of Future Permanent Residence.	1926.	1927.
British North America	49,632	52,916
Australia	44,513	40,991
New Zealand	16,565	7,841
Other parts of British Empire	21,596	20,985
Totals, British Empire	132,306	122,733
United States	28,740	25,662
Other Foreign Countries	5,555	5,110
Totals, All Destinations	166,601	153,505

Occupations.—The figures summarised in the following Table relate to British subjects of 18 years of age and upwards,* who left Great Britain or Northern Ireland to take up permanent residence in non-European countries, or who entered Great Britain or Northern Ireland from non-European countries to take up permanent residence:—

Occupations.	Emigrants from Great Britain and Northern Ireland.		Immigrants into Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	
	1926.	1927.	1926.	1927.
Males (18 years and over)*:—				
Agricultural	14,238	14,460	2,202	2,581
Commercial, finance and insurance	9,798	10,205	3,738	4,454
Professional	3,492	2,934	2,346	2,497
Skilled trades:—				
Mining and quarrying	5,558	3,802	562	693
Metal and engineering	8,876	7,806	2,459	2,732
Building	1,189	1,394	322	351
Other	6,711	5,543	1,854	2,305
Transport and communications	2,584	2,398	780	955
Labourers not in agriculture or transport	4,989	5,057	1,094	1,190
Other and ill-defined occupations	7,401	7,142	3,653	4,085
Total, males	64,636	60,741	19,010	21,843
Females (18 years and over)*:—				
Domestic, hotel, etc., service	13,422	13,219	2,909	2,423
Commercial, finance and insurance	3,644	3,341	803	856
Professional	2,917	2,987	1,640	2,026
Clothing trades	1,551	1,094	227	214
Wife or housewife (not otherwise described)	28,365	25,502	11,223	12,366
Other and ill-defined occupations	7,279	6,775	3,997	4,211
Total, females	57,178	52,918	20,799	22,096

Age Groups.—The following Table shows the number of British male and female emigrants and immigrants, from and to Great Britain and Northern Ireland, during the years 1926 and 1927, divided into seven age-groups:—

Age Groups. (Ages at last birthday.)	Emigrants from Great Britain and Northern Ireland.		Immigrants into Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	
	1926.	1927.	1926.	1927.
Males:—				
Under 12 years	14,906	12,981	4,643	4,902
12 to 17 "	9,862	9,452	932	967
18 to 20 "	8,183	7,886	809	981
21 to 25 "	17,208	17,323	2,638	3,289
26 to 30 "	12,596	12,062	3,189	3,990
31 to 45 "	18,352	16,445	7,064	7,820
46 years and over	8,160	6,937	5,232	5,710
Total, males*	89,404	83,174	24,585	27,712
Females:—				
Under 12 years	14,164	12,236	4,596	4,886
12 to 17 "	5,855	5,177	1,083	1,021
18 to 20 "	4,856	4,828	688	797
21 to 25 "	11,091	10,721	2,249	2,350
26 to 30 "	12,291	11,313	3,751	3,940
31 to 45 "	19,455	17,510	8,189	8,765
46 years and over	9,400	8,451	5,843	6,214
Total, females*	77,197	70,331	26,478	28,003

The net excess of emigration from Great Britain and Northern Ireland over immigration thereto was 97,790 in 1927 and 115,538 in 1926. The excess in each age-group is shown below:—

Age Groups. (Ages at last birthday.)	Excess of Emigrants over Immigrants.			
	Males.		Females.	
	1926.	1927.	1926.	1927.
Under 12 years	10,263	8,079	9,568	7,350
12 to 17 "	8,930	8,485	4,772	4,156
18 to 20 "	7,374	6,905	4,168	4,031
21 to 25 "	14,570	14,034	8,842	8,391
26 to 30 "	9,407	8,072	8,540	7,373
31 to 45 "	11,288	8,625	11,266	8,745
46 years and over	2,928	1,227	3,557	2,237
Total*	64,819	55,462	50,719	42,328

* Inclusive of a small number of migrants of 12 years of age and over whose ages were not specified.

STATE-AIDED SETTLEMENT OVERSEAS.

A Review for 1927.

ACCORDING to the Report of the Oversea Settlement Committee for 1927,* the total number of British settlers who were assisted, under the Empire Settlement Act, to go overseas in 1927 was 63,027 (of whom 20,169 were men, 18,010 women, and 24,848 children), as compared with 65,530 in 1926 and with 39,529 in 1925. The following Table shows the total of departures under the Empire Settlement Act to the several Dominions in each of the years 1925, 1926, and 1927:—

	1925.	1926.	1927.
Canada	8,779	20,862	29,244
Australia	22,527	32,678	29,132
New Zealand	8,097	11,795	4,446
South Africa	126	195	205
Total	39,529	65,530	63,027

It will be seen that there was a slight decline in the departures to Australia in 1927 as compared with 1926, a great decline in the departures to New Zealand, and a considerable increase in the departures to Canada. The decrease in assisted migration to New Zealand is attributed to some local unemployment in that Dominion, consequent on a temporary setback to prosperity due to difficulties in connection with the marketing of New Zealand butter and other products.

The Oversea Settlement Committee take the opportunity of the completion of the first five years of the operation of the Empire Settlement Act to examine the causes which have prevented a larger transfer of population from this country to the Dominions under the provisions of the Act. These hindrances they find to a certain extent in unsatisfactory trade conditions, and in the improvement of social conditions in this country through schemes of social insurance. But the chief adverse factor is stated as being that the Dominions, for the most part, restrict the benefits made available by the Act to farm workers and household helps, classes especially welcomed in the Dominions, but which can ill be spared by us. The Committee are of the opinion that the opposition on the part of the Oversea Governments to state-aided immigration on a large scale is based on the fear that a too rapid increase of population might tend to congest the labour market, and thus bring about a fall in wages and an increase in unemployment.

ARTIFICIAL HUMIDITY IN COTTON CLOTH FACTORIES.

THE Departmental Committee, appointed by the Home Secretary in November, 1924, "to consider and report whether any, and if so, what modifications of the existing statutory regulations governing the use of artificial humidity in cotton cloth factories are desirable and practicable" have presented their Report.†

The Committee state that they are satisfied that, contrary to past allegation, there is no evidence that employment in humid sheds gives rise to more sickness than does employment in non-humid sheds, or *vice versa*. At the same time they point out that, so far as working conditions are concerned, the present distinction between "wet" and "dry" sheds appears, in many cases, to be of legal rather than of real significance; and they consider that any amendment of the Regulations should be framed to deal with those sheds in which there are extreme conditions, whether the sheds are "humid" or "dry." They are satisfied that the total abolition of the use of artificial humidification would add to the difficulties of a portion of the trade by increasing the cost of manufacturing certain cloths in this country. Foreign competition in the classes of goods concerned is at present of relatively small dimensions; but any serious restriction placed upon manufacturers in this country which is not shared by their competitors will greatly increase the effect of such competition. The Committee are satisfied that a certain amount of humidity is necessary in weaving, and think there should be no objection to the introduction of humidity by artificial means, provided it is subjected to proper control.

The chief problem is to reconcile the temperature and humidity required by the process with those necessary for the health and comfort of the worker; and the Committee go on to suggest a number of improvements in the existing Codes of Regulations, keeping these two points in view. They recommend, *inter alia*, that artificial humidification shall cease when the wet-bulb reading of the hygrometer exceeds 72½ degrees, instead of 75 degrees, as at present; and that all work shall cease when the average wet-bulb reading of all the hygrometers in any weaving shed exceeds 80 degrees. Other suggested changes in the Regulations are concerned with ventilation, minimum temperature at commencement of work, whitewashing of windows, cloak-room accommodation, etc.

* Cmd. 3088. H.M. Stationery Office; price 9d. net.
† H.M. Stationery Office; price 1s. 3d. net. A summary of the results of an investigation carried out for the Committee by the Industrial Fatigue Research Board appeared in the July, 1926, issue of this GAZETTE, page 247.

APPRENTICESHIP AND TRAINING INQUIRY.

THE sixth volume of the Report of the Ministry of Labour on the Inquiry made in 1925 and 1926 into Apprenticeship and Training for the Skilled Occupations in Great Britain and Northern Ireland has recently been published.* The volume deals with the engineering, shipbuilding and ship-repairing industries, railway workshops, railway carriage and wagon building, light castings, forging and drop stamping, sheet metal working, motor body building, scientific instrument manufacture, cutlery manufacture, edge tool manufacture, certain other miscellaneous metal industries, and the precious metal industries.

The Report describes the conditions of apprenticeship and learnership training in the various industries, as disclosed by the returns received from a considerable number of representative employers and from the principal trade unions.

The Report details the methods of recruitment of boys and girls; the ages at which they commence apprenticeship and learnership; the numbers of indentured apprentices, of apprentices under verbal agreement, and of learners; the premiums paid; the duration of apprenticeship and learnership; methods of factory and workshop training; provisions for technical education; wages, and other conditions of apprenticeship and learnership. Summaries are also included of the various provisions affecting apprentices and learners contained in collective agreements arrived at between employers' associations and trade unions, and in trade union rules.

The few general apprenticeship schemes which are in operation or have been recommended for adoption are described at some length, and copies of model indentures and of those in use in some of the more important engineering and shipbuilding firms are also included.

Extent of Apprenticeship and Learnership.—The total number of male apprentices and learners covered by the returns was 92,871, of whom the great majority (86,339) were in the engineering, shipbuilding, and light castings industries, and in the principal railway workshops. These do not, of course, represent the total number of apprentices in the industries concerned, since the inquiry was made by way of sample; but the sample taken was substantial, covering, for example, between 55 and 60 per cent. of male workpeople in the engineering industry, and 72 per cent. in shipbuilding.

Apprenticeship is still the method most usually adopted for the recruitment of boys for the skilled occupations in the larger industries. Thus, of the 92,871 boys in training included in the returns, nearly four-fifths were apprentices, and little more than one-fifth learners. In engineering, three-quarters, and in shipbuilding, practically all, of the boys in training were apprentices. In some of the smaller metal industries, however, learnership is more usual than apprenticeship, as for example, in railway carriage and wagon building, in cutlery and edge tool making, and in the several industries to which the provisions of the Trade Boards Acts have been applied; the same is true of some districts even as regards the larger industries, learnership being almost as common as apprenticeship in the engineering industry at Leeds and in the North and West Midlands; while in London there are more than twice as many learners as apprentices in engineering firms.

A large majority of the firms making returns in the shipbuilding and in the engineering industries reported that they took apprentices. In the smaller metal industries only a minority of the firms take apprentices.

Character of Apprenticeship Agreements.—Apprenticeship is usually served under verbal agreement, but indentures figure largely in certain industries; thus in engineering, about one-quarter of the apprentices, and in shipbuilding, more than a half of the apprentices, are indentured.

Premiums.—Premium apprenticeship is relatively rare, except in shipbuilding firms in the Mersey and Barrow district and in Northern Ireland. Some engineering firms also require premiums from apprentices (frequently those who enter as "pupil" or "student" apprentices).

Methods of Recruitment.—The selection of boys for the skilled occupations is made largely from among relatives of the workers in each industry. Many boys are recruited through the Juvenile Employment Exchanges, or upon the recommendation of Juvenile Employment Committees and similar bodies, of schoolmasters, or of workers already employed in the industries concerned; a very large number of boys in each industry are recruited from casual applicants and by advertisement.

The type of boy engaged is usually that of the intelligent and physically strong elementary school boy; but some firms prefer to select their apprentices from among boys who have attended secondary or technical schools, or who possess some academic certificate or diploma. This higher standard is, however, a comparatively rare requirement, except in the case of boys who are trained as "pupil" or "student" apprentices for professional or supervisory positions in such industries as engineering and shipbuilding, and in the case of apprentices in certain occupations (e.g., in the scientific instrument making and precious metal industries).

Most of the employers' associations who have given their opinion on the point consider that the present arrangements for recruiting and training boys produce an adequate supply of skilled workers for the industries concerned. Where individual employers have experienced difficulty in obtaining apprentices or learners, they have generally attributed them to such causes as the reluctance of boys to be bound for long periods of training, or the superior wage-earning attractions of semi-skilled, unskilled, or "blind-alley" occupations

* H.M. Stationery Office; price 7s. 6d. net.

in other industries, or to the comparatively low rate of journeymen's wages, and to the poor prospects in industries which have suffered from long periods of depression.

Probationary Periods.—It is the practice of many firms in the principal industries covered by the Report to make the retention of boys as apprentices or learners dependent upon their progress during a probationary period of actual service, this period being considered part of the agreed training term for those who are retained.

Age at Commencement of Apprenticeship and Learnership.—Apprentices and learners in these industries usually commence their training at 14, 15, or 16 years of age, the majority commencing at 14 or 16 years. In the engineering and shipbuilding industries generally the predominant commencing age is 16 years; but 14 years is usual for apprentices in certain districts and in some occupations of these industries, and also for apprentices in other industries, such as light castings, motor body building, gas meter manufacture, precious metals, etc.

Relatively few boys enter upon their training at a later age than 16 years.

Period of Apprenticeship and Learnership.—The periods of apprenticeship and learnership are largely determined according to the age at which boys commence their training, and usually conclude at the age of 21 years, rarely extending beyond that age. The periods most commonly served are five and seven years, coinciding usually, but by no means invariably, with commencing ages of 16 and 14 years, respectively; a noteworthy exception is that of apprentices in the light castings industry, who usually commence at 14 years of age and serve for 5 years. On the whole, five years is the period which predominates.

Improvership.—Upon concluding their apprenticeship or learnership, boys in many occupations are called upon to serve a period of improvership, during which further practical experience must be gained prior to their being paid the full journeymen's rates of wages appropriate to their occupations. In the engineering, railway carriage and wagon building, and light castings industries, improvership periods are customary; but in shipbuilding and in certain other industries, such as gas meter making and cutlery manufacture, relatively small proportions of the boys serve such a period. The length of improvership varies generally between six months and two years; but in most industries and occupations the usual period is twelve months.

Wages of Apprentices and Learners.—The rates of wages paid to apprentices and learners in these industries cover wide ranges, both in the first and in the last years of training. Little uniformity appears in the occupational rates paid, either between industry and industry or between firm and firm in the same industry, except in such industries as light castings, in which wages have been fixed for various occupations by general collective agreement; lock, latch and key manufacture, in which the wages paid conform closely to those fixed by a Joint Industrial Council; and in the several industries for which scales of minimum wages have been fixed for learners or other juvenile workers by Orders under the Trade Boards Acts. Frequently there is a uniform scale of wages for apprentices or learners in the same firm; while in certain districts boys are paid in accordance with scales determined by local collective agreements or recognised by local employers' associations.

The usual range of wages during the first year of apprenticeship (covering the rates paid to 75 per cent. of the apprentices in all occupations in each industry) is very wide—from 3s. to 27s. per week; but most apprentices in the larger industries receive rates which fall within a range of 7s. 6d. to 16s. per week. In the engineering industry generally the usual range is from 8s. to 12s.; in shipbuilding, 8s. to 12s. 9d.; in railway workshops, 7s. 6d. to 17s. 6d.; but a much higher level is shown for apprentices in wire drawing (10s. to 27s. per week), and in the light castings industry (12s. to 15s. 10d. per week).

The usual range of wages in all the industries dealt with in the Report during the last year of apprenticeship is from 10s. to 50s. per week, but in the individual industries the ranges are usually much narrower. Thus the usual range in shipbuilding is from 17s. 6d. to 24s. 6d. per week, in the light castings industry 33s. to 39s. per week, and in the engineering industry 20s. to 32s. per week.

The wages of learners during both first and last years of training usually exhibit a higher level than those of apprentices in the same industries and occupations, especially in certain of the smaller industries.

In those industries in which an improvership period is commonly served, the rates of wages paid during this period and the methods of calculating these rates are very varied; but in engineering, for example, it is common for ex-apprentices who are serving a twelve months' improvership to receive from 10s. to 15s. 6d. per week less than the appropriate journeyman's rate, with increments every three or six months until the full rate is attained; in shipbuilding the improvership rates often are 75 per cent. of the full rates, rising to 85 per cent. in the second six months; in the light castings industry, rates varying from 38s. to 54s. per week are commonly paid. In the last-named industry and in others, such as motor body building, gas-meter making, and edge-tool manufacture, many apprentices and learners are transferred to piecework either during or prior to the last year of apprenticeship or learnership.

Collective Agreements.—Such collective agreements between associations of employers and workers as contain provisions with regard to the conditions of apprenticeship or learnership are of somewhat limited application. Thus in the engineering and shipbuilding industries there are no collective agreements of any importance on this subject.

There are, however, agreements of a comprehensive character, which include provisions relating to apprenticeship, in the light castings industry, in heating and domestic engineering, in ship-repairing, and in steel pen manufacture.

The provisions of other agreements affecting apprenticeship vary greatly both in terms and in application. Some (e.g., those covering the wire-drawing and the precious metal industries) determine all the main conditions of service—the limits of commencing age, periods of apprenticeship and improvership, the proportion of apprentices to journeymen, and rates of wages; others specify only one or two of these conditions, e.g., rates of wages during improvership. In such cases, the period of apprenticeship agreed upon is generally five years, while the prescribed ratio of apprentices to journeymen is in most instances 1 to 3, 1 to 4, or 1 to 5.

Special Apprenticeship Schemes.—The comparative rarity of general collective agreements dealing with the conditions of apprenticeship is to some extent offset by the provision of special apprenticeship schemes, such as those prepared and recommended to their members by the River Thames Dry Dock Proprietors' and Ship Repairers' Association, the Hull Iron Trades Employers' Association, and the National Federation of Vehicle Trades. These schemes are described at some length in the Report.

Workshop Training and Technical Instruction.—The principal method of training apprentices and learners adopted in most industries is to place the boys under the supervision or instruction of journeymen. In some of the larger works special teachers are appointed to teach apprentices, or there is a special "nursery" in which apprentices learn the rudiments of their respective trades. The actual training given, and its order and progression, differ largely according to the type and size of firm; but training is usually confined to the particular trade or occupation of each boy, though it is not in some cases restricted to the work of a single department in a firm.

Very few firms insist upon apprentices or learners supplementing their workshop training by attendance at technical or trade classes, but such attendance is generally encouraged, special inducements (time off without loss of pay, prizes, merit bonuses, etc.) being offered by many firms. A few firms, mainly in the engineering and shipbuilding industries and the principal railway companies, have established technical classes for boys on their own premises.

In a number of firms (e.g., in the shipbuilding and engineering industries) apprentices are trained on the "sandwich system," spending alternate periods at a university or technical college and in the works.

The character and extent of the facilities offered by local education authorities and other bodies for technical instruction in connection with the various occupations and manufacturing processes of the industries dealt with in the Report are noted.

Girl Apprentices and Learners.—The Report also details the conditions of recruitment and training of girl apprentices and learners. There are few girl apprentices in any of these industries, and the majority of girl learners employed in firms whose returns are summarised in the Report are engaged in scientific instrument making, and in those industries in which labour conditions are governed by Orders under the Trade Boards Acts.

In addition, the Report contains an exhaustive analysis of the rules of trade unions, and of all the known collective agreements, so far as they affect apprenticeship.

SURVEY OF METAL INDUSTRIES.

THE Committee on Industry and Trade have issued a Survey of the Metal Industries,* as Part IV. of their "Survey of Industries."†

The present volume deals with the iron and steel, engineering, electrical manufacturing, shipbuilding, and coal-mining industries. It describes the conditions under which each of these industries has grown up; the development of its main branches, as measured by numbers employed, volume and value of production, and overseas trade; the structure and organisation of the industry; its situation with regard to raw materials, research, standardisation, selling organisations, international agreements, etc.; and its position in regard to competition, both in overseas markets and at home.

Iron and Steel.—Great Britain outstripped all other countries put together in output of pig iron until the later 1870's; but thereafter the iron and steel industry developed so rapidly abroad, particularly in the United States, in Germany, and in certain other Continental countries, that in 1913 production in Great Britain, though greater than in any previous year, represented less than one-seventh of the world's output of pig iron, and little more than one-tenth of the world's output of steel. The Committee point out the advantage which the foreign competitors of this country have enjoyed through the later development of the industry in their respective countries in that they have been able to start with the most modern plant and technique. Reference is also made to later developments, during and since the War, both in this country and abroad. These developments have taken place both in plant and technique, and also in organisation, as shown, for example, in the formation of the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, in the growth of giant undertakings, of terminable agreements and associations, and of buying and selling organisations; in the development of costings

* H.M. Stationery Office; price 5s. net.

† Part I was entitled "Factors in Industrial and Commercial Efficiency," and Part II "Further Factors in Industrial and Commercial Efficiency." (H.M. Stationery Office; price 5s. and 3s. 6d. net, respectively). Notices of these volumes appeared in the issues of this GAZETTE for February, 1927 (page 49), and for April, 1928 (pages 123-4). Part III, which will consist of a Survey of the Textile Industries, will be published later in the present month.

systems, in the supply and training of technical staff and of labour. The sliding scale of wages, which is general in the industry, trade union organisation, and the adoption of the eight-hour shift system are also considered. In conclusion, the question of the ability of the British iron and steel industry to compete in the international market is discussed.

Engineering.—This chapter deals more specifically with mechanical, as distinct from electrical, engineering. The Committee refer to the fluctuations of employment in recent years; the relation between the numbers of men and of women employed, and between the numbers of workpeople of different degrees of skill; the effect of the post-war reduction in hours; and the relations between employers and workpeople. The latter part of the chapter is devoted to a discussion of particular branches of the industry (agricultural machinery, locomotive building, the manufacture of automobiles and cycles, and cutlery and files) under the following headings:—development, magnitude and output; organisation; efficiency; standardisation and mass production; research; selling arrangements; import duties; trade associations; international trade.

If the post-war years 1924 and 1925 be compared with the year 1913, there was a very severe falling off in the exports of agricultural machinery from this country. (The United States dominate the world market for agricultural machinery, as before the War.) On the other hand, the United Kingdom occupied the first place in 1925 as an exporter of boilers and boiler house plant, prime movers, rail locomotives, and textile machinery, and (on a weight basis, though not in value) of sewing machines. In motor cycles this country has a material lead over the United States, its only serious competitor; it also leads in cycles. In motors, the exports from this country have shown a vigorous upward trend since the War; and, in 1926 and 1927, they exceeded for the first time the retained imports.

Electrical Manufacturing.—Great Britain at first lagged behind other important countries, notably Germany and the United States, in the consumption of electricity, partly owing to the unsatisfactory legislative provisions under which the industry was then carried on, and partly owing to the fact that, when the great development in the application of electrical power to industry began, this country had already become highly industrialised on a basis of steam power. Since the war, however, great progress has been made in this country, so much so that, whereas in 1913 Germany had a position of outstanding predominance, in recent years the exports of Great Britain, the United States, and Germany were about equal, and in 1925 the lead passed to this country.

Certain branches of the electrical manufacturing industry (cable making, telephone manufacture, electric lamp manufacture, and miscellaneous electrical products) are discussed under headings similar to those stated above for general engineering.

Shipbuilding.—In the days of wooden sailing vessels, that is, until the middle of the last century, the British shipbuilding industry held by no means a predominant position; but, on the introduction of the mechanically propelled iron vessel, the United Kingdom at once became by far the greatest builder of such vessels. In the years 1909 to 1913 the United Kingdom launched about three-fifths of the total tonnage of the world; practically the whole of the construction for British owners was in the hands of British builders, who, in addition, were building more than a quarter of all the vessels built for foreign owners. They also received numerous orders for warship construction.

During and since the war great changes have taken place, and the British share of world output fell from an average of 60 per cent. in the years 1909 to 1913 to about 35 per cent. in the years 1920-21, and about 47 per cent. in the period 1922-26. This last period (1922-26) was a time of very severe depression; in two years of this period, 1923 and 1926, the launchings in this country fell to the lowest figure known for thirty years. There was a noticeable improvement, however, in 1927. The effect of the depression upon employment and wages is traced. Reference is made to the problem of "demarcation" (i.e., to the difficulties that arise when certain classes of work are claimed by rival bodies of workpeople), and certain suggested solutions are mentioned.

Coal Mining.—The Committee had originally intended to include coal mining among the industries to be investigated by them; but, in view of the circumstances of the industry since 1924, and particularly the appointment of the Royal Commission on the Coal Industry in 1925, they have not taken any evidence regarding it. They have, however, arranged for a summary of the Report* of the Royal Commission to be prepared by the Mines Department: this occupies about 70 pages of the present survey, and is preceded by an introductory section, prepared by the Committee, and supplemented by some information as to developments since the Report was issued.

In the introductory section the Committee refer to the exceptional dependence of this country upon the export trade in coal: except in one or two post-war years the exports from this country have usually exceeded the combined exports of all the rest of the world. Hence the heavy post-war decline in British exports, and the decline in the British share in world production and consumption, have seriously affected the fortunes of the British coal industry. Other circumstances troubling the coal industry, in this and in other countries, have been the difficulty and cost of mining, which have long been increasing; the rising standard of living, particularly among miners; the increased efficiency in the use of coal (which, of course, reduces the amount required), and the competition of oil fuel and of hydro-electric power. The Committee conclude their introductory note with a brief reference to the industrial disputes, which have been of more serious importance in the coal industry than in any other, culminating in the prolonged stoppage of 1926.

* Cmd. 2600. H.M. Stationery Office; price 3d. net. A brief notice of this Report appeared in the March, 1926, issue of this GAZETTE, pages 80-81.

LABOUR DISPUTES ABROAD IN 1927.

IRISH FREE STATE.*

During 1927, there occurred in the Irish Free State 53 industrial disputes involving 2,312 workpeople and causing a loss of 64,020 working days. These are the smallest numbers of industrial disputes, workpeople involved and working days lost in the Irish Free State since 1922, the first year for which separate statistics were collected. Of the 55 disputes (two from 1926) which terminated in 1927, 14 ended in favour of the workers, 17 in favour of the employers, 17 in a compromise, and 7 had indeterminate results. Settlement was reached by direct negotiation between the parties in 38 disputes, by voluntary conciliation in 10 cases, and 7 were terminated without successful negotiation by any party. The most important disputes, in so far as the number of working days lost is concerned, occurred in the textile industry in which there were three disputes affecting 806 workpeople and involving a loss of 28,602 working days.

CANADA.†

The total number of disputes in Canada in 1927 was 79, affecting 22,683 workers and resulting in a loss of 165,288 working days. In only two years since 1901 has the number of working days lost been lower than in 1927, viz., in 1902, 120,940, and in 1915, 106,149 working days. Of the above 79 disputes, 21 terminated in favour of the workers, 33 in favour of the employers, 15 were terminated by a compromise, and 10 were either without definite result or remained unterminated. Thirty-five disputes were settled by negotiations between the parties, 7 by conciliation or mediation, one by reference to a Board under the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act, 1907, 17 by the voluntary return of the workers, 15 by replacement of the workers, and the method of settlement of the remaining 4 disputes was indefinite. The most important disputes, so far as numbers involved and days lost were concerned, occurred in the Nova Scotia coal fields (where 6 disputes affected 11,027 workpeople and involved a loss of 40,555 working days), and in the building industry in Toronto (where a carpenters' dispute and a strike of other building workers in sympathy with the carpenters involved 1,527 workers and a loss of 30,000 working days).

NEW ZEALAND.‡

During 1927, there occurred in New Zealand 36 disputes affecting 4,384 workers, as compared with 59 disputes in 1926 affecting 6,264 workers. The total number of working days lost in 1927 amounted to 10,395; no exact figure is available for 1926, but it is estimated at about 33,000 days. The approximate loss in wages was £9,788 in 1927, and £32,355 in 1926. The most important group of disputes occurred in the coal mining industry in both years; in 1926, there were in this industry 25 disputes involving 4,159 workers, and resulting in an approximate loss of £17,647 in wages; and, in 1927, there were 14 disputes affecting 3,109 workers with a resultant loss of 5,835 working days and approximately £5,875 in wages.

INDIA.

The *Bombay Labour Gazette* for March, 1928, contained information extracted from a statistical bulletin, published by the Department of Industries and Labour for India, showing that, during 1927, there were in India 129 industrial disputes affecting 131,655 workers and resulting in a loss of 2,019,970 working days. For 1926, the corresponding figures were 128 disputes involving 186,811 workers and a loss of 1,097,478 working days.

In 1927, 61 disputes were in respect of wages demands, 36 in respect of questions concerning the employment of particular classes or persons, 5 in respect of leave and hours, whilst the remaining 27 arose from other causes. In 15 disputes, the workers were successful, in 32 cases the result was a compromise, and in 79 cases the workers were unsuccessful, whilst 3 disputes were unterminated at 31st December, 1927. The industries chiefly affected were: cotton, 60 disputes and 350,011 working days lost; jute, 11 disputes and 234,715 working days lost, and railways (including railway workshops), 3 disputes and 1,250,421 working days lost; two strikes on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway alone accounted for a loss of 880,218 working days.

GERMANY.

Provisional statistics§ relating to strikes and lock-outs in Germany in 1927 indicate a recrudescence of labour disputes during that year. Between 1922 (the peak year for labour disputes in Germany) and 1926 (the figures for which were the lowest recorded since 1919) there was a progressive decline in the figures, but this downward tendency ceased in 1927, as will be seen from the following comparative Table:—

	1926.	1927.
Number of disputes (strikes and lock-outs)...	365	770
Number of undertakings affected	2,872	8,842
Number of persons on strike, locked out or suspended by reason of disputes ...	96,509	401,298
Number of working days lost ...	1,404,875	4,618,836

* *Irish Trade Journal*, February, 1928. Dublin.

† *Canada Labour Gazette*, February, 1928. Ottawa.

‡ *Monthly Abstract of Statistics*, February, 1927, and January, 1928. Wellington.

§ *Wirtschaft und Statistik*, No. 7, 1928. Berlin.

In 1927, there was a considerably larger number of strikes than of lock-outs, the respective figures being 674 and 96, this disparity extending, to a smaller extent, to the number of undertakings affected (6,924 and 1,918). On the other hand, the number of persons affected by strikes during that year was 187,687, as against a total of 213,611 locked out; while 2,442,694 working days were lost by reason of strikes as against 2,176,142 on account of lock-outs.

Disputes over wages (particularly in the textile, mining and tobacco industries) caused the largest number of strikes and lock-outs in 1927, while questions of working hours (principally in the mechanical engineering and pottery industries) also resulted in a large number of disputes. Detailed statistics are, however, not yet available in regard to the causes and results of the disputes recorded in 1927.

AUSTRIA.*

In 1927, there were, in Austria, 189 strikes and 21 lock-outs affecting together 516 undertakings, as compared with 186 strikes and 18 lock-outs in 1926, affecting together 737 undertakings. The total numbers of workers affected by strikes and lock-outs respectively were 27,803 and 6,531 (18,624 and 3,319 in 1926) and the number of days lost through strikes was 475,857, and through lock-outs 209,851 (232,944 and 64,740 in 1926). The increases are accounted for partly by the size of the undertakings affected, and partly by the fact that 38 of the disputes, involving relatively large numbers of workers, lasted for more than 30 days. Of the total number of strikes, 143 affecting 21,906 workers (79 per cent.) were due to wages questions.

The highest aggregate of days lost through strikes and lock-outs occurred in the metal industry, the next highest in the clothing industry.

Of the total number of strikes, 86.8 per cent. were successful (24.9 per cent. completely, the remainder partially) and 13.2 per cent. were unsuccessful.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA.†

During 1927, there occurred in Czechoslovakia 198 industrial disputes which affected 170,702 workers employed in 3,469 undertakings and resulted in a loss of 1,395,024 working days. Corresponding statistics for 1926 were: 150 disputes, 37,267 workers affected, 601 undertakings involved and 464,383 working days lost.

The industries most seriously affected were building (27 disputes, 358,225 working days lost), textiles (23 disputes, 335,070 days lost) stone and clay industry (45 disputes, 230,459 days lost), and the clothing industry (13 disputes, 138,962 days lost).

The principal causes of disputes were wages (116 disputes, 1,198,493 days lost) and engagement and dismissal of workers (32 disputes, 24,247 days lost).

From the workers' point of view 24 disputes terminated successfully, 92 were compromised and 51 were unsuccessful.

The statistics of workers affected by disputes and of working days lost given above include those workers who were rendered idle as a result of the disputes and the number of working days lost by such workers.

SWITZERLAND.‡

The official statistics of strikes and lock-outs published by the Federal Labour Office at Berne, include only strikes and lock-outs which terminated during the year, and exclude any disputes which lasted less than one day. During 1927, 26 disputes occurred (23 strikes and 3 lock-outs), covering 328½ undertakings, directly affecting 1,604 workers (454 indirectly) and involving the loss of 34,160 working days (26,855 by workers directly affected and 7,305 by workers indirectly affected).

Strikes in the textile (largely hand embroidery) and watch and clock making industries together accounted for approximately 87 per cent. of the total number of days lost.

Of the total of 23 strikes, 12 arose out of questions of wages, 6 concerned the engagement or dismissal of workers and the remaining 5 were due to other causes.

LABOUR DISPUTES IN SWEDEN.

No settlement having been reached in the dispute in the wood-pulp industry (reported in the issue of this GAZETTE for February, 1928, page 49), the Swedish Employers' Association decided to extend the lock-out to the paper mills as from 5th March. A further 13,000 workpeople were affected by this decision, and the total number of workers locked out was thus increased to 50,000. (The workers in the sawmilling industry were locked out, in connection with the same dispute, on 30th January.) The Conciliation Commission set up to deal with the dispute convened a meeting of the parties for 29th March, and, after protracted discussion, a settlement was reached on 8th April. Under the new agreement for the wood-pulp industry the minimum hourly rate of wages of the highest paid workers remains at 91 öre; but the maximum rate, inclusive of bonuses, is reduced to 1.18 kronor an hour. The number of persons affected by the reduction in maximum hourly earnings is stated to be between 2,000 and 3,000. The hourly rate of yard workers (*utearbetare*) is increased from 77 to 80 öre. Work was resumed immediately after the Easter holidays, and the lock-outs in the sawmilling and paper industries were terminated.¶

* *Statistische Nachrichten*, April, 1928. Vienna.

† *Industrial and Labour Information*, 26th March, 1928. Geneva.

‡ *Rapports Economiques et Statistiques Sociales*, February, 1928. Berne.

§ Including 274 home-work undertakings engaged in handloom embroidery.

¶ 100 öre = 1 krona = 1s. 1d. (approximately).

WAGES AND HOURS MOVEMENTS IN GERMANY.

Metal Trades.—The impending lock-out of a large number of Saxon metalworkers, which was reported in the last number of this GAZETTE, became partially operative as from 12th April. Further official conciliation proceedings which took place during the ensuing week resulted in the issue of an award, which was rejected by both parties, and a number of employers who had hitherto kept their works open declared a lock-out. By the end of April the number of workers on strike or locked out was estimated to be 130,000. At the beginning of the present month, further conciliation proceedings were instituted in the public interest by the Federal Minister of Labour, which resulted in the issue of an award (applicable to Saxony excluding Leipzig), increasing the basic hourly wage of time and pieceworkers to 81 pfennigs as from 1st April last. The corresponding rate for the Bautzen district is to be increased to 79 pfennigs, while a separate award for the city of Leipzig provides for the following adjustments in the existing wage scales:—the hourly time rate on engagement is to be increased from 80 to 85 pfennigs and the piecework basis hourly rate from 83 to 87 pfennigs; the minimum hourly time rate after six weeks' employment is raised from 88 to 92 pfennigs. These awards, although not accepted by either party, were declared binding on 9th May.

In Hamburg, 9,000 metalworkers ceased work on 10th April consequent upon their rejection of an arbitration award. This strike, which does not affect the shipbuilding yards, is still unsettled.

After the failure of negotiations for the renewal of the metal trades agreement for Hanover early in April, about 1,000 metalworkers went on strike on April 14th. A lock out was subsequently declared by the employers, with the result that about 15,000 workers are at present out of employment. A conciliation board appointed to deal with the dispute has issued an award; but it is not yet known whether the terms proposed have been accepted.

A wage dispute in the Baden metal industry was settled by the issue of an award, at the end of April, increasing the basic wage from 72 to 77 pfennigs an hour, piecework rates being increased by 4 per cent. This award was rejected by the employers, but has been declared binding.

Shipbuilding.—The Federal Minister of Labour has declared binding an award (issued on 23rd March last) granting a flat rate increase of 5 pfennigs an hour for all categories of workers employed in the German shipbuilding industry.

Mining.—Negotiations with regard to the terms of renewal of the district agreements for the Ruhr mining industry began at the end of March. The miners' unions had submitted claims for reduced hours and increased wages, both of which the owners were unwilling to concede because of the effect on costs of production, and of the lack of markets. The matter was referred to the district conciliation authorities, and after prolonged negotiations an award was issued providing for the renewal, as from 1st May, of the existing agreements, subject to the following amendments:—*Hours:* Surface workers directly engaged in handling the raw coal (screeners, banksmen, etc.) are in future to work an eight-hour day; workers in continuous undertakings are required to work 9½ hours a day (with a daily shift time of 11 hours) as from 1st May, and 9 hours (10 hours shift time) as from 1st August next. The hours of underground workers do not appear to have been revised. The hours agreement, as thus amended, is to remain in force until 28th February, 1929, after which date it may be terminated subject to two months' notice.

Wages.—The present wage agreement is to be renewed as from 1st May, subject to a general increase of 8 per cent. Provision is made for revision in the case of an increase in coal prices; otherwise the wage agreement, as modified, is to remain in force until 31st March, 1929, after which it may be terminated at a month's notice. This award was rejected by both parties, but was, on 23rd April, declared binding by the Federal Minister of Labour.

A settlement has also been reached in the Saxon hard coal industry, the district agreement for which expired on 1st April last. After conciliation proceedings had been resorted to, a general wage increase of 7 per cent., for both underground and surface workers, was awarded as from 1st May. This award has been accepted by both parties.

Textiles.—Notice was given by the workers to terminate the district wage agreement for the Silesian textile industry as from 1st May last. As the result of subsequent conciliation proceedings, an award (stated to cover more than 60,000 workers) was issued on 2nd May, granting increases of 15 per cent. in time rates and 12 per cent. in piece rates. This award has been declared binding.

A dispute in the South Bavarian cotton industry, affecting the conditions of employment of about 30,000 operatives, was settled at the beginning of May by the issue of an award (since declared binding until February, 1929) providing for wage increases averaging 7.7 per cent.

Transport.—Consequent upon the failure of negotiations for the renewal, as from 1st May, of the wage agreement for engineers and firemen employed on vessels engaged in the Rhine transport industry, nearly 12,000 inland navigation workers and dockers ceased work on that date. The employers asked for a wage reduction of 13 per cent., while the representatives of the engine-room staffs claimed that wages should be increased. The dispute has resulted in an almost total stoppage of traffic on the Rhine, which is having an adverse effect on German coal exports, and up to the present no information has been received regarding the possibility of an early settlement.

WAGES AND HOURS IN THE GERMAN TEXTILE TRADES, 1927.

In Germany, until recently, the only wage rates which could be included in official wage statistics were the basic rates prescribed by collective agreements; no adequate data were available showing the extent to which actual earnings were affected by piecework systems, output bonuses, etc., on the wage side, as well as by short time and overtime on the hours side, and, consequently, nothing was known as to how actual earnings differed from the rates laid down by collective agreement. The necessity for statistics of wages actually earned in at least the most important branches of industry had long been recognised, and, accordingly, the Wages Statistics Act of 27th July, 1922, was passed, empowering the Government to issue instructions for the initiation of inquiries into the wages and salaries paid to manual and non-manual workers. The filling up of returns is made obligatory, under the threat of monetary penalties, and both the employer and representatives of the workers sign the returns. The issue of regulations under the Act was, however, postponed until 1927, owing to the fluctuations and uncertainties of the "inflation" and "post-inflation" periods.

The first inquiries under the Act are to be made so as to cover practically the same branches of industry and groups of workers as are covered by collective agreements. The investigation is not to be undertaken simultaneously in all the industries, but, as far as possible, industry by industry, at intervals of about two months, the textile industry being the first to be covered.

The chief results of the inquiry into wages and hours in this industry have now been published in the journal* of the Federal Department of Statistics, from which the following summary has been made. The inquiry was carried out by means of wages returns framed in such a way as to make a comparison possible with the Federal collective agreement statistics for the last payment period prior to the 12th September, 1927, relating to pieceworkers in 11 branches† of the textile industry, in 263 undertakings, in 19 chief centres.‡ In order to facilitate comparison between the collective agreement rates of wages and the actual earnings, it was decided to limit the inquiry to the two principal occupations of skilled male and female workers (spinner, weaver or hosiery frame worker) paid at piece rates, and to male and female assistant workers over 20 years of age paid at time rates. These occupations, wage categories and age classes comprised 36,519 workers, or 21 per cent. of all the textile workers (171,544, according to the occupational census of 1925) in the 19 centres covered.

The following Table affords a comparison of the actual earnings of skilled workers in all branches and centres covered, with the average piece-work basis time-rates which are fixed by collective agreements:—

Occupation.	Average hourly earnings at September, 1927 (exclusive of increases for extra hours and overtime and social allowances).	Average piece-work basis time-rates under collective agreements at September, 1927.	Average percentage increase of earnings over rates fixed by collective agreements.
	Reichspfennigs.	Reichspfennigs.	Per Cent.
Skilled workers, male:	82.4	65.1	26.6
Spinners ...	84.9	71.4	18.9
Weavers or hosiery frame workers ...	82.2	64.7	27.0
Skilled workers, female:	60.3	51.3	17.5
Spinners ...	55.5	47.9	15.9
Weavers or hosiery frame workers ...	63.0	53.2	18.4

As regards assistant workers, earnings at time rates only were considered, and a comparison can, therefore, be made with hourly collective agreement rates. For male assistant workers over 20 years the latter rates were, on an average, 55.6 pfennigs, and for female assistant workers over 20 years, 41.4 pfennigs. The actual hourly earnings (exclusive of increases for extra hours and overtime and for social allowances) were, for males, 61.3 pfennigs, and for females 44.4, being, on an average, therefore, 10.3 per cent. higher for male assistant workers and 7.2 per cent. higher for female assistant workers than the collective agreement hourly time rates.

The average weekly working hours in all branches and centres covered, during the period of the inquiry, excluding the effect of losses due to sickness, absenteeism, etc., but including extra hours or overtime, were as follows:—

Skilled workers, male ...	50.0 hours.
" " female ...	49.5 "
Assistant workers, male ...	53.1 "
" " female ...	49.6 "

The average weekly extra hours or overtime, for which an increased rate was payable, amounted to:—

Skilled workers, male ...	3.3 hours.
" " female ...	2.8 "
Assistant workers, male ...	6.1 "
" " female ...	3.1 "

Including payments for extra hours or overtime, and allowances for wife and children still paid in certain districts, the average

* *Wirtschaft und Statistik*, No. 5, 1928.

† Cotton industry, worsted spinning, wool spinning, cloth weaving, linen industry, ribbon weaving, hosiery industry, lace making, velvet weaving silk weaving, knitted goods industry.

‡ Aix-la-Chapelle, Augsburg, Barmen, Bielefeld, Chemnitz, Crefeld, Elberfeld, Fürst, Gera, Hof, Kaiserslautern, Landshut, Leipzig, Lorrach, München-Gladbach, Plauen, Reichenbach, Rheine and Stuttgart.

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

Summary: Average Increases since July, 1914.

All Items included 64%
 Food only 54%

FOOD.

At 1st May the average level of the retail prices of the principal articles of food showed a slight decline as compared with 31st March. Milk showed a reduction of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per quart on the average, and butter also was cheaper. Sugar was reduced by $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb. in the majority of cases. On the other hand, potatoes and meat were dearer.

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 54 per cent. at 1st May, 1928, as compared with 55 per cent. a month ago, and 54 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 31st March and 1st May, 1928:—

Article.	Average Price (per lb. unless otherwise indicated—to the nearest $\frac{1}{4}$ d.)			Average Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) at 1st May, 1928, as compared with	
	July, 1914.	31st Mar., 1928.	1st May, 1928.	July, 1914.	31st Mar., 1928.
Beef, British—	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Ribs	0 10	1 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Thin Flank	0 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—					
Ribs	0 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 3	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Thin Flank	0 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Mutton, British—					
Legs	0 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 6	1 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Breast	0 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Mutton, Frozen—					
Legs	0 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 11	0 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Breast	0 4	0 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 5	+ 0 1	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bacon (streaky)*	0 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	...
Flour ... per 7 lb.	0 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bread ... per 4 lb.	0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	...
Tea	1 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 5	2 5	+ 0 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	...
Sugar (granulated)	0 2	0 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	- 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Milk ... per quart	0 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	- 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Butter—					
Fresh	1 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 11	+ 0 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	- 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Salt	1 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	- 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cheese†	0 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	...
Margarine	0 7	0 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	...
Eggs (fresh) ... each	0 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	...
Potatoes per 7 lb.	0 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 1 $\frac{1}{2}$

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

Article.	Average Percentage Increase at 1st May, 1928, as compared with July, 1914.			Corresponding General Average for 31st Mar., 1928.
	Large Towns (Populations over 50,000).	Small Towns and Villages.	General Average.	
Beef, British—	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Ribs	71	66	68	64
Thin Flank	40	38	39	34
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—				
Ribs	40	39	40	36
Thin Flank	8	13	11	8
Mutton, British—				
Legs	81	79	80	73
Breast	59	53	56	50
Mutton, Frozen—				
Legs	70	63	66	62
Breast	21	23	22	19
Bacon (streaky)*	31	34	32	32
Fish	116	93	104	111
Flour	56	60	58	57
Bread	61	60	61	60
Tea	55	62	59	59
Sugar (granulated)	67	61	64	73
Milk	58	69	63	86
Butter—				
Fresh	54	62	58	62
Salt	50	53	52	56
Cheese†	64	64	64	65
Margarine	9	4	7	7
Eggs (fresh)	22	14	18	19
Potatoes	112	79	95	71
All above articles of Food (Weighted Increase)	55	53	54	55

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

RENT, CLOTHING, FUEL AND LIGHT.

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

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

In the fuel and light group, the prices of coal at 1st May averaged between 70 and 75 per cent. above the level of July, 1914, and those of gas about 50 per cent. above the pre-war level. For the fuel and light group as a whole (including coal, gas, oil, candles and matches) the average increase at 1st May, as compared with July, 1914, was approximately 70 per cent.

ALL ITEMS.

If the average increases in the cost of all the foregoing items are combined in accordance with their relative importance in pre-war working-class family expenditure, allowances 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 May is, approximately, 64 per cent.* over the level of July, 1914, as compared with 64 per cent. at 31st March, 1928, and at 30th April, 1927.

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

SUMMARY TABLE: 1918 TO 1928.

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

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

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

NOTE.

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

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

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

EMPLOYMENT during April was subject to considerable fluctuation, particularly after the Easter holidays and towards the end of the month. At the end of April it was not quite so good, on the whole, as at the end of March. The seasonal improvement in the building trade, in public works contracting, and in the brick and tile, and tailoring industries continued; and there was also some improvement in the tinplate industry, in railway carriage and wagon building, in paper manufacture, and in the food and drink industries. There was, however, a decline in coal mining, in shipbuilding and ship-repairing, in the iron and steel and glass industries, in boot and shoe manufacture, and in most of the textile industries, as well as in the canal, river, dock and harbour service.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

Among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts (aged 16 to 64 inclusive and numbering approximately 11,800,000), and working in practically every industry except agriculture and private domestic service, the percentage unemployed at 23rd April, 1928 (including those temporarily stopped as well as those wholly unemployed) was 9.6, as compared with 9.6 at 26th March, 1928, and 9.4 at 25th April, 1927. For males alone the percentage at 23rd April, 1928, was 11.0, as compared with 11.0 at 26th March, 1928; for females the corresponding figures were 5.7 and 5.7. The percentage wholly unemployed fell from 7.7 at 26th March, 1928, to 7.6 at 23rd April, 1928. The total number of persons (insured and uninsured) registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 30th April, 1928, was approximately 1,171,000, of whom 942,000 were men and 160,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls; at 2nd April, 1928, it was 1,071,000, of whom 865,000 were men and 147,000 were women; and at 25th April, 1927, it was 1,075,000, of whom 867,000 were men and 144,000 were women.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

Mining and Quarrying.—In the coal-mining industry employment continued slack. The total number of wage-earners on the colliery books at 28th April, 1928, was 935,580, a decrease of 1.5 per cent. as compared with March; the average number of days worked per week in the fortnight ended 28th April, 1928, was 4.98, as compared with 4.92 in March.

In iron-mining employment continued slack, but showed an improvement as compared with the previous month. In the West Lothian shale mines there was a decrease of 0.7 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed at the mines from which returns were received compared with March, 1928, and a decrease of 7.7 per cent. compared with April, 1927. At limestone quarries in the Buxton district employment continued good, and in the Weardale district, moderate; in the Clitheroe district it was reported as fair. At the slate quarries in North Wales it was fairly good. At whinstone quarries in the East of Scotland it was moderate. At chalk quarries employment continued slack; at china clay quarries and at tin mines it was fairly good.

Manufacture of Pig-Iron, Iron and Steel, and Tinplate.—In the pig-iron industry employment continued bad. Of 437 furnaces, the number in blast at the end of April, 1928, was 149, as compared with 150 in March, 1928, and with 189 in April, 1927.

At iron and steel works employment continued slack, on the whole, and short time working was reported in many districts. In the tinplate trade employment showed a further improvement. The arrangement made in November for stabilising prices and regulating output, whereby each works was to stop for three weeks out of every thirteen, was still in operation. In the week ended 28th April, 395 mills were reported to be in operation at works from which information is available, as compared with 363 in the week ended 31st March, 1928, and with 406 at the end of April, 1927. In steel sheet manufacture employment continued fair. The number of steel sheet mills working was 123 at the end of April, 1928, as compared with 121 in March, 1928, and with 135 in April, 1927.

Engineering, Shipbuilding and Metal Industries.—In engineering employment was still quiet, and showed a slight decline, on the whole, as compared with the previous month. It remained fairly good in electrical engineering and fair on locomotive and motor vehicle work, but in marine engineering it was still bad; much short time continued to be worked in textile machinery manufacture. In shipbuilding and ship-repairing employment remained very bad, on the whole, and showed a further slight decline. In the other metal trades employment continued moderate to fair, on the whole. It was fairly good in the nut and bolt, lock and latch, and tube trades; fair in the hollow-ware, cutlery, file, sheet metal, needle and fishing tackle, and wire manufacturing trades; moderate in the brasswork trade; and slack or bad in the chain and anchor, jewellery and plated ware, metallic bedstead, and stove and grate trades.

Textile Industry.—In the cotton industry employment showed a slight decline, on the whole. Continued depression was reported

in the American spinning section, with an increase in the number of mills entirely stopped; in the Egyptian spinning section there was some decline, although most of the mills were still running full time. In the weaving department employment continued very slack at some centres.

In the wool textile industry employment showed a slight decline in the worsted department, chiefly owing to a decline in the wool sorting and combing section; there was also a slight decline in the carpet trade. In the woollen department there was little general change.

In the hosiery trade employment continued good generally; in the silk and artificial silk trades, taken together, it continued fairly good; in the lace trade it showed little change; in linen manufacture employment was slack, and showed a marked decline as compared with the previous month; in the jute industry it continued good. In the textile bleaching, printing, dyeing, etc. trades employment showed a slight decline, and was slack generally.

Clothing Industry.—Employment both in the retail bespoke and in the ready made and wholesale bespoke branches of the tailoring trade showed a further seasonal improvement, and was fairly good, on the whole, though in some districts short time was worked and employment was reported to be moderate. In the dressmaking and millinery trades employment also showed a seasonal improvement, and was good in most districts. In the shirt and collar and in the corset trades employment was fairly good; in felt hat making it was fair. In the boot and shoe industry employment was fairly good at the beginning of the month through pressure at many factories to complete orders before Easter; but from the resumption of work after the holidays until the end of the month there was a decline in practically all districts, with an increase both in the numbers unemployed, and in the amount of short time working.

Leather Industry.—Employment showed little change as compared with the previous month; in the tanning and currying section it remained good; in the portmanteau, trunk and fancy leather section it was moderate; with saddlery and harness makers it continued fair.

Building, Woodworking, etc.—Employment in the building trades showed a further improvement, especially in the painting and decorating section; it was generally fair, at most centres, with skilled operatives other than plasterers, and moderate with unskilled workers. As regards individual occupations, employment continued to improve with carpenters, bricklayers and masons, and was generally fair; with slaters and plumbers it remained fair; with skilled painters it was generally good; with plasterers, there was a slight improvement but employment was still slack, on the whole; it continued moderate with tradesmen's labourers. In brick manufacture employment showed a further slight improvement.

Employment in the furnishing trades continued fairly good; with coachbuilders it was good; and with millslawyers, fair.

Paper Manufacture, Printing, and Bookbinding.—With paper-makers employment was fairly good, on the whole, and showed an improvement as compared with the previous month. With letterpress printers it was generally fair; there was a slight decline, on the whole, but some improvement was reported at Manchester and Glasgow; with electrotypers and stereotypers employment continued generally good on the whole, though reported as bad at Birmingham. With lithographic printers employment was reported to be fair in most districts; at Manchester, however, it was reported to be bad. In bookbinding employment showed some improvement as compared with the previous month and was fair on the whole.

Pottery and Glass.—Employment in the pottery industry in North Staffordshire showed little change as compared with the previous month; in the best china ware and in the sanitary ware section it was fairly good; in other sections of the trade there was still much short-time working. In the glass trades employment showed a decline and was bad in the bottle-making section, and slack in other branches.

Agriculture and Fishing.—In agriculture in England and Wales the supply of labour was sufficient, the increased demand arising from extended field operations being met without difficulty. In Scotland the supply of labour at the end of the month was also generally adequate for requirements. In the fishing industry employment showed a further slight improvement and was moderate.

Dock Labour and Seamen.—With dock labourers employment continued slack; with seamen it was moderate on the whole, the supply of seamen being adequate for requirements at most of the ports.

SUMMARY OF EMPLOYERS' RETURNS.

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

According to returns received by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, 149 furnaces were in operation at the end of April, compared with 150 at the end of March, and 189 at the end of April, 1927.

Returns received from 79 firms, employing 18,356 workpeople at the end of April, showed an increase of 1.6 per cent. as compared with March, but a decrease of 10.3 per cent. as compared with April, 1927.

The following Table shows the number of furnaces in operation at the end of April, 1928, March, 1928, and April, 1927 :-

District.	Total Number of Furnaces.	Number of Furnaces in Blast.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		April, 1928.	Mar., 1928.	April, 1927.	Month before.	Year before.
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
Durham and Cleveland	99	38	38	47	...	- 9
Cumberland and W. Lancs.	44	11	10	16	+ 1	- 5
Parts of Lancs and Yorks (including Sheffield)	33	10	11	15	- 1	- 5
Derby, Leicester, Nottingham and Northants	64	29	30	33	- 1	- 4
Lincolnshire	24	14	14	15	...	- 1
Staffs, Shropshire, Worcester and Warwick	55	10	10	16	...	- 6
South Wales	28	8	8	10	...	- 2
Total, England and Wales	347	120	121	152	- 1	- 32
SCOTLAND						
Total	90	29	29	37	...	- 8
Total	437	149	150	189	- 1	- 40

The production of pig iron in April amounted to 555,000 tons, as compared with 592,600 tons in March, 1928, and 680,000 tons in April, 1927.

IRON AND STEEL MANUFACTURE.

EMPLOYMENT in April continued slack, on the whole, and showed a slight decline; it was considerably worse than in April of last year. Short-time working was reported in many districts.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the number of unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 21.2 on 23rd April, 1928, as compared with 20.3 on 26th March, 1928, and 17.4 on 25th April, 1927.

According to returns received from firms employing 66,887 workpeople in the week ended 28th April, 1928, 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) decreased by 0.9 per cent. as compared with March, 1928, and by 10.8 per cent. as compared with April, 1927. The average number of shifts* during which the works were open was 5.3 in April, 1928, as compared with 5.4 in March, 1928, and April, 1927.

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

DEPARTMENTS.	No. of Workpeople employed by firms making returns.		Aggregate number of Shifts.*	
	Week ended 28th April, 1928.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month before.	Week ended 28th April, 1928.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month before.
OpenHearth Melting Furnaces	6,804	- 1.1	38,402	- 2.2
Puddling Forges	2,127	+ 0.9	8,524	- 1.9
Rolling Mills	25,177	+ 1.9	124,843	+ 0.6
Forging and Pressing	3,016	- 0.7	15,837	- 1.1
Founding	7,716	- 0.2	44,258	- 0.6
Other Departments	7,690	- 6.5	43,891	- 6.5
Mechanics, Labourers	14,357	+ 1.7	79,997	+ 0.5
TOTAL	66,887	+ 0.1	355,757	- 0.9
DISTRICTS.				
Northumberland, Durham and Cleveland	14,259	+ 2.6	79,158	+ 2.4
Sheffield & Rotherham	18,064	+ 1.7	96,425	+ 0.9
Leeds, Bradford, etc.	1,771	- 0.4	9,430	- 1.3
Cumberland, Lancs. and Cheshire	5,888	- 10.8	29,836	- 12.5
Staffordshire	5,685	+ 9.2	30,260	+ 9.3
Other Midland Counties	3,288	+ 1.1	18,529	+ 0.8
Wales and Monmouth	6,324	+ 0.4	34,735	+ 2.9
Total, England and Wales	55,279	+ 0.9	298,373	+ 0.7
Scotland	11,608	- 3.5	57,384	- 8.6
TOTAL	66,887	+ 0.1	355,757	- 0.9

* 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. Works closed are omitted in computing the average number of shifts.

The production of steel ingots and castings, as shown in returns received by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, amounted to 644,100 tons in April, 1928, as compared with 793,300 tons in March, 1928, and 850,100 tons in April, 1927.

TINPLATE AND STEEL SHEET INDUSTRIES.

EMPLOYMENT in the tinplate industry showed an improvement as compared with the previous month. The arrangements made in November for stabilising prices and regulating output, whereby a minimum selling price was agreed upon and provision made for each works to stop for three weeks out of every thirteen, were still in operation. In the week ended 28th April, 395 mills were reported to be in operation at works from which information is available, as compared with 363 in the week ended 31st March, and with 406 at the end of April, 1927. In steel sheet manufacture employment continued fair. In the week ended 28th April, 1928, 123 mills were in operation, as compared with 121 in the week ended 31st March, 1928, and with 135 at the end of April, 1927.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed at 23rd April, 1928, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 13.8, as compared with 16.8 at 26th March, 1928, and 10.9 at 25th April, 1927.

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

Works.	Number of Works Open			Number of Mills in Operation		
	Week ending 28th April, 1928.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before.	Year before.	Week ending 28th April, 1928.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before.	Year before.
Tinplate	70	...	- 4	395	+ 32	- 11
Steel Sheet	13	...	...	123	+ 2	- 12
TOTAL	83	...	- 4	518	+ 34	- 23

The exports of tinned and galvanised plates and sheets in April, 1928, amounted to 97,615 tons, or 26,137 tons less than in March, 1928, and 9,385 tons less than in April, 1927.

ENGINEERING.

EMPLOYMENT in April was still quiet, and showed a slight decline, on the whole, compared with the previous month. It remained fairly good in electrical engineering, and fair on locomotive and on motor vehicle work; but in marine engineering conditions were still bad, and much short time continued to be worked in textile machinery manufacture.

Compared with a year before, employment was better in most districts, the greatest improvement being shown in marine engineering, which, however, remained the most depressed section of the industry.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed at 23rd April, 1928, and the increase or decrease as compared with a month before and a year before :-

Division.	Number of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 23rd April, 1928.						Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	
	Engineering, Iron and Steel Founding.	Electrical Engineering.	Marine Engineering, etc.	Constructional Engineering.	Construction and Repair of Motor Vehicles, Cycles and Aircraft.	TOTAL.	Month before.	Year before.
London	3,916	357	61	119	1,362	5,815	+ 25	- 1,819
South-Eastern	1,658	205	221	50	790	2,935	- 239	- 770
South-Western	1,625	108	542	66	806	3,147	- 123	- 1,246
Midlands	5,647	1,071	49	732	7,488	14,987	+ 1,169	+ 1,655
North-Eastern	15,140	698	3,049	711	714	20,312	+ 753	+ 7,515
North-Western	18,473	920	87	159	1,627	21,266	- 45	- 144
Scotland	8,286	254	1,641	737	473	11,391	- 148	- 2,578
Wales	1,036	28	7	73	261	1,405	+ 166	+ 73
Northern Ireland	912	24	1,033	9	134	2,112	- 2	- 1,372
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND	56,703	3,666	6,690	2,656	13,655	83,370	+ 1,556	- 13,428
Percentage Unemployed at 23rd April, 1928.								
London	5.0	2.9	7.9	4.0	3.7	4.4	...	- 1.3
South-Eastern	4.0	2.4	7.1	8.5	3.1	3.7	- 0.3	- 0.8
South-Western	4.8	3.4	8.5	10.3	3.2	4.5	- 0.2	- 1.8
Midlands	6.4	4.5	3.2	11.0	7.7	6.9	+ 0.6	+ 0.7
North-Eastern	13.2	8.7	14.8	10.1	5.7	12.4	+ 0.4	- 3.6
North-Western	14.2	4.9	9.1	5.8	8.6	12.4	...	+ 0.7
Scotland	10.9	9.7	9.3	13.7	4.7	10.2	- 0.1	- 1.3
Wales	16.6	8.5	3.7	10.0	12.8	14.8	+ 1.8	+ 1.6
Northern Ireland	13.4	9.6	21.3	30.0	7.1	15.3	...	- 8.2
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND	9.8	4.7	12.0	9.9	5.9	8.6	+ 0.2	- 1.1
<i>Dicto, Mar., 1928</i>	9.6	4.7	11.6	10.0	5.8	8.4	...	...
<i>Dicto, Apr., 1927</i>	10.8	5.7	17.9	10.6	6.0	9.7	...	...

On the North-East Coast employment showed a falling off in marine and general engineering, and was bad, on the whole. In Yorkshire and Lincolnshire it continued rather slack. In Lancashire and Cheshire it remained bad, on the whole. Conditions were fairly good in electrical engineering and fair on locomotive work, and a continued improvement was experienced in the motor section; but in the textile machinery section much short time remained in operation.

In the Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Coventry district employment continued moderate, but showed a decline in general and motor engineering. Some falling off was also observed in electrical work, but conditions in that section were still fairly good. In the Nottingham, Derby and Leicester district employment was again fair. In London and the Southern Counties it showed continued improvement, and was fairly good in general engineering, and good on electrical and motor vehicle work.

In Scotland conditions remained slack; in Wales employment was bad, and showed a decline; while in Northern Ireland it remained bad, with no appreciable change.

SHIPBUILDING AND SHIP-REPAIRING.

EMPLOYMENT, on the whole, remained very bad during April, and again showed a slight decline. Compared with a year ago there was a substantial improvement on the North-East Coast and in Scotland; in other districts comparatively little change was shown, except in Wales, where employment at the end of the month was considerably worse than in March, and worse also than a year ago.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed at 23rd April, 1928, and the increase or decrease as compared with 26th March, 1928, and with a year before :-

Divisions.	Total Number of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 23rd April, 1928.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Numbers Unemployed as compared with a		Percentage Unemployed at 23rd April, 1928.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Percentage Unemployed as compared with a	
		Month before.	Year before.		Month before.	Year before.
London	2,195	+ 292	+ 180	20.7	+ 2.8	+ 3.0
South-Eastern	642	- 7	- 250	8.0	- 0.1	- 2.0
South-Western	2,840	291	623	13.0	- 1.4	- 1.5
Midlands	42	11	3	9.3	- 2.5	- 7.7
North-Eastern	15,740	+ 700	- 6,018	26.9	+ 1.2	- 3.7
North-Western	7,683	- 577	- 680	26.5	- 2.0	+ 0.6
Scotland	11,381	+ 871	- 3,106	19.8	+ 1.5	- 4.6
Wales	3,622	+ 874	+ 829	35.4	+ 6.6	+ 9.0
Northern Ireland	3,890	- 161	- 329	31.1	- 1.3	+ 2.2
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND	48,035	+ 1,490	- 9,994	23.0	+ 0.7	- 3.0

COTTON INDUSTRY.

DURING April employment showed a slight decline, on the whole. Continued depression was reported in the American spinning section, with an increase in the number of mills entirely stopped; in the Egyptian spinning section there was some decline, although most of the mills were still running full time. In the weaving department employment continued very slack at some centres. Extended stoppages took place at Easter in several centres.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed (including those temporarily stopped), as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 10.1 at 23rd April, 1928, as compared with 9.2 at 26th March, 1928, and with 6.8 at 25th April, 1927.

At Ashton, Stalybridge, Royton, Failsworth, and Hyde the depression in the section spinning American cotton continued. At Oldham employment with spinners continued bad, especially with spinners of coarse counts; a number of mills were closed entirely through financial difficulties, and in those that were open, short time in various forms was fairly general, and represented approximately 27 per cent. of full production. There was much under-employment among female cotton operatives at Shaw. In the manufacturing department in the Oldham district employment was slack; it was, however, reported as fair with velvet and calico sheeting workers, and a further improvement was shown on fancy goods. At Bury and Rochdale employment continued bad; several firms at Bury made an extended stoppage at Easter; a slight decline was reported at Rochdale. At Bolton and Leigh employment continued good with spinners; it was fair at Bolton with other classes of workers, but not so good as a month earlier; employment in the quilt manufacturing section was rather quiet.

At Preston the position in the weaving department continued fairly satisfactory, though some firms made extended stoppages at Easter; firms manufacturing fine plain or fancy cloths were, generally speaking, well employed, and employment was described as moderately good on the whole. At Chorley employment continued fair with weavers in the fine goods section, but there was some under-employment in the coloured section. At Blackburn the

severe depression reported last month continued, plain weavers being chiefly affected; many looms were idle and many workers unemployed; extended stoppages took place at Easter. At Darwen a very serious depression was reported; it was estimated that at the end of the month approximately 9,000 looms were idle, and in addition a large number of operatives were under-employed; preparatory workers were very irregularly employed. At Accrington employment was described as slack, and there was an increase in under-employment during the month. At Burnley there was a further improvement, and employment was described as fair and as better than a year ago. At Nelson 80 per cent. of the weavers, winders and beamers were under-employed; this centre, however, was in a better position than some of the Lancashire weaving districts. At Padham employment with weavers and winders continued fair. With weavers in the Rosendale Valley employment was very bad, and worse than in March.

In Yorkshire employment on the whole continued bad, and very bad in the American spinning branch; there was, however, a considerable improvement at Sowerby Bridge.

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

DEPARTMENTS.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 28th April, 1928.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before.	Year before.	Week ended 28th April, 1928.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before.	Year before.
Preparing	11,294	- 0.6	- 3.3	19,181	+ 0.2	- 4.6
Spinning	22,186	- 0.8	- 2.6	39,477	- 1.1	- 3.7
Weaving	33,497	- 1.1	- 2.1	59,936	- 0.1	- 3.4
Other	7,703	+ 0.2	- 3.2	18,818	- 1.2	- 2.9
Not Specified	8,453	+ 1.5	+ 4.9	17,513	+ 3.2	- 1.1
TOTAL	83,133	- 0.6	- 2.8	154,925	- 0.1	- 3.3
DISTRICTS.						
Ashton	3,442	+ 4.8	- 1.1	6,001	+ 3.0	- 5.4
Stockport, Glossop and Hyde	9,538	+ 1.7	- 4.3	17,243	- 0.2	- 4.7
Oldham	9,835	- 0.4	+ 2.3	19,322	+ 2.3	+ 0.5
Bolton and Leigh	14,329	- 1.4	- 2.1	25,647	- 1.9	- 2.2
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Walsden and Todmorden	6,671	- 5.9	- 4.3	12,071	- 7.1	- 2.9
Manchester	4,589	- 1.8	- 5.7	7,859	+ 2.8	- 2.5
Preston and Chorley	5,633	+ 0.5	- 1.9	10,041	+ 1.1	- 2.2
Blackburn, Accrington and Darwen	8,350	- 3.4	- 1.2	16,152	- 1.4	- 6.9
Burnley, Padham, Colne and Nelson	10,798	+ 0.3	- 3.6	23,707	+ 2.0	- 1.1
Other Lancashire Towns	3,076	- 1.4	- 16.2	4,940	- 1.5	- 18.3
Yorkshire Towns	4,330	+ 3.3	- 0.8	7,880	+ 2.0	+ 0.1
Other Districts	2,542	+ 3.1	- 1.1	4,062	+ 1.5	- 7.4
TOTAL	83,133	- 0.6	- 2.8	154,925	- 0.1	- 3.3

Returns from firms employing over 80,500 operatives in the week ended 28th April showed that about 10 per cent. 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 23rd April, 1928 :-

Department.	Numbers (excluding Casuals) on the Registers at 23rd April, 1928.						Total.
	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.			
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	
Card and Blowing Room	622	1,905	2,527	605	3,702	4,307	6,834
Spinning	3,364	1,501	4,865	3,139	4,017	7,156	12,021
Beaming, Winding and Warping	506	1,295	1,801	986	6,436	7,422	9,223
Weaving	1,264	2,279	3,543	2,669			

The imports (less re-exports) of raw cotton (including cotton linters) were 130,074,300 lbs. in April, 1928, compared with 138,858,600 lbs. in March, 1928, and with 179,879,000 lbs. in April, 1927.

The exports of cotton yarn were 13,752,800 lbs. in April, 1928, compared with 15,503,700 lbs. in March, 1928, and with 17,327,600 lbs. in April, 1927.

The exports of cotton piece goods were 314,773,200 square yards, as compared with 397,363,400 square yards in the previous month, and with 316,947,700 square yards in April, 1927.

WOOL TEXTILE INDUSTRY.

DURING April employment showed a slight decline in the worsted department, chiefly owing to a decline in the wool sorting and combing section. There was also a slight decline in the carpet trade. In the woollen department there was little general change.

As compared with a year ago, it was better in the worsted department (except the wool sorting and combing section), and much better in the carpet trade; but slightly worse in the woollen department.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed (including those temporarily stopped), as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 7.1 on 23rd April, 1928, as compared with 6.7 on 26th March, 1928, and with 9.4 on 25th April, 1927.

Worsted Section.—In this section employment was moderate, and slightly worse than a month earlier. In the week ended 28th April the returns received from employers showed that 15 per cent. of the operatives in the worsted section, taken as a whole, worked short time,* losing nearly 10 hours each on the average; on the other hand, 7½ per cent. worked overtime, to the extent of over 6 hours each.

Employment showed a decline in the sorting, preparing, and combing departments; it was fairly good in the merino section, but very slack in the crossbred and preparing sections. This followed a seasonal improvement in February and March. About 30 per cent. of the operatives covered by the employers' returns lost an average of 13 hours each in short time during the week ended 28th April; while about 6 per cent. worked overtime to the extent of 8 hours each.

With worsted spinners there was little change on the whole, the improvement of previous months being maintained; 15 per cent. of the operatives were working short time with a loss on the average of about 9 hours each, while 8 per cent. were working 6 hours each in overtime. With worsted weavers employment was good in the first part of the month, but fell off towards the end, especially in Bradford and in the fine cloth trade of Huddersfield. At Keighley, where there had been a shortage of skilled weavers, there was a marked decline. About 9 per cent. of the worsted weavers were losing 8 hours each in short time during the week ended 28th April, while about 6 per cent. worked 6 hours each in overtime.

Woollen Section.—In this section employment showed little general change. Employers' returns for the week ended 28th April showed that about 25 per cent. of the spinners and about 30 per cent. of the weavers* worked short time, losing, in each case, an average of about 9 hours each. On the other hand, 12 per cent. of the spinners and 3 per cent. of the weavers worked overtime to the extent of 9 hours and 6 hours, respectively. Taking the woollen section as a whole, about 27 per cent. of the operatives were losing an average of about 9 hours each in short time* during the week ended 28th April, while about 7 per cent. worked overtime to the extent of 8 hours each.

In the Huddersfield and Colne Valley districts employment was moderate, and slightly better than in March. A number of firms were still working overtime, and one or two running night shifts. In the Heavy Woollen district employment was moderate; but there was a further slight improvement, and some firms were fairly busy at the end of the month. In the Leeds and Morley districts employment was reported as fair, and as showing little change; while in the Yeading district employment remained bad. In the rag and shoddy trade employment remained poor, but showed a slight improvement. In Stockport employment with woollen workers continued good. In the flannel trade it was moderate to good, and somewhat better than in March. In the blanket section employment was reported as fair in Yorkshire and good at Witney; on the whole it was slightly better than in March.

In Scotland employment showed a slight decline, but on the whole remained good, as it has been for many months.

Carpet Section.—Employment in this section continued good, but showed a slight decline as compared with March. All the firms at Kidderminster were on full time at the end of the month, with several departments on overtime. The employers' returns for the week ended 28th April showed that about 7 per cent. were on short time, with a loss on the average of about 10 hours each; while about 5 per cent. worked overtime, to the extent of 6 hours each.

The following Table summarises the returns received from employers as to the number of operatives employed and the wages paid:—

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

Departments :	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 28th April, 1928.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a month before.	Index figure, (Jan., 1926 = 100.)	Week ended 28th April, 1928.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a month before.	Index figure, (Jan., 1926 = 100.)
WORSTED SECTION :						
Wool Sorting and Combing ...	10,942	+ 0.3	99.4	27,687	- 9.0	97.3
Spinning ...	44,163	+ 1.3	101.3	71,659	+ 0.1	104.4
Weaving ...	22,444	+ 0.0	103.7	48,046	- 1.0	108.6
Other Depts. ...	11,420	+ 0.8	100.3	28,473	+ 0.3	99.7
Not specified ...	1,941	+ 0.6	104.0	4,262	- 0.6	111.4
Total—Worsted	90,910	+ 0.8	101.4	180,127	- 1.7	103.7
WOOLLEN SECTION :						
Wool Sorting ...	1,065	...	101.4	2,585	+ 0.2	107.9
Spinning ...	14,647	+ 0.8	99.1	32,285	+ 0.0	109.5
Weaving ...	27,782	+ 0.3	106.7	51,287	- 1.3	111.4
Other Depts. ...	18,823	+ 0.2	97.9	44,371	+ 1.4	104.5
Not specified ...	2,425	+ 0.1	95.8	5,351	- 1.4	104.0
Total—Woollen	64,742	+ 0.4	101.8	135,879	- 0.1	108.2
CARPET SECTION ...	9,708	- 0.4	106.8	18,818	- 1.7	107.3
Total—Wool Textile Industry ...	165,360	+ 0.6	101.7	334,824	- 1.0	105.7
Districts* :						
WORSTED SECTION :						
Bradford ...	41,613	+ 0.3	99.7	86,064	- 4.1	98.3
Huddersfield ...	9,903	+ 0.4	109.9	22,788	+ 3.2	120.1
Halifax ...	10,545	+ 0.9	99.0	18,430	- 2.6	98.1
Leeds ...	8,798	+ 1.0	97.9	16,504	- 1.1	100.8
Keighley ...	9,534	+ 0.3	105.3	18,215	- 1.1	118.7
Heavy Woollen (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.) ...	3,570	+ 0.4	102.5	5,977	- 1.7	112.1
Total, West Riding	83,963	+ 0.4	101.4	167,978	- 2.3	103.6
West of England and Midlands ...	4,458	+ 7.1	100.3	8,097	+ 10.9	95.1
Lancs ...	354	- 0.6	122.5	674	+ 0.3	117.8
Scotland ...	2,135	+ 1.8	107.3	3,378	+ 1.3	139.8
Total—Worsted	90,910	+ 0.8	101.4	180,127	- 1.7	103.7
WOOLLEN SECTION :						
Huddersfield ...	13,451	+ 2.0	95.0	31,445	+ 1.7	95.8
Heavy Woollen (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.) ...	12,888	+ 0.8	104.8	27,135	+ 1.4	117.1
Leeds ...	9,525	+ 0.2	108.0	20,486	- 3.0	119.4
Halifax and Calder Vale ...	2,605	+ 1.3	95.4	5,740	+ 3.5	97.6
Bradford ...	1,413	...	109.0	3,300	+ 0.7	111.0
Total, West Riding	39,882	+ 1.1	101.3	88,106	+ 0.5	107.5
Lancs ...	5,474	+ 0.1	102.3	11,661	+ 0.2	112.7
West of England and Midlands ...	4,591	+ 0.6	104.1	8,331	- 0.0	113.8
Scotland ...	14,688	- 0.8	102.5	27,629	- 1.6	108.1
Wales ...	107	- 50.2	80.1	152	- 50.2	82.2
Total—Woollen	64,742	+ 0.4	101.8	135,879	- 0.1	108.2
CARPET SECTION ...	9,708	- 0.4	106.8	18,818	- 1.7	107.3
Total—Wool Textile Industry ...	165,360	+ 0.6	101.7	334,824	- 1.0	105.7

The following Table shows, by districts and departments, the percentage increase or decrease in the numbers employed in the week ended 28th April, 1928, by those firms who supplied returns for the purpose of the foregoing Table (excluding the carpet section), as compared with the numbers employed by the same firms in the week ended 24th March, 1928:—

Departments :	Percentage Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in numbers employed as compared with the previous month. (... signifies "no change"; —, without a figure, signifies "few or no workpeople returned.")					
	Wool Sorting and Combing.	Spinning.	Weaving.	Other Depts.	All Depts. (including not specified).	Per Cent.
WORSTED SECTION :						
Bradford ...	+ 0.4	+ 0.5	- 0.2	+ 0.2	+ 0.3	
Huddersfield ...	+ 0.3	- 0.2	+ 0.1	+ 2.0	+ 0.4	
Halifax ...	...	+ 1.6	- 1.7	- 0.5	+ 10.9	
Leeds ...	...	- 0.1	+ 2.0	+ 3.0	+ 1.0	
Keighley ...	- 3.7	+ 0.9	+ 0.5	- 0.5	+ 10.3	
Heavy Woollen (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.) ...	...	+ 0.7	...	- 0.3	+ 0.4	
Total, West Riding	- 0.0	+ 0.6	+ 0.1	+ 0.8	+ 0.4	
West of England and Midlands ...	+ 7.4	+ 16.7	- 2.3	+ 1.7	+ 7.1	
Lancashire ...	...	+ 0.6	...	- 1.3	+ 0.6	
Scotland ...	+ 0.8	+ 3.2	...	...	...
TOTAL ...	+ 0.3	+ 1.3	+ 0.0	+ 0.8	+ 0.8	

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

Percentage Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in numbers employed as compared with the previous month. (... signifies "no change.")	Percentage Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in numbers employed as compared with the previous month. (... signifies "no change.")			
	Spinning.	Weaving.	Other Depts.	All Depts. (including not specified).
WOOLLEN SECTION :				
Huddersfield ...	+ 2.9	+ 1.6	+ 2.3	+ 2.0
Heavy Woollen (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.) ...	- 0.8	+ 1.2	+ 1.1	+ 0.8
Leeds ...	+ 0.0	+ 0.7	- 0.3	+ 0.2
Halifax and Calder Vale ...	+ 1.5	+ 0.6	+ 1.3	+ 1.3
Bradford ...	- 2.6	- 0.8	+ 1.8	...
Total, West Riding	+ 0.9	+ 1.1	+ 1.2	+ 1.1
Lancashire ...	+ 1.4	...	- 0.8	+ 0.1
West of England and Midlands ...	+ 3.3	- 0.6	+ 0.2	+ 0.6
Scotland ...	- 0.2	- 0.7	- 1.3	- 0.8
Wales ...	- 42.6	- 54.5	- 47.3	- 50.2
TOTAL ...	+ 0.8	+ 0.3	+ 0.2	+ 0.4

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 23rd April, 1928:—

Department.	Numbers (excluding Casuals) on the Registers at 23rd April, 1928.						
	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.			Total.
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	
Wool Sorting ...	81	—	81	86	7	93	174
Wool Washing and Preparing ...	206	83	289	309	153	462	751
Wool Combing ...	108	83	191	331	263	594	785
Wool Carding ...	301	39	340	361	58	419	759
Woolen Spinning ...	187	32	219	167	97	264	483
Worsted Drawing and Spinning ...	231	596	827	182	1,040	1,222	2,049
Wool Winding and Warming ...	37	17	54	55	84	139	193
Worsted Winding and Warming ...	37	90	127	53	359	412	539
Woolen Weaving ...	77	91	168	140	1,232	1,372	1,540
Worsted Weaving ...	50	42	92	16	466	482	574
Other Processes ...	436	24	460	358	63	421	881
Total ...	1,751	1,097	2,848	2,058	3,822	5,880	8,728

The following Table shows the increases and decreases as compared with 26th March, 1928:—

Department.	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.			Total.
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	
Wool Sorting ...	+ 16	...	+ 16	+ 58	+ 5	+ 63	+ 79
Wool Washing and Preparing ...	+ 15	+ 20	+ 35	+ 75	- 18	+ 57	+ 92
Wool Combing ...	+ 5	+ 16	+ 21	+ 141	+ 44	+ 185	+ 206
Wool Carding ...	+ 19	+ 6	+ 25	+ 79	- 17	+ 62	+ 87
Woolen Spinning ...	+ 24	- 10	+ 14	- 36	+ 6	- 30	- 16
Worsted Drawing and Spinning ...	+ 28	+ 114	+ 142	+ 33	+ 207	+ 240	+ 382
Wool Winding and Warming ...	+ 4	+ 2	+ 6	- 13	+ 8	- 5	+ 1
Worsted Winding and Warming ...	- 1	+ 22	+ 21	...	+ 28	+ 28	+ 49
Woolen Weaving ...	- 2	+ 2	...	- 39	- 241	- 280	- 280
Worsted Weaving ...	+ 1	+ 22	+ 23	- 4	+ 150	+ 146	+ 169
Other Processes ...	+ 3	...	+ 3	- 105	- 78	- 183	- 180
Total ...	+ 112	+ 194	+ 306	+ 189	+ 94	+ 283	+ 589

The imports (less re-exports) of raw wool (sheep's or lambs') were 54,642,900 lbs. in April, 1928, compared with 95,860,900 lbs. in March, 1928, and 53,461,900 lbs. in April, 1927.

The exports of woollen and worsted yarns were 3,728,100 lbs., compared with 4,234,700 lbs. in March, 1928, and with 3,761,600 lbs. in April, 1927.

The exports of woollen and worsted tissues were 9,969,600 square yards, compared with 15,118,700 square yards in March, 1928, and 9,479,100 square yards in April, 1927.

The exports of blankets were 87,014 pairs, 120,046 pairs and 70,557 pairs in April, 1928, March, 1928, and April, 1927.

BOOT AND SHOE INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT was fairly good at the beginning of April, through pressure at many factories to complete orders before Easter; but from the resumption of work after the holidays until the end of the month there was a decline in practically all districts, with an increase both in the numbers unemployed and in the amount of short-time working.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 7.5 on 23rd April, as compared with 6.5 on 26th March, and with 8.1 on 25th April, 1927.

Employment in London remained fairly good, on the whole. At Leicester employment declined, and was only moderate at most

establishments; there was a considerable increase in the number of workpeople on short time, over 46 per cent. of the operatives covered by the employers' returns losing about 10 hours each, on the average, in the week ended 28th April. Employment at Hinckley also declined, and was slack. There was a further decline at Northampton, and employment was only moderate at the end of the month; about 40 per cent. of the operatives covered by the returns received lost 11½ hours each, on the average, in the week ended 28th April.

Employment was still fair at Higham and Rushden, Wellingborough, Kettering, and most of the smaller Northamptonshire centres, but showed some falling-off as compared with the preceding month; some firms at Kettering extended the holiday stoppage at Easter. At Wollaston employment was reported as bad, with much unemployment and short time working.

Employment at Stafford showed little change, and was moderate, on the whole. At Norwich, there was a decline; employment continued very bad in the turnshoe department, but was fair in other departments; about 32 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the employers' returns were on short time, losing about 9½ hours each, on the average, in the week ended 28th April. In the Bristol and Kingswood district employment was poor, with much short-time working; the holiday stoppage at Easter was prolonged by many firms. Some firms, however, were fairly well employed. At Street employment remained fair, on the whole, but showed some decline. In the Leeds district, employment continued moderately good at some of the larger establishments; in the heavy boot trade it remained slack; the holiday stoppage at Easter was prolonged by several firms. Full time working continued to be general in the slipper trade in the Rossendale Valley and at Bury and Preston, though there was a little short time working in some departments at Rawtenstall and Bury.

In Scotland there was a further decline; employment was reported as fair at Glasgow and Kilmarnock, very quiet at Edinburgh, and bad at Maybole.

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

Department.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 28th April, 1928.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a month before.	Year before.	Week ended 28th April, 1928.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a month before.	Year before.*
	Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.	
England and Wales:—	1,977	- 1.2	+ 3.2	4,357	+ 1.3	+ 1.6
London ...	8,699					

The following Table shows the increases and decreases as compared with 26th March, 1928:—

Department.	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.			Total.
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	
Boot and Shoe Manufacture:							
Preparing Department ...	- 1	+ 9	+ 8	+ 33	+ 7	+ 40	+ 48
Rough Stuff Department ...	+ 55	+ 7	+ 62	+ 42	+ 2	+ 44	+ 106
Clicking Department ...	+ 83	- 1	+ 82	+ 237	...	+ 237	+ 319
Closing Department ...	+ 10	+ 116	+ 126	+ 6	+ 136	+ 142	+ 268
Making Department ...	+ 62	- 2	+ 60	+ 256	+ 20	+ 276	+ 336
Finishing Department ...	+ 43	+ 30	+ 73	+ 92	+ 42	+ 134	+ 207
Slipper Making ...	- 17	- 3	- 20	+ 39	+ 69	+ 108	+ 88
Clog Making ...	+ 1	- 1	...	+ 1	...	+ 1	+ 1
Repairing and Hand-sewn Work ...	- 9	...	- 9	+ 16	+ 8	+ 24	+ 15
TOTAL ...	+ 227	+ 155	+ 382	+ 722	+ 284	+ 1,006	+ 1,388

The exports of boots and shoes in April, 1928, amounted to 120,730 dozen pairs, or 12,383 dozen pairs less than in March, 1928, but 17,329 dozen pairs more than in April, 1927.

BUILDING.

EMPLOYMENT during April showed a further improvement, which was most marked in the painting and decorating section; except with plasterers, it was generally fair, at most centres, with skilled operatives, but was poor or slack in some districts, including Manchester, Keighley, and Cardiff; it was moderate with unskilled workers. Employment showed a decline, on the whole, as compared with April, 1927, but there was some improvement in Northern Ireland.

As regards individual occupations, employment continued to improve with carpenters and with bricklayers and masons, and was generally fair. Employment showed little change with slaters and plumbers, and remained fair with these classes at most centres; it continued to improve with painters, and was generally good with skilled men. There was a slight improvement with plasterers, but employment was still slack, on the whole; it continued moderate with tradesmen's labourers. As compared with April, 1927, employment was considerably worse with plasterers, and also showed a decline with other classes.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts who were unemployed at 23rd April, 1928, together with the increase or decrease in the percentages as compared with the previous month and with April, 1927:—

OCCUPATIONS.	*Estimated Number of Insured Workpeople at July, 1927.	Total Numbers Unemployed at 23rd April, 1928.	Number included in previous Column who were Temporarily Stopped.	Percentage Unemployed.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage as compared with a	
					Month before.	Year before.
					Month before.	Year before.
Carpenters ...	128,090	10,651	303	8.3	- 0.9	+ 3.6
Bricklayers ...	72,170	4,521	220	6.3	- 1.4	+ 4.3
Masons ...	23,390	1,763	110	7.5	- 1.5	+ 1.6
Slaters ...	5,850	447	17	7.6	- 0.4	+ 2.3
Plasterers ...	21,080	2,931	72	13.9	- 0.5	+ 10.4
Painters ...	109,080	5,696	142	5.2	- 2.9	+ 0.3
Plumbers ...	32,600	2,916	124	8.9	+ 0.2	+ 0.8
Labourers to above ...	252,230	31,603	865	12.5	- 0.4	+ 2.4
All other occupations ...	162,720	23,281	789	14.3	- 0.3	+ 2.3
Total ...	807,210	83,809	2,642	10.4	- 0.9	+ 2.7
DIVISIONS.						
London ...	163,620	11,890	12	7.3	- 0.5	+ 0.5
South-Eastern ...	127,050	6,311	41	5.0	- 0.7	+ 1.6
South-Western ...	100,310	8,817	106	8.8	- 0.6	+ 3.2
Midlands ...	91,380	9,148	765	10.0	- 0.1	+ 2.7
North-Eastern ...	103,420	17,696	859	17.1	- 1.8	+ 5.6
North-Western ...	106,900	13,243	414	12.4	- 0.9	+ 3.2
Scotland ...	72,650	6,605	173	9.1	- 1.7	+ 1.8
Wales ...	28,280	7,206	267	25.5	- 1.4	+ 11.5
Northern Ireland ...	13,600	2,893	5	21.3	+ 0.4	- 3.5
Great Britain and Northern Ireland ...	807,210	83,809	2,642	10.4	- 0.9	+ 2.7

BUILDING PLANS APPROVED.

Returns from Local Authorities in 140 of the principal urban areas in Great Britain (except the London County Council area), with a total population of 15,238,000, show that in April, 1928 plans were passed for buildings of an estimated cost of £4,136,400, as compared with £5,284,800, in March, 1928, and £4,998,900, in April, 1927. Of the total for April, 1928, dwelling-houses accounted for £2,489,500; factories and workshops for £241,100; shops, offices, warehouses and other business premises for £410,000; and other buildings, and additions and alterations to existing buildings, for £995,800.

* Aged 16-64 inclusive.

BRICK INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during April showed a slight improvement as compared with the previous month.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed in the brick, pipe, tile, etc., trades, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 11.2 at 23rd April, 1928, as compared with 12.2 at 26th March, 1928, and 5.5 at 25th April, 1927.

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

Districts.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 28th April, 1928.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 28th April, 1928.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month before.	Year before.		Month before.	Year before.*
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire ...	1,842	+ 0.8	- 10.3	4,484	+ 4.7	- 18.9
Midlands and Eastern Counties ...	4,939	+ 3.3	- 10.9	13,892	+ 5.7	- 15.3
South and South-West Counties and Wales ...	1,448	+ 0.2	- 10.6	3,596	+ 4.5	- 11.8
Scotland ...	187	- 0.5	+ 10.7	476	- 2.3	+ 6.3
TOTAL ...	8,416	+ 2.1	- 10.3	22,448	+ 5.1	- 15.1

Returns from employers relative to short-time working, exclusive of time lost on account of bad weather, showed that, of 8,369 workpeople employed by firms furnishing information, 13.7 per cent. were working on an average nearly 9½ hours less than full time in the week ending 28th April, 1928; on the other hand, 7 per cent. were on overtime to the extent of 3.8 hours each on the average.

POTTERY INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT in North Staffordshire showed little change as compared with the previous month; in the best china-ware and in the sanitary-ware sections it was again reported to be fairly good; in other branches of the trade there was still much short-time working. At Derby employment was good, but at Worcester short-time working continued. In the stone-ware section in Scotland employment was again reported to be bad.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 12.8 at 23rd April, 1928, as compared with 12.8 at 26th March, 1928, and with 13.1 at 25th April, 1927.

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

BRANCHES.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 28th April, 1928.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 28th April, 1928.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month before.	Year before.		Month before.	Year before.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
China Manufacture ...	1,260	+ 1.1	+ 3.8	2,523	+ 6.1	+ 14.0
Earthenware Manufacture ...	8,152	+ 1.8	+ 0.6	15,067	+ 0.2	- 1.4
Other Branches (including unspecified) ...	1,816	+ 0.1	- 1.7	3,381	+ 1.6	- 3.8
TOTAL ...	11,228	+ 1.5	+ 0.6	20,971	+ 1.1	- 0.2
DISTRICTS.						
North Staffordshire ...	8,641	+ 1.6	+ 2.6	14,741	+ 0.2	+ 0.2
Other Districts ...	2,587	+ 0.9	- 5.7	6,230	+ 3.2	- 1.1
TOTAL ...	11,228	+ 1.5	+ 0.6	20,971	+ 1.1	- 0.2

Returns from employers relative to short-time working showed that, of 10,704 workpeople employed by firms making returns, 3,556, or 33.0 per cent., were working on an average about 14 hours less than full time in the week ended 28th April, 1928.

PAPER MANUFACTURE, PRINTING, AND BOOKBINDING.

EMPLOYMENT in the paper-making industry was fairly good, on the whole, and showed some improvement as compared with the previous month. Full time was worked in most of the districts from which reports were received, but some irregularity of work was reported in the Blackburn and Darwen districts.

Employment was generally fair with letterpress printers, but showed a slight decline, on the whole, compared with March. Some improvement, however, was reported at Manchester and Glasgow, but at Birmingham and Leeds employment was reported as slack. With electrotypers and stereotypers employment continued generally good; there was an improvement on the previous month in London, but a decline at Birmingham, where employment was bad.

With lithographic printers employment, on the whole, showed a slight improvement, and was fair in most districts; it was, however, reported as bad at Manchester and Newcastle, and there was a decline compared with the previous month at Aberdeen, Dundee and Belfast.

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

SEAMEN.

DURING April employment was moderate, on the whole, the supply of seamen being adequate for requirements at most of the ports.

Among insured workpeople in the shipping service the percentage unemployed at 23rd April, 1928, was 15.0, compared with 15.1 at 26th March, 1928, and 14.8 at 25th April, 1927.

The demand for men on the Thames was fair, and improving during the first three weeks of April; it declined subsequently. On the Tyne the demand was fairly active; on the Wear it was poor in the first half of the month and moderate afterwards. It was good until the middle of April on the Tees, and then became quiet. The demand was generally quiet at Hull; at Southampton it showed a substantial improvement in the first half of the month, and was fairly brisk later. At Bristol the demand was fair; at Avonmouth it was good until late in the month, when a falling off occurred. The demand declined from good to poor at Newport in the course of the month; it fluctuated from poor to good at Cardiff. It was fairly good at Swansea, and quiet to moderate on the Mersey until the end of the third week of April, when a notable improvement was observed. The demand was, on the whole, fair at Manchester, and quiet on the Clyde and at Leith. It was very dull at Belfast, apart from a moderate improvement in the third week of the month.

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 April:—

Principal Ports.	Number of Seamen* shipped in				
	April, 1928.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Four Months ended	
		Month before.	Year before.	April, 1928.	April, 1927.
ENGLAND & WALES:					
Liverpool† ...	11,416	- 478	- 237	43,642	44,557
Manchester ...	753	+ 49	+ 18	2,918	3,191
London ...	9,580	+ 1,326	+ 1,414	35,390	32,351
Southampton...	9,815	+ 1,402	- 870	33,132	33,431
Tyne Ports ...	2,552	- 605	+ 102	9,938	9,378
Sunderland ...	291	15	- 145	1,333	1,262
Middlesbrough ...	453	+ 111	+ 173	1,941	1,502
Hull ...	978	- 414	- 109	4,982	4,973
Bristol‡ ...	1,029	+ 26	+ 5	4,005	4,080
Newport, Mon. ...	569	- 257	- 322	2,614	3,139
Cardiff ...	2,634	- 53	+ 190	10,938	11,012
Swansea ...	624	+ 133	- 240	2,502	3,028
SCOTLAND:					
Leith ...	318	+ 15	- 117	1,316	1,443
Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth ...	325	- 27	- 60	1,427	1,192
Glasgow ...	2,509	+ 248	- 155	9,685	9,331
NORTHERN IRELAND:					
Belfast ...	189	+ 63	- 21	632	880
TOTAL for above Ports	44,035	+ 1,524	- 354	166,395	164,550

PRINCIPAL VARIATIONS DURING APRIL IN NUMBERS OF UNEMPLOYED.

The following Table indicates for Great Britain and Northern Ireland the industries in which the numbers of insured persons recorded as unemployed at 23rd April, 1928, differed from the figures for 26th March, 1928, to the extent of 1,000 or more:—

Industry.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Numbers recorded as Unemployed at 23rd April, 1928, as compared with 26th March, 1928.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Building ...	- 7,017	+ 14	- 7,003
Distributive Trades ...	- 1,592	+ 2,287	- 3,879
Hotel, Boarding House, Club Services ...	- 860	- 1,870	- 2,730
Local Government ...	- 1,623	- 102	- 1,725
Tailoring ...	- 822	- 838	- 1,660
Public Works Contracting, etc. ...	- 1,560	+ 1	- 1,559
Textile Bleaching, Printing, Dyeing, etc. ...	+ 752	+ 314	+ 1,066
Boot, Shoe, Slipper and Clog Trades ...	+ 1,048	+ 351	+ 1,399
Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing... †	+ 1,488	+ 2	+ 1,490
Steel Melting and Iron Puddling ...			
Furnaces, Iron and Steel Rolling ...			
Mills and Forges ...	+ 1,698	- 49	+ 1,649
Linen ...	+ 813	+ 2,147	+ 2,960
Canal, River, Dock and Harbour Service ...	+ 2,987	+ 24	+ 3,011
Cotton ...	+ 1,108	+ 3,620	+ 4,728
Coal Mining... ‡	+ 8,887	- 41	+ 8,846
Net variation for above industries	+ 5,307	+ 1,286	+ 6,593
Total net variation for all insured industries ...	+ 520	- 394	+ 126

* 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.

With lithographic artists employment continued fair; it was not so good as in March in London and at Leeds, while improving at Manchester and Liverpool. With bookbinders employment showed some improvement and was fair on the whole.

The percentage unemployed among insured workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts in the printing and book-binding industries was 4.4 at 23rd April, 1928, compared with 4.3 at 26th March, 1928, and 5.0 at 25th April, 1927. In the paper and paper-board industry the percentage was 3.9 at 23rd April, 1928, compared with 5.2 at 26th March, 1928, and 6.5 at 25th April, 1927. In the cardboard box, paper bag, and stationery industries the percentage was 4.4 at 23rd April, 1928, compared with 4.6 at 26th March, 1928, and 5.3 at 25th April, 1927.

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

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of April, 1928.	Percentage Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on a	
		April, 1928.	March, 1928.	April, 1927.	Month before.	Year before.
Letterpress Printing:						
London ...	40,148	4.8	4.5	6.1	+ 0.3	- 1.3
Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire ...	16,689	4.1	4.1	4.2	...	- 0.1
Midlands and Eastern Counties ...	10,860	2.5	2.2	2.8	+ 0.3	- 0.3
Scotland ...	7,182	4.8	4.8	5.2	...	- 0.4
Other Districts ...	10,751	3.0	2.7	3.7	+ 0.3	- 0.7
Total ...	85,630	4.2	4.0	4.9	+ 0.2	- 0.7
Lithographic Printing	10,854	3.3	3.3	3.8	...	- 0.5
Bookbinding ...	20,121	3.6	4.1	4.8	- 0.5	- 1.2

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

EMPLOYMENT during April remained generally slack.

Among insured workpeople in the canal, river, dock and harbour service, 30.1 per cent. were recorded as unemployed at 23rd April, 1928, as compared with 28.3 per cent. at 26th March, 1928, and with 25.1 per cent. at 25th April, 1927.

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

Period.	Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London.				
	In Docks.			At Wharves making Returns.	Total Docks and Principal Wharves.
	By the Port of London Authority or through Contractors.	By Ship-owners, etc.	Total.		
Week ended—					
7th April,					

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 23rd April, 1928, 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 substantially all employed persons. The principal classes of persons who are exempted from such compulsory insurance are juveniles under 16 years of age, and (since 2nd January, 1928) persons aged 65 and over, persons employed otherwise than by way of manual labour at a rate of remuneration exceeding in value £250 per annum, persons employed in agriculture and private domestic service, and outworkers. Persons employed by local public authorities, railways and certain other public utility undertakings, members of the police forces, and persons with rights under a statutory superannuation scheme may, in certain circumstances, also be 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.

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 183 showing the total number of persons registered at Employment Exchanges. The difference would be greater were it not that this latter figure includes uninsured persons who are maintaining registration. These do not appear in the figures of "books lodged," which relate solely to insured persons.

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

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

Special Note. Persons aged 65 and over.

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

NUMBERS OF INSURED PERSONS RECORDED AS UNEMPLOYED AT 23RD APRIL, 1928.

INDUSTRY.	GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.						GREAT BRITAIN ONLY.					
	WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED (including Casuals).			TEMPORARY STOPPAGES.			TOTAL.			WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED, TEMPORARY STOPPAGES, AND CASUALS.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Fishing	3,141	91	3,232	73	18	91	3,214	109	3,323	3,199	109	3,308
Mining—												
Coal Mining	159,128	498	159,626	49,085	210	49,295	208,213	708	208,921	208,183	708	208,891
Iron Ore and Ironstone Mining and Quarrying	1,640	...	1,640	223	...	223	1,863	...	1,863	1,843	...	1,843
Lead, Tin and Copper Mining	873	5	878	37	...	37	910	5	915	910	5	915
Stone Quarrying and Mining	2,880	7	2,887	478	3	481	3,358	10	3,368	3,117	10	3,127
Slate Quarrying and Mining	314	...	314	108	...	108	422	...	422	422	...	422
Mining and Quarrying not separately specified	1,135	55	1,190	249	8	257	1,384	63	1,447	1,329	61	1,390
Clay, Sand, Gravel and Chalk Pit Digging	722	6	728	62	1	63	784	7	791	778	7	785
Non-Metalliferous Mining Products—												
Coke Ovens and By-Product Works	1,292	9	1,301	212	1	213	1,504	10	1,514	1,504	10	1,514
Artificial Stone and Concrete Manufacture	1,958	50	2,008	234	18	252	2,192	68	2,260	2,181	68	2,249
Cement, Limekilns and Whiting Works	1,277	36	1,313	116	7	123	1,393	43	1,436	1,349	41	1,390
Brick, Tile, etc., Making	6,630	657	7,287	1,712	244	1,956	8,342	901	9,243	8,208	901	9,109
Pottery, Earthenware, etc.	1,938	1,698	3,636	2,857	2,482	5,339	4,795	4,180	8,975	4,792	4,180	8,972
Glass Trades—												
Glass (excluding Bottles and Scientific Glass) Manufacture	1,849	238	2,087	449	57	506	2,298	295	2,593	2,282	295	2,577
Glass Bottle Making	2,092	144	2,236	819	21	840	2,911	165	3,076	2,909	165	3,074
Ammunition, Explosives, Chemicals, etc.—												
Chemicals Manufacture	4,229	641	4,870	488	116	604	4,717	757	5,474	4,700	753	5,453
Explosives Manufacture	569	267	836	117	56	173	686	323	1,009	682	323	1,005
Paint, Varnish, Japan, Red and White Lead Manufacture	597	110	707	25	9	34	622	119	741	622	119	741
Oil, Grease, Glue, Soap, Ink, Match, etc., Manufacture	2,873	635	3,508	587	210	797	3,460	845	4,305	3,442	821	4,263
Metal Manufacture—												
Pig Iron Manufacture (Blast Furnaces)	2,752	19	2,771	505	2	507	3,257	21	3,278	3,255	21	3,276
Steel Melting and Iron Puddling Furnaces, Iron and Steel Rolling Mills and Forges	16,062	116	16,178	23,527	107	23,634	39,589	223	39,812	39,578	223	39,801
Manufacture of Brass, Copper, Zinc, Tin, Lead, etc.	2,854	146	3,000	680	23	703	3,534	169	3,703	3,481	168	3,649
Manufacture of Tin Plates	942	115	1,057	2,858	340	3,198	3,800	455	4,255	3,799	455	4,254
Iron and Steel Tube Making	1,812	76	1,888	1,889	12	1,901	3,701	88	3,789	3,699	88	3,787
Wire, Wire Netting, Wire Rope Manufacture	1,327	184	1,511	1,038	76	1,114	2,365	260	2,625	2,364	260	2,624
Engineering, etc.—												
General Engineering; Engineers' Iron and Steel Founding	38,943	1,110	40,053	16,292	358	16,650	55,235	1,468	56,703	54,329	1,462	55,791
Electrical Engineering	2,633	513	3,146	385	135	520	3,018	648	3,666	2,994	648	3,642
Marine Engineering, etc.	6,192	33	6,225	463	2	465	6,655	35	6,690	5,627	30	5,657
Constructional Engineering	2,107	25	2,132	523	1	524	2,630	26	2,656	2,621	26	2,647
Construction and Repair of Vehicles—												
Construction and Repair of Motor Vehicles, Cycles and Aircraft	10,726	825	11,551	1,992	112	2,104	12,718	937	13,655	12,586	935	13,521
Construction and Repair of Carriages, Carts, etc.	1,277	89	1,366	224	17	241	1,501	106	1,607	1,470	106	1,576
Railway Carriage, Wagon and Tram-car Building	2,615	29	2,644	2,343	35	2,378	4,958	64	5,022	4,950	64	5,014

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 ...	45,885	116	46,001	2,015	19	2,034	47,900	135	48,035	44,030	115	44,145
Metal Trades—												
Stove, Grate, Pipe, etc., and General Iron Founding	6,606	451	7,057	3,082	243	3,325	9,688	694	10,382	9,594	694	10,288
Electrical Wiring and Contracting ...	843	25	868	66	3	69	909	28	937	879	28	907
Electrical Cable, Wire and Electric Lamp Manufacture	3,049	1,343	4,392	559	260	819	3,608	1,603	5,211	3,600	1,602	5,202
Hand Tool, Cutlery, Saw, File Making	2,097	695	2,792	1,428	323	1,751	3,525	1,018	4,543	3,519	1,018	4,537
Bolts, Nuts, Screws, Rivets, Nails, etc., Manufacture	853	655	1,508	555	133	688	1,408	788	2,196	1,408	788	2,196
Brass and Allied Metal Wares Manufacture	1,468	689	2,157	369	149	518	1,837	838	2,675	1,837	838	2,675
Heating and Ventilating Apparatus	355	12	367	71	...	71	426	12	438	425	12	437
Watches, Clocks, Plate, Jewellery, etc., Manufacture	1,475	967	2,442	430	463	893	1,905	1,430	3,335	1,888	1,430	3,318
Metal Industries not separately specified	7,162	3,931	11,093	2,489	1,012	3,501	9,651	4,943	14,594	9,536	4,938	14,474
Textile Trades—												
Cotton	9,336	11,264	20,600	10,236	25,780	36,016	19,572	37,044	56,616	19,567	37,014	56,581
Woolen and Worsted	3,821	2,866	6,687	3,817	6,530	10,347	7,638	9,396	17,034	7,612	9,379	16,991
Silk and Artificial Silk	667	784	1,451	424	1,280	1,704	1,091	2,064	3,155	1,076	2,050	3,126
Linen	3,095	4,306	7,401	973	2,653	3,626	4,074	6,959	11,033	4,034	6,925	10,959
Jute	1,273	1,616	2,889	64	89	153	1,337	1,705	3,042	1,336	1,705	3,041
Hemp Spinning and Weaving, Rope, Cord, Twine, etc., Making	435	641	1,076	126	340	466	561	981	1,542	472	875	1,347
Hosiery	508	1,549	2,057	453	2,528	2,981	961	4,077	5,038	939	4,025	4,964
Lace	294	191	485	272	188	460	566	379	945	566	379	945
Carpet Manufacture	259	277	536	173	544	717	432	821	1,253	432	820	1,252
Textile Industries not separately specified	671	1,430	2,101	311	983	1,294	982	2,413	3,395	900	2,050	2,950
Textile Bleaching, Printing, Dyeing, etc.	3,035	1,063	4,098	7,646	2,585	10,231	10,681	3,648	14,329	10,268	3,069	13,337
Leather and Leather Goods—												
Tanning, Currying and Dressing ...	1,639	313	1,952	510	101	611	2,149	414	2,563	2,148	414	2,562
Saddlery, Harness and other Leather Goods Manufacture	773	597	1,370	168	278	446	941	875	1,816	925	873	1,798
Clothing Trades—												
Tailoring	2,732	2,204	4,936	200	1,026	1,226	2,932	3,230	6,162	2,791	3,179	5,970
Dress and Mantle Making and Millinery	577	1,966	2,543	32	496	528	609	2,462	3,071	601	2,255	2,856
Hat and Cap (including Straw Plait) Manufacture	442	346	788	108	236	344	550	582	1,132	547	582	1,129
Blouses, Shirts, Collars, Underclothing, etc., Making	348	2,040	2,388	32	1,354	1,386	380	3,394	3,774	290	1,326	1,616
Dress Industries not separately specified	516	319	835	139	411	550	655	730	1,385	651	730	1,381
Boot, Shoe, Slipper and Clog Trades	4,780	1,237	6,017	2,958	1,363	4,321	7,738	2,600	10,338	7,590	2,588	10,178
Food, Drink and Tobacco—												
Bread, Biscuit, Cake, etc., Making ...	6,777	2,446	9,223	273	158	431	7,050	2,604	9,654	6,566	2,464	9,030
Grain Milling	1,396	132	1,528	163	28	191	1,559	160	1,719	1,479	158	1,637
Cocoa, Chocolate and Sugar Confectionery	1,760	2,264	4,024	484	3,636	4,120	2,244	5,900	8,144	2,220	5,892	8,112
Food Industries not separately specified	4,446	4,381	8,827	192	606	798	4,638	4,987	9,625	4,529	4,970	9,499
Drink Industries	4,498	1,377	5,875									

NUMBERS INSURED AND PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED.

Table with columns: INDUSTRY, ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AGED 16-64 INCLUSIVE, AT JULY, 1927, PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 23RD APRIL, 1928, INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN TOTAL PERCENTAGES AS COMPARED WITH 26TH MAR., 1928, 25TH APR., 1927, 26TH APR., 1926, GREAT BRITAIN ONLY, TOTAL PERCENTAGE AT 23RD APR., 1928.

Table with columns: GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND, ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AGED 16-64 INCLUSIVE, AT JULY, 1927, PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 23RD APRIL, 1928, INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN TOTAL PERCENTAGES AS COMPARED WITH 26TH MAR., 1928, 25TH APR., 1927, 26TH APR., 1926, GREAT BRITAIN ONLY, TOTAL PERCENTAGE AT 23RD APR., 1928.

WORK OF EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES.*

At 30th April, 1928, the number of persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain was 1,136,003; in Great Britain and Northern Ireland it was 1,171,343.

Statistics for men, boys, women and girls, separately, are given below:—

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 30th April, 1928. Of the 127,164 vacancies filled, 67,730 were for men, 29,970 for women, and 29,464 for juveniles:—

Table with columns: 30th April, 1928, 26th Mar., 1928, Persons normally in regular employment, Persons normally in casual employment, Total, Wholly Unemployed, Temporary Stoppages.

Table with columns: Week ended, Applications from Employers, Vacancies Filled, Number of Work-people on Registers.

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

† "Vacancies filled" include certain types of cases (described as Class B placements) 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 five weeks ended 26th March, 1928, the average number of such placements was 5,830 per week. The average number of placements of casual workers during the five weeks ended 30th April, 1928, was 650 per week.

‡ The figures include, in addition to those wholly unemployed, 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.

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 30th April, 1928. In certain cases (e.g., Bristol, Birmingham, Sheffield, Liverpool, Glasgow, etc.) the figures cover more than one Exchange area.

Area.	Number of Persons on Register at 30th April, 1928.				Inc.(+) or Dec.(-) as compared with 26th Mar., 1928.
	Men.	Women.	Juveniles.	Total.	
London Division ...	79,029	15,957	7,718	102,704	+ 2,601
South-Eastern Division ...	31,200	4,676	4,023	39,899	- 1,917
Brighton ...	1,156	278	345	1,779	- 146
Chatham ...	1,763	178	639	2,580	- 147
Ipswich ...	1,424	167	142	1,733	+ 14
Norwich ...	2,952	336	83	3,371	+ 313
Rest of South-Eastern	23,895	3,717	2,814	30,426	- 1,951
South-Western Division ...	47,947	6,467	4,755	59,169	- 1,530
Bristol ...	10,515	2,076	1,265	13,856	+ 800
Plymouth ...	4,541	386	351	5,278	+ 19
Portsmouth ...	3,648	356	536	4,540	- 117
Reading ...	1,111	103	231	1,445	...
Southampton ...	3,718	358	609	4,685	- 215
Swindon ...	788	128	164	1,080	- 75
Rest of South-Western	23,626	3,060	1,599	28,285	- 1,942
Midlands Division ...	121,735	25,686	7,445	154,866	+ 30,261
Birmingham ...	16,846	6,370	824	24,040	+ 343
Coventry ...	2,912	522	63	3,497	+ 523
Cradley Heath ...	2,377	515	94	2,986	- 171
Derby ...	1,138	374	172	1,684	+ 113
Leicester ...	2,425	213	74	2,712	+ 943
Nottingham ...	1,390	316	86	1,792	+ 144
Nottingham	6,148	947	465	7,560	+ 1,036
Smethwick ...	2,005	624	110	2,739	- 29
Stoke-on-Trent ...	12,793	3,498	808	17,099	+ 4,387
Walsall ...	4,619	693	360	5,672	+ 1,305
West Bromwich ...	2,112	403	129	2,644	+ 255
Wolverhampton ...	2,994	546	210	3,750	+ 248
Rest of Midlands	63,978	8,865	4,050	76,893	+ 21,380
North-Eastern Division ...	253,913	21,810	15,031	290,754	+ 46,204
Barnsley ...	3,207	334	180	3,721	+ 563
Bradford ...	5,598	1,791	328	7,717	+ 876
Darlington ...	1,656	129	215	2,000	- 40
Dewsbury ...	1,503	645	196	2,344	+ 256
Doncaster ...	12,092	205	345	12,642	+ 8,617
Gatehead ...	6,821	542	657	8,020	- 105
Grimsby ...	3,121	239	246	3,606	- 91
Hull ...	1,864	708	24	2,596	+ 294
Hull	4,635	168	565	5,368	- 227
Huddersfield ...	1,876	1,013	179	3,068	- 27
Hull	9,514	700	813	11,027	+ 293
Leeds ...	11,824	1,930	354	14,108	+ 1,082
Lincoln ...	1,357	156	219	1,732	- 158
Middlesbrough ...	5,970	233	486	6,689	+ 455
Newcastle-on-Tyne ...	14,313	1,125	1,104	17,142	+ 135
Sheffield ...	5,620	226	299	6,145	+ 1,379
Sheffield	21,981	2,815	1,863	26,607	+ 4,101
South Shields ...	7,164	281	469	7,914	- 199
Stockton-on-Tees ...	3,969	174	400	4,543	- 409
Sunderland ...	9,355	610	616	10,581	+ 1,637
Wakefield ...	3,698	185	440	4,323	+ 1,512
York ...	1,667	549	251	2,467	- 80
Rest of North-Eastern	114,508	7,804	4,782	127,094	+ 26,362
North-Western Division ...	163,389	53,486	14,064	230,939	+ 20,922
Accrington ...	1,862	1,322	156	3,340	+ 520
Ashton-under-Lyne ...	2,422	1,082	205	3,709	- 248
Barrow ...	2,614	189	306	3,109	+ 408
Birkenhead ...	4,070	331	418	4,819	- 289
Blackburn ...	3,489	4,372	420	8,281	- 132
Blackpool ...	1,519	426	81	1,826	- 178
Bolton ...	5,046	2,992	359	8,397	+ 2,378
Burnley ...	1,962	1,195	122	3,279	- 39
Bury ...	1,304	1,064	91	2,459	- 80
Chorley ...	1,477	397	36	1,910	- 369
Liverpool ...	40,213	5,100	4,300	49,613	+ 3,189
Manchester ...	15,735	4,815	1,403	21,953	+ 1,655
Nelson ...	459	315	17	791	- 170
Oldham ...	10,556	3,713	499	14,768	+ 1,856
Preston ...	2,742	1,584	144	4,470	+ 711
Rochdale ...	2,414	979	98	3,491	+ 881
St. Helens ...	3,231	210	179	3,620	+ 1,047
Salford ...	6,929	2,206	680	9,815	+ 855
Stockport ...	1,948	1,287	169	3,404	+ 303
Warrington ...	2,129	847	408	3,384	+ 936
Wigan ...	5,523	1,734	234	7,491	+ 469
Rest of North-Western	45,885	17,326	3,739	66,950	+ 9,772
Scotland Division ...	111,499	17,959	8,898	138,356	+ 10,584
Aberdeen ...	2,740	594	85	3,419	- 443
Glydebank ...	1,009	144	115	1,268	+ 236
Dundee ...	4,080	1,736	282	6,098	+ 1,340
Edinburgh ...	9,886	1,797	823	12,506	+ 790
Glasgow ...	37,799	6,383	3,316	47,498	+ 2,010
Greenock ...	4,878	617	242	5,737	+ 974
Motherwell ...	4,399	122	255	4,776	+ 1,293
Paisley ...	1,925	359	211	2,495	+ 6
Rest of Scotland	44,783	6,207	3,569	54,559	+ 4,378
Wales Division ...	109,792	3,348	6,246	119,316	- 4,967
Cardiff ...	8,320	759	857	9,936	+ 1,481
Llanelli ...	3,272	106	157	3,535	- 1,030
Newport ...	5,338	242	318	5,898	+ 362
Swansea ...	5,487	273	639	6,399	- 712
Rest of Wales	87,305	1,968	4,275	93,548	- 5,068
Northern Ireland ...	23,473	10,575	1,292	35,340	+ 6,303
Belfast ...	16,109	6,068	936	23,113	+ 3,458
Londonderry ...	1,053	470	39	1,562	+ 204
Lurgan ...	351	549	18	918	+ 125
Lisburn ...	598	534	51	1,183	+ 551
Newry ...	688	155	9	852	+ 328
Rest of Northern Ireland	4,674	2,799	239	7,712	+ 1,637
Great Britain and Northern Ireland ...	941,907	159,964	69,472	1,171,343	+ 108,461

[Percentage rates of unemployment, for each of 653 towns in Great Britain, are given in the monthly "Local Unemployment Index"—see Advertisement pages of this GAZETTE.]

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE STATISTICS: GREAT BRITAIN.

COMPOSITION OF STATISTICS.

ON page 180 an explanation is given of the unemployment statistics published weekly in the Press, and monthly in this GAZETTE. The following Table gives figures relating to the 23rd April, 1928, for the total of each group included in these statistics. Lines 2 to 5 make up the number of persons on the register; while, by omitting the uninsured persons (line 5) and including lines 1 and 6, the number of books lodged, or, in other words, the number of insured persons recorded as unemployed, is obtained:—

	Men.	Boys.	Women.	Girls.	Total.
1. Unemployed — Special Schemes ...	1,563	5	152	6	1,726
2. Claims admitted or under consideration ...	763,117	11,732	121,637	6,171	902,657
3. Claimants disqualified, but maintaining registration ...	59,449	506	4,775	210	64,940
4. Insured non-claimants on main file ...	16,513	2,347	1,783	1,925	22,568
5. Uninsured persons on Register ...	12,854	20,548	14,024	24,694	72,120
6. Two months' file ...	60,315	4,416	32,583	3,953	101,267
Persons on Register (lines 2-5) ...	851,933	35,133	142,219	33,000	1,062,285
Books Lodged (lines 1-4 and 6) ...	900,957	19,006	160,930	12,265	1,093,158

CLAIMS TO EXTENDED BENEFIT.

Up till 19th April, 1928, when the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1927, came into operation, claims to "extended" benefit were submitted to Local Committees, composed, in the main, of representatives of employers and workpeople.

The following Table gives an analysis of the recommendations of these Committees in Great Britain during the final period 13th March to 18th April, 1928:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Applications considered by Committees during period ...	331,046	34,365	365,411
Applications admitted by Committees during period:—			
(a) For 12 weeks ...	40,189	2,946	43,135
(b) For less than 12 weeks ...	256,565	21,198	277,763
Applications definitely recommended for disallowance during period:—			
General Conditions:—			
Not normally insurable and not seeking to obtain a livelihood by means of insurable employment ...	1,602	588	2,190
Insurable employment not likely to be available ...	641	233	874
Not a reasonable period of insurable employment during the preceding two years ...	13,916	1,796	15,712
Not making every reasonable effort to obtain suitable employment or not willing to accept suitable employment ...	10,087	3,229	13,316
Special Conditions:—			
Single persons residing with relatives	5,842	1,782	7,624
Married women who could look for support from their husbands ...	...	2,038	2,038
Married men who could look for support from their wives ...	490	...	490
Working short time but earning sufficient for maintenance ...	916	227	1,143
Aliens ...	4	1	5
Total definitely recommended for disallowance ...	33,498	9,894	43,392
Applications during the period recommended for postponement for a definite time ...	794	327	1,121

UNEMPLOYMENT FUND.

Table showing APPROXIMATELY the Receipts and Payments, and the Liabilities of the Fund.

	Four weeks ended 28th April, 1928.	Five weeks ended 31st Mar., 1928.	Five weeks ended 30th April, 1927.
Contributions received from—			
Employers ...	£ 1,390,000	£ 1,555,000	£ 1,430,000
Employed Persons ...	1,190,000	1,325,000	1,220,000
Exchequer ...	1,020,000	1,105,000	1,050,000
Total ...	3,600,000	3,985,000	3,700,000
Unemployment Benefit ...	2,850,000	3,660,000	3,250,000
Cost of Administration ...	380,000	500,000	455,000
Interest accrued on Treasury Advances ...	95,000	115,000	120,000
Other Items ...	10,000	25,000	5,000
Total ...	3,335,000	4,300,000	3,830,000
Treasury Advances outstanding ...	24,130,000	24,530,000	24,700,000
Other Liabilities (net), including Accrued Interest and Deposits ...	505,000	370,000	535,000

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

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 April in Great Britain and Northern Ireland resulted in an aggregate reduction of about £9,350 in the weekly full-time wages of 204,000 workpeople, and in an increase of £1,500 in those of 9,000 workpeople.

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

Group of Industries.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by		Amount of Change in Weekly Wages.	
	Increases.	Decreases.	Increases.	Decreases.
Metal ...	200	26,000	£ 20	£ 1,050
Textile ...	...	82,500	...	3,100
Clothing ...	...	37,000	...	1,950
Other ...	8,800	58,500	1,480	3,250
Total ...	9,000	204,000	1,500	9,350

Workpeople affected by reductions in the metal group included blastfurnacemen in Cleveland, who sustained a reduction equivalent to about 1½ per cent. on current rates. Most classes of blastfurnace workers, except lower-paid day-wage men, in Cumberland and in the West of Scotland also had their wages reduced. There was a reduction equivalent to about 2 per cent. on current rates in the wages of iron puddlers and millmen in the North of England. The wages of bobbin makers in England and Wales were reduced by 1s. and 6d. per week in the case of men and women respectively, and men and women in the bedstead industry had their wages reduced by 2s. and 1s. per week respectively.

The principal reductions in the textile group affected workpeople employed in the bleaching, dyeing, printing, etc., industry in Yorkshire, Lancashire, and Scotland, whose wages were reduced under cost of living sliding scales; in Yorkshire the reductions amounted to about 1½ per cent. on current rates, and in the other districts, to 1s. and 8d. per week in the case of men and women respectively. A bonus paid to workpeople employed in the woollen and worsted industry at Leicester was reduced by ¼d. on each shilling earned.

In the clothing group there were reductions in the minimum piecework rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts for workpeople employed in the boot and shoe repairing industry, the reductions amounting to 2½ or 5 per cent. on list prices. There was also a reduction in this group for felt hat makers, amounting to about 3½ per cent. on current rates.

In the other industrial groups workpeople affected by reductions included those employed in the seed crushing and oil milling in-

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

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics.)
Coal Mining	Shropshire (certain firms).†	March‡	Workpeople employed in or about coal mines, other than those whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries.	Decrease of 11·83 per cent. on basis rates of 1911, leaving wages 22 per cent. above basis rates, and minimum or subsistence wage payable to adult able-bodied day-wage men reduced

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

Table with 5 columns: Industry, Locality, Date from which Change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, and Particulars of Change. Rows include Iron and Steel Manufacture, Boiler Scaling, Light Castings Manufacture, Bobbin and Shuttle Manufacture, Metallic Bedstead Manufacture, Woolen and Worsted Spinning, Elastic Web Weaving, Textile Bleaching, Dyeing, Printing, etc., Felt Hat Making, Boot and Shoe Repairing, and Baking and Confectionery.

* In the March issue of this GAZETTE (page 102) it was stated that it was agreed that as from December, 1927, the percentage addition to base rates (for men on base earnings of not more than 5s. 10d. per shift) should not fall below 40 when base rate was 4s. 6d. or under, or 37½ when base rate was over 4s. 6d. This provision has applied since December, 1927, but it is not a permanent arrangement, and is subject to review on the consideration by the Employers of the Wages Board of each bi-monthly ascertainment of prices.

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

Table with 5 columns: Industry, Locality, Date from which Change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, and Particulars of Change. Rows include Seed Crushing and Oil Milling, Mill Sawing, Vehicle Building, Furniture Manufacture, Building, Waterworks Undertakings, Electricity Supply (Railways), Tramways and Omnibus Undertakings, Road Transport, Local Government (Non-Trading Services), and Ipswich.

* The change was arranged by the Joint Industrial Council for the Seed Crushing and Compound Cake Manufacturing Industry. † Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements. ‡ The change took effect under an agreement made between the Scottish Building Contractors' Association and the Amalgamated Union of Building Trade Workers.

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

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics.)
Local Government (Non-Trading Services) (cont.)	Hastings ...	Week ending 3 April.	Manual workers employed in non-trading and Water Departments.	Decrease* of 2s. per week. Rates after change: road labourers and sweepers, 46s. 7d.; refuse collectors, 48s. 7d.; general yard and waterworks labourers, 47s. 6d.; pipelayers, 51s. 5d.
	Certain Authorities in Cornwall, Devonshire and Dorset.†	1st full pay week in April.	Manual workers ...	Increases in the scheduled minimum rates of 4s. per week for Grades A and B, of 6s. per week for Grades C and D, and of 2s. per week for Grade E authorities. Scheduled minimum rates after change: Grade A, 55s.; B, 48s.; C, 46s.; D, 44s.; E, 38s.†
National Government.	Ayrshire (Ayr District).	12 March	Road surfacemen employed by County Council.	Decrease* of 1s. per week (45s. to 44s.).
	Ayrshire (Northern District).	2 April	Labourers employed by County Council.	Decrease* of 1s. per week (52s. to 51s.).
Brush and Broom Making.	London ...	1 April	Male cleaners employed by H.M. Office of Works.	Base rates adopted of 55s. per week for new entrants and of 60s. per week for present employees.‡
	Great Britain ...	1 April	Workpeople employed in the brush and broom trade:—	Decreases* in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of the following amounts for the classes named respectively (see page 152 of April GAZETTE):—
			Certain classes of male time-workers.§	Decrease* of 3d. per hour (1s. 2½d. to 1s. 2d.).
			All other male timeworkers ...	Decrease* of 3d. per hour for those 16 and under 16½, 17 and under 18, and 19 and over, the rates for those of other ages remaining unchanged, leaving minimum rates as follows: 2½d. at under 14½ years, increasing to 11d. at 21 and over.
Manchester ...	1st pay day in April.	Female pan hands ...	Decrease* of 2d. per hour for certain classes.	
		Female workers (other than pan hands and learners).	Decrease* of 2d. per hour for those 16 and under 16½, and 17 and under 18, the time rates for those of other ages and the piecework basis time rates for all workers remaining unchanged, leaving minimum time rates as follows: 2½d. at under 14½, increasing to 6½d. at 21 and over.	
		Female learners (other than pan-setting learners).	Decrease* of 2d. per hour during the fourth three months for those starting at 21 and over, the rates for other learners remaining unchanged.	
Wholesale Warehousing.	1st pay day in April.	Male and female pieceworkers	Decrease* of 1½ per cent. in minimum piece rates, leaving wages 20 per cent. below the list.	
		Apprentices ...	Decreases* proportionate to the above.	
Cement Making	Great Britain ...	1 April	Workpeople employed in wholesale warehouses (clothing, millinery, cotton, etc.).	Decreases* of from 5d. to 1s. 3d. per week for male workers, and of from 5d. to 6d. per week for female workers. Minimum rates after change: male workers—10s. at 14 years, increasing to 21s. at 18, 36s. 6d. at 21, and to 49s. at 23 years; female workers—9s. 6d. at 14, increasing to 19s. 6d. at 18, and to 28s. at 21 years.
			Female workers ...	Decrease in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of 2d. per hour for those 16 years and over, the rates for those under 16 remaining unchanged. Current minimum rates for time workers: 2½d. at under 14½ years, increasing to 5½d., 6d., and 6½d. (according to experience), and to 5½d., 6½d., 6½d., and 7½d. (according to experience) at 21 and over; pinkers and choppers to receive 1d. and 2d. per hour more respectively. Piecework basis time rates: 1d. per hour more than appropriate minimum time rate (see page 152 of April GAZETTE.)||

* Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements.
 † The increase is the result of a special Recommendation of the Provincial Industrial Council, which stabilised the new rates of wages for twelve months. The Authorities affected are those which follow the recommendations of the Provincial Council and include: Grade B.—Exeter, Exmouth, Ilfracombe, Newton Abbot, Poole, Swanage, Weymouth, also Torquay and Paignton (scheduled at 50s. 6d.); Grade C.—Tiverton; Grade D.—Bideford; Grade E.—Fowey, Launceston, Seaton. In some cases there was no actual change in wages and in others the increase was less than that shown above as some Authorities were previously paying above the scheduled rates.
 ‡ These rates were fixed under an award of the Industrial Court (dated 23rd March, 1928), and fluctuate in accordance with the cost of living.
 § Viz., men 21 years and over with three years' experience in certain operations and those of all ages who have served at least five years' apprenticeship in one or more of these operations.
 || It was arranged that the minimum time rates for those 16 years and over should be increased by 2d. per hour from 1st October, 1928.

CHANGES TAKING EFFECT IN MAY, 1928.

The following groups of workpeople are among those affected by changes in rates of wages already reported as having been arranged to take effect in May. *Increases.*—Workpeople employed in the jute industry in Great Britain (under a Trade Board Order); men employed in railway electricity generating stations. *Decreases.*—Coopers in Great Britain; glass bottle makers in London; plasterers in Scotland; leather belt makers.

PRICES AND WAGES IN THE IRON AND STEEL TRADES.

The following Table shows the results of recent ascertainties of selling prices of pig iron and manufactured iron and steel:—

Product and District.	Price according to last Audit.*		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) of last Audit* on	
	Period covered by last Audit.	Average selling price per ton.	Previous Audit.	A year ago.
Pig Iron:	1928.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Cleveland (No. 3) ...	Jan.-Mar.	63 0½	- 1 6½	- 15 2
Cumberland ...	Jan.-Feb.	71 2½	- 2 9	- 8 7½
(Hematite mixed numbers.)				
Nottinghamshire ...	Jan.-Mar.	64 9	- 0 6½	- 8 11½
North Staffordshire ...	Jan.-Mar.	66 9½	- 0 4½	- 14 1
Northamptonshire ...	Jan.-Mar.	56 6	- 1 11½	- 12 11½
West of Scotland ...	Jan.-Mar.	72 1	- 2 0	- 13 0
Manufactured Iron:				
North of England... (Bars and angles.)	Jan.-Feb.	188 5½	- 7 3½	- 39 4½
West of Scotland... (Rounds, flats, tees, angles, hoops, and rods.)	Jan.-Feb.	213 3½	- 2 10½	- 19 9½
Steel:				
South-West Wales... (Steel tin bars.)	Jan.-Mar.	111 6	+ 0 5½	- 14 6½
South Wales and Monmouthshire. (Steel rails and steel tin bars.)	Dec., 1927-Feb., 1928.	126 11½	- 16 1½	+ 0 10

* Stated to the nearest farthing.

The fall in the price of Cleveland pig iron indicated in the Table resulted in a decrease in April of 1½ per cent. on the standard rates of blastfurnacemen in that area. The January-February ascertainment for Cumberland resulted in decreases in March of from 1½d. to 3d. per shift for Cumberland iron ore miners, of from 1d. to 3d. per shift, for Furness iron ore miners and surfacemen, and of 3½ per cent. on the output bonus earnings of keepers, slaggers, and certain other classes of men employed at West Cumberland and North Lancashire blastfurnaces. In North Staffordshire the fall in price resulted in a reduction in April of ½ per cent. on standard rates, but this was not applied to datal workers. The ascertainment for West of Scotland resulted in a decrease in April of 2 per cent. on the standard rates of blastfurnacemen, but this reduction did not apply to lower paid day-wage men, whose wages have remained at 21 per cent. above the standard since August 1925. As a result of the ascertainment for Nottinghamshire, the wages of blastfurnacemen in Nottinghamshire and of ironstone miners in Leicestershire and the adjoining parts of Lincolnshire remained unchanged. The reductions warranted by the working of the Northamptonshire Agreement in the wages of blastfurnacemen and ironstone miners and quarrymen were not enforced.

As regards manufactured iron, the North of England ascertainment resulted in a reduction in April of 2½ per cent. on the standard rates of iron puddlers and millmen in that area, whilst the West of Scotland ascertainment did not warrant a change in the wages of iron puddlers and millmen and iron and steel sheet millmen in that area. In the case of Siemens steel-workers in South-West Wales no change was warranted by the January-March ascertainment. The ascertainment for South Wales and Monmouthshire warranted a reduction, but this was not enforced.

TRADE DISPUTES IN APRIL.*

Number, Magnitude and Duration.—The number of trade disputes involving a stoppage of work, reported to the department as beginning in April in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was 16, as compared with 31 in the previous month and 16 in April, 1927. The total number of workpeople involved in these disputes (including those thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, though not themselves parties to the disputes) was approximately 1,900. In addition, about 1,000 workpeople were involved, either directly or indirectly, in 24 disputes which began before April and were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The number of new and old disputes was thus 40, involving about 2,900 workpeople, and resulting in a loss during April of about 30,000 working days.

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

Groups of Industries.	Number of Disputes in progress in Month.			Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress in Month.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress in Month.
	Started before beginning of Month.	Started in Month.	Total.		
Mining and Quarrying...	2	2	4	800	4,000
Bricks, Pottery, Glass, etc.	2	1	3	300	6,000
Building, Public Works Contracting, etc.	6	2	8	500	9,000
Other Industries ...	14	11	25	1,300	11,000
Total, April, 1928 ...	24	16	40	2,900	30,000
Total, Mar., 1928 ...	15	31	46	38,000	168,000
Total, April, 1927 ...	20	16	36	10,300	79,000

Causes.—Of the 16 disputes beginning in April, 3, directly involving 150 workpeople, arose out of proposed reductions in wages; 5, directly involving 1,350 workpeople, on other wages questions; 6, directly involving 330 workpeople, on questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons; and 2, directly involving 30 workpeople, on other questions.

Results.—Settlements were effected in the case of 10 new disputes, directly involving 1,180 workpeople, and 8 old disputes, directly involving 320 workpeople. Of these new and old disputes, one, directly involving 30 workpeople, was settled in favour of the workpeople; 9, directly involving 880 workpeople, in favour of the employers; and 8, directly involving 590 workpeople, were compromised. In the case of one dispute, directly involving 190 workpeople, work was resumed pending negotiations.

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

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

Groups of Industries.	January to April, 1927.			January to April, 1928.		
	No. of Disputes beginning in period.	Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.	No. of Disputes beginning in period.	Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.
Mining and Quarrying ...	28	22,300	399,000	44	55,500	276,000
Bricks, Pottery, Glass, etc.	...	...	...	6	500	18,000
Engineering and Shipbuilding	11	700	3,000	15	1,700	6,000
Other Metal ...	13	1,800	13,000	7	300	2,000
Textile ...	9	2,100	11,000	7	1,200	8,000
Woodworking and Furnishing ...	6	100	1,000	9	300	4,000
Building, Public Works Contracting, etc.	12	5,500	83,000	17	1,600	29,000
Transport ...	6	500	2,000	5	700	3,000
Other ...	7	900	8,000	13	900	14,000
Total ...	92	33,900	520,000	124	62,700	360,000

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

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

[The usual tabular statement of principal disputes in progress during the month is omitted, as there were no disputes involving large numbers of workpeople in April.]

TRADE DISPUTES IN 1927.

A special article dealing with the statistics of trade disputes in Great Britain and Northern Ireland in 1927 appears on pages 158-160 of this issue.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.

THE total number of cases of poisoning, anthrax, and epitheliomatous and chrome ulceration in Great Britain and Northern Ireland reported during April, 1928, under the Factory and Workshop Act, or under the Lead Paint (Protection against Poisoning) Act, 1926, was 54. Ten deaths were reported during the month, nine due to lead poisoning and one due to epitheliomatous ulceration. In addition, two cases of lead poisoning (including one death) among plumbers not employed in factories came to the knowledge of the Home Office during April, but notification of these cases is not obligatory.

(a) CASES OF LEAD POISONING.	(b) CASES OF OTHER FORMS OF POISONING.	(c) CASES OF ANTHRAX.	(d) CASES OF EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCERATION.	(e) CASES OF CHROME ULCERATION.
Among Operatives engaged in—	Aniline Poisoning ...	Wool ...	Pitch ...	Manufacture of Bichromates ...
Smelting of Metals ...	3	Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins ...	Tar ...	Dyeing and Finishing ...
Plumbing and Soldering ...	1	...	Paraffin ...	Chrome Tanning ...
Shipbreaking ...	4	...	Oil ...	Other Industries ...
Printing ...	...	...	...	...
Tinning of Metals ...	...	...	...	...
Other Contact with Molten Lead ...	2	TOTAL, ANTHRAX ...	TOTAL, EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCERATION ...	TOTAL, CHROME ULCERATION ...
White and Red Lead Works ...	1	...	...	...
Pottery* ...	5	...	...	...
Vitreous Enamelling ...	...	...	...	...
Electric Accumulator Works ...	2	...	...	...
Paint and Colour Works ...	...	...	...	...
Indiarubber Works ...	...	...	...	...
Coach and Car Painting ...	1	...	...	...
Shipbuilding ...	...	...	...	...
Paint used in Other Industries ...	...	...	...	...
Other Industries ...	...	...	...	...
Painting of Buildings ...	9	...	...	...
TOTAL OF ABOVE ...	28	...	...	...

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

THE number of workpeople, other than seamen, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, reported during April, 1928, as killed in the course of their employment, was 181, as compared with 201 in the previous month and with 201 in April, 1927. Fatal accidents to seamen reported in April numbered 39, as compared with 57 in the previous month and with 43 in April, 1927.

RAILWAY SERVICE.	PLACES UNDER SS. 104-106, FACTORY ACT, 1901.
Brakesmen and Goods Guards ...	Other Metal Trades ...
Engine Drivers and Motor-men ...	Shipbuilding ...
Firemen ...	Wood ...
Guards (Passenger) ...	Gas ...
Permanent Way Men ...	Electric Generating Stations ...
Porters ...	Clay, Stone, Glass, etc. ...
Shunters ...	Chemicals, etc. ...
Mechanics ...	Food and Drink ...
Labourers ...	Paper, Printing, etc. ...
Miscellaneous ...	Tanning, Currying, etc. ...
Contractors' Servants ...	Rubber Trades ...
TOTAL, RAILWAY SERVICE ...	Other Non-Textile Industries ...
MINES.	...
Underground ...	...
Surface ...	...
TOTAL, MINES ...	...
QUARRIES over 20 feet deep ...	...
FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.	...
Cotton ...	Construction or Repair of Tramway ...
Wool, Worsted and Shoddy Other Textiles ...	Use or Working of Tramway ...
Textile Bleaching and Dyeing ...	Total (excluding Seamen) ...
Metal Extracting and Refining ...	SEAMEN.
Metal Conversion, including Rolling Mills and Tube Making ...	Trading Vessels, Sailing ...
Metal Founding ...	" " Steam ...
Engineering and Machine Making ...	Fishing Vessels, Sailing ...
Boiler Making and Constructional Engineering ...	" " Steam ...
Locomotives, Railway and Tramway Carriages, Motors, Aircraft ...	TOTAL, SEAMEN ...
...	Total (including Seamen) ...

* Of the five persons affected in the pottery industry, three were females.
 † In addition to these cases reported under the Act, one case (fatal) 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 April, 1928, in the poor-law areas in the thirty-one selected urban areas named below was 737,584, or 1.5 per cent. less than in the previous month, and 8.7 per cent. less than in April, 1927. The numbers relieved at these three dates were equivalent, respectively, to rates of 413, 419 and 452 per 10,000 of the estimated population.

Selected Urban Areas.†	Number of persons* in receipt of Poor Law Relief on one day† in April, 1928.			Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with a	
	Indoor.	Out-door.	Total.		Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
<i>Metropolis.</i>						
West District ...	9,234	6,632	15,866	191	- 2	+ 3
North District ...	10,635	16,252	26,887	261	- 11	- 25
Central District ...	2,307	2,487	4,794	357	- 10	- 22
East District ...	9,935	55,566	65,501	1,004	- 18	- 165
South District ...	19,438	65,150	84,588	430	- 16	- 66
TOTAL, Metropolis ...	51,883‡	146,087	197,970§	429	- 13	- 56
West Ham ...	4,548	23,543	28,091	371	- 15	- 187
<i>Other Districts.</i>						
Newcastle District	2,867	26,732	29,599	583	+ 4	- 26
Stockton and Tees District ...	1,431	12,901	14,332	519	- 14	- 125
Bolton, Oldham, etc.	4,189	7,608	11,797	151	+ 2	- 17
Wigan District ...	1,829	15,595	17,424	384	+ 19	+ 66
Manchester District	9,536	30,694	40,230	384	- 3	- 74
Liverpool District	9,753	64,849	74,602	588	- 3	+ 9
Bradford District ...	1,733	6,284	8,017	217	...	- 7
Halifax and Huddersfield ...	1,494	3,125	4,619	124	- 5	+ 3
Leeds ...	2,787	10,403	13,190	276	- 1	- 2
Barnsley District ...	990	11,553	12,543	373	+ 12	+ 46
Sheffield ...	2,558	23,466	26,024	505	- 2	- 81
Hull District ...	1,764	15,369	17,133	535	- 20	+ 29
North Staffordshire	2,473	9,381	11,854	285	...	+ 51
Nottingham District	2,199	12,833	15,032	320	+ 8	- 25
Leicester ...	1,187	4,085	5,272	218	...	+ 15
Wolverhampton District ...	3,524	15,365	18,889	251	+ 2	- 2
Birmingham ...	7,553	17,593	25,146	269	+ 1	- 26
Bristol District ...	2,457	12,383	14,840	359	- 20	- 73
Cardiff and Swansea	2,605	18,529	21,134	437	+ 1	- 6
TOTAL, "Other Districts"	62,929	318,748	381,677	366	...	- 15
TOTAL, Districts in England and Wales ...	119,360	488,378	607,738	384	- 5	- 36
SCOTLAND.						
Glasgow District ...	5,984	74,921	80,905	842	- 24	- 120
Paisley and Greenock District ...	772	11,743	12,515	648	- 30	- 243
Edinburgh ...	1,720	18,366	20,086	474	- 7	+ 57
Dundee and Dundfermline ...	869	4,961	5,830	270	+ 1	+ 8
Aberdeen ...	493	4,218	4,711	299	- 20	- 9
Coatbridge & Airdrie	389	5,410	5,799	570	- 2	+ 30
TOTAL for the above Scottish Districts ...	10,227	119,619	129,846	632	- 17	- 66
TOTAL for above 31 Districts in April, 1928	129,587	607,997	737,584	413	- 6	- 39

ASSISTED PASSAGES UNDER THE EMPIRE SETTLEMENT ACT, 1922.

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

Assisted Passage Schemes.	Assisted Passages Granted in April, 1928.	Total Assisted Passages Granted.		Departures in April, 1928.	Total Departures.	
		1922 to 1927.	Jan.-April, 1928.		1922 to 1927.	Jan.-April, 1928.
To Australia ...	1,564	140,895	7,240	1,438	137,503	7,682
" New Zealand ...	86	40,705	672	148	38,855	987
" Canada ...	4,395	66,522	12,953	2,408	65,484	4,795
" South Africa ...	11	761	78	19	420	52
Minor Schemes ...	68	8,140	292	63	7,360	114
Total ...	6,124	257,023	21,235	4,076	249,642	13,630

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

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

† The figures for England and Wales relate to 28th April, and those for Scotland to 15th April.

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

§ Includes 334 not included in district figures.

RETAIL PRICES OVERSEAS.

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

I.—FOOD.

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

Country.	Percentage Increase as compared with July, 1914.*					Latest figures available.
	July, 1924.	July, 1925.	July, 1926.	July, 1927.	Per cent. 54	
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND	Per cent. 62	Per cent. 67	Per cent. 61	Per cent. 59	Per cent. 54	1928. 1 May.
FOREIGN COUNTRIES.						
Czechoslovakia ...	737	816	776	862	802	Mar.
Denmark ...	100	110	59	53	52	Apr.
Egypt (Cairo)†	48	88	58	47	43	Jan.
Finland ...	916	1,007	987	965	991	Mar.
France (Paris)‡	260	321	474	457	432	Apr.
France (other towns)‡	300§	351§	510§	453§	422	Feb.
Germany ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Holland (The Hague)	67	76	68	72	70	Feb.
Italy (Milan)	408	502	554	424	416	Mar.
" (Rome)	369	427	498	425	399	Feb.
Norway ...	148	160	98	75	71	Apr.
Spain (Madrid)‡	82	80	86	89	75	Feb.
" (Barcelona)‡	72	82	63	64	66	Feb.
Sweden ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Switzerland ...	70	69	59	57	57	Mar.
United States ...	40	86	84	50	49	Mar.
BRITISH DOMINIONS, &C.						
Australia ...	49†	86	59	52	53	Mar.
Canada ...	34†	42†	51†	49	48	Apr.
India (Bombay): Native families	51	52	55	54	40	Apr.
Irish Free State ...	85	88	74	66	75	Jan.
New Zealand ...	48	81	49	44	44	Apr.
South Africa ...	17	20	16	19	18	Mar.

II.—ALL ITEMS.

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

Country.	Items on which computation is based.‡	Percentage Increase as compared with July, 1914.*					Latest figures available.
		July, 1924.	July, 1925.	July, 1926.	July, 1927.	Per cent. 64	
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND	A,B,O,D,E	70	75	70	66	64	1928. 1 May.
FOREIGN COUNTRIES.							
Belgium ...	A,O,D,E	393	409	537	690	707	Apr.
Czechoslovakia (Prague) ...	A,B,O,D,E	589	641	618	647	630	Mar.
Denmark ...	A,B,O,D,E	114	119	84	76	76	Apr.
Finland ...	A,B,O,D,E	1,032	1,094	1,018	1,081	1,095	Mar.
France (Paris)	A,B,C,D,E	267¶	301¶	439¶	407¶	407	1st qr.
Germany ...	A,B,O,D,E	...	...	...	...	...	...
Greece (Athens)	A,B,O,D,E	1,225	1,372	1,708	...	1,866	Mar.
Holland (Amsterdam)	A,B,O,D,E	73†	79†	71†	67†	70	Dec.'27
Italy (Milan)	A,B,O,D,E	412	498	549	448	431	Mar.
" (Rome)	A,B,O,D,E	349	395	462	406	377	Feb.
Luxemburg ...	A,O,D	381	415	509	681	695	Mar.
Norway ...	A,B,O,D,E	181†	161†	121†	103	93	Apr.
Poland (Warsaw)	A,B,O,D,E	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sweden ...	A,B,O,D,E	71	76	72	69	71	Apr.
Switzerland ...	A,B,O,D	...	...	...	...	...	...
United States ...	A,B,O,D,E	59†	74†	75†	73†	72	Dec.'27
BRITISH DOMINIONS, &C.							
Australia ...	A,B,C,D,E	42¶	44¶	47¶	45¶	47	1st qr.
Canada ...	A,B,O,D,E	55†	55†	57†	55†	56	Apr.
India (Bombay): Native families	A,B,O,D	57	57	57	56	44	Apr.
Irish Free State ...	A,B,O,D,E	83	88	82	71	77	Jan.
New Zealand ...	A,B,O,D,E	60§	63§	61	61	61	Apr.
South Africa ...	A,B,C,D,E	32	33	30	32	32	Mar.

* Exceptions to this are: France (other towns), August, 1914; The Hague, January to July, 1914; Rome and Milan, January to June, 1914; Switzerland and Luxemburg, June, 1914; Spain, South Africa, France (Paris, all items), Greece, average, 1914; Germany, average, 1913-1914; Amsterdam, 1911-1913; Belgium, April, 1914; United States (all items), Canada, 1913, Australia (all items) November, 1914; Poland, January, 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.
† Figure for 3rd Quarter.

EMPLOYMENT OVERSEAS.

[N.B.—The following paragraphs include an abstract of such official information as is available with regard to the state of employment abroad, in order to indicate, as far as possible, the fluctuations in employment in each country from period to period. The bases of the official statistics published in the various countries are, however, not the same as those of the statistics relating to this country, and therefore the figures quoted below cannot properly be used with those on pp. 171-172 to compare the actual level of employment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland with that of other countries. For details of the bases of the unemployment statistics of the various countries, reference should be made to the Reports on Statistics of Unemployment issued by the International Labour Office (Studies and Reports, Series C., No. 7, and Series N., No. 7).]

GERMANY.

Reichsarbeitsblatt* states that from the middle of January to the middle of March a slow but steady decline took place in the number of persons registered as unemployed at the Employment Exchanges, the total of which at the earlier date had exceeded two millions. Leading industries up to the middle of March were still suffering from depression. In the second half of the month employment conditions, under the influence of more settled weather, underwent a rapid improvement. The seasonal revival in the clothing industry continued in a more marked form. Other industrial groups showed fewer unemployed, with the exception of the textile, in which the decline in employment which had been in progress since October last became accentuated during the month under review.

At the end of March, the Employment Exchanges making returns reported 1,664,440 persons on the "live register," as against 1,933,320 at the end of February, and 1,919,518 at the end of March, 1927. The number of vacant situations registered at the Exchanges at the end of March was 85,308, as compared with 71,855 at the end of the preceding month and 56,678 at the end of March, 1928.

The number of insured persons in receipt of benefit in respect of total unemployment on 31st March, 1928, was 1,208,406 (including 197,643 in receipt of emergency unemployment benefit). On 29th February the corresponding total was 1,452,416 (including 214,912 in receipt of emergency benefit). On 15th April the total in receipt of benefit fell to 1,027,283 (including 182,393 in receipt of emergency benefit).

Returns relating to 4,162,658 organised workers were received from national trade unions. Of these 383,224, or 9.2 per cent., were totally unemployed on 31st March, 1928, as compared with 10.4 per cent. on 25th February, and 11.5 per cent. on 26th March, 1927. In addition 155,797, or 3.7 per cent., were working short time, as against 3.6 per cent. on 25th February, and 4.4 per cent. at the end of March, 1927.

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

Groups of Trades.	Membership reported on at end of March, 1928.	Percentage unemployed at end of month.	
		March, 1928.	February, 1928.
All Unions making Returns ...	4,162,658	9.2	10.4
Mining ...	164,500	2.0	2.0
Quarrying, stone, brick, pottery, etc. ...	228,400	8.7	12.2
Engineering and metal ...	921,500	5.1	5.5
Chemical ...	112,900	5.2	5.4
Textile ...	387,600	4.3	3.7
Paper ...	115,300	4.8	4.9
Leather ...	146,900	10.3	10.0
Wood ...	303,100	11.1	11.9
Food, tobacco, etc. ...	268,800	7.4	7.2
Clothing ...	93,700	10.8	14.1
Building ...	606,500	28.2	33.5
Printing ...	140,000	3.3	3.4
Transport ...	330,500	5.1	5.1

Employers' returns were received in March from 3,766 establishments in various industries. On the 15th of the month, 31 per cent. of the aggregate workpeople covered by the returns were employed in establishments reporting good employment (as compared with 26 per cent. in the previous month and 22 per cent. in March, 1927) and 23 per cent. in those reporting bad employment (as against 19 per cent. in the previous month and 25 per cent. in March, 1927).

FRANCE.†

The total number of unemployed persons remaining on the "live register" of the Exchanges on 28th April, 1928, was 18,420 (12,739 men and 5,681 women). At the end of March the corresponding total was 22,325. The total number of vacancies remaining unfilled on 28th April was 12,529 (7,595 men and 4,934 women), as compared with 11,634 at the end of March. During the last week of April the Exchanges succeeded in placing 24,402 persons in situations, including 8,104 dock workers at seaports, and in addition found employment for 490 foreign immigrants.

DENMARK.‡

Returns supplied to the Danish Statistical Department by trade unions and by the Central Employment Exchange show that 22.5 per cent. of the 273,876 workpeople covered by the statistics were unemployed at the end of March, as against 25.9 per cent. at the end of the preceding month and 26.2 at the end of March, 1927.

* Reichsarbeitsblatt, 20th April, 1st May, 1928. Berlin.
† Bulletin du Marché du Travail, 4th May, 1928. Paris.
‡ Statistiske Efterretninger, 25th April, 1928. Copenhagen.

SWEDEN.*

The percentage of members of trade unions making returns who were unemployed on 31st March, 1928, was 13.1, as compared with 13.2 per cent. on the last day of the preceding month, and 14.1 per cent. on 31st March, 1927.

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Index Number of Employment, March.—If the monthly average index number of employment in manufacturing industries in 1923 be taken as 100, the corresponding figure for March, 1928, is 86.1, as compared with 85.5 in February, and 91.4 in March, 1927.

CANADA.

For 1st April, 1928, returns were received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from 6,191 firms, with an aggregate of 842,940 on their pay rolls. On 1st March, 1928, the same firms reported 844,294 employed, and the total for the 1st April thus shows a decrease of 1,354. If employment in the week ended 17th January, 1920, be represented by 100, the index number of employment for 1st April, 1928, is 101.1, as compared with 101.4 at the beginning of the preceding month, and 96.2 on 1st April, 1927.*

On 29th February, 1928, 7.0 per cent. of the aggregate membership of trade unions making returns were unemployed, as compared with 6.8 per cent. at the end of January, and 6.5 per cent. at the end of February, 1927.†

AUSTRALIA.‡

The proportion of members of trade unions making returns who were unemployed in the first quarter of 1928 amounted to 10.2 per cent., as compared with 8.9 per cent. in the preceding quarter, and 5.9 per cent. in the first quarter of 1927. (These figures relate to persons out of work for three days or more during a specified week in each quarter.)

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

Trade Union Act, 1871.

TRADE UNION AND MEMBER—SUPERANNUATION ALLOWANCE—ALTERATION OF THE RULES—TEMPORARY MEASURES.

A MEMBER of the National Union of Foundry Workers of Great Britain and Ireland brought an action for a declaration that resolutions passed by the national executive council of the union altering certain of the rules of the union were *ultra vires*; he also sought injunctions to restrain the union from putting those resolutions into operation.

In 1921 the plaintiff, having attained the age of 66 years, ceased work, and under Rule 33 became entitled to a weekly superannuation allowance of 7s. 6d. This was paid to him until the 10th January, 1927, when the allowance was reduced to 5s. weekly by the resolution complained of.

Rule 33 provided for the payment of superannuation allowance: in the plaintiff's case the rate to which he was entitled under that rule was 7s. 6d. a week. The rule could not be altered unless five-sixths of the members voted in favour of such a course. Rule 34 provided that certain sums should be paid for funeral expenses on the death of a member: the sums payable were set out in a schedule embodied in the rules. The national executive council had no power to make new rules, and the rules could only be amended by the vote of the members or by the rules revision committee properly constituted.

The national executive council on the 4th January, 1927, passed resolutions reducing by one-third the superannuation allowance and the payments for funeral expenses. It was contended on behalf of the defendant union that the resolutions of the 4th January were purely concerned with administration, and were not passed with a view to altering the rules. It was pointed out that the Union could not afford to pay the full superannuation allowance, owing to the poor financial position in which it found itself at present. It was further submitted that Section 4 of the Trade Union Act, 1871, precluded the plaintiff from bringing the action, since that enactment provided that no action could be brought by a member to recover benefits; and it had been decided in the case of *McCluskey and Others v. Cole and Others* (1922, 1 Ch. 7) that, when an action could not be brought under Section 4, an injunction would not be granted to restrain the enforcement of a resolution.

Counsel for the defendant union said that there were heavy liabilities in the balance sheet, and, in addition, the Ministry of Labour in December, 1926, were urging the union to improve its financial position. For five years it had been unable to pay its contribution to the Unemployment Fund, and unless that payment were made, the arrangement made with the Ministry of Labour for paying unemployment benefit to the members would have to cease. Those members who would have been prejudiced by the cessation of payment of unemployment benefit greatly outnumbered those who were in receipt of superannuation allowance.

Counsel for the plaintiff urged that the rules which had been made to provide for the objects of the union and the means of enforcing the rules were made under statutory authority, and that the Court had power to construe the rules and to consider whether proper provision had been made for altering them. The plaintiff was entitled to receive the full allowance of 7s. 6d. a week, since the defendant union had not suggested that they had not sufficient funds to pay that.

In the course of his judgment, Mr. Justice Astbury said that he fully realised the unfortunate position in which the plaintiff and other old members of the union were placed. In his view, however, the council had not intended to alter the rules, and the resolutions

were temporary measures, to be operative only while the financial position of the union did not permit payment in full: he hoped that ultimately there would be a return to the old scale.

The union would be bound to come to an end if unemployment benefit were not paid, since there would be no contributions.

In his opinion the resolutions did not amount to alterations of the rules, the temporary arrangement which the resolutions were intended to provide for was not *ultra vires*, and the Court had no authority to interfere with the internal affairs of the union. In any case, Section 4 of the Trade Union Act, 1871, debarred the plaintiff from obtaining relief in this action. If the injunction asked for would not effectively obtain for the plaintiff the benefits sought by him, it would be useless: it was admitted that the plaintiff could not sue for those benefits.

The action was dismissed with costs.—*Cox v. National Union of Foundry Workers of Great Britain and Ireland*. High Court of Justice, Chancery Division. 1st March, 1928.

Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1887.

CHECKWEIGHMAN—INTERFERENCE WITH APPOINTMENT—SEPARATE MINE.

The defendant, Captain Muschamp, agent to the New Hucknall Colliery Company, was summoned by Arthur Thompson, a checkweigher, for unlawfully interfering with the appointment of a checkweigher by requesting George Alfred Spencer to make known to the persons entitled to appoint a checkweigher that he (Thompson) would not be allowed to act, or continue to act, as checkweigher, that if he were elected to that post the Waterloo seam would not be re-opened, and that Thompson had been responsible for the seam being closed.

Sir Henry Slessor, K.C., M.P., for the prosecution, pointed out that one of the issues in the case would be as to what constituted a mine, and whether the seams worked at the colliery in question formed one mine or separate mines. In his submission the three seams worked formed one mine because they had a common system of ventilation, and so long as any part of the mine continued to be worked, the complainant, Thompson, was checkweigher at the mine. Thompson was originally appointed checkweigher in 1918, and was re-elected to that office for the Waterloo seam after the stoppage of 1926; two other checkweighers were elected for the Low Main seam and the Deep Hard seam. Counsel submitted that, although the chairman of the meeting at which the appointment was made failed to make the necessary statutory declaration afterwards, that did not make the election bad. In any event, the complainant was the recognised checkweigher, and acted as such until November, 1927, when notices were posted to the effect that, unless new terms could be arranged, the Waterloo and Deep Hard seams would close on December 5th, 1927.

It was alleged that the defendant would only communicate the colliery company's terms to the men through Mr. G. A. Spencer.

H.M. Inspector of Mines for the district gave evidence to the effect that there was a common ventilation system shared by the three seams at the colliery; there was, however, a separate under-manager for each seam, and there were distinct and separate shafts.

Another witness produced a copy of a price-list which related to the three seams and was signed by the defendant: the list was signed separately by the checkweighmen of the three seams, and the witness stated that the Waterloo seam was regarded as separate for the purpose of checkweighmen.

Mr. Norman Birkett, K.C., for the defence, said that nobody would deny that it was of vital importance that the appointment of a checkweigher should be made in accordance with the Act, and that there should be no interference, bribery or intimidation. He contended that this case was not merely a question of the appointment of a checkweigher, but that it was a manifestation of the rivalry existing between two unions. His first point was that whatever the defendant had done did not constitute an offence if the Waterloo seam was in fact a separate mine, for, if such was the case, there could have been no interference with the appointment, since there would have been no persons employed at the mine entitled to appoint a checkweighman. The prosecution had in effect assented to this proposition, but argued that the Waterloo seam was not a separate mine, because no notice had been sent to the Mines Inspector. In his (counsel's) submission the evidence of H.M. Inspector of Mines was not proof that no notice was ever sent; no witness had been called from the Home Office, which was the authority to which notice should have been sent at the time, as the Ministry of Mines was not then in existence. The Ministry of Mines had, for the purpose of returns, treated the Waterloo seam as a separate mine. A further point was that there could have been no interference with the appointment of the complainant, because his appointment in 1926 was not valid, and in 1928, therefore, he was not a checkweigher. It had been decided recently in a County Court case that the absence of the statutory declaration rendered such an appointment null and void; it was admitted that the statutory declaration was not made in 1926, and, moreover, the meeting had not been properly convened. Quite apart from anything else, the prosecution could not succeed if the Court were satisfied that what the defendant said on the 31st January, 1927, did not amount to interference with the appointment of a checkweigher.

Captain Muschamp, giving evidence, said that on the 31st January, 1927, Mr. Spencer asked him whether the Waterloo seam could be re-opened. He replied that the matter was in the hands of the directors, and added that he thought Thompson would not be acceptable to the directors if he were re-elected checkweigher. He told Mr. Spencer that he was at liberty to let the men know what had been

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTS,

1920-27.

DECISIONS GIVEN BY THE UMPIRE.

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

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

The following is a recent decision of general interest:—

Case No. 688/28. (24/4/28.) Section 8 (2) of the Principal Act—Misconduct.

MANAGER OF GROCERY STORE DISMISSED BECAUSE OF 10 PER CENT. DEFICIENCY OF STOCK AT STOCKTAKING—NEGLIGENCE AMOUNTING TO MISCONDUCT.

In the case of an appeal against the disallowance of a claim for benefit on the ground of misconduct, the Umpire gave the following decision in which the circumstances are explained:—

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

"The applicant was the manager of a grocery store of which he was in sole charge, and he commenced that employment about September, 1926. On 24th December, 1927, he was dismissed for misconduct in the following circumstances:—Stock is taken at the store every three months. At the stocktaking in September, 1927, there was a deficiency of 1 per cent., which is recognised as being accountable for by mistakes in weighing and loss of weight in certain commodities. When stock was again taken in December, 1927, there was a deficiency of 10 per cent., or £175. The applicant could not account for this large and unusual deficiency, and was dismissed for misconduct. It should be observed that no allegation of dishonesty was made against the applicant, the discrepancy being attributed solely to the negligent discharge of his duties.

"It is now suggested that the discrepancy may have been due to two causes: (1) theft of money or goods by the shop assistants who worked under the direction and control of the applicant; (2) the unsatisfactory method of stocktaking.

"With regard to the first cause suggested, it is the duty of the manager to ensure as far as he can that thefts of such a nature do not take place, and, in any event, to detect them before they reach the magnitude which these thefts had reached in the space of three months, if this be the correct explanation of the large deficiency in this case.

"With regard to the second cause suggested, stock was again taken five days after the stock-taking at which the deficiency of £175 was discovered, and the figures were in no way altered. An offer was made to the applicant to see the full result of the stock-taking with all the figures, an offer of which no advantage was taken, though it is said, for reasons which I am unable to appreciate, that had the offer been accepted it would have afforded the applicant no means of knowing whether the stock had been correctly taken or not.

"In these circumstances I see no reason for disagreeing with the Court of Referees, who came to the conclusion that the negligence of the applicant was such as to amount to misconduct."

COURTS OF REFEREES REGULATIONS, 1928.

The Unemployment Insurance (Courts of Referees) Regulations, 1928,† dated 3rd April, 1928, made by the Minister of Labour under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920 (10 & 11 Geo. 5, c. 30).

The Minister of Labour, by virtue of the powers conferred on him by Sections 13 and 35 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, and of all other powers enabling him in that behalf, hereby makes the following Regulations:—

1.—(1) The panels of persons chosen to represent employers and insured contributors respectively required to be constituted by the Minister shall be composed of such number of members as the Minister sees fit to appoint for each district.

(2) Before appointing a person to be a member of a panel, the Minister shall take into consideration the name of any person suggested for appointment by the Advisory Committee for the district concerned, or, if in the district there is no such Advisory Committee, he shall take into consideration the name of any person suggested for appointment by or on behalf of any employers or insured contributors or by any associations of employers or employed persons if in his opinion the person or association making the suggestion is an interested party.

(3) The members of a panel shall hold office for three years from the date of their appointment or for such other term as the Minister may direct.

Provided that the Minister may at any time terminate the appointment of any member of a panel.

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

† Statutory Rules and Orders, 1928, No. 309.

said. He (the witness) had never laid it down as a condition of the re-opening of the mine that Thompson should not be appointed checkweigher. If the pit had been working, he would not have made the remark about the complainant which he did make, lest it should have been construed into an attempt to interfere with the appointment, but, as a matter of fact, the pit was closed at the time.

Mr. G. A. Spencer, M.P., gave evidence corroborating Captain Muschamp.

The Chairman of the magistrates announced that the Bench found as a fact that the Waterloo seam was a separate mine, and that there had not been interference with the appointment of a checkweigher. The case was accordingly dismissed, and the prosecution were ordered to pay a sum not exceeding £100 towards the costs of the defence.

Eleven other summonses against the defendant, under the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1887, were withdrawn. *Thompson v. Muschamp*. Mansfield Petty Sessions. 17th April, 1928.

Workmen's Compensation Act, 1925.

"IN THE COURSE OF HIS EMPLOYMENT"—PRACTISING, NOT WORKING.

The applicant, a surface haulage engine driver, claimed compensation from his employers, the Nanthir Colliery Company, Blaengarw, for injuries sustained in an accident.

The applicant, giving evidence, stated that about fourteen days before the accident he was asked by the colliery manager if he would take on a job as a winding engineman; he agreed to do this, but said that it would take him some time to learn the work. On the date of the accident, after finishing his ordinary duties, he practised for two hours; but when he was leaving the colliery premises he fell into a culvert and broke his leg.

After hearing evidence on behalf of the respondent company, his Honour Judge Rowlands said that he was satisfied that it had been made a condition of employment that the applicant should first of all have some opportunity of practising with the engine; but he did not think that it could be said that, because a workman might make such a condition, he would be "in the course of his employment" whilst he was performing the condition. In effect the accident took place at a time when he was actually doing nothing at all for his employers.—*Parry v. Nanthir Colliery Co.* Bridgend County Court. 25th April, 1928.

Factory Act, 1901.

EMPLOYMENT OF JUVENILES—OMISSION TO OBTAIN A MEDICAL CERTIFICATE.

Proceedings were brought under the Factory Act against the Goole Co-operative Society for employing in their bakery a lad under the age of sixteen years without his having been certified by a medical officer.

The lad in question was only fourteen years old, and had been employed in the bakehouse since the 3rd February. The prosecution stated that the defendants had already been warned twice for similar offences. The defence was that the matter was due to an oversight.

The Bench warned the defendants against a repetition of the offence, and made an order for the payment of 7s. costs.—*Rez v. Goole Co-operative Society*. Goole Petty Sessions. 23rd March, 1928.

Other Recent Decisions of Interest.

Illegal Employment of School Children.

Two bookmakers were summoned for employing school children after 7 p.m. Each of the defendants had employed a lad whose duty it was to hold up a board on which were displayed the odds at a dog racing track.

The prosecution said that it was usual to give two warnings in such cases before proceedings were taken, but, having regard to the surroundings in which the lads were employed in these particular cases, it had been thought desirable in the public interest to ventilate the facts in Court.

In the case of one defendant a fine of 5s. was imposed, and in the case of the other defendant the summons was dismissed on payment of costs.—*Bradford Petty Sessions*. 26th April, 1928.

Lightning Strike—Breach of Contract—Laying Pit Idle.

An action was brought by a colliery company against seventy putters for breach of contract. It was stated that the defendants had laid the Hazelrigg Pit idle from the 1st to the 10th March owing to some grievance which they felt they had with regard to the wages standard. They had also absented themselves from work from March 15th to March 24th, and twenty-four hewers had had to do their work. It had been the practice of the putters for some years to lay the pit idle whenever they thought they had a complaint. The colliery owners had carried on at a considerable loss for some years, and had spent a great deal of money on new plant in order to provide employment. On this particular occasion the actual loss suffered by the colliery company owing to the defendants' action was £1,500, though only one-third of this sum was being claimed as damages.

Damages and costs were awarded by the Court against each of the seventy defendants.—*Newcastle Petty Sessions*. 4th April, 1928.

The Harton Colliery Company sued 987 of their workmen for damages for breach of contract for laying the pit idle without notice on three days in March last. The company had lost £759 through the defendants' absence from work, though they were only claiming £378 by way of damages.

The miners' officials agreed to judgment against each man for 15s. Judge Sir Francis Greenwell gave judgment accordingly, and said that these lightning strikes were brought about by pernicious influence, which did not emanate from the men's official leaders.—*South Shields County Court*. 25th April, 1928.

* The April Employment Situation, 1928. Ottawa.

† Information supplied by the Canadian Department of Labour, Ottawa.

‡ Information supplied by the Prime Minister's Department, Canberra, and Quarterly Summary of Australian Statistics, December, 1927, Melbourne.

(4) Where a vacancy occurs by reason of the death or retirement of a member of a panel before the termination of his appointment, any person appointed by the Minister to fill such vacancy shall hold office only until the expiration of the term for which that member was appointed.

Provided that nothing in these Regulations shall be construed as implying any obligation upon the Minister to fill any vacancy in a panel.

2.—(1) A Court shall consist of a chairman appointed by the Minister and one person drawn from the employers' panel and one person drawn from the insured contributors' panel and duly summoned to serve on the Court.

(2) So far as practicable the persons drawn from the two panels shall be men when men's cases are being considered and women when women's cases are being considered.

(3) Each member of a panel shall, so far as practicable, be summoned to serve in turn upon a Court.

(4) Any case may, with the consent of the claimant or association concerned but not otherwise, be proceeded with in the absence of any member or members of the Court other than the Chairman, and in any such case the Court shall be deemed to be properly constituted, and the Chairman shall, if the number of the members of the Court is an even number, have a second or casting vote.

(5) No member of a panel shall act as a member of a Court during the consideration of a case in which he appears as the representative of the claimant or by which he is or may be directly affected or in which he has taken any part as an official of an association or as an employer or as a witness or otherwise or whilst he is himself claiming unemployment benefit or is disqualified for the receipt of such benefit.

3. Where an insured contributor has required the insurance officer to report any matter to a Court the Chairman of the Court may at any time before the matter has been taken into consideration by the Court, refer the matter for previous examination and report to two persons, who are persons resident in the neighbourhood in which the insured contributor resides, and of whom one shall be drawn from the employers' panel and the other from the insured contributors' panel.

4.—(1) (a) Save as hereinafter provided reasonable notice of the time and place at which a Court will sit for the consideration of any case shall be given to the claimant and except by consent of the claimant a Court shall not proceed to the consideration of any case unless such notice has been given.

(b) During the consideration by a Court of any case the claimant, an insurance officer, and any officer of the Ministry of Labour that the Minister may direct shall be entitled to be present at the sitting of the Court and the claimant may be represented at the sitting of the Court by any person, not being counsel or solicitor, authorised by him, but for the purpose of discussing its recommendations the Court may order all persons not being members of the Court to withdraw from the sitting of the Court.

(c) The provisions of paragraph (a) hereof, and of paragraph (b) hereof, so far as they relate to a claimant and any representative authorised by him shall not apply in the case of any review under Section 11 (2A) of the Act: provided that before making any recommendation to disallow the continuance of unemployment benefit the Court shall give an opportunity to the claimant to attend, and be represented as aforesaid before it.

(2) Where the case to be considered by a Court is a claim by an association which has made an arrangement under Section 17 of the Act for payment of a sum in lieu of unemployment benefit, the secretary of the association, or the secretary of the branch of the association through which the claim was made, shall have the same rights as to notice, presence at the sitting of the Court, and representation by another person, as are given to a claimant by these Regulations.

(3) The Court may allow any person appearing to the Court to be likely to be affected by the decision of the Court to be present during the consideration of a case, but save as aforesaid, there shall not be admitted to the sitting of the Court any member of the public or the representative of any newspaper.

(4) The decision of a majority of a Court shall be the decision of the Court, but any member dissenting from any decision of the Court may record his dissent and the reason therefor, and a statement that the member so dissented, and of the reason recorded by him for so dissenting, shall be transmitted to the insurance officer with the recommendation of the Court.

5. In these regulations the following expressions have the meanings hereby assigned to them respectively, that is to say:—

"The Act" means the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, as amended by any subsequent enactment.

"Advisory Committee" means an advisory committee appointed under subsection (5) of Section 2 of the Labour Exchanges Act, 1909.

"Court" means a Court of Referees for the purposes of the Act.

"Employers' Panel" and "Insured Contributors' Panel" mean the panels of persons chosen to represent employers and insured contributors respectively required to be constituted under subsection (3) of Section 13 of the Act.

"The Minister" means the Minister of Labour.

6. The Unemployment Insurance (Courts of Referees) Regulations, 1920, the Unemployment Insurance (Courts of Referees)

(Amending) Regulations, 1921, and the Unemployment Insurance (Courts of Referees) (Amending) (No. 2) Regulations, 1921, are hereby revoked, but such revocation shall not affect any right, privilege, obligation or liability acquired, accrued or incurred under any of those Regulations.

7.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Unemployment Insurance (Courts of Referees) Regulations, 1928, and shall come into force on the 19th day of April, 1928.

(2) The Interpretation Act applies to the interpretation of these Regulations as it applies to the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.

Signed by order of the Minister of Labour this 3rd day of April, 1928.

H. J. WILSON,
Secretary of the Ministry of Labour.

EXEMPT PERSONS REGULATIONS, 1928.

The Unemployment Insurance (Exempt Persons) Regulations, 1928,* dated 2nd April, 1928, made by the Minister of Labour under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920 (10 & 11 Geo. 5, c. 30).

The Minister of Labour, by virtue of the powers conferred on him by the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, hereby makes the following Regulations:—

1.—(1) In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires—

"The Acts" means the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1927.

"Employed Person" shall have the same meaning as in the Acts.

"The Minister" means the Minister of Labour.

"A person over 65" shall have the same meaning as in the Unemployment Insurance (Collection of Contributions for Persons over 65) Regulations, 1928.†

"Unemployment Book" shall have the same meaning as in the Unemployment Insurance (Collection of Contributions) Regulations, 1920.‡

(2) The Interpretation Act, 1889, shall apply to the interpretation of these Regulations as it applies to the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.

2.—(1) Any employed person, not being a person over 65, who can prove that he is either—

(a) in receipt of any pension or income of the annual value of twenty-six pounds or upwards, which does not depend on his personal exertions; or

(b) ordinarily and mainly dependent for his livelihood upon some other person; or

(c) ordinarily and mainly dependent for his livelihood on the earnings derived by him from an occupation employment in which does not make him an employed person within the meaning of the Acts; or

(d) a person who is employed in an occupation which is of a seasonal nature and does not ordinarily extend over more than eighteen weeks in any year, and who is not ordinarily employed in any other occupation employment in which would make him an employed person within the meaning of the Acts,

may apply to the Minister for an Unemployment Insurance Exemption Certificate exempting him from liability to be insured under the Acts, and every application for such a certificate shall be made on the appropriate form prescribed in the first schedule hereto, or in such other form as the Minister may deem expedient, and shall be forwarded to the Minister in such manner as he may from time to time direct.

(2) Every person making application for an Unemployment Insurance Exemption Certificate, or for the renewal of such a certificate, shall—

(a) state fully and correctly all particulars required to be given in the form of application; and

(b) make a full disclosure of all facts on which he relies to show that he is entitled to exemption; and

(c) furnish such further evidence in relation to his application as the Minister may in any particular case require.

3.—(1) An Unemployment Insurance Exemption Certificate shall be in the form prescribed in the Second Schedule hereto, or in such other form as the Minister may deem expedient, and any employed person who shows that he is the holder of an Unemployment Insurance Exemption Certificate, or of a certificate of exemption granted under the provisions of Section 2 of the National Health Insurance Act, 1924, shall be entitled to an Unemployment (Exempt Persons) Book in place of an Unemployment Book, and so long only as the holder of a certificate of exemption granted under the National Health Insurance Act, 1924, is the rightful holder of an Unemployment (Exempt Persons) Book that certificate shall have effect as an Unemployment Insurance Exemption Certificate.

(2) An Unemployment (Exempt Persons) Book shall be in such form as the Minister may from time to time direct, and any Regulations for the time being in force with regard to the issue, custody and stamping of Unemployment Books shall, so far as they are not inconsistent, apply to the issue, custody, and stamping of Unemployment (Exempt Persons) Books.

* Statutory Rules and Orders, 1928, No. 307.

† Statutory Rules and Orders, 1928, No. 14.

‡ Statutory Rules and Orders, 1920, No. 2014.

4.—(1) An Unemployment Insurance Exemption Certificate shall remain in force for such period, not exceeding five years, from the date of its being granted or renewed, as may be specified in the certificate.

Provided that—

(a) if while the certificate is in force the circumstances of the exempt person alter in such a way as to disentitle him to exemption, or if he attain the age of 65, the certificate shall thereupon become void; and

(b) if at any time the exempt person gives notice to the Minister that he desires that the certificate of exemption granted to him shall be cancelled, the certificate shall be cancelled accordingly, and shall thereupon become void as from such date as the Minister may determine.

(2) An Unemployment Insurance Exemption Certificate which has expired or become void shall be surrendered forthwith by the holder thereof to the Minister, or otherwise as the Minister may direct, together with a statement in such form as the Minister may direct of the circumstances in which the certificate is surrendered, and any employed person surrendering an expired or void Unemployment Insurance Exemption Certificate or Certificate of Exemption granted under the provisions of the National Health Insurance Act, 1924, shall at the same time surrender to an Employment Exchange, Branch Employment Office, or Juvenile Employment Bureau, or otherwise as the Minister may direct, the Unemployment (Exempt Persons) Book held by him.

Provided that for the purposes of this provision paragraph (ii) of Regulation 2 of the Unemployment Insurance (Collection of Contributions for Persons over 65) Regulations, 1928,* shall not apply.

(3) Where an exempt person desires to obtain a renewal of his Unemployment Insurance Exemption Certificate, he may, if he can prove that he will after the expiration of that certificate continue to be qualified under the first paragraph of Regulation 2 of these Regulations, make application to the Minister before the expiration of his certificate for the renewal thereof in such a manner as the Minister may direct.

5. The Unemployment Insurance (Exempt Persons) Regulations, 1920,† are hereby revoked, but such revocation shall not affect any right, privilege, obligation or liability acquired, accrued or incurred under those Regulations.

6. These Regulations may be cited as the Unemployment Insurance (Exempt Persons) Regulations, 1928, and shall come into operation on the 19th day of April, 1928.

Signed by Order of the Minister of Labour this 2nd day of April, 1928.

H. J. WILSON,
Secretary of the Ministry of Labour.

FIRST SCHEDULE.

(NOTE.—Copies of the form of application [U.I. 468 A.], which is not here reproduced, may be obtained at any Local Office of the Ministry of Labour.)

SECOND SCHEDULE.

Certificate of Exemption.

No..... Date.....19...

This is to certify that.....residing at.....is exempted from liability to become or to continue to be insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1927, until.....19...

On behalf of the Minister of Labour,

.....
An Assistant Secretary to the Ministry of Labour
authorised in that behalf.

U.I. 468 B.

PAYMENT OF TRAVELLING EXPENSES REGULATIONS, 1928.

The Unemployment Insurance (Payment of Travelling Expenses) Regulations, 1928,‡ dated 16th April, 1928, made by the Minister of Labour under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920 (10 & 11 Geo. 5, c. 30).

The Minister of Labour, by virtue of the powers conferred on him by the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, and with the consent of the Treasury, hereby makes the following Regulations:—

1. Where an advance under subsection (1) of Section 2 of the Labour Exchanges Act, 1909, and the Regulations made thereunder has been made on or after the date upon which these Regulations come into force to an insured contributor on account of the expenses of travelling to a place where employment has been found for him and the insured contributor at the time the advance is made is a person in whose case the first statutory condition is fulfilled, the amount which the Minister may repay under Section 30 of the Act out of the Unemployment Fund to the Fund out of which the advance was made shall be one-half of the amount (if any) by which the sum so advanced exceeds 4s.

* Statutory Rules and Orders, 1928, No. 14.

† Statutory Rules and Orders, 1920, No. 1959.

‡ Statutory Rules and Orders, 1928, No. 325.

2. The Unemployment Insurance (Payment of Travelling Expenses) Regulations, 1921, are hereby revoked, but such revocation shall not affect any right, privilege, obligation or liability acquired, accrued or incurred under any of those Regulations.

3. In these Regulations the expression "the Act" means the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, and the expressions "the Minister," "insured contributor," "Unemployment Benefit" and "Unemployment Fund" have the same meanings as in the Act.

4. These Regulations may be cited as the Unemployment Insurance (Payment of Travelling Expenses) Regulations, 1928, and shall come into force on the 19th day of April, 1928.

Signed, by order of the Minister of Labour, this 16th day of April, 1928.

H. J. WILSON,
Secretary of the Ministry of Labour.

REVIEW OF CLAIMS REGULATIONS, 1928.

The Unemployment Insurance (Review of Claims) Regulations, 1928,* dated April 18, 1928, made by the Minister of Labour under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920 (10 & 11 Geo. 5, c. 30).

The Minister of Labour, by virtue of the powers conferred on him by Section 35 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, and of all other powers enabling him in that behalf, hereby makes the following regulations:—

1. For the purposes of subsection (2A) of Section 11 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920:—

(a) The period therein specified shall, in relation to any insured contributor, be reckoned as beginning either on the date of the beginning of the preceding benefit quarter, or the date next following that on which the claim of that insured contributor was last reviewed by the Court of Referees, or a date three months prior to that on which the benefit year began, whichever of such dates is the latest:

Provided that where any benefit quarter begins on or after the 19th April, 1928, but before 19th July, 1928, the said period shall not be reckoned as beginning on a date earlier than the date of the beginning of that benefit quarter; and

(b) The said period shall, in relation to any insured contributor, be reckoned as ending on the date on which that insured contributor shall have received benefit for periods amounting in the aggregate to thirteen weeks since the beginning of the said period.

2. These Regulations may be cited as the Unemployment Insurance (Review of Claims) Regulations, 1928, and shall come into operation on the nineteenth day of July, 1928.

Signed by Order of the Minister of Labour this 18th day of April, 1928.

H. J. WILSON,
Secretary of the Ministry of Labour.

BENEFIT AMENDMENT REGULATIONS, 1928.

The Unemployment Insurance (Benefit) (Amendment) Regulations, 1928,† dated April 18th, 1928, made by the Minister of Labour under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920 (10 & 11 Geo. 5, c. 30).

Whereas the Minister of Labour (hereinafter referred to as "the Minister") has made the Unemployment Insurance (Benefit) Regulations, 1920 (hereinafter referred to as "the principal Regulations"), and those Regulations have been subsequently amended:

And whereas it is expedient further to amend the principal Regulations:

Now therefore the Minister, by virtue of the powers conferred on him by Section 35 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, and of all other powers enabling him in that behalf, hereby makes the following Regulations:—

1. The following paragraph shall be substituted for paragraph (1) of Regulation 3 of the principal Regulations:—

"3.—(1) Where an insured contributor desires to obtain unemployment benefit or to obtain any payment in respect of unemployment from an association of employed persons with which an arrangement has been made under Section 17 of the Act, he shall

(a) make an application or give notice, as the case requires, to the Minister in such manner as the Minister may direct or may for good cause accept as sufficient in any special case; and

(b) lodge his unemployment book at a local office; and

(c) furnish such evidence as the Minister may require that he is not in receipt of sickness or disablement benefit or disablement allowance under the National Health Insurance Act, 1924; and

(d) furnish such evidence as the Minister may require that he is not in receipt of an old age pension under the Old Age Pensions Acts, 1908 to 1919, or under those Acts as extended by Section 1 of the Blind Persons Act, 1920; and

(e) if required so to do, furnish a certificate of his birth or such other evidence as the Minister may direct or may for good cause accept as sufficient in any particular case; and

(f) furnish such other evidence as to the fulfilment of the conditions and the absence of disqualifications for receiving or continuing to receive unemployment benefits or other payments as the Minister may require, and shall for that purpose attend at such offices or places as the Minister may require.

* Statutory Rules and Orders, 1928, No. 323.

† Statutory Rules and Orders, 1928, No. 322.

Provided that where in any special case the Minister is satisfied that the insured contributor is unable or has omitted for good cause to produce his unemployment book the Minister may, if he thinks fit, dispense with the lodging of the book under this Regulation.

Provided also that for the purpose of this Regulation neither an arrears book nor an emergency book shall be deemed to be an unemployment book.*

2. The proviso to Regulation 6 and Regulation 8 of and the First and Second Schedules to the principal Regulations shall cease to have effect.

3. These Regulations may be cited as the Unemployment Insurance (Benefit) (Amendment) Regulations, 1928, and shall come into force on the 19th day of April, 1928.

Signed by Order of the Minister of Labour this 18th day of April, 1928.

H. J. WILSON,
Secretary of the Ministry of Labour.

PERIODS OF INCAPACITY REGULATIONS, 1928.

The Unemployment Insurance (Periods of Incapacity) Regulations, 1928,* dated 19th April, 1928, made by the Minister of Labour under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920 (10 & 11 Geo. 5, c. 30).

The Minister of Labour (hereinafter referred to as "the Minister"), by virtue of the powers conferred on him by Section 35 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, and of all other powers enabling him in that behalf, hereby makes the following Regulations:—

1. An insured contributor who desires to prove for the purposes of subsection (4) of Section 5 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1927, that he was during any periods falling within the period of two years mentioned in the first statutory condition, incapacitated for work by reason of some specific disease or by bodily or mental disablement, shall furnish particulars of such incapacity for work in the following manner:—

(a) If he is insured under the National Health Insurance Act, 1924, he shall, unless he satisfies the Minister that he is unable to do so, obtain and forward a certificate in the form set forth in the Schedule to these Regulations, signed, in the case of a member of an Approved Society, by the Secretary or other responsible official of the Society or the Secretary of a branch of the Society, of which he is a member, and, in the case of a person who is not a member of an Approved Society, by an officer of the Ministry of Health or the Scottish Board of Health.

(b) If he is not insured under the National Health Insurance Act, 1924, or if, being so insured, he satisfies the Minister that he is unable to obtain such a certificate as aforesaid, he shall furnish particulars in such manner as the Minister may direct or may for good cause accept as sufficient in any special case.

2. These Regulations may be cited as the Unemployment Insurance (Periods of Incapacity) Regulations, 1928, and shall come into operation on the nineteenth day of April, 1928.

Signed by Order of the Minister of Labour this 19th day of April, 1928.

H. J. WILSON,
Secretary of the Ministry of Labour.

SCHEDULE.

Name of Insured Person.....
Membership No.....
Address

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that, on evidence furnished for the purposes of National Health Insurance, it has been accepted that the person named above was incapacitated for work by reason of a specific disease or by bodily or mental disablement during the following period(s):—

from.....to.....

from.....to.....

Signed

Description

Name of Approved Society

Branch (if any)

Address of Society or Branch

LOCAL EDUCATION AUTHORITIES, CHOICE OF EMPLOYMENT GRANT REGULATIONS, 1928.

The Local Education Authorities (Choice of Employment Grant) Regulations, 1928,† dated April 16, 1928, made by the Minister of Labour under Section 118 of the Education Act, 1921, (11 & 12 Geo. 5, c. 51), with regard to grants to Local Education Authorities in aid of their expenditure under Section 107 of the said Act.

Whereas by the New Ministries and Secretaries Act, 1916, provision is made amongst other things for the transfer to the Minister of

Labour (hereinafter called "the Minister") of all such powers and duties of any Government Department relating to labour or industry whether conferred by statute or otherwise as His Majesty may by Order in Council transfer to him.

And whereas it is further provided by the said Act that where any powers and duties are transferred by virtue of the said Act the transfer would take effect as from a date to be fixed by Order of His Majesty in Council and that different dates may be fixed for different powers and duties.

And whereas it is provided by the Ministry of Labour (Transfer of Powers) Order, 1927, that:—

(1) From and after the 18th day of September, 1927, there be transferred to the Minister the powers and duties of the Board of Education hereinafter specified, that is to say:—

(a) the power of approving arrangements made under Section 107 of the Education Act, 1921, by local education authorities for giving to boys and girls under the age of 18 years assistance with respect to the choice of suitable employment; and

(b) the power of approving schemes made by local education authorities under Section 6 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1923, regulating the exercise of their powers and duties under the said Section 107 of the Education Act, 1921, as extended by the said Section 6 of the first mentioned Act.

(2) From and after the 31st day of March, 1928, there shall be transferred to the Minister the powers and duties of the Board of Education under Section 118 of the Education Act, 1921, so far as they relate to grants to local education authorities in respect of the exercise of their powers and duties under the said Section 107 of that Act as extended as aforesaid.

Now, therefore, the Minister, by virtue of the powers transferred to him as aforesaid, and of all other powers enabling him in that behalf, makes the following regulations:—

1. A substantive grant will be payable by the Minister, subject to the conditions of these regulations, for each year beginning on the 1st April to local education authorities in respect of their expenditure in that year under Section 107 of the Education Act, 1921, in the exercise of their power of giving assistance with respect to the choice of suitable employment.

2. The grant payable for a year to a local education authority (hereinafter called "the authority") will be equal to one-half of the net expenditure of that year of the authority under the said section recognised by the Minister as expenditure in aid of which Parliamentary grants should be made to the authority.

3.—(1) The amount of grant estimated to be payable for the year will, subject to the provision by Parliament of the necessary moneys, be payable by one or more instalments on account during the year.

(2) The inclusion by the Minister of expenditure for the purpose of calculating the instalments of grant payable on account is not to be regarded as committing the Minister to the recognition of such expenditure for the purpose of these Regulations.

(3) The authority shall make a claim to the grant in such form as the Minister may direct and shall furnish such other returns in connection therewith as the Minister may require, and the balance of the grant will be paid after the claim has been duly certified by the district auditor of the Ministry of Health.

(4) The grant will be calculated to the nearest pound, a fraction of a pound in the final result being ignored or reckoned as a pound according as it is or is not less than ten shillings.

4. The grant is conditional upon the Minister being satisfied:—

(1) that the provisions of Section 107 of the Education Act, 1921, have been observed;

(2) that the arrangements made by the authority have been efficiently carried out;

(3) that the authority have supplied punctually such information and returns as the Minister may require.

If the Minister is not satisfied on any of these matters he may withhold or make a deduction from grant.

5. For the purpose of these regulations net expenditure shall be ascertained by deducting from the recognised expenditure incurred under Section 107 of the Education Act, 1921, and the administrative expenses incurred under Section 6 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1923, all receipts relating to the services of choice of employment and unemployment insurance administration, except receipts from rates raised by the authority, or grants paid by the Minister under these regulations, or payments made by a county council by virtue of their powers under subsection (2) of Section 107 of the Education Act, 1921.

6. If any question arises as to the interpretation of these Regulations, or as to the inclusion or exclusion of any items of receipt or expenditure for the purpose of calculating the grant, the decision of the Minister shall be final.

7. These regulations may be cited as the Local Education Authorities (Choice of Employment Grant) Regulations, 1928.

Signed by Order of the Minister of Labour this 16th day of April, 1928.

H. J. WILSON,
Secretary to the Ministry of Labour.

INDUSTRIAL COURTS ACT, 1919.

Recent Proceedings.

INDUSTRIAL COURT DECISIONS.

SENIOR GRADES, MERCANTILE MARINE OFFICES, BOARD OF TRADE.—Association of Executive Officers and other Civil Servants v. Board of Trade. *Difference*.—Salary scales—Claim for increase. *Decision*.—No alteration in the scales of pay. Award issued 2nd April, 1928. (1364.)

PLASTERERS, SCOTLAND.—Scottish Master Plasterers' Association v. Scottish National Operative Plasterers' Federal Union. *Difference*.—Rates of wages. *Decision*.—Present rates of wages to be reduced by 1d. per hour, operative as from 1st May, 1928. Award issued 10th April, 1928. (1365.)

ENGINEERS, WILSON & LONGBOTTOM, LTD., BARNSELY.—Amalgamated Engineering Union v. Messrs. Wilson & Longbottom, Ltd. *Difference*.—Claim for increase of 2s. a week to plain time workers. *Decision*.—Rates to be advanced by 2s. a week operative from beginning of pay-week following 19th March, 1928. Award issued 10th April, 1928. (1366.)

BAKERS, L.C.C. MENTAL HOSPITALS.—Amalgamated Union of Operative Bakers, Confectioners and Allied Workers v. The London County Council. *Difference*.—Grading of certain Mental Hospitals under Award No. 368 for purpose of calculating wages. *Decision*.—Grade (c) rates awarded for bakers employed at the Mental Hospitals at Bexley, Horton, Long Grove and West Park and at The Manor certified institution. Operative from beginning of the first pay period following date of award. Award issued 18th April, 1928. (1367.)

RIVETERS, CAULKERS & DRILLERS, H.M. DOCKYARDS.—Boiler-makers' and Iron and Steel Shipbuilders' Society, and Shipconstructors' and Shipwrights' Association v. Admiralty. *Difference*.—Award No. 1219—Interpretation. In Award No. 1219 the Court laid down that where notice of discharge had not been given, the question whether a case was one of "redundancy" or "temporary transfer" would have to be considered. *Decision*.—The Court ruled that for this purpose "redundancy" means that the service of a man in his titular grade is no longer required by the Admiralty. "Temporary transfer" means that a man is transferred from the work of his titular grade for employment on other work to meet requirements of the Service, and implies that at the time when the man is so transferred his service in his titular grade is merely suspended. With regard to the two specific cases that were brought before the Court the evidence was not sufficient for the Court to give a decision as to the category within which the cases fall. Award issued 18th April, 1928. (1368.)

RAILWAYS ACT, 1921.

NATIONAL WAGES BOARD.

FINDINGS have recently been issued by the National Wages Board on the following cases referred to them by the National Union of Railwaymen:—

Hybrid Grades of Porter-Guard and Porter-Signalman—Claim for abolition.—Prior to the National Agreement of 1919 there were a number of hybrid grades on the various railways, but it was then agreed to abolish all such grades except those of porter-guard and porter-signalman. The Board stated in their finding that the evidence submitted did not indicate that the railway companies had adopted, or were contemplating the adoption, of any general policy of substituting porter-guards for guards or porter-signalmen for signalmen; and that in their opinion a case had not been established for terminating the agreed settlement providing for the hybrid grades of porter-guard and porter-signalman.

Passenger Guard's post, Tweedmouth, London and North Eastern Railway—Regrading as that of Porter-Guard.—On 30th October, 1926, the London and North Eastern Railway regraded a position at Tweedmouth, formerly that of passenger guard, as a porter-guard's post, on the ground that, in consequence of the reduction in the amount of guard's work attaching to the turn of duty, the post did not justify the employment of a passenger guard. Parties were not in agreement as to the amount of time in the rostered workings properly to be allocated to guard's duties, but under either computation the man is working more than 50 per cent. of his time as a guard, and is accordingly paid the minimum rate for guards. The Board agreed that a further elucidation of the facts would be advisable, and that the parties should meet and discuss the matter further.

Signalman—Claim to be paid rate applicable to Relief Signalman in respect of certain work.—Signalman H. J. Scott is employed normally at Hare Park Signal Box, London and North Eastern Railway—a Class 4 box for which the rate is 55s. a week. On 3rd April, 1926, the signalman employed at Charlton West Box—a Class 5 Box, rated at 53s. per week—was granted a day's special leave of absence. Owing to sickness, a relief signalman was not available, and signalman Scott was sent to perform the work at Charlton West Box. He claimed payment at the Class II relief signalman's rate of 60s. per week for the turn of duty performed. The opinion of the Board was that, having regard to the special circumstances of this particular case, the relief signalman's rate should not be paid.

Porters, Mill Hill Station, London, Midland and Scottish Railway—Payment for Sunday Duty.—The Union and the Company, while in

agreement as to the actual time on duty of the men concerned, disagreed as to the division of this time in turns of duty. The Union claimed that the time is divided into three turns, but the Company claimed that the time is divided into two turns. The difference was in the treatment of certain intervals which the Company contended were meal intervals; the Union were opposed to this contention. The Board's finding was that there appear to be no definite provisions either by agreement or decision of the National Wages Board governing meal times on Sundays for conciliation grades other than trainmen, and the Board recommended that the parties should confer again on the merits of the case at Mill Hill.

Checker W. Shipton, Shoreditch Goods Depot, London, Midland and Scottish Railway—Claim for Higher Grade Duty Pay.—The claim was in respect of three hours during which the Supervising Officer is not on duty. The finding of the Board was that the claim for higher pay had not been established.

Sheeters, Brentford Docks, Great Western Railway—Claim to be brought under Railway-owned Docks' Agreement.—Goods arriving at Brentford Docks by lighter are unloaded and placed in the warehouse or in railway trucks for despatch to their destinations. The duties of the men concerned consist of sheeting wagons after they have been loaded. An agreement was made on 4th August, 1920, between the Companies and the National Union of Railwaymen, prescribing rates of wages and conditions of service for men of various grades employed at the railway-owned docks. Attached to this agreement was a schedule setting out the different places and grades covered by the agreement. The men concerned in this claim are not included in the schedule, and are paid under the terms of the settlements for conciliation grades. The finding of the Board was that the claim had not been established; the representatives of the National Union of Railwaymen did not concur in this finding.

Checkers, Newport Docks, Great Western Railway—Claim to be brought under Railway-owned Docks' Agreement.—The work performed by the checkers is in connection with the labelling of wagons. The bulk of the time is occupied in preparing the labels, the remainder being spent in putting the labels on the wagons. The agreement referred to in the preceding case is relevant to this one. The finding of the Board was that the claim had not been established.

Meal Time Allowance—Extra Gang, Leeds, London Midland and Scottish Railway.—The men concerned are attached to and work within the area of the Leeds permanent way district inspector. On certain days in November and December, 1926, they were called upon to work at Royston, which is within the area of the Normanton district inspector. They claimed that they were working away from their home station and were not undertaking their ordinary duties, which are those performed within their own district. In the opinion of the Board the men in the course of their ordinary duties are employed away from their home station, and are, therefore, not entitled to the 1s. per day allowance claimed. The representatives of the National Union of Railwaymen did not concur in the Board's finding.

TRADE BOARDS ACTS.

Orders, Notices, etc., Recently Issued.

I.—CONFIRMING ORDERS.

Jute Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order No. J. (45), dated 1st May, 1928, confirming general minimum piece rates fixed for certain classes of female workers and the variation of general minimum time rates, piece work basis time rates, guaranteed time rates, general minimum piece rates, and overtime rates for male and female workers, and specifying 7th May, 1928, as the date from which such minimum rates should become effective.

Paper Box Trade Board (Northern Ireland).

Order N.I.B. (9), dated 30th April, 1928, confirming the variation of general minimum time rates for certain classes of male and female workers in the paper box trade in Northern Ireland, and specifying 11th May, 1928, as the effective date.

II.—NOTICES OF PROPOSAL.

Cotton Waste Reclamation Trade Board (Great Britain).

Proposal C.W. (14), dated 13th April, 1928, to fix minimum rates of wages for male and female workers in those branches of the trade newly brought within the scope of the Trade Board by the Trade Boards (Waste Materials Reclamation Trade, Great Britain) (Cotton Waste Branch) (Amendment) Regulations, 1927 and 1928. Objection period expires 13th June, 1928.

III.—PUBLIC INQUIRY.

Milk Distributive Trade.

The Minister of Labour has appointed Sir Harold Morris, K.C., as a Commissioner to hold a public inquiry into objections that have been raised to the draft Special Order recently published by the Minister,* revising the description of the milk distributive trade. The Commissioner opened the inquiry on 15th May.

* See the March, 1928, issue of this GAZETTE, page 111.

* Statutory Rules and Orders, 1928, No. 324.
† Statutory Rules and Orders, 1928, No. 327.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.

Horizontal Milling Machines: Draft Regulations.

THE Home Secretary has issued a notice, dated 8th May, 1928, that he proposes to make Regulations under Section 79 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, for factories in which horizontal milling machines are used.

Draft Regulations with reference to these machines were first issued in April, 1927. Objections were received by the Home Office to these Regulations, but after discussion of the points at issue with the Engineering and Allied Employers' National Federation and with the Railway Companies, agreement was reached, the terms of which have been embodied in the present revised draft.

Copies of the revised draft Regulations may be obtained on application to the Factory Department, Home Office, London, S.W.1; and any objection with respect to them must be sent to the Secretary of State within 21 days of the date of the notice. Every such objection must be in writing and must state (a) the draft Regulations or portions of draft Regulations objected to; (b) the specific grounds of objection; and (c) the omissions, additions, or modifications asked for.

Vehicle Painting Regulations (Northern Ireland), 1928.

REGULATIONS made by the Ministry of Labour for Northern Ireland under Section 79 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in respect of the painting of vehicles, came into force on 1st May, 1928.

They prohibit the use or procurement of white lead, sulphate of lead, or products containing those materials, for use in the painting of any vehicle, and require that lead paint, as defined, shall not be stored or kept otherwise than in suitable receptacles legibly marked "Lead."

The Regulations also provide for mess-room accommodation, the protection of clothing put off during working hours, and the installation of suitable washing accommodation for persons employed.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

AGRICULTURAL WORKERS.—*The representation and organisation of agricultural workers.* Studies and Reports. Series K. (Agriculture) No. 8. International Labour Office. (Geneva, 1928; London, P. S. King & Son Ltd.; price 3s.)

APPRENTICESHIP.—*Report of an enquiry into apprenticeship and training for the skilled occupations in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, 1925-1926.* VI.—*Engineering, shipbuilding and ship-repairing and other metal industries.* Ministry of Labour. (S.O. publication; price 7s. 6d.) (See pages 164-5.)

ARTIFICIAL HUMIDITY.—*Report of the Departmental Committee on artificial humidity in cotton cloth factories, with appendices.* Home Office. (S.O. publication; price 1s. 3d.) (See page 163.)

BLIND WORKERS.—*Fourth Report of the proceedings of the Scottish Advisory Committee for the Welfare of the Blind, 1926-7.* Scottish Board of Health. (S.O. publication; price 9d.)

HEALTH INSURANCE.—*Voluntary sickness insurance. Collection of national studies (laws and statistics).* Studies and Reports, Series M. (Social Insurance) No. 7. International Labour Office. (Geneva, 1927; London, P. S. King & Son Ltd.; price 8s.)

INDUSTRIAL FATIGUE.—*The physiological cost of the muscular movements involved in barrow work.* Report No. 50. Industrial Fatigue Research Board. (S.O. publication; price 1s.)

LABOUR LAW.—*International survey of legal decisions on labour law, 1926.* International Labour Office. (Geneva, 1927; price 8s.)

METAL INDUSTRIES.—*Survey of metal industries: iron and steel, engineering, electrical manufacturing, shipbuilding, with a chapter on the coal industry, being Part IV of a survey of industries.* Committee on Industry and Trade. (S.O. publication; price 5s.) (See page 165.)

MINING.—*Fencing and other safety precautions for machinery at mines.*—Safety pamphlet, No. 5. Board of Trade, Mines Department. (S.O. publication; price 6d.)

MINISTRY OF LABOUR.—*Report of the Ministry of Labour for the year 1927.* (Cmd. 3090; price 2s. 6d.) (See pages 160-2.)

OVERSEA SETTLEMENT.—*Report of the Oversea Settlement Committee for the year ended 31st December, 1927.* (Cmd. 3088; price 9d.) (See page 163.)

SAFEGUARDING OF INDUSTRIES.—*Report of the Committees on (i) buttons, pins, hooks and eyes and snap fasteners; (ii) monumental and architectural granite wholly or mainly manufactured; (iii) hosiery (second report); (iv) handkerchiefs and household linen goods.* Board of Trade. (Cmd. 3080, 3079, 3078, 3096; price 9d., 2d., 3d. and 6d., respectively.)

Contain particulars of numbers employed and of wages in this and in foreign countries.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION.—*Educational Pamphlet No. 57. Building science.* Board of Education. (S.O. publication; price 3d.)

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.—*Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920-26. Decisions given by the Umpire on claims to benefit during the month of March, 1928.* U.I. 440. Pamphlet No. 3, 1928. Ministry of Labour. (S.O. publication; price 6d.)

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.

LIST OF NEW CONTRACTS, APRIL, 1928.

ADMIRALTY.

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

Chatham: **Railway Material:** P. & W. MacLellan, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Tar:** South Metropolitan Gas Co., London, S.E.—**Timber:** Jewson & Sons, Ltd., Norwich.—**Portsmouth:** **Steel, Round Bar:** H. J. Skelton & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.

(Contract and Purchase Department.)

Alternators, Motor: W. Mackie & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Aluminium Sheets, etc.:** British Aluminium Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Ammeters and Voltmeters:** Everett, Edgumbe & Co., Ltd., London, N.W.; The Park Royal Engineering Co., Ltd., London, N.W.—**Ammunition Boxes:** D. M. Davies (Holloway), Ltd., Slough.—**Anchors, Mooring:** J. Rogerson & Co., Ltd., Wolsingham, via Darlington.—**Asbestos Goods:** G. MacLellan & Co., Ltd., Glasgow; Turner Bros. Asbestos Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Boards, Terminal, Fuse, etc.:** W. McGeoch & Co., Ltd., Birmingham; The General Electric Co., Ltd., Birmingham; The Park Royal Engineering Co., Ltd., London, N.W.; H. W. Sullivan, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Boats, Motor, 35-ft.:** J. W. Brooke & Co., Ltd., Lowestoft; The Perry Engine Co., Southampton.—**Boilers:** R. & W. Hawthorn, Leslie & Co., Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne; Farrar Boilerworks, Ltd., Newark-on-Trent.—**Boxes, Junction:** Basebe, Sadler & Co., Ltd., Croydon.—**Buttons:** E. Bacon & Sons, Birmingham; Buttons, Ltd., Birmingham; Carr Bros., Ltd., Leicester; Firmin & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham; Jas. Grove & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham; Smith & Wright, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Caps, Forage:** R. Z. Bloomfield, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Carbon Tetrachloride and Pyrene Liquid:** Pyrene Co., London, S.W.—**Chain, Mooring, etc.:** Brown, Lenox & Co., Ltd., Pontypridd.—**Chlorosulphonic Acid Mixture:** Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Collars, White:** R. H. and S. Rogers, Ltd., London, S.E. and Coleraine.—**Copper Articles:** Burt Bros., Ltd., Birmingham; A. A. Corre & Co., London, E.C.; M. J. Hart & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham; J. Hudson & Co., Birmingham; Lawden & Poole, Birmingham; J. Leveck, Ltd., Birmingham; J. Stone & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Dieheads and Dies, Coventry:** Alfred Herbert, Ltd., Coventry.—**Doors, Watertight:** Mechans, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Dressings, etc., Surgical:** Robert Bailey & Son, Ltd., Stockport; Arthur Berton, Ltd., London, E.C.; Campbell, Achnach & Co., Ltd., Glasgow; Cuxson, Gerrard & Co., Ltd., Oldbury; S. Maw, Son & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.; Robinson & Sons, Ltd., Chesterfield; T. J. Smith & Nephew, Ltd., Hull.—**Electric Light Fittings:** W. McGeoch & Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Firebricks and Tiles:** Bonnybridge Silica and Fireclay Co., Ltd., Bonnybridge; Burn Fireclay Co., Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne; J. Dougal & Sons, Ltd., Bonnybridge; H. Foster & Co., Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne; Glenboig Union Fireclay Co., Ltd., Glasgow; E. J. and J. Pearson, Ltd., Stourbridge; J. T. Price & Co., Ltd., Stourbridge.—**Fittings, Telemotor:** MacTaggart Scott & Co., Ltd., Edinburgh.—**Flour:** Spillers, Ltd. (W. Vernon & Sons' Branch), London, S.E., and Liverpool; Spillers, Ltd. (Spillers & Baker's Branch), Bristol and Cardiff.—**Frameworks, etc.:** W. McGeoch & Co., Ltd., Birmingham; The Park Royal Engineering Co., Ltd., London, N.W.—**Generators, Motor, and Panels:** W. H. Allen, Sons & Co., Ltd., Bedford.—**Globes, Glass:** Molineaux, Webb & Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Headers, Boiler:** Babcock & Wilcox, Ltd., Renfrewshire.—**Hoses, Flexible, Bronze:** United Flexible Metallic Tubing Co., Ltd., Ponders End; Power Flexible Tubing Co., Ltd., London, N.—**India-Rubber Goods:** Avon India Rubber Co., Ltd., Melksham, Wilts; J. E. Baxter & Co., Ltd., Leyland, near Preston; Clyde Rubber Works Co., Ltd., Renfrew; Greengate and Irwell Rubber Co., Ltd., Manchester; India Rubber, Gutta Percha, & Co., Ltd., London, E.; J. G. Ingram & Son, Ltd., London, E.; C. Macintosh & Co., Ltd., Manchester; North British Rubber Co., Ltd., London, W.; George Spencer, Moulton & Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Iron, Bar:** N. Hingley & Sons, Ltd., Dudley; Wigan Rolling Mills Co., Wigan.—**Iron, Cable:** Wigan Rolling Mills Co., Wigan; Pearson & Knowles Coal and Iron Co., Ltd., Warrington.—**Jean, Blue:** J. Bentley & Sons (Radcliffe), Ltd., Radcliffe; J. Wilkinson (Manchester & Nelson), Ltd., Nelson; H. Sharples & Co., Ltd., Radcliffe; R. & J. Partington (1920), Ltd., Worsley; Hollins Mill Co., Ltd., Marpel and Hazel Grove, Cheshire; J. Bright & Bros., Ltd., Rochdale.—**Jean, Brown:** Burgess, Ledward & Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Kerosene:** British Petroleum Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; The Scottish Oil Agency, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Lamps, Electric:** General Electric Co., Ltd., London, W.—**Leather:** G. Angus & Co., Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne; G. A. Bacon, Ltd., Redhill; J. Conyers & Sons, Ltd., Northampton; J. S. Deed & Sons, Ltd., London, W.C.; Dickens Bros., Ltd., Northampton; Richard Nickols, Leeds; Tremlett's Tannery Co., Ltd., Exeter; W. & A. J. Turner, Ltd., Ipswich; Thos. Ware & Sons, Ltd., Bristol; E. Watts & Co., Ltd., Wellingborough.—**Lift, Electric:** Wm. Wadsworth & Sons, Ltd., Bolton.—**Milk, Unsweetened Condensed:** Nestle and Anglo-Swiss Condensed Milk Co., Staverston and/or Ashbourne; Wilts United Dairies, Ltd., Trowbridge.—**Mustard:** J. & J. Colman, Ltd., Norwich.—**Oil, Rapeseed:** John L. Seaton & Co., Ltd., Hull.—**Paint, White Oxide of Zinc:** Burrell & Co., Ltd., London, E.; Colthurst & Harding, Ltd., Bristol; N. J. Fenner and H. B. Alder & Co., Ltd., London, E.; Locke, Lancaster and W. W. & R. Johnson & Sons, Ltd., London, E.—**Pipes, etc., Charging:** Interlock Metal Hose Co., London, N.—**Projectors, 18-in., and Spares:** Sperry Gyroscope Co., Ltd., London, W.—**Propellers, Bronze:** Manganese Bronze and Brass Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Pumps:** Worthington-Simpson, Ltd., Newark-on-Trent.—**Receiving Apparatus, W/T:** Baird & Tatlock (London), Ltd., London, E.; Gambrell Bros., Ltd., London, S.W.; Sterling Telephone and Electric Co., Ltd., Dagenham; Lissen, Ltd., Richmond; The Plessey Co., Ltd., Ilford; H. W. Sulli-

van, Ltd., London, S.E.; Radio Instruments, Ltd., London, W.C.—**Reflectors for Signalling Projectors:** Chance Bros. & Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Resistances:** The Park Royal Engineering Co., Ltd., London, N.W.; British Electric Resistance Co., Ltd., London, N.; Zenith Electric Co., Ltd., London, N.W.; Veritys, Ltd., London, W.C.; Dorman & Smith, Ltd., Manchester.—**Ribbon:** Brough, Nicholson & Hall, Ltd., Cheadle; J. & J. Cash, Ltd., Coventry.—**Serge, Blue:** W. Edleston, Ltd., Sowerby Bridge; J. Casson, Ltd., Elland.—**Serge, Blue Diagonal:** John Shaw & Sons, Ltd., Stainland.—**Shirts, White:** Smethurst & Holden, Ltd., Crewe; Welch, Margetson & Co., Ltd., Londonderry.—**Staves and Heads for Barrels and Casks:** W. Ryan & Co., London, E.—**Steel, Tool:** Cammell, Laird & Co., Ltd., Sheffield; T. Firth & Sons, Ltd., Sheffield; S. Osborn & Co., Ltd., Sheffield; J. H. Andrews & Co., Ltd., Sheffield.—**Strips, Extruded Bronze:** Manganese Bronze and Brass Co., Ltd., Ipswich; Sterling Metals, Ltd., Coventry.—**Switches:** H. W. Sullivan, Ltd., London, S.E.; W. McGeoch & Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Veritys, Ltd., London, W.C.; Whipp & Bourne, Ltd., Manchester.—**Switches and Combined Switch and Socket:** Edison Swan Electric Co., Ltd., Ponders End; The General Electric Co., Ltd., Wembley; Hawkers, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Tape:** Bole Hall Mill Co., Ltd., Tamworth; E. B. Hamel & Son, Tamworth; James North Hardy & Son, Ltd., Heaton Park; Geo. H. Wheatcroft & Co., Ltd., Wirksworth.—**Threads:** W. & J. Knox, Ltd., Kilbirnie; Henry Campbell & Co., Ltd., Mossley.—**Ties, Black Silk:** Toms, Steer & Toms, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Tiles:** Gibbons, Hinton & Co., Ltd., Brierley Hill, Staffs; Malkin Tile Works Co., Ltd., Burslem, Staffs; Mansfield Bros., Ltd., Church Gresley, near Burton-on-Trent; Maw & Co., Ltd., Jackfield, Shropshire; Minton, Hollins & Co., Ltd., Stoke-on-Trent.—**Transmitters:** Gambrell Bros., Ltd., London, S.W.; H. W. Sullivan, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Tubes, Copper and Bronze:** J. Wilkes, Sons & Mapplebeck, Ltd., Birmingham; Hudson & Wright, Ltd., Birmingham; Grice, Grice & Son, Ltd., Birmingham; Yorkshire Copper Works, Ltd., Leeds; Allen Everitt & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Tuners and Heterodyne Units:** The Plessey Co., Ltd., Ilford; Radio Instruments, Ltd., London, W.C.; H. W. Sullivan, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Valves, W/T:** Mullard Radio Valve Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Varnishes:** Lewis, Berger & Sons, Ltd., London, E.; Blundell, Spence & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Colthurst & Harding, Ltd., Bristol; J. Dampney & Co., Ltd., Gateshead-on-Tyne; Denton & Jutsum, Ltd., London, E.; Gross, Sherwood & Heald, Ltd., Barking; W. S. Jenkins & Co., London, N.W.; Jenson & Nicholson, Ltd., London, E.; Robert Kearsley & Co., Ltd., Ripon; London Varnish & Enamel Co., Ltd., London, E.; C. W. Waters, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Ventilators for Searchlights:** Veritys, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Vinegar:** Fardons Vinegar Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Wire, Welding:** J. Rigby & Sons, Ltd., Manchester; J. Royston, Son & Co., Ltd., Halifax.

WAR OFFICE.

Batteries, Secondary, Portable: Pritchett & Gold and E.P.S. Co., Ltd., Dagenham.—**Blades, Hack-saw, Power:** T. Firth & Sons, Ltd., Sheffield.—**Boxes, Ammunition:** Brownlee & Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Cases, Lamp and Battery:** C. F. Timbers, London, N.—**Cases, Packing:** Wenn, Ltd., Gt. Yarmouth.—**Cement Shellac:** F. T. Morrell & Co., London, E.C.—**Chains, Overall:** Fisher & Ludlow (1920), Ltd., Birmingham.—**Chairs, Windsor:** Thomas Glenister, Ltd., High Wycombe; J. W. Webb & Son, High Wycombe.—**Motor Spares:** Rolls Royce, Ltd., Derby.—**Pipes and Fittings, Galvanised:** Stewarts & Lloyds, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Plates, Bullet-Proof:** Beardmore & Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Pump, Centrifugal:** Mather & Platt, Ltd., Manchester.—**Sheets, Cotton:** G. I. Sidebottom & Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Silk Cloth:** E. Wilman & Sons, Ltd., Manchester; E. H. Sellers & Sons, Ltd., Huddersfield; Ireland & Wishart, Ltd., Kirkcaldy.—**Steel, Shell:** S. Fox & Co., Sheffield.—**Stoves and Boilers:** Dobbie, Forbes & Co., Larbert; Gillespies, Ltd., Bonnybridge; Smith & Wellstood, Bonnybridge.—**Stoves, Oil, and Spares:** Rippingilles Albion Lamp Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Straps, Chin:** Barrow, Hepburn & Gale, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Tinplates:** Brooker, Dore & Co., London, E.C.; Everett & Co., Ltd., Liverpool.—**Tents, Marquee (Roofs Outer and Tents, Store):** T. Briggs, Ltd., London, E.C.; C. Groom, Ltd., London, E.C.; T. Dobbin, Ltd., London, E.; T. Mellwraith & Co., Ltd., Govan.—**Towels, Hand, Turkish:** W. R. Lee, Ltd., Heywood; W. T. Taylor & Co., Ltd., Horwick near Bolton; M. Wright & Sons, Ltd., Loughborough.—**Works Services: Building Works and Services:** Bellerby Deer Park, Yorks, Erection of Semi-Permanent Camp; F. R. Hipperson, London, E.C. Bellerby Deer Park, Yorks, Erection of Huts; J. C. Vaughan, Hereford. **Maintenance Contracts:** Halifax; Aldam & Lorenz, Halifax. **Beverly:** A. Bull & Co., Ltd., Doncaster. **Pontefract:** Barber & Heseltine, Pontefract. **Melton Mowbray:** F. D. Goodwin, Melton Mowbray. **Richmond, Yorks:** A. Metcalf & Sons, Shildon, Co. Durham. **Derby:** Leicester: Whitehead & Filewood, Chilwell. **Lincoln:** J. W. Giles, Lincoln. **Selby:** S. Akeroyd, Featherstone, near Pontefract.

AIR MINISTRY.

Aircraft: Sir W. G. Armstrong Whitworth Aircraft, Ltd., Parkside, Coventry; Vickers, Ltd., Weybridge, Surrey.—**Aircraft, Conversion Sets; Aircraft, Modification to:** Sir W. G. Armstrong Whitworth Aircraft, Ltd., Parkside, Coventry.—**Aircraft, Modification of:** Handley Page, Ltd., N.W.; H. G. Hawker Engineering Co., Ltd., Kingston-on-Thames; Vickers, Ltd., Weybridge, Surrey.—**Aircraft, Repairs to:** Sir W. G. Armstrong Whitworth Aircraft, Ltd., Parkside, Coventry.—**Aircraft and Spares:** Gloster Aircraft Co., Ltd., Cheltenham.—**Aircraft Spares:** Gloster Aircraft Co., Ltd., Cheltenham.—**Beacon Towers and Apparatus:** T. B. Lawrence, Ltd., London, W.C.—**Bomb Components:** Nobel Industries, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Borneo Aviation Spirit:** Asiatic Petroleum Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Buildings and Works Services:** Artificers' Works (Suttons Farm): E. G. Bratchell & Son, Horn-

church, Essex.—**Cooking Plant (Uxbridge):** Falkirk Iron Co., Ltd., London, W.—**Hard Tennis Court (various stations):** Denys Harcourt, Ltd., London, W.C.—**Heating Installations:** Brightside Foundry & Engineering Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Hutting Accommodation (Novar):** W. & J. R. Watson, Ltd., Edinburgh.—**Lifts (Uxbridge):** Etchells, Congdon & Muir, Ltd., Ancoats, Manchester.—**Regimental Buildings, Quarters, etc. (Gosport):** J. Laing & Sons, Ltd., London, N.W.—**Underground Cables (Cardington):** Cox, Walker & Partners, Ltd., Darlington.—**Cameras, Type F. 8:** Taylor, Taylor & Hobson, Ltd., Leicester.—**Cotton Fabric, "D":** Perseverance Mill Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Dope-Brush Wash:** British Celanese, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Drogue Target Gear:** S. E. Saunders, Ltd., East Cowes, Isle of Wight.—**Engines, Aircraft, Sectioning of:** Armstrong Siddeley Motors, Ltd., Parkside, Coventry.—**Engine, Aircraft, Test on:** Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Bristol.—**Extinguishers, Fire:** General Fire Appliance Co., London, E.C.—**Goldbeater Skins:** Puckridge & Nephew, Ltd., London, E.—**Metal Airscrews:** Fairey Aviation Co., Ltd., Hayes, Middlesex.—**Morris 6-wheeler Spares:** Morris Commercial Cars, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Oxygen Delivery Regulators:** Siebe, Gorman & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Parachutes:** Yorkshire Steel Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Photographic Tanks:** Harvey & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Pistols, Bomb:** Vickers-Armstrongs, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Reaction Apparatus "Reid" Type:** Reid & Sigrist, Ltd., London, N.W.—**Solder:** E. Austin & Sons (London), Ltd., London, E.—**Transmitters, T. 22 and Spares:** Gambrell Bros., Ltd., London, S.W.

H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE.

Cartage (Edinburgh): Bell & Co., Edinburgh.—**Carbons:** Read Manufacturing Co. (London), Ltd., Hounslow, Middlesex.—**Cord:** J. Holmes & Sons, Ltd., Wakefield, Yorks.—**Envelopes:** Smith & Young, London, S.E.—**Papers (of various descriptions):** Jas. Brown & Co., Ltd., Penicuik, Midlothian; London Paper Mills Co., Ltd., Dartford, Kent; Wm. Nash, Ltd., St. Paul's Cray, Kent; Olives Paper Mill Co., Ltd., Bury, Lancs; Portals, Ltd., Ivybridge, Devon; Ryburndale Paper Mills Co., Ltd., Rippon, near Halifax.—**Printing, Ruling, Binding, etc.:** Account Bookbinding, Division V (1928) Barclay & Fry, Ltd., London, S.E. Account Bookbinding, Division VI (1928): McCorquodale & Co., Ltd., London, E.C. Group 311 (1928), Bookwork Printing: H.M. Stationery Office Press, Harrow. Group 601 (1928), Jobwork Printing: T. Beatty Hart, Ltd., Kettering.

POST OFFICE.

Apparatus, Telephonic: General Electric Co., Ltd., Stoke, Coventry; International Electric Co., Ltd., London, N.; Phoenix Telephone and Electric Works, Ltd., London, N.W.; Telegraph Condenser Co., Ltd., London, W.; Telephone Mfg. Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Apparatus, Testing, Protective and Miscellaneous:** British Thomson-Houston Co., Ltd., Rugby; Phoenix Telephone and Electric Works, Ltd., London, N.W.; Power Equipment Co., Ltd., London, N.W.; Sterling Telephone and Electric Co., Ltd., Dagenham, Essex.—**Battery Stores:** Accumulators of Woking, Ltd., Woking, Surrey; C. A. Vandervell & Co., Ltd., London, W.—**Bodies, Motor:** Duple Bodies and Motors, Ltd., London, N.W.; Fry Bros., Ltd., London, S.E.; W. H. Perry, Ltd., London, N.—**Cable, Various:** British Insulated Cables, Ltd., Prescott, Lancs.; Connollys (Blackley), Ltd., Blackley, Manchester; Enfield Cable Works, Ltd., Brimsdown, Middlesex; W. T. Henley's Telegraph Works Co., Ltd., London, E.; Pirelli General Cable Works, Ltd., Southampton; Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Standard Telephones and Cables, Ltd., London, E.—**Castings, Joint Box:** General Foundry and Engineering Co., Ltd., Arlesey, Beds; United Steel Companies, Ltd. (Thos. Butlin & Co.) Wellingborough.—**Chassis, Motor:** Morris Motors (1926), Ltd., Cowley, Oxon.—**Cloth:** Jas. Banks & Sons, Ltd., Pudsey, Leeds.—**Cloths, Mutton:** J. Cookson, Ltd., Manchester.—**Coal:** Wm. Cory & Son, Ltd., Powell Duffryn, Lewis Merthyr, etc.—**Cords for Telephones:** Phoenix Telephone and Electric Works, Ltd., London, N.W.—**Cycles, Motor:** B.S.A. Cycles, Ltd., Small Heath and Redditch.—**Handcarts:** T. R. Davies, Birkenhead.—**Ironwork, Telegraphic:** Bullers, Ltd., Tipton, Staffs; Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds, Ltd., Darlston; David Willets, Ltd., Cradley Heath, Staffs.—**Jelly, Petroleum:** A. Duckham & Co., Ltd., London, W.—**Lamps, Electric:** General Electric Co., Ltd., London, W.—**Odometers:** H. Miller & Co., London, W.—**Outfits, Leather, for Motor Drivers:** Andersons' Rubber Co., Ltd., Bristol.—**Pins and Cotters:** Thos. Parish & Son, Halesowen, Birmingham.—**Plates, Earth:** Geo. Farmiloe & Sons, Ltd., London, E.—**Sleeves, Jointing:** Dugard Bros, Ltd., Birmingham; C. M. Powell Bros., Birmingham.—**Stayblocks:** Burt, Boulton and Hayward, Ltd., Newport, Mon., and/or Eling, Southampton.—**Tarpaulins:** J. Mollwraith & Co., Ltd., Govan, Glasgow.—**Valves, Wireless:** Mullard Radio Valve Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Wire, Bronze:** T. Bolton & Sons, Ltd., Oakamoor; Elliotts' Metal Co., Ltd., Birmingham; R. Johnson & Nephew, Ltd., Manchester; Shropshire Iron Co., Ltd., Hadley, Salop.—**Wire, Cadmium Copper:** T. Bolton & Sons, Ltd., Oakamoor, R. Johnson & Nephew, Ltd., Manchester; F. Smith & Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Wire, G. I.:** William Bain & Co., Ltd., Coatbridge.—**Conduits, Laying:** Workshop: Whittaker Ellis, Ltd., London, S.W. Kingsway (Devon); St. Marychurch (Teignmouth Road): A. H. Dingle, Redruth, Cornwall. North Exchange (Upper Street, Islington): O. C. Summers, London, N. Kingston (Emberbrook and Kingston Road); Kensington Auto Exchange (Lots Road Area): J. E. Billings & Co., Ltd., London, S.W. Notting Hill Gate (High Street); Finchley Exchange (Dollis Park); Chiswick (Sutton Court): A. Thomson & Co. (London), Ltd., London, W.C. Torquay (Plymouth-Torquay): S. Ambrose, Ltd., Bath, Faversham; East Marden and West Ashling (Sussex); Slough and Chesham (Bucks): G. E. Taylor & Co., London, E.C. Milnsbridge

(Yorks): Norwest Construction Co., Ltd., Liverpool. Manchester (Blackfriars-Kent Street and Great Clowes Street): Hodge Bros. (Contractors), Ltd., Northfield, Birmingham. Langham Automatic-Nottingham Street, W.; Prospect Automatic Exchange (Scheme 2): Westminster Road Construction and Engineering Co., Ltd., London, S.W. New Cross South-Ivydale Road: T. Muirhead & Co., Ltd., London, S.W. Caterham, Kenley and East Grinstead: Fordyce Bros., Orpington, Kent. Shipston-on-Stour (Worcestershire) and Long Compton (Warwickshire): Moore & Rowley, Northfield, Birmingham. Tottenham-South Tottenham: H. Farrow, Ltd., London, N.W. Watford-Hunton Bridge; Newbury: J. Mowlem & Co., Ltd., London, S.W. Bradford-on-Avon: H. Smith, Newport, Mon. Bannockburn: Clydeside Constructional Co., Ltd., Bridge of Weir, Renfrewshire. **Submarine Cable Manufacture, Supply, Laying and Jointing:** Lumps Fort (Portsmouth)—Nettlestone (I. of W.): Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Telephone Exchange Equipment:** Putney: Standard Telephones and Cables, Ltd., London, W.C. Hayling Island; Leeds; Petersfield: Automatic Telephone Mfg. Co., Ltd., London, W.C. Mansfield: General Electric Co., Ltd., Stoke, Coventry. Winchester: Siemens Brothers & Co., Ltd., Woolwich, S.E.

CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

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The "MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE" is published on or about the 18th of each month, price 6d. net. The annual subscription (post free) is 7s.

The Publishers (to whom should be addressed all communications concerning subscriptions and sales) are H.M. Stationery Office, Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2, and branches (see Cover).

PRINTED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE BY EYRE AND SPOTTISWOODE, LTD., HIS MAJESTY'S PRINTERS, EAST HARDING STREET, LONDON, E.C.4.