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EMPLOYMENT, DISPUTES, WAGES, AND PRICES IN FEBRUARY.

THERE was a further marked decline in employment in February, and most of the principal industries were seriously depressed. In brick and cement manufacture, slate quarrying, and shale mining, however, employment continued good, and it was fairly good with agricultural workers and in the building and pottery trades.

The percentage unemployed among members of Trade Unions (mainly of skilled workpeople) from which returns are received rose from 6·9 at the end of January to 8·5 at the end of February, and the percentage unemployed among the 12,000,000 workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Act rose from 8·2 to 9·5 in the same period. Excluding March, 1912, when a national coal strike was in progress, the Trade Union percentage unemployed is now higher than at any date since the winter of 1908-9.

In addition to those unemployed, 320,000 males and 423,000 females were registered as working systematic short time, at the end of February, to such an extent as to entitle them to benefit under the Unemployment Insurance Act or the Out-of-Work Donation Scheme. At the end of January the corresponding numbers were 254,000 and 383,000.

The number of workpeople registered at the Employment Exchanges as unemployed at 25th February was approximately 1,218,000, of whom 802,000 were men, 310,000 were women, and the remainder were boys and girls. At the end of January the corresponding number was 1,065,000, of whom 685,000 were men and 278,000 were women. The number of vacancies notified by employers to the Exchanges and unfilled at the end of February was 42,000, of which 15,000 were for men and 24,000 for women. At the end of January the total was 47,000, of which 18,000 were for men and 25,000 for women. Further details, showing the state of employment in the principal industries, are given on pages 133 to 144.

TRADE DISPUTES.

The total number of trade disputes, involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as beginning in February, was 63. In addition, 49 disputes which began before February were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The total number of workpeople involved in all disputes in progress in February was about 28,000, as compared with 23,000 in the previous month, and 110,000 in February, 1920. The most important dispute in progress was that involving ship joiners, who have been on strike since 1st December last against a proposed reduction in wages.

The estimated aggregate duration of all disputes during the month was about 378,000 working days, as compared with 408,000 days in January, 1921, and 450,000 days in February, 1920. Detailed statistics, together with particulars of the principal disputes, are given on page 148.

WAGES.

In the industries for which statistics are collected, changes in rates of wages reported to the Department as having been arranged to come into operation in February affected about 1,625,000 workpeople, of whom 70,000 received increases, amounting to £8,700 in their weekly wages, and over 1,550,000 sustained decreases, amounting to nearly £450,000 a week. Among those who sustained reductions were 1,200,000 coal miners, whose wages were reduced by 1s. 6d. per shift or day worked for those 18 years of age and over, by 9d. in the case of those 16 and 17 years, and by 6½d. for those under 16 years, under the operation of arrangements whereby wages are regulated by the output value of coal raised, and about 200,000 woollen and worsted operatives, whose wages were reduced under the operation of sliding scale agreements by which wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices and rents. Other workpeople whose wages were reduced in February included ironstone miners in Cleveland and Lincolnshire, ironworkers in the Midlands, and tinplate workers in South Wales. The increases in wages taking effect in February principally affected steel melters in England and Scotland, blastfurnacemen in the West of Scotland, painters in Scotland, textile bleachers, dyers, and finishers in Scotland, and employees of local authorities in London. Details of these and other changes will be found on pages 149-158.

Orders made by the Minister of Labour, under the Trade Boards Acts, fixing or increasing minimum rates of wages, came into operation in February for workpeople in the machine-made lace and net finishing trade in Great Britain, women in the rope, twine and net trade in Ireland, male workers in the linen and cotton handkerchief and household goods and linen piece goods trade in Great Britain, and workpeople in the perambulator and invalid carriage trade in Great Britain.

RETAIL PRICES.

At 1st March the average level of retail prices of all the commodities taken into account in the statistics prepared by the Ministry of Labour (including food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, and miscellaneous items) was 141 per cent. above that of July, 1914, as compared with 151 per cent. at 1st February. The decrease during the month was mainly due to reductions in the prices of food, but clothing also continued to decline in price. For further particulars reference should be made to the article on page 131.

The statistics are designed to indicate the average increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the average pre-war standard of living of the working classes. 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 expenditure, no allowance being made for any changes in the standard of living.

UNEMPLOYMENT: REMEDIAL MEASURES.

THE situation with regard to unemployment has continued to cause great uneasiness during the month, but the progress of the various emergency measures, the inauguration of which was dealt with in the February LABOUR GAZETTE, has been well maintained. The lines of policy along which the Government are proceeding were further defined in the speech of the Minister of Labour in the debate on the Address in the House of Commons on the 16th February. It was announced in the course of this speech that the Government proposed to amend the permanent provisions of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, in three directions—as regards the rates of benefit payable, the maximum period during which benefit may be payable in any insurance year, and the contributions to the Unemployment Insurance Fund required from employees, employers and the Exchequer. A Bill embodying these proposals was introduced into the House of Commons by the Minister of Labour on the 21st February, and passed rapidly through all its stages, receiving Royal Assent as the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921, on the 3rd March. (The provisions of this Act are dealt with in the following article.)

As a first consequence of the Act, ex-Service men, as they cease to be eligible for the weekly donation under the Out-of-Work Donation (Special Extension Scheme No. 4), which operates as from the 8th November, 1920, to the 31st March, 1921, will be brought within the scope of unemployment insurance. This is in accordance with the policy which was announced by the Government last November, when the terms of a further extension of the Out-of-Work Donation (Special Extension Scheme) were scheduled, and was to the effect that after the 31st March, 1921, whatever provision was found necessary for unemployment pay must be made through the Unemployment Insurance Acts. But, although now absorbed into the general scheme, ex-Service men are granted certain statutory privileges under the Act with regard to conditions of eligibility for benefit, and, of course, the rights of those ex-Service men whose original Out-of-Work Donation policies have not yet expired, remain unaffected.

PROGRESS OF THE RELIEF SCHEMES.

It is possible to record a considerable increase in the number of men employed through the operation of the measures instituted by the Government and by Local Authorities for the relief of Unemployment. Up to the 5th March, returns received showed that 18,500 men were at work on the new arterial roads, while at least an equal number over and above those ordinarily employed on such work had found employment on road maintenance and repair schemes. Approximately 3,500 men were employed on sewers, roads, etc., in connection with housing schemes, work of this nature having been accelerated in view of the employment situation. It should also be mentioned that the Office of Works have now put in hand decorating and repair work in Government Departments with a view to absorbing painters and men of similar trades who are unemployed. In this direction, employment has been found for 2,600 men, while 8,678 men were employed on alternative work in various Government Industrial establishments, and, under the system of working short time, which was introduced into Government establishments on the 24th January, it had been found possible to engage, up to the date mentioned above, an additional 9,240 men.

The Unemployment Grants Committee under the chairmanship of Viscount St. Davids, had, up to the 11th March, authorised grants in the case of some 150 local authorities to assist the inauguration of approved schemes. It is anticipated that the schemes sanctioned will provide employment for 25,685 men, while a further 11,000 have found employment on schemes put in hand by various local authorities independently of Government assistance.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT, 1921.

Important changes in the scheme of Unemployment Insurance embodied in the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920,* as amended by the Unemployment Insurance (Temporary Provisions) (Amendment) Act, 1920,† have been made by the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921, which came into operation on Thursday, 3rd March. These changes, which were foreshadowed in the King's Speech and outlined by the Minister of Labour in debate on the 16th February,‡ are described below.

The weekly rate of benefit has been increased, as from 3rd March, to 20s. for men and 16s. for women, and to half these amounts for boys and girls over 16 years and

* See LABOUR GAZETTE, August, 1920, p. 418.
† " " " " January, 1921, p. 7.
‡ " " " " February, 1921, p. 61.

under 18 years of age. Contributions will also be increased (but not until 4th July, 1921) as follows:—

	Employer.	Employee.
Men	6d.	5d.
Women	5d.	4d.
Boys	3d.	2½d.
Girls	2½d.	2d.

The Exchequer will in each case add an amount equal to one-fourth of the joint contributions of employer and employee. These increases, both as regards benefit and contributions will cease to have effect on the 1st July, 1923.

The maximum period for which benefit may be drawn has also been increased as follows:—Up to July, 1922, a maximum of 16 weeks' benefit may be drawn in each of two "special periods," the first of which runs from 3rd March until 2nd November, 1921, and the second from 3rd November, 1921, until 2nd July, 1922. After July, 1922, the maximum will be 26 weeks in any insurance year (instead of 15 weeks).

During the two "special periods" the principal preliminary qualification for the receipt of benefit will be the furnishing of proof of employment in work insurable under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, in at least 20 weeks since 31st December, 1919, and of proof that the applicant is normally in insurable employment, is genuinely seeking whole-time employment and is unable to obtain it. In the case of ex-Service men and women and of merchant seamen covered by the Out-of-Work Donation scheme in operation on the 3rd March, 1921, the number of weeks in which employment since 31st December, 1919, must be proved is reduced from 20 to 10, and, subject to the recommendation of the Local Employment Committee, this requirement may, in certain cases, be waived altogether. Persons desiring to claim benefit under these provisions are required to complete a form (U.I.A. 496), which may be obtained from any Exchange or Branch Employment Office. Before the claim is allowed, the Minister of Labour will, whenever there appears to be any doubt as to its validity, refer it to the Local Employment Committee for their recommendation. The functions of the Local Employment Committee will be performed in Ireland by the Courts of Referees.

Where the qualification set out above is not satisfied, benefit may nevertheless in certain cases be payable—

- If contributions have been paid by an insured contributor under the Unemployment Insurance Acts and have not been exhausted by the receipt of benefit, the contributor may draw benefit in respect of his unexhausted contributions to the extent of one week's benefit for every six unexhausted contributions.
- Applicants who have paid at least four contributions under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, may draw up to eight weeks' benefit in the 12 months between 8th November, 1920, and 7th November, 1921.
- Applicants who can show that they were employed in insurable work in at least ten weeks since 31st December, 1919, or in at least four weeks since 4th July, 1920, may draw benefit up to a maximum of eight weeks in the period ending 31st March, 1921.

The statutory conditions for the receipt of benefit remain the same as under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, i.e., an insured contributor must show—

- that he has made application for unemployment benefit in the prescribed manner, and has been continuously unemployed since the date of application.
- that he is capable of and available for work, but is unable to obtain suitable employment; and
- that he has not exhausted his right to unemployment benefit.

He must also show that he is not disqualified for benefit by reason of his having lost employment voluntarily without just cause, or on account of misconduct, or in consequence of a stoppage of work at his place of employment due to a trade dispute.

The rule limiting the amount of benefit payable to one week's benefit for every six contributions is suspended during the two "special periods," but it will be re-enforced as from 2nd July, 1922. In applying this rule, however, no account will be taken of any benefit which may have been received in respect of the period between 7th November, 1920, and 3rd July, 1922, and, in addition, 25 contributions will be added to the credit of every person who is an insured contributor at 2nd July, 1922.

A further amendment suspends until 2nd November, 1921, the consequential alterations in the provision for unemployment benefit to be made by an association in order to qualify for an arrangement under Section 17 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, and, further, enables the council or other governing body of an association to make any necessary amendments to its rules so as to enable the association to make an arrangement under Section 17, or to include any additional classes of its members within the scope of such an arrangement.

Other amendments include the increase from 90 to 156 of the number of contributions to be credited free, on discharge, to seamen, marines, soldiers and airmen discharged from the Forces after 2nd July, 1922, and also the variation of the conditions under which a certificate of exception can be granted to railway companies, local authorities, etc., under Part II (d) of the First Schedule to the Act.

The existing scheme of Out-of-Work Donation remains unaffected by the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921. Payment of donation on original policies will be continued so long as the policies remain valid and unexhausted. Payment of donation under the special extension scheme continues until 31st March, 1921, or to the date when 15 weeks' donation has been drawn, whichever is the earlier. Donation and unemployment benefit cannot be drawn concurrently, but persons who have exhausted their right to donation may then draw unemployment benefit if they are entitled thereto.

EMPLOYMENT OF EX-SERVICE MEN.

NATIONAL SCHEME.

Up to and including the 28th February, 1921, 24,371 certificates had been issued to employers under the scheme, the undertakings given by these employers covering 270,767 disabled ex-service men. During the past month, efforts to resettle disabled men in industry have been very severely affected by the abnormal depression prevailing.

North-Western Division.—During the period under review, 325 men were placed in employment. The campaign in Liverpool mentioned in last month's Gazette has resulted in 158 disabled men being placed in employment out of the 186 on the Register, and owing to this satisfactory result, a similar campaign has been launched at Bootle. A meeting of employers and Trade Union leaders convened by the Mayor was held on February 8th, and it was decided to form a Committee and to interview every unemployed disabled man at the Town Hall, to interview employers not on the King's Roll and to inaugurate a publicity campaign.

West Midlands Division.—Consequent upon the trade depression, the number of disabled men on the Registers has increased by nearly 200 during the past month and now stands at 1,650. There was an increase of over 100 in the number of disabled men placed in employment during the month owing mainly to the inauguration of relief work schemes by the local authorities.

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING.

The tendency to concentrate Institutional Training in Government Instructional Factories is being maintained. In a period of eight months the total number of men in Government Instructional Factories (in round figures) rose from 4,000 to 10,000, while the total of men training in "other Institutions" fell from 10,000 to 6,000.

The following Table indicates the distribution of men in training as between Government Instructional Factories, other Institutional Training Centres and Workshops:—

DISTRIBUTION OF MEN IN TRAINING.

	Feb. 22nd, 1921.	Jan. 25th, 1921.
Institutional Training:		
Government Instructional Factories	10,372	9,945
Other Instructional Training Centres	5,992	6,006
Workshop Training:		
Employers' Workshops	8,780	9,230
Totals	25,144	25,181

The following Table shows the distribution at the end of January, 1921, of the trainees amongst the chief trades in which men are trained under the scheme of the Ministry of Labour:—

Trade.	No. in Training 1921.
Building	4,507
Furniture	2,767
Tailoring Bespoke	1,980
Commercial	1,972
Motor Driving and Mechanics	1,527
Vehicle Building	1,438
Boot and Shoe	1,424
Watch and Clock	1,319
Mechanical Engineering	1,109
Distributive Trades (including Hair-dressing)	781
Electric Light and Power	763
Rural Handicrafts	417
Other trades	5,177
Total	25,181

INTERRUPTED APPRENTICESHIPS.

Up to March 2nd, 1921, 43,783 apprentices had been accepted for training with 17,417 employers, as compared with 43,610 apprentices with 17,344 employers at the end of February, 1921. Of the 173 apprentices accepted during the month ending March 2nd, the largest numbers were under the General Scheme (82) and the Engineering Scheme (56). The apprentices rejected up to March 2nd numbered 1,998, compared with 1,942 at the end of February. Of those accepted, 19,846 had terminated training and 23,937 were still in training. The corresponding figures at the end of February were 17,727 and 25,883 respectively. The number of apprentices in receipt of institutional training has increased during the month from 906 to 919.

The number of eligible applicants who have been unable to find employers can be reduced only gradually, owing to the depression in trade.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

The number of disabled ex-Service men registered for employment at the Employment Exchanges on the 18th February, 1921, was 23,918 (including 4,271 in Ireland), as compared with 23,348 on the 28th January, 1921.

The number of non-disabled ex-Service men on the Live Register on the 18th February, 1921, was 355,257 (including 20,040 in Ireland). On the 28th January, 1921, the figure was 332,393.*

LABOUR PARTY AND TRADES UNION CONGRESS.

UNEMPLOYMENT POLICY.

An account of the Joint Delegate Conference on Unemployment, convened by the National Executive of the Labour Party and the Parliamentary Committee of the Trades Union Congress, and held in London on the 27th January, appeared in the February LABOUR GAZETTE, p. 68. It was resolved at this conference that the meeting should re-assemble on the 23rd February, in order to consider the reply of the Government to the measures for dealing with unemployment, recommended in the Report of the Special Joint Committee, and endorsed by a unanimous vote at the Conference.

In the interval, these proposals were put before the Government and the House of Commons by members of the Parliamentary Labour Party. On the 16th February, in the debate on the Address, Mr. J. R. Clynes, M.P., moved an amendment regretting that "in view of the serious distress consequent upon unemployment and the lack of preparedness on the part of the Government to deal with the situation, there is no mention of legislation recognising the right of the genuine unemployed to work or adequate maintenance." The Minister of Labour, in reply, indicated what had already been done by the Government to alleviate unemployment, and outlined the policy which it is intended to pursue in the immediate future. The Labour Party's amendment was subsequently defeated by 262 to 84 votes.

At the same time, certain of the Executives of the Unions, carrying out the instructions of the Conference, proceeded to take the opinion of their members as to the authorisation, in the event of an unsatisfactory reply from the Government, of further steps to secure the adoption of the Labour programme. In the majority of cases where such meetings were held, the Executives were promised support in any action which the conference might recommend; but, at the same time, there was a general impression that members would not be asked to undertake a strike or to sanction any form of direct action.

The conference re-assembled on 23rd February, and was presided over by Mr. E. L. Poulton, Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee of the Trades Union Congress. The conference was unanimously agreed that Labour should continue to press for the adoption of the measures outlined in the Report by every legitimate means within its power. Mr. J. R. Clynes, M.P., as Chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party, reviewed the action of the Party in the House of Commons since the earlier conference of the 27th January, and Mr. J. H. Thomas, M.P., moved the principal resolution which was as follows:—

"That this conference, representative of the whole Labour movement, is of opinion that the Government's policy of merely extending the Unemployment Insurance Act is lamentably inadequate to meet the present situation and bears little relation to the existing human suffering; and emphatically reiterates its demand that comprehensive steps be taken to restore international trade, and to organise without delay national schemes of work, and that those for whom no employment is provided should be found adequate maintenance.

"The conference concurs with the proposal of the Parliamentary Labour Party that every possible step should be taken to press this question on the attention

* Revised figures.

of the House of Commons, and to insist that the Government should take immediate action for the benefit of the unemployed.

"The conference further invites the executive committee of every trade union to secure the affiliation of all its branches to the local Labour parties, and to bring all its members actively into political work, in order to take the earliest possible steps to promote a Labour candidature for every constituency in which this has not yet been done. The conference further declares that every opportunity should be taken to use the by-elections as a means of bringing pressure to bear on the Government by defeating every Coalition candidate.

"In conclusion, the conference calls upon every wage-earning elector in East Woolwich, Dudley, Penistone and Kirkcaldy Burghs to mark his or her sense of the callous refusal of the Government to deal adequately with unemployment by voting for the Labour candidate."

This resolution was carried with a few dissentients. A second resolution dealing with the proposed legislation on key industries and dumping was also carried, after which the conference terminated. The second resolution stated that the conference "views with apprehension the proposed legislation on Key industries and dumping," and "instructs the Executive Committee of the Labour Party and the Parliamentary Committee of the Trades Union Congress (a) to consider the Government's Bill as early as possible, in order to define the attitude of the British Labour movement towards the measure; (b) to request the affiliated organisations to be on their guard against committing themselves to support the Bill until they secure the report of their national committees, and (c) to consult with the Parliamentary Labour Party with a view to the necessary action being taken in the House of Commons."

COAL MINING INDUSTRY.

COAL MINES (DECONTROL) BILL.

The President of the Board of Trade received, on the 23rd February, representatives of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain and the Mining Association of Great Britain, and communicated to each deputation the decision of the Government that the control of the Coal Mining Industry should be terminated on the 31st March. In accordance with this decision, a "Coal Mines (Decontrol) Bill" was introduced into the House of Commons on the 4th March by the Secretary for Mines, and received its second reading in that House on the 8th March.

The National Delegate Conference of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain, on the 24th February, adopted a resolution protesting against the Government's decision in the following terms:—

"That this conference confirms the attitude of the Executive in protesting against the proposal of the Government to decontrol the coal trade, and declares that the Federation will oppose by every means in their power any such proposal, which is prejudicial to the interests both of the coal trade and of the nation generally."

The regulation of pit-head prices and of the internal distribution of coal was withdrawn as from the 1st March. Increases in the prices of certain grades of coal have since been reported from Durham and South Wales, but a meeting of colliery proprietors held at Derby on the 5th March, and representative of Lancashire, North Wales, Yorkshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, Warwickshire, Cannock Chase and South Staffordshire, adopted a resolution in the following terms:—

"That, in the opinion of this meeting, having regard to the trading and other interests of the nation, the present moment is inopportune for increasing the price of coal."

NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN MINERS' FEDERATION AND MINING ASSOCIATION.

An account was given in the LABOUR GAZETTE for February* of a meeting of the Delegate Conference of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain in London on the 27th and 28th January. This meeting reviewed the preliminary negotiations with regard to the preparation of a scheme for the future regulation of wages in the industry, which had taken place between the Executive of the Federation and representatives of the Mining Association of Great Britain, in accordance with the first part of the national settlement which terminated the coal strike last year.† The Delegate Conference of the Miners' Federation met again on the 22nd February to receive the replies of the districts to the questionnaire which had been circulated in accordance with their decision of the 28th January. No official statement has been issued with regard to the decisions of the Conference, but a meeting took place on the 25th February between representatives of the Miners' Federation and of the Mining Association, which further discussed the question of the future regulation of

wages in the industry. At this conference a deadlock between owners and miners appears to have occurred in consequence of the view of the owners that they could entertain no alternative to an agreement basing wages upon the wage-paying capacity of the districts, preserving for national discussion only the enunciation of certain general principles which might provide the districts with some uniform method of determining their wage-paying capacity. The representatives of the Miners' Federation, on the other hand, insisted upon the necessity of a national wages' scheme, with some form of a national pool, for the industry.

The divergent views of the owners and the miners may perhaps best be judged from statements that have been made recently by the President of the Mining Association of Great Britain (Mr. Evan Williams) and the Secretary of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain (Mr. Frank Hodges).‡

THE POSITION OF THE MINING ASSOCIATION OF GREAT BRITAIN.

At a meeting of this body on the 2nd March, Mr. Evan Williams made a statement on the present position of the industry, and outlined the proposals of the coalowners for the future settlement of wages. Mr. Williams began by indicating the importance to the country of a right settlement of the wages' problem within the coal industry. "Coal is a key industry of the country, and upon an adequate supply at a reasonable price depends the prosperity of the country now as in the past." After the strike last year had been settled, the owners and men had been left with the obligation of working out a scheme for the future adjustment of wages. A Joint Committee of the Miners' Federation and the Mining Association had met to consider the questions involved, and by dint of patience and a reasonable give-and-take spirit, they had been enabled to find common ground on certain vital principles.

Mr. Williams summarised these principles as follows:—

1. Wages must conform to the capacity of the industry to pay.
2. The receipt of a standard wage should justify a corresponding minimum profit to the colliery undertakings.
3. Any surplus remaining after these, and, of course, the usual working costs, should be divided between the men and the owners in agreed proportions, the workpeople's share to be an addition to their standard wages.
4. Joint audits of the owners' books by accountants representing each side should be made to ascertain all the data necessary for the periodical determination of wages.

Mr. Williams went on to say that the next step was to fill in this agreed framework, and, though there were some points upon which they had not arrived at an agreement, they had felt that they could arrive at an agreement with the men on such points as fixing the standard wage and the corresponding minimum profits, determining the proportion in which the margin of profits should be divided, and the modification of the scheme to meet the abnormal circumstances of the present time in respect of the cost of living. The period up to the end of August, during which they had expected the Government to remain in financial control of the industry, was regarded as giving a sufficient breathing time to enable owners and miners to discuss these questions. By that date they had hoped that the industry would have found its feet. The announcement, however, that financial control was to be removed on the 31st March had thrown them completely back on their own resources. The position was that the industry as a whole was losing money, and in more than one coalfield the average loss on coal raised had been not far short of £1 per ton. This new situation, in Mr. Williams' opinion, could only be met by a reduction of wages. It was inevitable that wages must go down if the industry was to continue to work at all.

Mr. Williams then proceeded to outline the owners' proposals in view of the near approach of decontrol. As the standard wage, below which wages should not automatically fall, and at which the owners should be entitled to a profit, they proposed to take the district base rates, plus the percentage additions prevailing in July, 1914. Against that standard wage they would ask for a standard profit—either as a rate per ton, or as a percentage of the total standard wages. Any surplus after meeting standard wages, standard profits, and all other costs, would be apportioned between owners and men at a fixed ratio. The calculation of the wages payable in each district from April 1st would be based upon the most recently ascertained return of prices, wages and other costs obtained for each district by the Mines Department. Such wages would be expressed in terms of existing base rates by means of percentages, no part of the wage being expressed as a flat rate. The war wage now paid for idle days would stop, unemployment insurance benefit taking its place.

Finally, Mr. Williams declared that they were utterly and absolutely opposed in principle to the financial unifi-

† The Delegate Conference of the Miners' Federation met on the 10th March, and an account of their decisions, which, strictly speaking, form the proper reply to Mr. Evan Williams' statement of the policy of the Mining Association, will be given in the April issue of the Labour Gazette.

cation of the whole industry which the miners were proposing. The extraordinary variations in the losses of different coalfields made anything in the nature of a national settlement of wages impossible. While there were such divergencies between district and district, each district must determine its own wages by its ability to pay, and the individual who could not pay the wages so determined must decide for himself whether to close his pits or to bear the loss. The country could not afford to keep unprofitable pits working.

REPLY ON BEHALF OF THE MINERS' FEDERATION.

Mr. Frank Hodges, on behalf of the Miners' Federation, issued on the 3rd March a reply to the above statement of the President of the Mining Association. Mr. Hodges began by stating that the Miners' Federation had no cause to complain at the manner in which the owners' views had been stated, and would join with Mr. Williams in announcing that the negotiations between owners and men had not been broken off. The difference between them, however, was fundamental in character, and one that could only be reconciled by governmental action through the Board of Trade and the Mines Department. "First and foremost, the Government should abandon its proposal financially to decontrol the trade on March 31st, for it is this very proposal which has precipitated the deadlock between the parties."

Mr. Hodges then proceeded to outline in considerable detail the arguments for a full national settlement of the wages and profits problem for the industry. The trade as a whole needed uniform peace and security, and district or local negotiations must result in strife. The workmen and their families had to live in the poor districts as well as in the rich, and for uniform expenditure of energy there should be uniform reward. This had been recognised by the Government, he claimed, first by the payment of uniform war wages to meet the increased cost of living, and, secondly, by the acceptance of the decision of the Sankey Commission to raise uniformly the wages of all coal miners to meet the agreed case for a uniform advance in their standard of living. He argued that a National Wages Board, exercising the right to distribute nationally both wages and profits, need not necessarily result in a uniform profit for all undertakings, but by means of a small levy upon the total tonnage raised in every mine, money would be made available for maintaining poor collieries in production as long as their coal was in demand.

Finally, Mr. Hodges argued that the Government's obligation to pay war wage or Sankey award did not cease by the decision financially to decontrol the trade on the 31st March, for the war wage was given to meet the increased cost of living when the latter was only 80 per cent. in excess of the pre-war figure, and, under the terms of the award, that wage was liable to revision only when the cost of living fell again to that point. The Government had accepted the Sankey Commission's recommendation for an advance in wages of 2s. per day, and if they now proposed that these conditions should be abandoned the Government would be guilty of a gross breach of faith. They might equally well propose the abrogation of the Seven Hours Act.* If the Government persisted in their attitude there would result a hard and desperate struggle on the part of the miners to safeguard that which the Government should both technically and honourably concede.

THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION.

In connection with Mr. Williams' and Mr. Hodges' statements, the debate on the second reading of the Coal Mines (Decontrol) Bill in the House of Commons on the 8th March should also be considered. At the close of the debate, the President of the Board of Trade dealt with the effect of decontrol upon the wages position. He explained that it was only during the continuance of Governmental regulation of prices and distribution that there was intended to be any further financial control with regard to wages and profits. In introducing the Ministry of Mines Bill† last year, he had stated that as soon as they got back to a condition in which there was no appreciable difference between the export price of coal and the inland price, there would be no need to regulate the distribution of coal, and control would cease. With regard to the allegation that the Government were committed to see that the miners continued to receive the war wage until the cost of living fell below a certain level, he could find nothing in the war wage agreement which suggested that the Government were bound to keep on control in order to regulate wages. As soon as control ceased there could no longer be any authority in the Government to say what wages should be paid. It had been said that they should have given more time before the date of decontrol for the miners and owners to arrange the basis upon which employment would be regulated after decontrol, but the Mining Association and the Miners' Federation had had nearly five months in which to come to a conclusion upon the matter. If the miners really insisted that a national pooling of profits was an absolute essential to any agreement, he was certain that there was no more hope of an agreement before the 31st August

than before the 31st March. He suggested that the way of arriving at a national system was to arrange that the relationship of wages to profits should be determined uniformly throughout the country, and that district percentages should be adopted according to agreed national standards.

REGULATION OF WAGES UNDER NOVEMBER, 1920, AGREEMENT.

The Secretary for Mines announced on the 28th February that, in accordance with the second part of the national agreement, which terminated the coal strike in November last year,* no wages advance under that agreement would be payable to colliery workers on and after the 27th February.

The settlement provided for an immediate advance of 2s. per shift for adults, and corresponding amounts for workers under the age of 18, until the 2nd January, 1921. The amount of any advance payable subsequently up to the 31st March, 1921, was to be regulated by output values, and to vary from time to time in accordance with the output value of coal raised during certain specified test periods. It was definitely agreed that if during the test periods the weekly average output was maintained at the weekly average of the September quarter the advance should be 1s. per shift, and that if the September figure was exceeded the advance should be increased by 6d. in certain specified steps. The output during the first test period ended the 18th December, 1920, was sufficient to increase the advance from 2s. to 3s. 6d. during January.** During January the effects of trade depression became apparent, output fell, and the advance for February was reduced to 1s. 6d. For the same reason the output figure for the test period ended February 19th was, unfortunately, lower still, being 17,654,400 tons, as compared with the rate of 19,040,000 tons in the September quarter, with the result that the wages advance disappeared altogether.

MINERS' FEDERATION—SPECIAL UNEMPLOYMENT LEVY.

The National Delegate Conference of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain, at their meeting on the 24th February, discussed the question of unemployment among the workers in the industry, and instructed their Executive to prepare a scheme for the raising of a levy to be paid by those in work, in order to form a fund to supplement the war wage, or unemployment benefit, and other allowances payable to their unemployed members.

The Executive of the Federation have prepared a provisional scheme which is now under consideration by the districts. The proposed scheme provides for a levy of 6d. per full member, and 3d. per half member, per shift worked, to be collected from miners in employment. It is proposed to make arrangements, where possible, for the deduction of the levy at the colliery pay offices week by week from the miners' wages. The proposed benefit is to be £1 per week for each full member, plus 2s. for each dependent child under 16 not working. The benefit for each half member is to be 10s. per week. Proportionate sums will be given for odd shifts lost, but a member is not entitled to benefit who works three days or more in any week. The districts will be responsible for the collection of the levy and distribution of the benefit, but favourable balances week by week are to be sent to the Miners' Federation, so as to form a national pool from which may be made up adverse balances in the districts where they occur. This scheme must, of course, be approved by the district associations before it can be put into operation. Should it be approved, it is hoped to bring it into effect as from the 28th March.

In this connection, it should be mentioned that the President of the Board of Trade assured the deputation from the Executive of the Miners' Federation, which met him on the 23rd February, that the payment of war wage at those collieries which had completely closed down owing to the present lack of trade should be continued so long as Government control subsisted.

JOINT INDUSTRIAL COUNCILS AND INTERIM INDUSTRIAL RECONSTRUCTION COMMITTEES DURING FEBRUARY, 1921.

REPORTS OF MEETINGS.

DURING the four weeks ending 27th February, meetings were held of 28 Joint Industrial Councils, 10 District Councils, two Interim Industrial Reconstruction Committees, and six Sub-Committees.

The first meeting of the Joint Industrial Council for the Seed Crushing and Compound Cake Manufacturing Industry was held on February 15th. The various bodies represented are, on the employers' side, the British Seed Crushers' Association, and on the trade union side, the Dock, Wharf, Riverside and General Workers' Union, the National Union of Distributive and Allied Workers, the National Warehouse and General Workers' Union, the National Union of General Workers, the National Amalgamated Union of Labour, the National Union of Dock and Riverside and General Workers, and the Workers' Union.

* See Labour Gazette, November, 1920, p. 592.
** See Labour Gazette, January, 1921, p. 10.

INDUSTRIAL COUNCILS AND SHORT TIME.

The number of Councils and Committees, apart from Government Industrial Councils, which have had under consideration the Minister of Labour's letter on the subject of short time working,* is now 27, as compared with 24 last month. In the three additional cases, it was decided by the respective bodies that no further action was practicable in their industries.

In connection with the application of short time working to Government Industrial Establishments, the trade unions represented on the Joint Industrial Councils concerned decided, at a Conference held on January 19th, to withdraw their representatives from these bodies, as a protest against the alleged failure of the Government to consult the Councils before taking action. A further conference was held on the 25th February to discuss the situation which had arisen, and a deputation was sent to the Treasury. Sir Malcolm Ramsay, on behalf of the Government, gave the deputation a statement in the following terms: "The Trade Union representatives had suggested that it is not the intention of the Government to carry out the objects and constitution of the Industrial Councils; Sir Malcolm Ramsay gives the Trade Union representatives an assurance that they are mistaken in their view, and that it is the intention of the Government, and of the Official sides as representing the Government, to carry out the objects and constitution of the Whitley Councils, and to make the fullest possible use of the opportunity for discussion provided by the Whitley machinery." This assurance was subsequently accepted by the Conference, and it is understood that Trade Union representation on the Councils for the Government Industrial Establishments has now been resumed.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTS, 1920 AND 1921.

The consideration of special schemes under Section 18 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, has been undertaken in all by 13 Joint Industrial Councils, nine of whom have decided upon the preparation of special schemes. In one case the decision has since been rescinded; in five cases investigations are still in progress, and in three cases (wool, hosiery and printing) schemes have now been drawn up, but have not yet been formally submitted to the Minister of Labour.

COURT OF INQUIRY: TRAMWAY INDUSTRY.

The Report of the Court of Inquiry appointed by the Minister of Labour in accordance with the provisions of the Industrial Courts Act, 1919, to enquire into the causes and circumstances of the dispute between the employers' representatives and the workpeople's representatives on the National Joint Industrial Council for the Tramway Industry,† has been published as a House of Commons Paper, No. 37.

The dispute arose out of an application submitted by the workpeople's side of the Industrial Council in October, 1920, for a wages advance to meet the increase in the cost of living which had taken place since the last wages settlement. An account of the negotiations on the Industrial Council in regard to the wages application is contained in the Report.

The Court held public sittings at St. Ermin's, Westminster, at intervals from 26th January to 18th February. The case for the employees was put forward by Mr. E. Bevin, of the National Transport Workers' Federation, on behalf of the Trade Unions concerned having representation on the Industrial Council. The case for the tramway undertakings in England and Wales was put before the Court in two separate statements in order to bring to their notice the points of difference between the municipal undertakings on the one hand and the company owned undertakings on the other. Mr. J. B. Hamilton and Mr. J. McElroy represented the Municipal Authorities, who are members of the Municipal Tramways Association (Incorporated), and Mr. C. J. Spencer appeared on behalf of the company undertakings, being members of the Conference of Tramway and Light Railway Companies. The Scottish tramway undertakings appointed a special committee to present their case to the Court on behalf of both municipal and company owned undertakings. Councillor Beaton, Convener of the Aberdeen Corporation Tramways, represented the Scottish Committee.

The report contains an analysis of the very complete evidence which was submitted to the Court by both parties to the dispute in support of their cases. In their general remarks on the subject matter of the inquiry, the Court state that they were deeply impressed by the immense value of the work done by the Joint Industrial Council for the Tramway Industry, in which both parties have participated. In their opinion, Industrial Councils appear to have great possibilities for the betterment of the workpeople and the advancement of industries as a whole.

The report contains some observations by the Court on aspects of tramway administration and municipal policy, arising out of questions raised by the parties during the course of the proceedings.

* See LABOUR GAZETTE, for February, 1921, p. 60.
† See THE LABOUR GAZETTE of January, 1921, page 10

In regard to the wages application, the Court arrived at the following conclusions:—

"During the course of the Inquiry we were pleased to see that the reasonable way in which the case of the employees was put forward was met by the representatives of the Undertakings in a conciliatory and friendly spirit. There was no belittling of the loyalty and good services of the men of all grades, which were fully appreciated. The issue raised by the employers was inability to pay and the expression of the belief that any further burden would cripple the industry at this trying period when every effort is being made to bring the services into a solvent and efficient condition.

"We are of opinion that a broad view should be taken of the wages position in this industry. The wages increases have not advanced at the same rate as the cost of living figure since July, 1914, and the application put forward in October, 1920, was intended to compensate for the rise in the cost of living since the last wages settlement in March, 1920, and to meet the further increase that was immediately anticipated. Subsequently to October the cost of living figure rose considerably, and it has since fallen. We are not in a position to predict its future movements. Having carefully considered the statements and evidence so fully and exhaustively brought before us, we submit that, in view of the unsatisfactory condition of the industry and under all the existing circumstances, the position and the claim would be met by the following recommendations:—

- (1) That the Industrial Council should examine the position of those undertakings which have not observed previous agreements and arbitration awards in regard to wages advances, and the undertakings should be advised that if possible the advances should be paid in full.
- (2) That the present wages standard should be maintained both as regards Municipalities and Companies until 31st December, 1921.
- (3) That the Industrial Council should consider the question of standardisation in the near future, dealing with the various grades of employees in relation to each other, having regard to the earning capacity of the undertakings, and to the interests of the travelling public.
- (4) That the Council should examine the circumstances of the lower paid grades with a view to adjusting their conditions on a more satisfactory basis."

Copies of the Report can be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, Imperial House, Kingsway, W.C.1.*

NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE.

INTERIM REPORT ON VALUATION OF APPROVED SOCIETIES.

An interim report by the Government Actuary on the valuation of the assets and liabilities of approved societies as at 31st December, 1918, showing the summarised results of the valuations completed up to the 24th December, 1920,† has been issued. The Report draws attention to the principal indications of the valuations in regard to additional benefits, and states that, on completion of the whole work of valuation, the results will be examined in detail, and a further statement presented showing the full operation of the system of National Health Insurance in its actuarial aspects.

Owing to the outbreak of war, the first valuation, which it had been generally assumed would be made as at the 31st December, 1915, was postponed; but immediately after the Armistice it was decided by the National Health Insurance Joint Committee that a valuation should be made in the case of every approved society, and branch of a society, as at 31st December, 1918. The actual number of valuations completed by the 24th December, 1920, was 5,036, comprising a membership of 2,752,308, of whom 2,198,612 were men and 553,696 women, whilst a large number of uncompleted cases had reached an advanced stage. Where the rules of a society provided for the maintenance of a separate fund for each sex, the society is treated for tabulation purposes as though it consisted of two units. The 5,036 valuations thus referred to 4,998 actual societies and branches. The valuations have been carried out by professionally qualified members of the Government Actuary's Department, in accordance with the uniform standard prescribed by the National Health Insurance (Valuation) Regulations, 1919. The results show that in 4,878 cases, representing 2,704,371 members, there were surpluses amounting in the aggregate to £3,609,248; in 155 cases, representing 47,539 members, there were deficiencies amounting to £15,974; and in 3 cases, with 398 members, the assets and liabilities balance exactly. The outstanding feature of the valuations so far completed is the large amount of the surpluses, the deficiencies being relatively insignificant.

In commenting on the above results, the Report states that the conditions which have prevailed during the war

* H.C. 37. Price 2d. † Cmd. 1130. Price 1d.

have greatly affected the finance of National Health Insurance, and it is evident that, to a material extent, the surpluses now declared are due to this cause. The factors which have entered into the production of surpluses are as follows:—

- The claims for sickness, disablement and maternity benefits have been considerably below the provisions made for the expenditure under these heads in the financial basis of the Acts. As regards the sickness and maternity benefits, much of the resulting gain is traceable to the fall in the claims between 1915 and 1918, which is unmistakably connected with the war. The societies have been protected from elements of liability that were outside the scope of the original estimates (e.g., the super-normal experience of men who were invalidated from the Forces, and the relatively heavy liability of married women) by annual grants from the Exchequer, and accordingly reap the full advantage of the favourable experience which has prevailed. Claims for disablement benefit have been less than was anticipated, though this feature is much less noticeable in the case of women than it is in the case of men.
- The interest realised on the investment of accumulated funds has been appreciably in excess of the valuation rate of 3 per cent., since the great bulk of the funds accumulated since 1912 has been invested in Government securities; it must also be remembered that approved societies are exempt from income tax on interest. The element of depreciation had not become a serious factor up to the valuation date, and the valuation regulations provided that Stock Exchange securities held by societies should be taken at their cost prices.
- The receipts from contributions in many cases have exceeded the "expectation." Contributions are not payable in periods of sickness or unemployment,* and it follows that, in years when sickness is below the average and employment abundant, the receipts from contributions show a considerable gain to societies. These conditions prevailed generally up to 31st December, 1918.
- "War mortality" in the case of men has added greatly to surplus. The liabilities of societies have been reduced by deaths of which there had been no expectation, while the credits given and the funds accumulated to meet these liabilities remain intact.

The Report also points out that, while much of the gain derived from light sickness is due to the war, some part of it must be ascribed to the favourable environments of the members and the nature of their occupations. Good administration is also considered to have contributed to the satisfactory valuation results.

The responsibility of determining the extent to which any particular surplus may be distributed is imposed upon the Valuer, who must take into account not only the normal risks of fluctuation in future experience, but also give full weight to the uncertainties of the present situation, with their possible reactions on the future financial responsibilities of approved societies. The latter point is of great importance both with regard to future claims and to the value of investments. The general decline in the death rate is also mentioned as likely, if maintained, to add considerably to the charges on societies as at present estimated. The Health Insurance Acts give no direction as to the period over which a scheme of additional benefits shall operate, but the limitation of such schemes to five years has been recommended, and in each case the amount certified as disposable surplus is the sum which, in the opinion of the Valuer, may be safely distributed over the next five years. In a comparatively few cases, the Valuer has been unable to certify any part of the surplus as disposable, but, in the great majority of cases, the balance available for distribution is considerable, the total amount certified as disposable being £2,171,576 (62 per cent. of the related surpluses), which will be distributed amongst 2,332,174 members of 4,310 approved societies and branches. Moreover, so far as the valuations already completed are concerned, 85 per cent. of the insured persons are enabled to receive additional benefits.

Calculations have been made showing what addition to the ordinary money benefits of the Health Insurance Acts can be made if all the disposable surplus is applied to this purpose, and distributed over the whole of the money benefits in the proportion of 1s. a week additional sickness benefit, 6d. a week additional disablement benefit, and 2s. additional maternity benefit. The following Table shows the number of insured persons in whose case the surplus admits, if wholly applied to this purpose, of the payment of each rate of additional sickness benefit from 1s. to 5s. (in sixpenny stages), with corresponding additional disablement and maternity benefits according to the above scale:—

* This is subject to qualification under certain circumstances.

Additional Benefits.			United Kingdom. Number of Insured Persons.	
Sickness (per week)	Disablement (per week)	Maternity	Men	Women
s. d.	s. d.	s. d.		
1 0	0 6	2 0	156,345	59,870
1 6	0 9	3 0	141,248	51,814
2 0	1 0	4 0	348,991	60,156
2 6	1 3	5 0	195,198	66,315
3 0	1 6	6 0	187,835	41,665
3 6	1 9	7 0	190,444	57,465
4 0	2 0	8 0	180,615	46,018
4 6	2 3	9 0	122,415	20,880
5 0	2 6	10 0	299,866	31,555
TOTAL			1,792,957*	435,536*

It will be observed that in the case of over 300,000 insured persons the disposable surplus permits of an additional sickness benefit of 5s. a week, with corresponding additions to disablement and maternity benefits.

The Report concludes with a reference to those 155 cases where a deficiency was revealed. It is stated that, with regard to societies, the Contingencies Fund of the individual society is available for making good the deficiency, and that in three cases only is that fund insufficient for the purpose. In the case of branches, a deficiency, where no question of maladministration arises, is chargeable against the Contingencies Fund of the society of which the branch is a part, and, so far as can be seen at present, it appears probable that these funds will generally be sufficient to make good such deficiencies as may fall upon them.

EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN, YOUNG PERSONS AND CHILDREN ACT, 1920.

THE TWO DAY-SHIFT SYSTEM.

THE EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN AND YOUNG PERSONS ON THE TWO DAY-SHIFT SYSTEM is now governed by Section 2 of the above Act.† This section enables the Secretary of State on the joint application of the employer or employers of any factory or workshop, and the majority of the workpeople concerned, to make orders authorising the employment of women and young persons in such factory or workshop at any time between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. on any week-day except Saturday, and on Saturday between the hours of 6 a.m. and 2 p.m., in shifts averaging for each shift not more than 8 hours per day.

It is further provided that particulars of every Order shall be published in the "London Gazette," and the following is a summary of the notices which have been published up to the 15th March of nine Orders made by the Home Secretary under Section 2 of the Act. The date in each case is the date of the issue of the "London Gazette" in which the notice appeared.

Women:—Orders authorising the employment of women on two day-shifts have been made in the case of the following firms:—Messrs. Waterlow and Sons, Ltd., Dunstable (for women engaged in envelope making and embossing only; 15th February, 1921); Messrs. Thomas de la Rue and Co., Ltd., 110, Bunhill Row, London, E.C.1 (playing card cutting department only; 4th March, 1921); Western Electric Co., Ltd., Henley Road, North Woolwich (cord and insulating departments only; 22nd February, 1921); W. T. Henley's Telegraph Works Co., Ltd., Stanley Road, North Woolwich (cable covering and braiding departments only; 1st March, 1921); Messrs. Siemens, Bros. and Co., Ltd., Woolwich (women engaged in the lead cable and sheathing departments on the manufacture of electric wires and cables only; 4th March, 1921); the Co-operative Wholesale Society, Ltd., Silvertown, E. (women engaged in dusting down machinery and cleaning floors in the flour mill only; 25th February, 1921); the Hull Forge Iron and Steel Co., Ltd., East Riding Iron Works, Hull (women engaged in piling scrap for charging ball furnaces only; 4th March, 1921), and Messrs. Forsters' Glass Co., Ltd., Pocket Nook and Atlas Glass Works, St. Helens (women engaged in taking-in to, and emptying, lehrs only; 4th March, 1921).

Male Young Persons:—Orders permitting the employment of male young persons have been made in the case of the following firms:—Messrs. Siemens, Bros. and Co., Ltd., North Woolwich (for male young persons engaged in the lead cable and sheathing departments on the manufacture of electric wires and cables only; 4th March, 1921); W. T. Henley's Telegraph Works Co., Ltd., Stanley Road, North Woolwich (cable covering and braiding departments only; 1st March, 1921); and the Craven Railway Carrage and Wagon Co., Ltd., Darnall, Sheffield (forge department only; 4th March, 1921).

The above Orders are subject in all cases to the conditions that no worker shall be employed on the afternoon

* Certain societies and branches with a membership of 103,681 of both sexes have not enough disposable surplus to provide for additional benefits under the above plan, and must undertake some other form of additional benefit.

† An account of the provisions of this Section of the Act was given in the LABOUR GAZETTE, December, 1920, at pp. 669-670.

‡ This order also applies to young persons of both sexes.

shift in consecutive weeks, except in the case of Messrs. Forsters' Glass Co., Ltd., St. Helens, where no woman may be employed in the afternoon shift for more than two consecutive weeks, and also that suitable cloak-room and mess-room accommodation be provided. The Order for Messrs. Waterlow and Sons, Ltd., Dunstable, provides that suitable arrangements shall be made for conveying to and from the works any woman employed in shifts who live at a distance from the factory.

Under the provisions of Section 2 (1) of the Act, a joint representation may be made to the Secretary of State by organisations representing a majority of employers and workers in the industry, or section of the industry concerned, to the effect that Orders under this Section ought not to be made. In that event, the powers of the Secretary of State to make Orders as regards that industry, or section of industry, cease to be exercisable unless, and until, the representation is withdrawn. If any representation requires it, any Order previously made in respect of a factory or workshop in that industry, or section of industry, shall, on the expiration of such reasonable period, not exceeding four months, as the Secretary of State may fix, cease to have effect. The representation, however, in respect of an Order already issued, must be made within one month from the date of the publication of the Order.

EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN AT SEA.

The Secretary of State for Home Affairs has fixed the 1st July, 1921, as the date on which the provisions of the Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children Act, with regard to the employment of children at sea, shall take effect.

MEMORANDUM ON LEAD POISONING.

The Home Office have issued a Memorandum on Industrial Lead Poisoning* of which the following is a brief summary.

The susceptibility of women to lead poisoning is usually regarded as greater than that of men, and there is no question as to the baleful influence exercised by lead on the uterine functions of women. Disorders of menstruation are common, and the tendency to miscarriages, in some lead workers, is pronounced. It was for this reason, more especially, that the International Labour Conference at Washington dealt with the question; and the recommendations of the Conference have been embodied in the "Women and Young Persons (Employment in Lead Processes) Act, 1920." A notice of this Act appeared in the LABOUR GAZETTE for January, 1921, page 7.

The principal figures relating to cases of lead poisoning (taken from the Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories for 1919) were given, in an abridged form, in the LABOUR GAZETTE for November, 1920 (page 594), where it was shown that there had been a very marked reduction in the number of such cases, save only in the electric accumulator industry. The present memorandum contains figures showing not only a reduction in the number of cases, but also in their severity and in the proportion of chronic cases. The principal figures are as follows:—

	Years 1900-4.		Years 1910-14.	
	Cases.	Per cent.	Cases.	Per cent.
Severe	1,157	31.8	477	17.4
Moderate	768	21.1	907	33.1
Slight	1,597	43.9	1,325	48.3
TOTAL (including not stated)	3,522	100.0	2,742	100.0
First Attack	2,438	67.0	2,123	77.4
Second	540	15.1	322	11.7
Third " (or Chronic)	488	13.4	299	9.5
TOTAL (including not stated)	3,522	100.0	2,742	100.0

It may be mentioned that two-fifths of all reported cases occur during the first eighteen months of employment.

The symptoms which generally lead to the report of cases as "severe" are paralysis and encephalopathy (epilepsy and epileptiform attacks, mental defect, and optic neuritis). Paralysis is more common in men than in women, while the reverse is the case with encephalopathy. The number of cases of paralysis in the years 1910-14 was 606, of which 102 were cases of complete paralysis of both forearms; 100 were cases of partial paralysis of both forearms; 161 were cases of weakness of, or loss of power of, muscles in both forearms; and 72 were cases of paralysis, or weakness, in the right forearm.

Cases of encephalopathy fell from 97 in the years 1905-9 to 17 in the years 1915-19.

Fatal cases numbered 27 on the average of the five years 1900-4; 28 in the next five-year period; 34 in the period 1910-14; and 21 in the period 1915-19. It will be seen that the number of deaths from lead poisoning does not show a diminution corresponding to the diminution in the number of non-fatal cases. This is due to the fact that, following on the operation of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906,

* Form 324, January, 1921; price 3d. net.

lead poisoning is more frequently mentioned, as an associated cause, on the death certificates of lead-workers suffering from chronic nephritis and its sequelæ. Bright's disease, cerebral hæmorrhage, paralysis, or chronic lead poisoning, either alone or as a combination of symptoms, account for the great majority of fatal cases.

The attack rate per thousand can be given for a certain number of industries. The figures for the year 1914 are as follows:—

Industry	Approximate No. of Persons Employed in Lead Processes.	No. of Reported Cases	Attack rate per Thousand
White Lead	1,119	29	26
Vitreous Enamelling	768	11	14
Tinning of Metals	492	10	20
Electric Accumulators	1,543	41	27
Paints and Colours	1,287	21	16
Pottery	4,661	28	6
Smelting of Metals	2,827	36	13
Coach Painting	29,308	57	2
File Cutting	5,556	11	2
Printing	58,777	23	0.4

The memorandum also contains a detailed statement of the processes in each industry in which lead poisoning is most commonly found; of the measures which have led to the great reduction in lead poisoning that has taken place; and of symptoms and diagnosis. There are also paragraphs dealing with the requirements as to periodic medical examination; with notification, suspension from employment in lead processes, and warnings to workpeople as to precautionary measures; and with the instructions which have been drawn up by the Home Office for the guidance of certifying and appointed surgeons.

RULES OF A TRADE UNION: EXPULSION OF MEMBERS.

WALTON v. YORKSHIRE MINERS' ASSOCIATION AND OTHERS.

On March 7th, Mr. Justice Russell, in the Chancery Division of the High Court of Justice, gave judgment in favour of Mr. James Walton, M.P. for the Don Valley Division of Yorkshire, in his action against the Yorkshire Miners' Association, their officers and trustees. The plaintiff asked for a declaration that a resolution of the Council of the Association, passed on the 12th May, 1919, to the effect that the plaintiff should be expelled from the Association was *ultra vires*, and that the resolution was illegal, unconstitutional and against public policy, and that it was passed in bad faith. Mr. Walton also asked for a declaration that the resolution was *ultra vires* and void, as being unauthorised by the constitution of the Association or any of its rules, and was passed in breach of the rules of the Association; and he sought an injunction to restrain the defendants from acting upon the resolution.

The rule of the Yorkshire Miners' Association which deals with the expulsion of members is Rule 41, and provides:—

In case any member shall do anything which is detrimental to the interests of his branch or of the association, or shall omit to do anything that he ought to have done, and which would, if done, have been to the advantage of his branch, or of the association, the Branch Secretary, or the General Secretary (as the case may be) shall report the matter to the Council, and the Council shall have power to expel such member from the association, and thereupon he shall cease to be a member thereof, and shall lose all the rights, privileges and benefits of membership; and the Council shall be the sole judges as to whether any act or omission has been detrimental or disadvantageous to a branch, or the Association, or not.

The hearing of the case commenced on the 1st March, and occupied five days. In his judgment, Mr. Justice Russell said that the action was brought on two grounds: firstly, that there had been a malicious plan among the defendants to get rid of the plaintiff and that the resolution was passed in bad faith; and, secondly, that the resolution was not passed in compliance with the rules of the Association. On the first point, he considered that there was no evidence to justify the allegation of bad faith against any of the defendants.*

In dealing with the second point, he had come to the conclusion that the effect of Rule 41 of the Association was as follows:—A question of expulsion must be properly brought under the Rule, and the Council must see that the accused was made acquainted with the real charge, and that he had an opportunity of defending himself; and must verify and consider the charge, each member forming his individual opinion and voting accordingly. The delegates who formed the Council were special men, specially selected for a term of office, and not for any particular meeting of the Council, and were free to vote as they thought right, unfettered by any restrictions from their branches.

* In the course of his judgment, Mr. Justice Russell also pointed out that the Council under the rules were the sole judges of the question whether the action alleged against Mr. Walton was detrimental to the Association within the meaning of Rule 41. He could not sit as a Court of Appeal on the decision of the Council and substitute his opinion for theirs.

His Lordship had no hesitation in saying that the resolution of expulsion of the 12th May had not been passed in accordance with Rule 41. The delegates met on that day, not unfettered in their judgment, but having received instructions from the branches how to vote. They, therefore, did not record their own decisions, but the decisions of the majority of the members who happened to attend the branch meetings. It was not the delegates who had been the judges, but the branches. The resolution so passed could not possibly stand.

A second reason why the resolution was invalid was that the plaintiff was not told the real charge against him; and the Council were thus never in a position to consider his defence. On the ground of natural justice, then, the proceedings were invalid.

Thirdly, Mr. Justice Russell thought that there was a great deal of force in the objection put forward by the plaintiff to the effect that there should have been two separate resolutions, the first finding the charge proved, and the second passing the sentence of expulsion, and, therefore, that the issues were confused by the passing of a single resolution only.

The order that he would make was a declaration that the resolution was in breach of the rules and was void and of no effect, and that the plaintiff was still a member of the Association. There would be an injunction against the Association, and the seven defendants who were officers, to restrain them from acting on the resolution. The costs had been increased by the addition of the trustees and by the allegations of bad faith and malice. The plaintiff was not entitled to costs on these points, and he would order the plaintiff's costs to be taxed, and that the first eight defendants should pay him three-fourths of these costs.

OVERSEA SETTLEMENT.

THE Report of the Oversea Settlement Committee for 1920,* which has been issued recently, deals with the Committee's work during that year, and makes certain proposals, based on the experience gained, for the future encouragement and regulation of oversea settlement. The Committee welcome the decision of the Government to hold a conference with the Dominion Governments principally concerned with a view to discussing the possibility of initiating a system of state-aided settlement within the Empire. They understand that the objects which the Government have in view are to meet the exceptional conditions which have resulted from the war, to facilitate the distribution of the population of the Empire to the best advantage, to develop the cultivation of the land and the natural resources of the Empire, and to ensure that the greatest possible proportion of the population which leaves this country in the near future shall be attracted to the Dominions instead of being diverted to foreign countries.

The Committee recognise that it is impossible for the self-governing Dominions to receive the unemployed of the Mother country, even if they are ex-Service men, except in cases where those Governments are satisfied that the men in question will find suitable work, and will not continue to be unemployed when they arrive overseas, but they are strongly in favour of encouraging by State-aid and supervision the settlement overseas of large numbers of women as well as Poor Law and other suitable children of both sexes if, and in so far, as suitable arrangements can be made for their reception and employment. The chief openings for women overseas are in domestic service, and it is understood that the Dominions are prepared to accept large numbers of suitable women for this purpose, even if they are untrained. In discussing the results of the Government scheme for giving free passages to ex-Service men and women, and the decision to extend the scheme for a further period of one year, the Report states that a considerable number of letters are received from those who have been sent over-seas, asking for further assistance in the shape of loans or grants. Such grants as have hitherto been given have been from the National Relief Fund, but this fund is now approaching exhaustion, and the Committee recommend that careful consideration should be given to the possibility of supplementing the grant of free passages by advances in special circumstances.

Information is given in the Report as to the work of the Oversea Employment Branch of the Ministry of Labour, which was established at the end of 1919, and works in co-operation with the Committee. Mention is also made of the arrangement whereby Canadian demands for British labour are transmitted to the Oversea Employment Branch through the Canadian Departments of Labour and Immigration.

The Committee point out that at the present time industrial conditions are abnormal not only in Great Britain but also in the self-governing Dominions, and they emphasise the fact that settlers, unless carefully selected, are unlikely to succeed. The tendency in certain quarters in this country to approach the question of oversea settlement with the object of mitigating distress or relieving temporary unemployment at home is deprecated, and the Committee consider that the old methods of recruiting in the United Kingdom, and of receiving settlers overseas, should be replaced by careful selection under Government

* Cmd. 1131; price 2s.

supervision at this end, and by equally careful settlement under Government supervision overseas.

The enactment of an Oversea Settlement Bill for the purpose of setting up a central authority to deal with oversea settlement and emigration, which was urged in the Committee's Report for 1919, is also urged in the present Report, an outline being given of the functions which the proposed authority should exercise.

INTERNATIONAL SHIP OWNERS AND SEAMEN'S CONFERENCE.

COMMISSION ON HOURS OF LABOUR OF SAILORS AND FIREMEN.

THE LABOUR GAZETTE for February, 1921 (pages 72 and 73), contained an account of the International Shipowners and Seamen's Conference, held at Brussels in January of this year, to discuss hours of labour on board ship, and of the setting up by that body of two commissions, which were to examine and report upon the technical matters involved in connection with deck and engine-room staffs, and with general service staffs, respectively.

The first session of the Commission on Hours of Labour of Deck and Engine-room Staffs took place in London on the 25th February, 1921, with Mr. Havelock Wilson, C.B.E., M.P., in the Chair.

After a general discussion on procedure, it was decided, in the first place, to examine in detail, and place on record, the actual hours now worked by firemen and trimmers, on the ships of the several countries represented on the Commission.

Mr. Havelock Wilson then outlined the existing working conditions of firemen and trimmers in British ships, and compared these conditions with those prevailing several years ago. The subject was considered from the point of view of hours at sea, hours in port, hours on day of arrival and on day of departure, together with such other matters as "field days," heaving ashes, amount of coal consumption, and overtime.

The Belgian representatives then commenced a similar record of the present conditions of firemen and trimmers on Belgian ships, but the Commission adjourned until the 1st March before this part of the investigation had been completed.

At the meeting on March 1st, the Commission completed the record of the technical details of the work of firemen and trimmers on Belgian ships. The same procedure was then followed with regard to Danish, Norwegian and Swedish ships, and a statement was read giving particulars of the conditions obtaining on German ships. M. Damm, Secretary of the International Seafarers' Federation, then put forward, on behalf of the Federation, a scheme for a 48-hour week at sea in the engine-room and stokehold departments, and Father Hopkins and Commander Walton were appointed to investigate the cost of the proposed scheme as compared with the present arrangements.

On the 2nd March, the Commission examined the working of the 48-hour week in the French Mercantile Marine, and decided to obtain details as to the cost of operating the three watch system in Danish ships. M. Damm outlined a scheme proposed by the International Seafarers' Federation for the institution of a three watch system for deck crews. The Commission then decided to adjourn until comparative tables as to the cost of the present and the proposed systems were ready for discussion.

WAGES OF FARM WORKERS IN SCOTLAND IN 1919-20.

A REPORT made to the Board of Agriculture for Scotland by Sir James Wilson, K.C.S.I., Chairman of the Central Agricultural Wages Committee for Scotland, dealing with the wages and conditions of labour of farm workers in Scotland in 1919-1920, has recently been published.*

The first section of the Report deals with cash wages and allowances in kind, the information being based on returns obtained from 1,096 farmers employing 4,748 workers, of whom 377 were stewards, grieves, and foremen, 2,305 were ploughmen, 575 cattlemen, 395 shepherds, 424 orramen, and 672 female workers. It is pointed out that these returns cover only 4 per cent. of the holdings above 50 acres, and 4 per cent. of the total number of farm workers in Scotland, and that calculations based upon so small a proportion of the total number cannot be accepted as providing an absolutely accurate representation of the whole. It is claimed, however, that the averages obtained corroborate each other; that the conclusions have stood the test of local criticism; and that the results of the enquiry may therefore be taken as representing, with some approximation to accuracy, the position in Scotland generally in the winter of 1919-1920.

For men between 21 and 60 years of age, other than stewards, grieves and foremen, the average cash wages,

* Published by H.M. Stationery Office, price 7s. net.

the average value of allowances in kind,* and the average total earnings indicated by the Returns were as follows:—

Class of Worker.	Men of ages 21—60 years.			
	Numbers included in the Returns.	Average Cash Wages per week.	Average Value of Allowances in kind per week.	Average Total Earnings per week.
Ploughmen: Married	1,371	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Single ..	550	39 8	10 7	50 3
TOTAL ..	1,921	38 4	10 10	49 2
Cattlemen: Married	390	36 5	13 4	49 9
Single ..	111	29 11	13 8	43 7
TOTAL ..	471	34 11	13 5	48 4
Shepherds: Married	277	33 7	14 9	48 4
Single ..	55	28 11	13 8	42 7
TOTAL ..	332	32 9	14 8	47 5
Orramen: Married	194	39 11	7 8	47 7
Single ..	102	34 2	9 5	43 7
TOTAL ..	296	37 11	8 3	46 2

For stewards, grieves and foremen, the average weekly earnings amounted to 54s. 4d. a week (cash, 40s. 10d.; allowances, 13s. 6d.), whilst for female workers of ages 21 to 60 the average amounted to 26s. 2d. a week (cash, 22s. 6d.; allowances, 3s. 8d.).

The second part of the Report deals with working hours. It is pointed out that, with a few exceptions, the working hours of the whole of the farm staff are regulated by those of the ploughman, and the hours mainly considered are therefore those of the latter class. The hours now worked in many districts are largely the outcome of recommendations agreed upon in February, 1919, at a conference held at Perth between representatives of the National Farmers' Union of Scotland and the Scottish Farm Servants' Union. These recommendations included a proposal that the average hours from stable to stable, excluding stable work and mealtimes should be 9 per day, adjusted to 54 per week. Owing to a dispute which followed the conference the recommendations were not adopted by the parties, but they have since formed the basis for many local agreements in different counties. Details of these various agreements are given in the Report.

A third section of the Report contains estimates of the average weekly earnings of married ploughmen in the summer of 1920, based mainly on the reports of the hiring fairs held at Whitsuntide. It is estimated that the average earnings for the whole of Scotland had risen by this date to about 55s. a week, an increase over the corresponding average for 1914 of about 150 per cent.

The fourth section of the Report deals with the minimum rates of wages fixed by the Central Agricultural Wages Committee, details of which were given on page 479 of the LABOUR GAZETTE for September, 1920. It is pointed out that in Caithness, Sutherland and Shetland the estimated weekly earnings of married ploughmen are the same as the minimum rates fixed for those counties, but in other districts the average earnings are generally higher than the minimum rates.

CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION IN LABOUR DISPUTES.

THE Ministry of Labour has recently published a Report,† prepared in the Industrial Relations Department of the Ministry, on Conciliation and Arbitration in labour disputes during the year ended 31st December, 1919. This Report, which has been presented to Parliament in accordance with the provisions of the Conciliation Act, 1896, and the Industrial Courts Act, 1919, is in a measure a continuance of the twelve previous Reports covering the work done under the former Act since 1896.

Following a brief survey of the general position in industrial affairs in the period immediately following the armistice, the Report shows in relation to the adjustment of labour disputes what measures the Government took to meet the new conditions. The labour problem is regarded from two points of view—the re-organisation of employment and the changes effected in conditions of employment. The re-organisation of employment made necessary by the practically complete cessation of the demand for munitions of war and by the demobilisation of the forces, was carried through with comparative speed and success, and so far from unemployment being widespread, industry became

* For the purpose of the Report the values placed on allowances in kind by the District Wages Committees for the winter of 1919-20 have been adopted.

† Report on Conciliation and Arbitration, including particulars of Proceedings under the Conciliation Act, 1896, the Coal Mines (Minimum Wage) Act, 1912, the Wages (Temporary Regulation) Acts, 1918 and 1919, the Restoration of Pre-war Practices Act, 1919, and the Industrial Courts Act, 1919 (H.C. 221 of 1920). Published by H.M. Stationery Office, at the addresses shown on the front cover of this issue. Price 3s. 6d. net.

so prosperous that there was an actual shortage of certain classes of labour.

The principal problems which had to be dealt with in regard to conditions of employment were: (1) The general level of wages, which owing to regulation by the cost of living during the war, was much higher than in 1914; it was feared that a temporary flooding of the labour market, combined with the inability of manufacturers to attain at once to a normal volume of output, might lead to falls of wages of a kind estimated to result in serious labour unrest. (2) The fulfilment of the Government's pledge to restore pre-war practices and customs where, in order to stimulate production, trade union rules had been relaxed. (3) The removal of restrictions imposed during the war on collective action, such as the prohibition of strikes and lockouts and compulsory arbitration, and further the determination of the normal position of the State in respect to labour disputes; and (4) the necessity of securing a period of pause for the establishment of the necessary procedure for the reconsideration by employers and workpeople of wages and working conditions on a post-war basis, having regard inter alia to the increased organisation of industry, to the closer contact of employers and workpeople under the pressure of war conditions and to the aspirations aroused by the successful termination of the war.

Immediately on the armistice, a national conference of representatives of employers' associations and federations and trades unions was called by the then Minister of Labour (the Rt. Hon. G. H. Roberts, M.P.), for 13th November, 1918, and addressed by the Prime Minister, and as a result the Wages (Temporary Regulation) Act, 1918, was introduced as an agreed measure to stabilise rates of wages for a limited period and to relax Government control over labour matters, while at the same time establishing a central arbitration tribunal—the Interim Court of Arbitration. This stabilisation was, with the concurrence of organised employers and labour, continued for a further period by the Wages (Temporary Regulation) Extension Act, 1919, and the principle involved was continued by the Industrial Courts Act, 1919, up to 30th September, 1920. A further result of the conference of November, 1918, was the appointment of a Committee to consider a draft bill for the restoration of pre-war practices; these deliberations resulted eventually in the passing of the Restoration of Pre-war Practices Act, 1919, which provided that where, in establishments engaged on munitions work, any rule, practice or custom had been departed from during and in consequence of the war, the owner of the establishment should be under an obligation to restore the trade practice and maintain it for twelve months.

An account is also given in the Report of the conference of representatives of employers' organisations and trades unions and joint industrial councils called for 27th February, 1919, by the then Minister of Labour (the Rt. Hon. Sir Robert Horne, M.P.), and also addressed by the Prime Minister, for the purpose of considering the acute labour unrest which existed at that time. At this conference, a Joint Committee was appointed which sub-divided itself into three sub-committees to consider: (1) Wages and methods of negotiation and regulation; (2) maximum working hours and a minimum rate of wages; (3) unemployment and its prevention, and the maintenance of unemployed. The steps taken as a result of the reports of these sub-committees are indicated.

The determination of the normal position of the Government with regard to the adjustment of labour disputes was made in the Industrial Courts Act passed in November, 1919, which embodied the recommendations of the Committee on the Relations between Employers and Employed (the "Whitley" Committee) on the subject of conciliation and arbitration and gave statutory effect to the Government's declared policy of encouraging employers and workpeople to settle their own disputes rather than resort to Government intervention. The principal new features of the Industrial Courts Act were to strengthen (1) the conciliation machinery by requiring that a dispute should not be referred to arbitration until the conciliation procedure existing in the trade had been exhausted; (2) the arbitration machinery by establishing a permanent Court of Arbitration (termed the Industrial Court) to which recourse can be had, subject to the common consent of disputant parties; (3) the investigation machinery by giving additional powers to Courts of Inquiry.

The Government's post-war policy having been defined by the Industrial Courts Act, the opportunity is taken to examine briefly some of the more important features of the war legislation relating to labour disputes, but subsequently dropped and in this connection consideration is given to compulsory arbitration, statutory approval of agreements or settlements, and the statutory extension of the terms of an award or of an approved agreement or settlement to the whole of a trade or industry.

Detailed particulars are given in the Report of the work done by the Department during 1919 under the various Acts above-mentioned and also, as in previous Reports of the series, of work done under the Coal Mines (Minimum Wage) Act which requires the payment, subject to the observance of specified rules, of a minimum wage to all workers employed underground in coal mines.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION.

1920 GENERAL CONFERENCE.

IN the LABOUR GAZETTE for November, 1920 (pages 601-3), an account was given of the Draft Conventions and Recommendations adopted by the General Conference of the International Labour Organisation at its meeting at Genoa in June and July, 1920. These Draft Conventions and Recommendations have now been reprinted by the Ministry of Labour in the form of a pamphlet (Price 3d.) with an introduction explaining the sequence of events leading up to their adoption. This pamphlet is entitled "International Labour (Seamen's) Conference, 1920—Draft Conventions and Recommendations." In addition, the authentic texts in French and English of the Draft Conventions, and Recommendations have been laid before Parliament as a Command Paper (Cmd. 1174: Price 3d.).

Both publications may be obtained through the usual channels.

POPULATION STATISTICS: PRELIMINARY CENSUS RESULTS.

(a) NORWAY.

A PROVISIONAL summary of the results of the census of the population of Norway taken on 1st December, 1920, is given in a publication* recently issued by the Statistical Department of the country. The total population is estimated at 2,646,306, of whom 784,882 were in the towns and 1,861,424 in the rural communes. When compared with the preceding enumeration of 1st December, 1910, these totals give an increase of 254,524, or 10.6 per cent. in the decennial period, the increase in the case of the urban population being 10.4 per cent. and in that of the rural 10.9 per cent. The population of Christiania, the capital, was 258,341 in 1920, as compared with 241,834 in 1910, an increase of 6.8 per cent.

(b) DENMARK.†

The provisional results of the census of the population taken in Denmark on 1st February, 1921, show that the population of Denmark proper (Sjælland, Fyn and Jutland, excluding the Faroe Islands) was 3,268,897, being an increase of 347,535 on the population in 1916. The total given for 1921, however, includes 163,404 inhabitants of the southern part of Jutland. Excluding these the increase in the other districts in Denmark is 184,131, corresponding to an average annual increase of 1.23 per cent. The population of Copenhagen increased by 9.8 per cent. between 1916 and 1921, that of provincial towns taken together by 8.5 per cent., and that of rural districts by 3.5 per cent.

WEEKLY REST: RECENT FOREIGN LEGISLATION.

(a) URUGUAY.

H.M. Minister at Montevideo, in a despatch dated 7th January, forwards the text and translation of a law recently passed concerning weekly rest in Uruguay.

A weekly rest of at least 24 hours is declared obligatory for every person engaged, whether as employer, manager or employee, in an industrial or commercial establishment. Normally, this will be taken on Sunday, but in specified cases (e.g., those industries in continuous operation), and for specified purposes (e.g., to prevent loss of material, etc.), the weekly rest may be taken on another day of the week, or on two other half-days. Establishments desiring exemption from the general rule must apply to the Ministry of Industries, which department, before granting the application, will consult certain bodies, such as the Municipal Council, the Chamber of Commerce or of Industries, the Employers' or Workpeople's Unions concerned, and the National Labour Office. In no case shall exemptions apply to women, or to lads or girls under 16 years of age.

A worker, whether manual or non-manual, may not be employed on a day of rest without his consent, and when exceptionally so employed shall be entitled to compensatory rest or to money remuneration, the latter being at least twice that paid for normal work. Shops are forbidden to open on the day of rest, but the departmental or local council may authorise fairs or itinerant trading on days of rest.

The weekly rest of seafarers on Uruguayan vessels, of railwaymen and of domestic servants, shall be subject to special regulations to be issued later.

Penalties are laid down for infractions of the provisions of the Act.

(b) MEXICO.‡

THE following is a summary of regulations recently issued by the Government of Mexico concerning weekly rest in the Federal District and territories.

* Foreløbige Resultater av Folketellingen i Norge, 1st December, 1920. Utgitt av det Statistiske Centralbyrå, Christiania, 1921.

† Statistiske Efterretninger, 24th February, 1921, Copenhagen.

‡ Boletín de Industria, Comercio y Trabajo, December, 1920. Mexico, D.F.

All workpeople, including non-manual workers and domestic servants, and generally, all persons working under a contract of service, are entitled to one day's rest at least for every six days of work. As a general rule, the weekly rest day will fall on Sunday, but exceptions are allowed, as for example, where the public or industry might be seriously inconvenienced if work were interrupted; emergency work, repairs and cleaning of machinery, watchmen in factories, etc., work necessary to prevent deterioration of raw materials, domestic service and public spectacles, seasonal and other necessary agricultural work, railway and other transport and communication services, gas and electricity works, retail shops selling fuel or food, bakeries, hotels and restaurants, etc. Exceptions are also permitted for festivals or local markets held on Sunday, or on a fixed date which happens to be Sunday.

Employers are to be held responsible for the observance of these provisions and in case of contravention are liable to fines up to 100 pesos where five persons (or fewer) have been unlawfully employed on Sunday, together with 5 pesos for each man in excess of that number.

WAGES OF PRUSSIAN MINERS, 1914 to 1920.*

THE average net earnings per shift of men employed in the mining industry in Prussia during the third quarter of 1920 are shown in the following Table, the various mining districts being distinguished. The increases as compared with the second quarter of 1914 are computed from a comparison of the earnings for the two periods:—

Nature of Minerals and Mining Districts.	Underground Workers.				Surface Workers.	
	Hewers and Trammers.		Others.		Net Earnings per shift 3rd Qr. of 1920.	Increase over 2nd Qr. of 1914.
	Net Earnings per shift 3rd Qr. of 1920.	Increase over 2nd Qr. of 1914.	Net Earnings per shift 3rd Qr. of 1920.	Increase over 2nd Qr. of 1914.		
	Mks.	Per cent.	Mks.	Per cent.	Mks.	Per cent.
Upper Silesia ..	49'02	907	38'71	890	38'35	1,022
Lower Silesia ..	45'97	1,070	43'64	1,150	41'33	1,204
Dortmund ..	55'38	795	42'68	844	41'14	841
Aix-la-Chapelle ..	49'50	812	37'60	678	37'60	813
Lower Rhine, Left Bank ..	58'08	846	42'01	742	39'70	800
Lignite.						
Halle ..	41'54	893	39'28	994	39'05	1,019
Rhine, Left Bank ..	53'37	1,048	48'82	1,012	53'41	1,206
Copper.						
Manfeld ..	38'06	894	34'23	803	32'68	870
Other Metalliferous Ores.						
Oberharz ..	42'51	929	40'12	903	32'01	900
Siegen ..	48'31	880	38'53	831	36'48	799
Nassau-Wetzlar ..	38'80	949	37'20	909	35'24	949
Rhine, Right Bank ..	40'78	806	37'03	840	32'71	827
Rhine, Left Bank ..	40'54	999	33'11	944	31'82	943
Salt.						
Halle ..	41'85	787	34'95	746	32'96	754
Clausthal ..	42'43	752	38'54	820	33'98	758

It is not possible to take into account the changes in composition of the body of workpeople in each of the three groups distinguished in the Table, and to that extent conclusions based on a comparison between the earnings per shift in the two periods are subject to qualification.

If the number of men employed in each district and in each of the three groups be taken into consideration, the average increase for Prussia as a whole, as compared with the second quarter of 1914, is computed to be about 843 per cent. for hewers and trammers, 888 per cent. for other underground workers, and 917 per cent. for surface workers. The average increase for all men together would be about 872 per cent., or, in other words, miners' earnings at the latest date are between nine and ten times as great as those earned in the period preceding the war. [On the other hand it is to be observed that the purchasing power of the mark in Germany is now only about one-eleventh of what it was before the war.]

LABOUR AGREEMENT BETWEEN ITALY AND LUXEMBURG.

IN a despatch, dated 7th February, H.M. Representative at the Hague reports concerning an agreement recently signed between the Italian and Luxembourg Governments. This agreement is on lines similar to those of existing conventions between Italy and other countries, its principal object being to define the terms on which Italian workmen are to be employed in Luxembourg, to provide for any difference of opinion which may arise, especially in regard to pensions, which are to be regulated by the contracting countries on parallel lines.

* Deutscher Reichsanzeiger, 31st December, 1920.

“LABOUR OVERSEAS.”

In the quarterly number of *Labour Overseas*,* to be issued before the end of March, detailed information will be found on colonial and foreign labour questions for the period from October to December, 1920. In dealing with the all-pervading subject of unemployment, the information is brought up to the date of going to press. Among other features of the issue are statistics of wage-rates in several countries; a comparative table of the rise or fall in food-prices during the last six months of 1920; a summary of the Italian “Workers’ Control” Bill; notes on the Joint Industrial Leagues in Germany and on the Works Councils and Chambers of Labour in Austria; a survey of Labour organisations in Belgium; an account of an important judicial decision given in the United States as to sympathetic strikes; and a symposium of views collected in America on the functions of the Department of Labour.

THE LABOUR SITUATION IN CHINA.

UNDER the above heading certain aspects of the labour question in China are dealt with in an article in the December issue of the *Monthly Review*† of the United States Bureau of Labour Statistics, illustrated by data from a special labour number of a Chinese monthly journal. The Chinese worker is affected by the universal rise in the cost of living, which has been so marked during recent years. The price of rice, for example, has increased nearly 90 per cent. during the last two years. On the other hand, the increase in wages has not kept pace with the increased cost of living. Four years ago the unskilled labourer in the printing trades at Shanghai was in receipt of from 7 to 10 dollars per month, whereas he now often gets 15 dollars. Even with the present wage he finds it difficult to support a family in face of an ever-expanding budget. This has led to strikes, which appear to be fairly frequent. A stoppage of this nature occurred at Hongkong, and lasted from March 31st to April 20th, 1920. In this strike over 9,000 workpeople employed in rice and sugar refining, and in the telephone, telegraph, dockyard, tram, and goods forwarding services took part. This resulted in an increase of 32.5 per cent. in wages below 100 dollars per annum, and of 20 per cent. for those above that limit.‡

A labour shortage was experienced during the European war, owing to the importation of commodities from China by certain western nations. One Shanghai factory had to recruit women workers from the province of Hunan, on the Yangtze River.

Labour organisations of a local character are of old standing in China, and are little influenced by foreigners. On the farms the labourers usually form into small groups of 25 to 100 under the direction of a “headman” and his assistants. When labour is needed the employer makes a contract with the headman, who sends him workers for the job. The headman divides the total receipts with his men in an agreed ratio, which varies in different communities. In the absence of employment bureaux this organisation serves to lessen unemployment in seasonal work such as agriculture.

Apprenticeship is still in practice in many industries. A youth wishing to learn a trade will work for a master who furnishes him with food and lodgings, and pays him a nominal wage, or perhaps none, for a period of three or four years. The masters in a particular industry form a guild, and the apprentice at the end of his time may become a member of this association.

Labour organisation on a modern basis is of recent growth. Before the revolution of 1911, the railway workers, miners and cement workers of Tangshan, in the province of Chili, numbered more than 6,000. After the revolution the Tangshan Labour Union was formed with 800 members. As the result of political and social unrest, this body has undergone reorganisation several times. Still newer types of labour organisations are the Progressive National Labour Union and the Chinese Returned Labourers’ Union. The aims of both are non-political; their expressed object is the education of the worker and the increase of wages.

In the cotton industry in Shanghai some 90,000 workers are employed in the mills. In these the normal working hours are 12 per day. The daily wage of a foreman may be said to be about three-fourths of a dollar, for common labourers 40 to 45 cents, for children 20 cents, for forewomen 50 cents, and for female workers 30 cents. Besides time work, piecework and “contract labour” § systems are practised.

The printing industry of Shanghai gives employment to about 10,000 workers. The wages of the employees may be roughly classified as follows: foremen, 20 to 50 dollars per month; common labourers, 10 to 30 dollars; apprentices, 1 to 10 dollars.¶ Women are employed chiefly in the binding departments, and are paid on a piecework basis. Nine

* The first issue of *Labour Overseas* appeared in October, 1920, and was noticed in the *Labour Gazette* for November, page 600.

† The Labour Situation in China. By Tai Chen, M.A., Fellow of Columbia University.

‡ The Mexican dollar is referred to throughout the article. At the present par rate, this was equal to 2s. 1d.

§ If a special job is to be carried out at short notice, the mill contracts with outside labourers to have it done within a limited time. In this way “contract labour” is used to relieve the mill from congestion.

hours form the working day for both men and women, except in times of pressure, when night work is necessary. In such periods the employees must work from one to three hours overtime, for which extra pay is granted.

Apart from domestic service, to which they are peculiarly adapted, Chinese women find employment in many industries. Some 5,000 are said to be employed in a large tobacco concern. Very recently many female workers have secured positions in the works of an American company manufacturing electric bulbs in Shanghai. Although the women’s working hours are generally the same as those for men they invariably receive lower pay.

RISE IN RETAIL PRICES IN CONSTANTINOPLE.

ACCORDING to data furnished to the United States Bureau of Labour Statistics the cost of living in Constantinople in July, 1920, was approximately 15 times as high as it was before the War. The basis of this calculation is furnished by the cost for a month of the articles of prime necessity required by a person of ordinary means as compared with the cost of the same budget at the prices ruling in July, 1914. In July, 1920, the increase for food alone amounted to 1,567 per cent. and to 1,418 for food together with certain other necessities specified in the Table below:—

Article	Increase in July, 1920, as compared with July, 1914.	Article	Increase in July, 1920, as compared with July, 1914.
Bread	980	Mutton	2,188
Sugar	2,733	Butter	1,400
Coffee	813	Eggs	800
Rice	1,700	TOTAL FOOD ..	1,567
Macaroni and food pastes ..	1,700	Soap	945
Potatoes	1,725	Petroleum ..	1,700
Beans or Chick Peas ..	650	Charcoal ..	1,500
Onions	1,900	Wood	839
Oil	1,566	Clothing	1,388
Salt	567	Shoes	793
Milk	2,150	TOTAL (other necessities) ..	1,157
Cheese	2,400	GRAND TOTAL ..	1,418

The above Table excludes rents—which are estimated to have risen 400 per cent. for dwellings and 900 per cent. for offices during the six-yearly period—and all luxuries. Reduced to its simplest terms, this comparison means that before the War a single person who could live on 235 piastres would have required 3,571 piastres in July, 1920, to maintain the same standard.

COTTON MILL WAGES IN THE UNITED STATES, 1907 TO 1920.

STATISTICS have been issued by the United States Bureau of Labour Statistics showing the average earnings per hour in certain of the more important occupations in cotton mills in the States during each of the years from 1907 to 1920. The data from which the averages have been computed have been taken from the pay-rolls of representative establishments in the principal cotton manufacturing States, both North and South.

Up to 1913 the rise was comparatively slow, averaging about 13 per cent. for males and 14 per cent. for females for all occupations taken together. During the war period and particularly during 1920 the upward movement in earnings has been considerably more rapid, as the following figures will show:—

Year	Drawing Frame Tenders	Speeder Tenders	Spinners, Frame	Loom Fixers	Weavers	Trim-mers or Inspectors
	Cents.	Cents.	Cents.	Cents.	Cents.	Cents.
1913	10.9	14.5	14.3	22.7	17.0	—
1914	11.6	15.3	15.0	23.3	17.6	—
1916	12.6	17.4	16.9	27.0	20.5	—
1918	19.9	26.5	24.8	39.1	30.1	—
1920	42.7	53.3	47.5	68.5	57.3	—
1913	11.5	15.3	12.8	—	16.4	11.2
1914	11.8	15.5	13.2	—	16.7	11.3
1916	13.6	18.8	14.9	—	20.1	12.9
1918	20.9	27.7	23.3	—	28.5	18.6
1920	37.1	48.6	42.7	—	52.8	33.5

In the industry as a whole hourly earnings in 1920 were 3.6 times as high as in 1907 and 3.2 times as high as in 1913. Accompanying the increase in hourly earnings there has been a reduction in the regular weekly hours of labour. The average full time of male frame spinners, for example, has fallen from 59.4 hours per week in 1907 to 56.9 hours in 1913, and 50.7 hours in 1920. For female frame spinners the average full time was 61.0 hours per week in 1907, 57.8 hours in 1913 and 51.8 hours in 1920.

STATISTICS OF RETAIL PRICES.

RETAIL PRICES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

STATISTICS FOR 1st MARCH, 1921.
SUMMARY: AVERAGE INCREASES SINCE JULY, 1914.

Principal articles of Food 149%
All Items included 141%

FOOD.

There was a further fall in the prices of food during February. At 1st March the average percentage increase, as compared with July, 1914, in the cost of the pre-war working-class dietary was about 149 per cent., as compared with 163 per cent. at 1st February.

On 1st March bread was cheaper than a month earlier by 1½d. per 4 lb. on the average, flour by 2½d. per 7 lb., potatoes by 1d. per 7 lb., butter by 3½d. per lb., and eggs by nearly 3d. each, while fish was also considerably cheaper at the later date. Relatively smaller decreases in average price were recorded for meat, bacon, milk, margarine, cheese and tea, and for no item included in the statistics was an increase in the average price recorded; as regards bacon, it is worthy of note that, although the net decrease in the average price was appreciable, increases in price were reported from many places.

In the following Table is given a comparison of average prices of the articles of food included in these statistics in July, 1914, at the beginning of November, 1918 (just before the Armistice) and on 1st March, 1921:—

Article.	Average Price (per lb. unless otherwise indicated).			Average Inc. (+) or Decrease (—) at 1st Mar., 1921, as compared with	
	July, 1914.	1st Nov., 1918.	1st Mar., 1921.	July, 1914.	1st Nov., 1918.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Beef, British—					
Ribs	0 9½	1 8	2 1	+ 1 3½	+ 0 5
Thin Flank	0 8½	1 3	1 5½	+ 0 11½	+ 0 2½
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—					
Ribs	0 7½	1 8	1 3½	+ 0 8½	+ 0 4½
Thin Flank	0 4½	1 2½	0 9½	+ 0 5	+ 0 5
Mutton, British—					
Legs	0 10½	1 8½	2 4	+ 1 5½	+ 0 7½
Breast	0 6½	1 1½	1 6½	+ 0 11½	+ 0 5
Mutton, Frozen—					
Legs	0 8½	1 9	1 3½	+ 0 8½	+ 0 5½
Breast	0 4	1 1	0 7	+ 0 3	+ 0 6
Bacon (streaky)* ..	0 11½	2 3	2 6	+ 1 6½	+ 0 3
Flour per 7 lb.	0 10½	1 4	2 2	+ 1 3½	+ 0 10
Bread per 4 lb.	0 5½	0 9	1 1½	+ 0 8	+ 0 4½
Tea	1 0½	2 8	2 8½	+ 1 3½	+ 0 0½
Sugar (granulated) ..	0 2	0 7	0 8½	+ 0 6½	+ 0 1½
Milk per quart	0 3½	0 8½	0 10½	+ 0 6½	+ 0 2
Butter—					
Fresh	1 2½	2 6	2 11½	+ 1 8½	+ 0 5
Salt	1 2	2 6	2 11½	+ 1 9	+ 0 5
Cheese (Canadian or U.S.)*	0 8½	1 8	1 8½	+ 1 0	+ 0 0½
Margarine	0 7½	1 2	1 0	+ 0 4½	+ 0 2
Eggs (fresh) each	0 1½	0 6½	0 3½	+ 0 2½	+ 0 2
Potatoes per 7 lb.	0 4½	0 7½	0 9½	+ 0 4½	+ 0 1½

The following Table gives a percentage comparison of the level of prices at 1st March in relation to the prices of July, 1914, November, 1918, and February, 1921:—

Article.	Average Percentage Increase at 1st Mar., 1921, as compared with July, 1914.			Corresponding figure for United Kingdom at	
	Large Towns (Populations over 50,000).	Small Towns and Villages.	United Kingdom.	1st Nov., 1918.	1st Feb., 1921.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Beef, British—					
Ribs	151	156	153	103	154
Thin Flank	172	166	169	126	171
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—					
Ribs	117	115	116	175	116
Thin Flank	107	97	102	206	102
Mutton, British—					
Legs	172	170	171	102	171
Breast	180	174	182	106	185
Mutton, Frozen—					
Legs	132	119	125	206	126
Breast	72	68	70	217	72
Bacon (streaky)* ..	177	161	169	142	173
Fish	111	95	103	167	135
Flour	141	148	145	52	168
Bread	137	140	138	55	161
Tea	70	78	74	73	75
Sugar (granulated) ..	320	301	310	241	335
Milk	185	202	199	141	208
Butter—					
Fresh	136	148	142	107	167
Salt	145	150	148	112	174
Cheese (Canadian or U.S.)* ..	139	136	138	130	141
Margarine	70	64	67	97	75
Eggs (fresh)	216	184	200	412	228
Potatoes	114	79	97	59	117
All above articles of Food (Weighted Percentage Increase).	152	147	149	133	163

* If this kind is seldom dealt with in a locality, the Returns quote the price for another kind locally representative.
† Government butter, except in Ireland.

RENT, CLOTHING, FUEL AND LIGHT.

As regards rents, special enquiries have been made into the increases which have taken effect under the operation of the Increase of Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Act, 1920. The results of these enquiries showed that the average increase in the rents (including rates) of working-class dwellings between July, 1914, and 1st October, 1920, was about 39 per cent. Since that date there have been further increases in rates in some places, and the proportion of cases in which the increases permitted by the Act have been collected has also risen, with the result that at 1st March, 1921, the average increase since July, 1914, in the rents (including rates) of working-class dwellings was about 44 per cent. Of this percentage, about one-half is accounted for by increases in local rates and water charges, and of the remainder, five-sixths is on account of the landlords’ responsibility for repairs.

As regards the prices of clothing, the statistics are designed to relate to the same qualities, or to corresponding qualities, as far as possible. 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 from 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, it was estimated that at 1st March the level of retail prices of clothing, quality for quality, taking goods of the kind purchased by the working classes, averaged about 240 per cent. higher than in July, 1914, as compared with between 250 and 260 per cent. at 1st February. The reductions recorded during February were distributed over all the items of clothing included in the statistics.

In the fuel and light group, the average increase in the retail prices of coal since July, 1914, was between 145 and 150 per cent. at 1st March. For gas the increase was over 95 per cent., for lamp oil about 210 per cent., and for candles (cheap kinds) about 220 per cent., while matches show a still greater increase. The last three items have, however, relatively small influence on the average movement in the fuel and light group, in which the average increase at 1st March is estimated at over 140 per cent., or about the same as a month earlier.

ALL ITEMS.

If the average increases in the cost of all the foregoing items are combined in accordance with their relative importance in pre-war working-class family expenditure, allowance being also made for the increase in the prices of soap, soda, domestic ironmongery, brushware and pottery, tobacco, fares and newspapers (estimated at an average of about 110 per cent.), the resultant figure for 1st March, 1921, is about 141 per cent.† as compared with 151 per cent. for 1st February.

The result of this calculation (in which the same quantities and, as far as possible, the same qualities of each item are taken in 1921 as in 1914) is to show the increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the average pre-war standard of living of the working classes (i.e., the average standard actually prevailing in working-class families before the war, irrespective of whether such standard was adequate or not). Owing to the variations in the amounts of increase in the prices of different commodities it is probable that economies or re-adjustments in expenditure have been effected in many families, especially in those cases where incomes have not increased so much as prices. On the other hand, it is probable that the standard of living has been raised in many 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.

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

Month (beginning of)	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.
January ..	10-15	35	65	85-90	120	125	165
February ..	15	35	65-70	90	120	130	151
March ..	15-20	35-40	70	90	115	130	141
April ..	15-20	35-40	70-75	90-95	110	132	—
May ..	20	40-45	75	95-100	105	141	—
June ..	25	45	75-80	100	105	150	—
July ..	25	45-50	80	100-105	105-110	152	—
August ..	25	45-50	80	110	115	155	—
September ..	25	50	80-85	110	115	161	—
October ..	30	60-55	75-80	115-120	120	164	—
November ..	30-35	60	85	120-125	125	176	—
December ..	35	65	85	120	125	169	—

† If the amount of increased taxation on commodities is deducted, the average increase at 1st March, 1921, was about 6 per cent. less.

NOTE.—The LABOUR GAZETTE for February, 1921, contained a full account of the scope and method of compilation of the above statistics.

RETAIL PRICES OVERSEAS.

[N.B.—While the percentages given in the following paragraphs and in the Table are derived from the most authoritative sources of statistical information in each country, certain differences in the nature and scope of the data used, in the methods of combining such data and in the periods for which the rise is measured, suggest the need for caution in drawing conclusions from a comparison between the figures for any two countries. 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.]

FRANCE.*

Paris.

The general level of retail prices in Paris of food, fuel and lighting in the month of February shows a decrease of 6.7 per cent. as compared with the preceding month, but an increase of 282 per cent. over July, 1914. The computation of the movement of the general prices level is based on the pre-war budget of a typical Parisian family of the working class.

BELGIUM.†

The index number of the cost of food required by families whose incomes (in 1910) fell below 5 francs per day, at the prices prevailing on 15th January, 1921, was 393 per cent. greater than on 15th April, 1914; the corresponding expenditure by families whose incomes ranged from 5 to 8 francs showed an increase of 391 per cent., while in the highest income class (8 francs and over) it was 396 per cent. greater. In the computation of the general index allowance is made for the relative expenditure upon the various items of food entering into the dietary of the standard families considered.

The general level (unweighted) of retail prices of food and other necessaries on 15th January, 1921, as computed from returns of retail prices in 59 localities, shows a decrease of 3.8 per cent. as compared with that of 15th December, 1920, but an increase of 350 per cent. as compared with the level of April, 1914.

HOLLAND.

Amsterdam.‡

The index number representing the total food-bill of working-class families in Amsterdam, calculated at the prices current in January, 1921, shows a decrease of 4 per cent. as compared with the cost in the preceding month, but an increase of 99.3 per cent. as compared with 1913.

ITALY.

(a) Milan.§

The weekly cost of maintaining the pre-war standard of living in Milan in the case of a family consisting of five persons, at the prices current in February, 1921, shows, as regards food alone, a decrease of 1.5 per cent. as compared with the preceding month, but an increase of 464 per cent. as compared with the first half of 1914. The total family expenditure, including also clothing, rent and heating and lighting, shows in February a decrease of 0.8 per cent., and is 466 per cent. higher than in the first half of 1914.

(b) Florence.¶

The index number representing the weekly expenditure on food of a family consisting of five persons in Florence at the prices current in February, 1921, shows a decrease of 1.6 per cent. when compared with the previous month, and an increase of 384 per cent. when compared with the first half of 1914. The total family expenditure in February, including also clothing, rent and heating, lighting, &c., shows an increase of 0.1 per cent. as compared with January, and 354 per cent. as compared with the pre-war figure.

SWEDEN.¶

At the prices prevailing in February, the cost of maintaining the standard pre-war budget of a typical Swedish household in the matter of food, fuel, and lighting represents a decrease of 7.4 per cent. upon the cost in the preceding month, but an increase of 162 per cent. in comparison with July, 1914. The "typical family" is one consisting of a man and wife and two children, which had an expenditure (in 1914) of about £111 per annum. The above figures relate to the principal towns of Sweden taken together, but if the same budget be taken to apply to Stockholm alone, February shows a decrease of 6.9 per cent. as against January, and an increase of 169 per cent. as compared with July, 1914.

* Information supplied through the courtesy of the Director of the General Statistical Department of France.

† *Revue du Travail*, February, 1920, Brussels.

‡ Information supplied through the courtesy of the Director of the Municipal Statistical Office of Amsterdam.

§ Information supplied through the courtesy of the Municipal Office of Labour, Milan.

¶ Information supplied through the courtesy of the Municipal Statistical Office, Florence.

¶ Information supplied through the courtesy of the Director of the Bureau of Social Statistics, Stockholm.

NORWAY.

According to a statement issued by the Norwegian Central Statistical Bureau the expenditure of a family upon food at the prices prevailing in February shows a fall of 7.8 per cent. as compared with the preceding month, but a rise of 208 per cent. as compared with July, 1914. If fuel, lighting, clothing, rent, taxation, &c., be also taken into consideration the decline since December amounts to 7.2 per cent., and the increase since July, 1914, to 211 per cent. The figures are based on the cost of maintaining the standard of living of an average urban family which had (in 1914) an income of about £85 per annum.

DENMARK.*

The half-yearly computation of the Danish Statistical Department as to the effect of the rise in prices upon the cost of maintaining a family in Copenhagen has now been brought down to January, 1921. At the prices prevailing in July, 1914, the total annual sum required by a working-class family of five persons to meet the cost of food, clothing, rent, fuel, lighting, taxation, etc. (such requirements being ascertained by an enquiry carried out in 1909) was £111. The cost of maintaining the same standard was £211 in January, 1919, £235 in July, 1919, £258 in January, 1920, and £291 and £294 in July, 1920 and January, 1921, respectively. The rise in the month under review was thus 1.1 per cent. as compared with the preceding computation (July, 1920), and 160.4 per cent. as compared with July, 1914. For food alone the increase was 9.0 per cent. as compared with July, 1920, and 176.3 per cent. as compared with July, 1914.

CANADA.†

The estimated weekly expenditure upon food by a family of five in January, 1921, as computed from returns of retail prices prevailing in 60 towns in the Dominion, shows a decrease of 2.4 per cent. when compared with that of the previous month, but an increase of 95.1 per cent. upon the expenditure in July, 1914. If the total expenditure upon food, fuel, lighting and rent be taken into consideration, the January figure shows a decrease of 1.4 per cent. as compared with December, and a rise of 78.7 per cent. as compared with July, 1914.

UNITED STATES.‡

The general level of retail prices of food in the United States in February was 8.1 per cent. lower than that of the preceding month, and 21 per cent. lower than that of February, 1920, but was 55 per cent. above the level of July, 1914. In the computation of the general level the various articles of food are weighted according to their respective importance in consumption.

* Statistiske Efterretninger, 16th February, 1921.
† Information supplied through the courtesy of the Canadian Department of Labour, Ottawa.
‡ Information supplied through the courtesy of the Federal Commissioner of Labour Statistics, Washington.

FOOD PRICES—GENERAL SUMMARY.

PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN THE RETAIL PRICES OF FOOD IN THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES AT THE UNDERMENTIONED DATES, AS COMPARED WITH JULY, 1914.

Country.	Percentage Increase in Retail Food Prices since July, 1914.					Latest figures available.	
	July, 1916.	July, 1917.	July, 1918.	July, 1919.	July, 1920.	Rise.	Date.
UNITED KINGDOM ..	Per cent. 61	Per cent. 104	Per cent. 110	Per cent. 109	Per cent. 168	Per cent. 149*	Mar. '21.
FOREIGN COUNTRIES.							
Belgium† .. ..	..	..	..	..	359	393	Jan. '21.
Denmark	46	66	67	112	153	176	Jan. '21.
Finland .. ..	..	..	..	..	882	1072	Oct. '20.
France (Paris)‡	32	83	106	161	273	282	Feb. '21.
" (other Towns)‡	42§	84§	144§	188§	288§	350	4th Qr. '20
Holland (Amsterdam) ..	..	42	76	110	117	99	Jan. '21.
Italy (Rome)	11	37	103	106	218	276	Feb. '21.
" (Milan) .. ..	..	..	225	210	346	464	Feb. '21.
" (Florence)	47	84	198	178	313	382	Feb. '21.
Norway	60	114¶	179	189	219	208	Feb. '21.
Sweden	42	81	168	210	197	162	Feb. '21.
United States	9	43	64	86	115	55	Feb. '21.
OVERSEAS DOMINIONS							
Australia	30	26	91	47	94	84	Dec. '20.
Canada	14	57	75	86	127	95	Jan. '21.
India (Calcutta) ..	10	16	31¶	51¶	70	61	Nov. '20.
New Zealand	19	37	39	44	67	79	Dec. '20.
South Africa	16	28	34	39	97	72	Jan. '21.

* It should be noted that the figures for the United Kingdom relate to food only. For all items the increase is 141 per cent. (See p. 131.) † The increases shown are for families of the lowest income class; in January the increase for all working-class families ranged from 391 to 396 per cent. ‡ Fuel and lighting are also included in these figures. § Figures for 3rd Quarter. ¶ Figures for August.

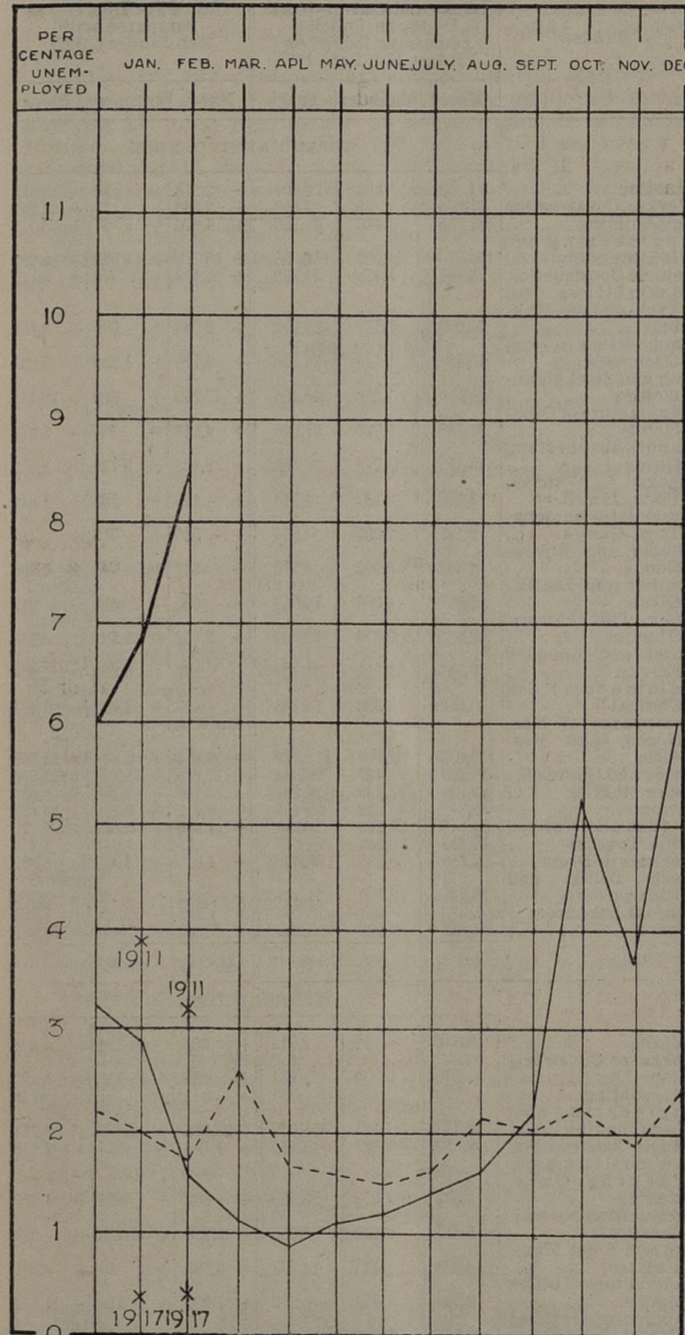
EMPLOYMENT IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

EMPLOYMENT CHART.*

SHOWING PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED OF MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS.

— Thick Curve = 1921. — Thin Curve = 1920. — Dotted Curve = Mean of 1911-20.

× The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages of unemployed, in the months named, during the years 1911-20.



EMPLOYMENT SUMMARY FOR FEBRUARY.

There was a further decline in employment during February, and in nearly all the principal industries serious depression was reported.

The percentage unemployed at the end of the month among members of Trade Unions (mainly of skilled workpeople) from which returns are received was 8.5, as compared with 6.9 at the end of January. Excluding March, 1912, when a national coal strike was in progress, this percentage is higher than at any date since the winter of 1908-9, when it reached a maximum of 9.5. In industries (employing about 12,000,000 workpeople) covered by the Unemployment Insurance Act the percentage unemployed at 25th February was 9.5, as compared with 8.2 at 28th January and 5.8 at 31st December. In addition, 744,000 systematic short-time workers were claiming benefit at Employment Exchanges at the end of February; at the end of January the corresponding figure was 638,000. The

* The Chart is based on Returns furnished by various Trade Unions which pay unemployed benefit to their members. Persons on strike (e.g. coal miners in October, 1920) or locked out, sick, or superannuated, are excluded from the figures. Detailed figures are given on page 134.

number of workpeople on the Live Registers of the Employment Exchanges at 25th February was approximately 1,218,000, of whom men numbered 802,000 and women 310,000, the remainder being boys and girls. The corresponding total for 28th January was 1,065,000, of whom 685,000 were men and 278,000 were women. Some unemployed persons in occupations not covered by the Unemployment Insurance Act do not register at the Employment Exchanges, and these figures, therefore, do not fully indicate the total numbers unemployed. The total number of vacancies notified to the Employment Exchanges, and unfilled at 25th February was 42,000, of which 15,000 were for men and 24,000 for women; the corresponding number at 28th January was 47,000, of which 18,000 were for men and 25,000 for women.

Employment at coal mines showed a decline, and was slack in most of the principal districts. The number of workpeople employed at the mines covered by the Returns was slightly less than in January, but 4 per cent. greater than a year ago. The average number of days worked per week at these mines in the fortnight ended 26th February was 4.79, showing a decrease of nearly half a day as compared with the previous month, and of nearly a day as compared with February, 1920.

At shale mines employment continued good; in iron mines it showed a marked decline and was bad; at lead and zinc mines it continued slack, and at tin mines it was very bad. Employment at quarries was fairly good on the whole, except at quarries producing limestone for blast furnaces, where it was slack generally.

In the pig-iron industry employment showed a decline and was bad. At iron and steel works it was also bad, and a number of works were closed down and many others were working short time. In the tinplate and steel sheet trades employment continued very bad, and there was much unemployment and short time; the number of mills reported to be in operation at the end of the month was only one-third of the number in operation in February, 1920. There was a further decline in the engineering trades, and unemployment and short time continued to increase. In the shipbuilding and ship-repairing trades employment continued slack at the principal centres. In the other metal trades also employment continued slack generally, and much short time was worked.

In the cotton trade there was a further decline; organised short time continued in the spinning section, and employment was bad throughout the industry. In the woollen and worsted trades there was also a decline, and at the end of the month employment was bad in all departments.

Employment in the linen trade continued very bad; many mills were working only half-time during the month, and some were closed down. In the jute and hosiery trades employment continued bad, and much short time was worked. In the carpet trade employment declined during the month, and was slack. Employment in the textile, bleaching, printing, dyeing and finishing trades showed a further decline, and continued bad generally. With milliners in London employment was fair on the whole; with dressmakers it continued moderate. In the wholesale mantle, costume, blouse, etc., trades employment showed a slight improvement as compared with the previous month; in the shirt and collar and tailoring trades it continued slack; in the corset and felt hat trades it was bad.

Employment in the leather trades continued bad, and short time was almost general. In the boot and shoe trade a slight improvement was reported from some centres towards the end of the month, but employment continued very bad on the whole, with many workpeople totally unemployed and the remainder, with few exceptions, working short time. In the paper trade employment was bad, except with hand-made paper-workers; in the printing trades it showed a decline and was slack generally; with bookbinders it was generally bad.

In the building trades employment continued fairly good; a decline was, however, reported from several districts, and there was a seasonal slackness with painters. Employment in the cement trade continued good, and much overtime was worked; in the brick trade it was also good, and overtime was reported in some districts. In most branches of the woodworking group employment continued bad.

In the pottery trades employment, though showing some decline, was generally fairly good; in the glass trade there was a further decline, and employment was bad. In the sugar refining industry employment was reported as fair; in most of the other branches of the food preparation trades, however, it was only moderate.

Agricultural operations were helped by favourable weather; some local shortages of skilled men were reported, but in certain districts there was some unemployment among unskilled workers. Regular men, however, were generally well employed.

With dock and riverside labourers employment showed a decline on the whole and was slack; with seamen it was moderate, and in the larger shipping centres the number of unemployed seamen showed an increase. With fishermen employment continued fair on the whole.

TRADE UNION PERCENTAGES of UNEMPLOYED.

TRADE Unions with a net membership of 1,533,973 (mainly of skilled workers) reported 130,815 (or 8.5 per cent.) of their members as unemployed at the end of February, 1921, compared with 6.9 per cent. at the end of January, and 1.6 per cent. at the end of February, 1920. In addition large numbers were on short time. In the following Table figures are given for various groups of Unions:—

Trade.	Membership at end of February, 1921.	Unemployed at end of February, 1921.*		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage Unemployed as compared with a	
		Number.	Per centage	Month ago.	Year ago.
Building†	89,944	3,243	3.6	+ 1.6	+ 3.4
Coal Mining	149,787	6,402	4.3	+ 3.5	+ 4.1
Engineering and Ship-building	523,145	57,520	11.0	+ 2.5	+ 7.7
Miscellaneous Metal	77,229	7,945	10.3	+ 0.7	+ 9.8
Textiles:-					
Cotton	109,683	3,147	5.6	+ 0.2†	+ 3.9
Woolen and Worsted	12,502	1,319	10.6	+ 1.7	+ 9.4
Other	122,140	9,970	8.2	+ 0.4	+ 7.2
Printing, Bookbinding and Paper.	105,674	7,784	7.4	+ 1.2	+ 8.7
Furnishing	41,089	4,537	11.0	+ 0.6	+ 10.8
Woodworking	57,549	3,674	6.4	+ 1.1	+ 5.8
Clothing:-					
Boot and Shoe	87,460	8,862	10.1	- 0.9	+ 9.3
Other Clothing	91,568	9,132	10.0	+ 0.4	+ 9.3
Leather	15,754	1,841	11.7	+ 1.0	+ 10.5
Glass	1,412	45	3.2	+ 1.5	+ 2.7
Pottery	44,001	800	1.8	+ 1.1	+ 1.7
Tobacco‡	5,037	1,594	31.6	+ 3.5	+ 30.1
Total	1,533,973	130,815	8.5	+ 1.6	+ 6.9

SUMMARY OF EMPLOYERS' RETURNS.

(a) CERTAIN MINING AND METAL TRADES.

Trade.	Workpeople included in the Returns for Feb., 1921.	February, 1921.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	
		Days Worked per week by Mines.	Days.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Coal Mining	644,607	4.79	-0.41	-0.86	-0.96
Iron	11,604	4.13	-0.85	-1.77	-1.77
Shale	4,568	6.00	+0.03	..	..
Pig Iron	—	180	- 49	- 75	- 75
Tinplate and Steel Sheet	—	167	- 41	- 329	- 329
Iron and Steel	93,530	(one week).	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
		463,324	-15.3	-20.8	-20.8

(b) OTHER TRADES.

Trade.	Number of Workpeople.		Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
	Week ended 26th Feb., 1921.	Month ago.	Week ended 26th Feb., 1921.	Month ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Textiles:-								
Cotton	69,578	+ 6.6	135,632	- 7.6	- 26.1	- 38.9	- 26.1	- 38.9
Woolen	16,433	- 3.5	35,354	- 10.0	- 5.4	- 15.6	- 10.0	- 15.6
Worsted	30,268	+ 3.1	61,244	+ 8.8	- 38.1	- 45.3	- 38.1	- 45.3
Linen	19,534	+ 0.5	25,854	+ 5.1	- 7.7	- 37.0	- 7.7	- 37.0
Jute	8,204	+ 2.9	9,849	+ 5.8	- 25.4	- 43.4	- 25.4	- 43.4
Hosiery	14,416	- 1.0	24,638	+ 5.1	- 2.1	+ 2.5	- 2.1	+ 2.5
Lace	5,563	- 1.0	9,261	+ 3.2	- 12.0	- 30.9	- 12.0	- 30.9
Other Textiles	14,375	- 0.1	30,534	+ 3.6	..	..	..	..
Bleaching, etc.	21,928	- 4.6	60,084	- 8.0	..	..	..	..
Total Textiles	200,079	- 3.1	392,550	- 6.1	- 20.3	- 32.6	- 20.3	- 32.6
Boot and Shoe	49,987	+ 0.3	105,838	+ 1.3	- 15.8	- 24.3	- 15.8	- 24.3
Shirt and Collar	12,786	- 2.7	17,645	+ 1.3	- 7.4	- 14.9	- 7.4	- 14.9
Readymade Tailoring	17,143	- 1.5	26,341	+ 3.6	- 21.5	- 36.5	- 21.5	- 36.5
Paper	13,150	- 3.4	36,705	- 7.6	- 4.1	- 7.6	- 4.1	- 7.6
Printing and Book-binding.	14,970	- 1.0	47,956	+ 1.2	- 1.4	+ 5.7	- 1.4	+ 5.7
Pottery	14,760	- 1.1	37,270	- 1.7	+ 5.7	+ 19.6	+ 5.7	+ 19.6
Glass	9,406	+ 6.5	31,029	- 9.6	+ 0.3	+ 9.5	+ 0.3	+ 9.5
Brick	7,253	+ 0.3	25,793	- 1.9	+ 0.3	+ 4.3	+ 0.3	+ 4.3
Cement	11,669	- 2.0	49,711	+ 4.0	+ 2.8	+ 56.0	+ 2.8	+ 56.0
Food Preparation	47,488	+ 0.3	143,834	+ 0.5	- 11.7	- 2.4	- 11.7	- 2.4
Grand Total	468,751	- 2.1	913,662	- 3.5	- 15.0	- 18.8	- 15.0	- 18.8

* Short time and broken time are not reflected in the figures. In the mining and textile industries a contraction in the demand for labour is generally met by short-time working.
† Based mainly on returns relating to carpenters and plumbers.
‡ The figure for January has been revised since the publication of the February GAZETTE.
§ The returns for the tobacco trade are supplied by Unions whose members are mainly cigar makers.
|| Comparison of earnings is affected by changes in rates of wages.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED TRADES.

THE number of persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, was about 12,000,000 on 25th February, 1921, and the number totally unemployed at that date was 1,145,710, or 9.5 per cent., as compared with 8.2 per cent. at 31st January, 1921.

The following Table shows, by trades, the number of persons whose unemployment books or out of work donation policies remained lodged on 25th February, 1921, (1) in respect of total unemployment, and (2) in respect of short time. The persons included in Table (2) are employed in establishments where, owing to the depression in trade, the number of working days has been reduced on a systematic basis in such a manner as to entitle claimants to benefit under the Act.*

Trade.	No. of Unemployment Books and Out-of-Work Donation Policies remaining lodged on Friday, 25th Feb., 1921.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with 28th January, 1921.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
(1) TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT.						
Building	74,052	252	74,304	- 2,473	+ 38	- 2,435
Works of Construction	11,965	38	12,003	+ 2,239	+ 14	+ 2,253
Shipbuilding	44,355	430	44,785	+ 4,976	+ 97	+ 5,073
Engineering and Ironfounding	135,846	11,009	146,855	+ 16,709	+ 1,572	+ 18,281
Vehicle Construction	16,407	5,473	21,880	+ 2,198	+ 978	+ 3,176
Sawmilling and Packing Case Making	20,099	5,173	25,272	+ 2,549	+ 605	+ 3,154
Ammunition and Chemicals	15,481	8,348	23,829	+ 4,194	+ 1,339	+ 5,533
Iron and Steel Manufacture	48,252	1,206	49,458	+ 17,753	+ 390	+ 18,143
Manufacture of Other Metals	21,348	5,720	27,068	+ 4,353	+ 919	+ 5,272
Manufacture of Metal Goods	15,855	23,713	39,568	+ 3,466	+ 5,114	+ 8,580
Clocks, Watches, Plate, Jewellery	2,008	2,135	4,143	+ 433	+ 583	+ 1,016
Musical Instruments, Toys, Games	2,117	2,687	4,804	+ 500	+ 212	+ 712
Rubber and Rubber Goods	4,442	5,508	9,950	+ 560	+ 448	+ 1,008
Leather and Leather Goods	6,285	4,065	10,350	+ 630	+ 312	+ 942
Brick, Tile, Pottery, Glass, etc.	6,988	3,676	10,664	+ 2,052	+ 1,282	+ 3,334
Hotel and Laundry Service	9,585	21,851	31,436	+ 875	+ 5,025	+ 5,900
Commercial and Clerical	10,838	3,325	14,163	+ 443	+ 1,024	+ 1,467
Conveyance of Men, Goods, and Messages	110,035	2,537	112,572	+ 20,859	+ 434	+ 21,293
Mines and Quarries	27,937	427	28,364	+ 17,016	+ 220	+ 17,236
Paper Making	12,966	13,235	26,201	+ 3,195	+ 3,439	+ 6,634
Cotton	18,812	43,622	62,434	+ 4,212	+ 9,669	+ 13,881
Woolen and Worsted	11,977	20,292	32,269	+ 1,696	+ 6,014	+ 7,710
Other Textiles	17,811	26,362	44,173	+ 77	+ 1,843	+ 1,920
Workers in Dress	27,429	58,233	85,662	- 1,030	- 4,350	- 5,380
Food, Drink, and Tobacco	12,247	29,096	41,343	+ 2,202	+ 4,192	+ 6,394
General Labourers	75,266	434	75,700	+ 1,933	+ 49	+ 1,982
Others	44,321	39,038	83,359	+ 7,960	+ 7,467	+ 15,427
TOTAL	804,825	340,885	1,145,710	+ 119,423	+ 48,991	+ 168,414

(2) SHORT TIME.

Trade.	Number of Workpeople.		Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
	Week ended 26th Feb., 1921.	Month ago.	Week ended 26th Feb., 1921.	Month ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Works of Construction	2,400	12	2,912	+ 659	- 34	+ 625	- 34	+ 625
Shipbuilding	979	2	981	+ 428	+ 1	+ 427	+ 1	+ 427
Engineering and Ironfounding	774	20	794	+ 322	+ 1	+ 323	+ 1	+ 323
Vehicle Construction	52,727	5,321	58,048	+ 23,938	+ 2,836	+ 26,774	+ 2,836	+ 26,774
Sawmilling and Packing Case Making	9,053	2,227	11,280	+ 1,184	+ 564	+ 1,748	+ 564	+ 1,748
Ammunition and Chemicals	3,307	1,932	5,239	+ 662	+ 624	+ 1,286	+ 624	+ 1,286
Iron and Steel Manufacture	5,617	3,433	9,050	+ 2,855	+ 1,168	+ 4,023	+ 1,168	+ 4,023
Manufacture of Other Metals	14,399	174	14,573	+ 6,855	+ 16	+ 6,871	+ 16	+ 6,871
Manufacture of Metal Goods	2,390	813	3,203	+ 1,225	+ 319	+ 1,544	+ 319	+ 1,544
Clocks, Watches, Plate, Jewellery	8,971	5,809	14,780	+ 3,234	+ 3,474	+ 6,708	+ 3,474	+ 6,708
Musical Instruments, Toys, Games	666	598	1,264	+ 469	+ 167	+ 636	+ 167	+ 636
Rubber and Rubber Goods	565	565	1,130	+ 145	+ 58	+ 203	+ 58	+ 203
Leather and Leather Goods	3,628	4,352	7,980	+ 1,023	+ 653	+ 1,676	+ 653	+ 1,676
Brick, Tile, Pottery, Glass, etc.	3,004	2,146	5,150	+ 923	+ 580	+ 1,503	+ 580	+ 1,503
Hotel and Laundry Service	1,779	754	2,533	+ 387	+ 372	+ 759	+ 372	+ 759
Commercial and Clerical	188	562	750	+ 110	+ 283	+ 373	+ 283	+ 373
Conveyance of Men, Goods and Messages	165	56	221	+ 56	+ 18	+ 72	+ 18	+ 72
Mines and Quarries	3,433	132	3,565	+ 1,290	+ 79	+ 1,369	+ 79	+ 1,369
Paper Making	2,007	16	2,023	+ 1,730	+ 9	+ 1,739	+ 9	+ 1,739
Cotton	7,835	8,318	16,153	+ 2,585	+ 2,563	+ 5,148	+ 2,563	+ 5,148
Woolen and Worsted	91,538	181,088	272,626	+ 4,313	+ 6,221	+ 10,534	+ 4,313	+ 10,534
Other Textiles	26,067	43,668	69,735	+ 4,191	+ 10,924	+ 15,115	+ 4,191	+ 15,115
Workers in Dress	50,668	92,568	143,236	+ 3,342	+ 6,889	+ 10,231	+ 3,342	+ 10,231
Food, Drink and Tobacco	17,015	50,673	67,688	- 167	- 881	- 1,048	- 881	- 1,048
General Labourers	3,585	8,924	12,509	+ 1,933	+ 2,303	+ 4,236	+ 1,933	+ 4,236
Others	2,663	4	2,667	+ 915	+ 1	+ 916	+ 915	+ 916
TOTAL	4,394	2,944	7,338	+ 1,769	+ 530	+ 2,299	+ 530	+ 2,299
TOTAL	320,427	423,111	743,538	+ 66,154	+ 39,899	+ 105,850	+ 39,899	+ 105,850

* Persons working one day short time per week, or reduced hours each day or on certain days, are not eligible for benefit and are not included.

DETAILED REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

[NOTE.—The numbers of workpeople given in the following Tables represent the numbers covered by the Returns received and not the total numbers employed in the various industries. The comparisons of numbers employed and wages paid at different dates relate to the same firms at each date.]

COAL MINING.

EMPLOYMENT during February continued fair in Warwickshire, North Wales and the Lothians, but elsewhere it was slack and showed a further decline. Many collieries were working short time and some were idle owing to lack of orders.

Of the 644,607 workpeople included in the Returns for February 134,766 (or 20.9 per cent.) were employed at pits working 12* days during the fortnight ended to which the Returns relate, and a further 101,794 (or 15.8 per cent.) at pits working 11 days or more, but less than 12 days.

The average number of days worked showed a decrease of 0.41 on the previous month and of 0.96 on February, 1920.

The following Table shows the number of workpeople employed and the average number of days worked per week at the collieries covered by the returns:—

District.	No. of Workpeople employed at Mines included in the Returns.		Average No. of Days worked per week by the Mines.*	
	Fortnight ended 26th Feb., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	Fortnight ended 26th Feb., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a
			Month ago.	Year ago.
			Per cent.	Per cent.
			Days.	Days.
Northumberland	55,020	-0.2	4.12	-0.72
Derham	115,363	-2.4	4.76	

District.	Number of Furnaces, included in the Returns, in blast at end of			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in February on a	
	Feb., 1921.	Jan., 1921.	Feb., 1920.	Month Ago.	Year Ago.
ENGLAND AND WALES—					
Cleveland	53	74	69	- 21	- 13
Cumberland and Lancs. ..	14	13	24	+ 1	- 10
S. and S. W. Yorks. .. .	9	10	10	- 1	- 1
Derby and Nottingham ..	27	30	31	- 3	- 4
Leicester, Lincoln and Northampton	10	20	29	- 10	- 19
Staffs. and Worcester .. .	15	24	27	- 9	- 12
South Wales and Monmouth ..	1	3	10	- 2	- 9
Other Districts	2	4	4	- 2	- 2
ENGLAND AND WALES	131	178	201	- 47	- 70
SCOTLAND	49	51	54	- 2	- 5
TOTAL	180	229	255	- 49	- 75

The production of pig iron in February, 1921, as returned by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, amounted to 463,600 tons, as compared with 645,000 tons in February, 1920.

The imports of iron-ore in February, 1921, amounted to 283,839 tons, or 285,676 tons less than in January, 1921, and 373,986 tons less than in February, 1913.

The exports of pig iron in February, 1921, amounted to 14,015 tons, or 6,071 tons less than in January, 1921, and 49,946 tons less than in February, 1913.

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

EMPLOYMENT at iron and steel works was bad generally, and showed a decline as compared with the previous month. A number of works, particularly in the Midland counties and in Scotland, were closed, and many others were working short time.

According to returns received from firms employing 93,530 workpeople, the volume of employment during the week ended 26th February, 1921 (as indicated by the number of workpeople employed at each works, multiplied by the number of shifts during which work was carried on) showed a decrease of 15.3 per cent. on the previous month and of 29.8 per cent. on a year ago. The average number of shifts* per man shown by the Returns was 5.01, as compared with 5.24 in January and 5.56 a year ago.

DEPARTMENTS.	No. of Workpeople employed by firms making returns.		Aggregate number of Shifts.*	
	Week ended 26th Feb., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	Week ended 26th Feb., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a
		Per cent.		Per cent.
Open Hearth Melting Furnaces	10,182	- 4.4	54,429	- 8.8
Crucible Furnaces .. .	323	- 28.2	1,147	- 39.0
Bessemer Converters ..	1,053	- 8.3	4,940	- 9.3
Puddling Forges .. .	4,874	- 20.1	19,708	- 31.8
Rolling Mills	28,756	- 15.5	139,743	- 20.6
Forging and Pressing ..	8,696	- 13.7	16,437	- 18.9
Founding	11,532	- 1.2	66,120	- 3.4
Other Departments .. .	9,890	- 14.4	50,996	- 18.5
Mechanics, Labourers ..	23,224	- 7.6	124,865	- 12.3
TOTAL	93,530	- 11.4	468,324	- 15.3
		Per cent.		Per cent.
DISTRICTS.				
Northumberland and Durham	10,281	- 6.5	52,368	- 15.4
Cleveland	11,770	- 10.8	65,147	- 12.5
Sheffield and Rotherham	23,954	- 4.2	119,858	- 8.9
Leeds, Bradford, etc. ..	4,111	- 5.8	21,121	- 7.0
Cumberland, Lancs. and Cheshire	7,344	+ 1.6	40,687	- 2.6
Staffordshire	7,342	- 19.8	38,501	- 22.3
Other Midland Counties	3,853	- 20.2	17,427	- 32.5
Wales and Monmouth ..	7,816	- 2.7	31,662	- 5.8
Total, England and Wales	77,580	- 7.7	386,771	- 12.4
Scotland	15,950	- 25.8	81,553	- 26.9
TOTAL	93,530	- 11.4	468,324	- 15.3

The production of steel ingots and castings, as returned to the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers amounted to 483,500 tons in February, 1921, compared with 493,400 tons in the previous month and 798,000 tons a year ago.

* The figures relate to the number of shifts during which the works were operated, allowance being made for the numbers of men employed. No account is taken of the time lost by individuals and it is not intended to imply that the full number of shifts was worked by all the men employed.

ENGINEERING TRADES.

THE decline in employment in these trades continued during February, and there were marked increases in the numbers unemployed and on short time.

The following Table* shows the number of workpeople claiming unemployment benefit or out-of-work donation at 25th February, 1921:—

Division.	Number of Unemployment Books and Out-of-Work Donation Policies remaining Lodged at 25th February, 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with 28th January, 1921.	
		Month Ago.	Year Ago.
London	25,442	+ 2,001	+ 1,393
Northern Counties .. .	7,776	+ 2,912	+ 2,912
North Western	18,483	+ 2,742	+ 2,742
Yorkshire	11,922	+ 1,464	+ 1,464
East Midlands	6,621	+ 5,653	+ 5,653
West Midlands	34,024	+ 1,824	+ 1,824
S. Midlands and Eastern ..	10,619	+ 369	+ 369
S. E. Counties	5,164	- 266	- 266
South Western	5,663	+ 724	+ 724
Wales	3,176	+ 946	+ 946
Scotland	14,339	+ 469	+ 469
Ireland	3,626		
UNITED KINGDOM	146,855	+ 18,281	+ 18,281
Males	135,846	+ 16,709	+ 16,709
Females	11,009	+ 1,572	+ 1,572

The number of persons claiming unemployment insurance benefit or out-of-work donation in respect of days of work lost owing to systematic short time† was 58,048 on 25th February compared with 31,274 at 28th January.

On the Tyne and Wear employment in February was rather worse than in the previous month, being slack with fitters, turners, and machinemen, and fair with iron-moulders and brassmoulders; a large number of men were unemployed and others on short time. At locomotive works, however, an improvement was reported. On the Tees employment declined to moderate.

In the Manchester district employment continued to decline during February, and was generally slack, short time being fairly common. It remained in a depressed condition at Liverpool, where short time was worked in many cases. Employment at Crewe, though still fairly good, was slightly worse than in January. At other towns in Lancashire and Cheshire it continued fair, but was not quite up to the level of the previous month; in some cases short time was reported. At Leeds employment showed a slight further decline; slackness was particularly noticeable with those firms who rely on export trade. At Sheffield it was reported as bad, except with patternmakers; the number of unemployed increased somewhat, and short time was more common. At Bradford and Huddersfield it was very quiet, some shops working 35 hours per week and others alternate weeks.

At Nottingham employment was bad and worse than in January with nearly all sections; a large proportion of the workpeople were on short time, many men losing 3 days a week. Very similar conditions prevailed at Grantham, Lincoln and Gainsborough. Employment at Derby declined and was bad; large numbers of men were discharged from motor-car works, but coppermiths were well employed. At Leicester also it was bad and worse than in January. In the Birmingham and Coventry district employment, already very bad, declined steadily during the month; staffs continued to be reduced and short time was extended, so that at the end of February few shops were open for more than 3 days a week. In the Potteries employment remained fairly good.

Slackness increased at Bedford and Luton and there was much short time. At Norwich no improvement was reported. At Ipswich, Colchester and Chelmsford employment was slack, many shops being on half-time, and large numbers of men being dismissed. In London and the Southern Counties it was moderate on the whole; a good deal of short time was worked, and the position was generally more unsatisfactory than in the previous month.

In South Wales employment was slack on the whole, and worse than in January.

In the Glasgow district there was considerable dullness and a decline was reported, as compared with January; many men were on short time. At Edinburgh, Dundee and Aberdeen, employment was good with ironmoulders, fair with patternmakers, and bad with other classes; it was generally worse than in the previous month.

Foundry workers at Belfast were fairly well employed, but with other classes employment was bad and showed a decline.

* Owing to changes in the industrial classification of a number of insured persons, consequent upon the operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, as from 8th November, 1920, the figures in this Table are not strictly comparable with those in issues of the LABOUR GAZETTE prior to that of December, 1920.

† Pending the completion of the industrial classification of new entrants under the above Act, the usual percentages of unemployment based upon the numbers of persons insured under the Act in each industry, are not available.

‡ See Table and * note relating to systematic short time claimants on page 134.

SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in the shipbuilding and ship-repairing trades during February continued slack at the principal centres and was below the level of the previous month. The slackness was to a great extent due to lack of orders, but was also due in part to the effect of the strike of ship joiners.

The following Table* shows the number of workpeople claiming unemployment benefit or out of work donation at 25th February, 1921:—

Division.	Number of Unemployment Books and Out-of-Work Donation Policies remaining Lodged at 25th February, 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with 28th January, 1921.	
		Month Ago.	Year Ago.
London	3,490	+ 99	+ 1,411
Northern Counties .. .	9,279	- 654	- 654
North-Western	7,365	+ 108	+ 108
Yorkshire	1,758	+ 100	+ 100
East Midlands	832	+ 67	+ 67
West Midlands	257	+ 34	+ 34
S. Midlands and Eastern ..	729	+ 18	+ 18
S. E. Counties	249	+ 45	+ 45
South Western	3,654	+ 760	+ 760
Wales	2,782	+ 2,710	+ 2,710
Scotland	11,068	+ 368	+ 368
Ireland	3,872		
UNITED KINGDOM	44,785	+ 5,073	+ 5,073
Males	44,355	+ 4,976	+ 4,976
Females	430	+ 97	+ 97

The number of persons claiming unemployment insurance or out of work donation in respect of time lost owing to systematic short time† was 794 on 25th February, compared with 471 at 28th January.

On the north-east coast employment was slack and worse than in January; the number of unemployed continued to increase during the month, many men being paid off as contracts were completed. On the east coast a decline in employment was reported. On the Thames employment remained slack with most classes of workpeople. At Southampton employment was dull and worse than in January. Employment declined somewhat at the Bristol Channel ports and was described as bad.

The continuance of the joiners' strike had a depressing effect on employment on the Mersey and at Barrow. Owing to the same cause the slackness on the Clyde became more acute as the month progressed; in a number of shipyards short time was worked. Employment with chippers and painters at Leith, which was reported as good in January, showed a marked decline during February. At Dundee a general decline in employment was reported. At Aberdeen employment continued slack, and was worse than in the previous month.

At Belfast employment was moderate with some sections and bad with others, and, on the whole rather worse than in January. At Cork it was fair and rather better than in the previous month.

TINPLATE AND STEEL SHEET TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in these trades continued very bad during February and there was much unemployment and short time. The number of mills reported to be in operation at the end of the month showed a decrease of 41 as compared with January, 1921, and of 329 as compared with February, 1920.

Works.	Number of Works open.			Number of Mills in operation.		
	At end of February 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) compared with		At end of February 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) compared with	
		End of Jan., 1921.	End of Feb., 1920.		End of Jan., 1921.	End of Feb., 1920.
Tinplate, Steel Sheet.	27	- 13	- 52	106	- 51	- 288
	5	+ 1	- 7	61	+ 10	- 41
TOTAL.	32	- 12	- 59	167	- 41	- 329

The exports of tinned and galvanized plates and sheets in February, 1921, amounted to 29,535 tons, or 24,061 tons less than in January, 1921, and 61,627 tons less than in February, 1913.

MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in these trades continued slack during February, and much short time was worked. Returns were received from trade unions covering 77,229 workpeople, of whom 10.3 per cent. were stated to be unemployed in February, as compared with 9.6 per cent. in January and 0.5 per cent. in February, 1920.

* See note * at foot of second column on page 136.
† See Table and * note relating to systematic short time claimants on page 134.

Brasswork.—Employment continued slack and a considerable amount of short time prevailed in most districts. It was reported by the principal trade union that about one-seventh of their members were on short time, the average number of hours worked by these members being only about 24 per week.

Nuts, Bolts, Nails, &c.—With nut, bolt, rivet and spike makers at Blackheath and Halesowen, employment continued bad; makers of best nuts and bolts at Darlaston were on strike during the month. With shoe rivet and wire and cut nail makers at Birmingham employment continued fair.

Cutlery, Tools, Bits, Stirrups, &c.—At Sheffield employment was reported as bad with scissor grinders and pen and pocket blade forgers, much short time being worked. It remained fairly good in other sections of the cutlery and in the file trades in that district. It improved to fair in the edge-tool trade at Wednesbury, and remained bad with bit and stirrup and saddle and harness furniture makers at Walsall. At Redditch employment was reported as fair with needle makers, good with fish-hook makers and fairly good with fishing-tackle makers.

Tubes.—Employment continued fair at Wednesbury, but was reported as slack at Birmingham, where some short time was worked.

Chains, Anchors, &c.—At Cradley employment continued bad with anchor smiths, shipping tackle and shackle makers and with cable chain and block chain makers. It remained quiet with anvil and vice makers at Dudley, where some short time was worked. With axle and spring makers at Wednesbury it declined to bad.

Sheet Metal Workers.—Employment continued slack on the whole, short time being worked in several districts including Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Leeds, Sheffield, Hull, Preston and Grimsby. With iron plate workers employment continued bad in the Lye, Bilston, Dudley and Wolverhampton districts. It declined to slack at Birmingham, where some short time was worked.

Wire.—Employment remained slack, short time being worked in most districts. In the Warrington, Sheffield, Birmingham, Cleckheaton, Brighouse, Halifax and London districts 50 per cent. or more of the workpeople were on short time.

Hollow-ware.—With galvanised hollow-ware makers employment was reported as bad in the Midlands, the average time worked being estimated at about 24 hours per week. At Wolverhampton employment remained slack with cast-iron hollow-ware makers and declined to slack with tin and enamelled hollow-ware makers.

Stoves, Grates, &c.—Employment continued slack in most districts, and showed a decline on the whole, some short time being worked.

The exports of hardware in February, 1921, amounted to 8,635 cwts., or 4,201 cwts. less than in January, 1921, and 14,841 cwts. less than in February, 1913.

The exports of hollow-ware in February, 1921, amounted to 945 tons, or 715 tons less than in January, 1921, and 2,370 tons less than in February, 1913.

COTTON TRADE.

DURING February there was a further decline both in the spinning and in the weaving sections of the industry. Organised short time in the spinning section was continued on the basis of three days' stoppage per week at mills using American cotton, and two days' stoppage per week at mills using Egyptian cotton, while individual firms in many cases exceeded this amount. In the weaving section of the industry it was authoritatively reported that the production of the looms was estimated at less than 30 per cent. of the full capacity.

In the Oldham, Ashton, Stockport and Rochdale districts employment continued bad during February, and organised short time continued; in addition, some firms, as in the previous month, closed down for periods of ten to twelve days at a time.

In the Bolton district employment was reported as bad with spinners and overlookers, and as very bad with card-room workers, weavers, winders, beamers and twistlers; it was generally worse than a month earlier. At Leigh it was moderate with spinners. In Manchester employment with spinners was slack, and worse than in January.

In the weaving districts of Blackburn, Burnley, Preston, Darwen, etc., employment was very depressed, and showed a further decline during February. Short time and under-employment in various forms continued, and there was an increase in the number of total stoppages; many sheds were closed for periods of seven to nine days, and, in some cases, for several weeks at a time. In addition, many weavers were not working their full number of looms.

In Yorkshire employment continued bad. In the Calder Valley, out of about 9,000 trade union members, 1,000 were unemployed at the end of February, and 7,500 worked half-time during the month.

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

DEPARTMENTS.	Number of Workpeople Employed.			Total wages earned by all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 26th Feb., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 26th Feb., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.*	Year ago.*
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Preparing	9,814	- 5.8	-10.3	17,724	- 5.2	-25.5
Spinning	18,981	- 6.8	-14.6	32,344	- 7.2	-34.3
Weaving	28,865	- 7.6	-35.2	54,910	- 8.8	-47.1
Other	6,476	+ 9.0	-27.0	19,476	- 9.1	-26.4
Not specified	5,672	+ 0.6	-20.8	11,176	- 2.7	-40.8
TOTAL	69,578	- 6.6	-26.1	135,632	- 7.6	-38.9

DISTRICTS.	Number of Workpeople Employed.			Total wages earned by all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 26th Feb., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 26th Feb., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.*	Year ago.*
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Ashton	2,193	- 9.3	-29.8	3,770	-24.3	-49.3
Stockport, Glossop and Hyde	4,906	- 8.7	-16.6	6,980	- 1.5	-45.1
Oldham	9,829	- 4.3	- 3.6	19,111	- 7.3	-26.3
Bolton and Leigh ..	12,934	- 5.4	-18.6	23,076	- 9.2	-32.1
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Walsden, and Todmorden	6,570	-10.9	-16.4	11,785	- 9.9	-35.9
Manchester	5,634	- 6.0	- 7.0	9,642	- 7.7	-24.2
Preston and Chorley ..	2,844	-33.0	-58.9	5,806	-27.3	-69.2
Blackburn, Accrington and Darwen	8,278	- 1.0	-44.5	20,897	+ 4.5	-44.7
Burnley, Padiham, Colne and Nelson	9,039	- 2.2	-35.7	21,096	- 7.6	-43.9
Other Lancashire Towns ..	2,614	-13.6	-33.4	5,045	-20.7	-35.9
Yorkshire Towns	2,117	+ 0.6	+ 1.3	3,365	+14.7	-19.7
Other Districts	2,920	+ 0.4	-17.4	4,559	+ 0.6	-35.5
TOTAL	69,578	- 6.6	-26.1	135,632	- 7.6	-38.9

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

Description.	Feb., 1921.	Jan., 1921.	Feb., 1913.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on	
				Month ago.	Feb., 1913.
				Per cent.	
Imports (less Re-exports):—					
Raw Cotton (including cotton linters) (100 lb.)	824,591	1,217,639	1,780,172	- 393,048	- 935,581
Exports of British Manufacture:—					
Cotton yarn (1,000 lb.)	8,526	7,189	16,761	+ 1,337	- 8,235
Finished thread (1,000 lb.)	927	1,658	1,694	- 731	- 767
Cotton piece goods	244,726†	249,630†	563,606†	- 4,904	-

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT showed a further decline in February, and at the end of the month was bad in all departments, about half-time being worked in nearly all districts.

WOOLLEN TRADE.

During February there was a further decline in the woollen trade, and employment in all the principal districts was bad.

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 26th Feb., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 26th Feb., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.*	Year ago.*
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Wool Sorting	846	- 4.7	-32.6	795	-16.0	- 45.7
Spinning	4,029	- 3.9	-16.5	7,894	-12.0	- 35.6
Weaving	6,277	- 3.5	-11.4	11,958	-12.8	-26.8
Other Departments ..	4,923	- 2.9	- 8.0	12,316	- 9.0	-14.7
Not Specified	858	- 5.0	- 5.3	2,391	+13.2	-11.6
TOTAL	16,433	- 3.5	-12.0	35,354	-10.0	- 25.1

* Comparison of earnings is affected by changes in rates of wages. † Thousands of square yards.

In the Huddersfield district employment was reported as very bad; there was much unemployment, and almost all of those who remained in employment were on short time. In the heavy woollen district (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.) 90 per cent. of the operatives were either on short time or totally unemployed. In the Leeds district employment was again reported as bad; firms engaged in the manufacture of women's materials, however, were said to have experienced a slight improvement. In the Morley district the operatives worked on the average only 18 hours per week. In the Rochdale and Stockport districts there was little change; employment continued bad, with short time general.

In Scotland short time was prevalent at Hawick; while at Galashiels four-fifths of the Trade Union operatives were on short time, some working only three days a fortnight.

WORSTED TRADE.

The depression in the worsted trade continued during February, and employment at the end of the month was bad, and worse than a month ago. The great majority of the operatives worked only from two to three days a week, and a large number were totally unemployed.

Employment among wool sorters was very bad, and even worse than in January; more than a quarter of the Trade Union members were unemployed, and practically all the remainder on short time to the extent of two to four days a week. Practically all the wool combers also were working short time.

In the Bradford and Keighley districts employment continued bad in all the principal departments, with much unemployment, and short time general among those who remained in employment. In the Halifax district the general position showed no improvement, while in the Huddersfield district the improvement recorded in the previous month was not maintained.

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 26th Feb., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 26th Feb., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.*	Year ago.*
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Wool Sorting	3,555	- 4.4	-13.6	9,967	- 0.5	-22.2
Combing	15,478	- 1.9	- 3.3	25,393	- 5.0	-14.0
Spinning	6,360	- 5.4	- 4.7	13,345	-17.8	-17.4
Weaving	2,832	- 2.6	- 2.7	8,057	- 8.3	- 6.4
Other Departments ..	2,033	- 2.4	-10.7	4,082	-16.6	-17.9
TOTAL	30,258	- 3.1	- 5.4	61,244	- 8.8	-15.6

The following Table summarises the statistics of imports (less re-exports) of raw wool, and the exports of wool, flannels, delaines and blankets in February, 1921, in comparison with January, 1921, and February, 1913:—

Description.	Feb., 1921.	Jan., 1921.	Feb., 1913.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on	
				Month ago.	Feb., 1913.
				Per cent.	
Imports (less Re-exports):—					
Raw wool (sheep or lambs) 100 lb.	481,344	483,551	1,075,331	- 2,207	-593,987
Woolen and worsted yarn 1,000 lb.	481	451	2,758	+ 80	- 2,277
Exports of British Manufacture:—					
Wool tops (100 lb.) ..	18,417	16,512	40,198	+ 1,905	- 21,781
Woolen yarn 1,000 lb.	379	418	378	- 39	+ 1
Worsted yarn 1,000 lb.	974	1,395	3,863	- 421	- 2,889
Woolen tissues	7,128†	9,768†	8,628†	- 2,640	-
Worsted tissues	3,597†	3,991†	4,598†	- 394	-
Flannels and Delaines	295†	368†	683†	- 73	-
Blankets	68,770	118,424	105,934	- 49,654	-37,164

* Comparison of earnings is affected by changes in rates of wages. † Thousands of square yards. ‡ Thousands of linear yards.

LINEN TRADE.

Employment in the linen trade continued very bad; many mills were only working half time during the month, and some were completely closed down.

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 26th Feb., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 26th Feb., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.*	Year ago.*
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Preparing	2,574	+ 5.6	-48.1	3,296	+ 3.2	- 67.4
Spinning	4,783	+ 8.1	-48.6	5,208	+ 4.4	- 66.3
Weaving	7,005	+13.3	-27.4	8,469	+ 9.9	-42.7
Other	4,237	+ 7.1	-12.9	7,898	+ 6.0	-16.7
Not specified	935	+ 0.9	-60.0	1,143	+ 0.2	- 68.6
TOTAL	19,534	+ 8.9	-36.1	25,954	+ 6.3	- 45.3

In the week ended 26th February, returns received from certain firms in Ireland employing 13,678 workpeople showed that over 78 per cent. of the workpeople were working short time, averaging about 21 hours less than full time. Similar returns from firms in Scotland employing 5,784 workpeople showed that 92 per cent. of the workpeople were working short time, averaging about 19 hours less than full time.

Exports of linen piece goods in February, 1921, amounted to 1,930,600 square yards, as compared with 2,287,400 square yards in the previous month, and 17,669,800 linear yards in February, 1913.

Imports (less re-exports) of flax in February, 1921, amounted to 1,265 tons, as compared with 1,142 tons in January, 1921, and 20,491 tons (of which 18,708 tons were from Russia) in February, 1913.

JUTE TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT in the jute trade in Dundee and the surrounding districts during February continued bad. At the end of February 23,701 persons were claiming unemployment benefit or out-of-work donation in respect of short time working.

The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished Returns relating to the number of workpeople employed and the amount of wages paid in the week ended 26th February:—

DEPARTMENTS.	Number of workpeople.			Total wages paid to all workpeople.		
	Week ended 26th Feb., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 26th Feb., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.*	Year ago.*
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Preparing	1,834	+ 0.1	- 8.7	1,975	-10.5	-46.1
Spinning	2,175	- 1.2	- 5.3	2,289	- 4.5	-37.8
Weaving	2,649	+ 2.0	- 0.3	2,810	+ 8.2	-46.0
Other and not specified..	1,546	+ 0.7	-11.5	2,775	- 0.8	-33.8
TOTAL	8,204	+ 0.5	- 7.7	9,849	- 5.8	-41.2

The following Table summarises the statistics of imports less re-exports of jute and the exports of jute yarn and piece goods in February, 1921, in comparison with January, 1921, and February, 1913:—

Description.	Feb., 1921.	Jan., 1921.	Feb., 1913.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on	
				Month ago.	Feb., 1913.
				Per cent.	
Imports (less Re-exports) of Jute (tons)	15,872	26,102	19,957	-10,230	- 4,085
Exports of British Manufacture:—					
Jute yarn lbs.	1,808,500	3,502,100	3,782,300	-2,193,800	-2,473,800
Jute piece goods, including jute carpets and rugs.	29,520†	51,541†	128,540†	-22,021	-

* Comparison of earnings is affected by increases in rates of wages. † Hundreds of square yards. ‡ Hundreds of linear yards.

HOSIERY TRADE.

During February, employment in this trade remained bad. Returns from firms employing 9,197 workpeople showed that in the week ended 26th February 62 per cent. of their employees were working short time, averaging about 20 hours less than full time.

At Leicester and in the surrounding district employment was bad, about 60 per cent. of the operatives employed by firms reporting on the subject were working 5 to 36 hours short of full time. In Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire about 61 per cent. of the workpeople reported upon were working short time. In Scotland, employment was quiet, and the majority of the operatives were on short time.

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

District.	Number of Workpeople			Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 26th Feb., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 26th Feb., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.*	Year ago.*
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Leicester	6,527	- 2.8	-30.5	12,711	+ 4.0	- 37.6
Leicester Country Dist.	1,459	- 4.0	-20.4	2,455	+ 0.6	- 34.2
Notts and Derbyshire ..	4,078	- 4.3	-19.0	5,839	+11.6	- 37.7
Scotland	1,959	+ 1.8	-20.6	3,143	+ 4.1	- 34.0
Other Districts	393	- 7.1	-33.0	490	- 8.6	-41.6
TOTAL, UNITED KINGDOM	14,418	- 2.9	-25.4	24,638	+ 5.1	- 37.1

The exports of cotton hosiery in February, 1921, amounted to 42,043 dozen pairs, as compared with 91,780 in January, 1921, and 54,491 in February, 1913.

The exports of woollen hosiery in February, 1921, amounted to 76,362 dozen pairs, as compared with 170,645 in January, 1921, and 209,305 in February, 1913.

SILK TRADE.

Employment in this trade continued slack during February.

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

BRANCHES.	Total Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 26th Feb., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 26th Feb., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.*	Year ago.*
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Throwing	697	+ 4.7	-14.0	764	+ 3.1	-30.9
Spinning	2,553	- 0.3	- 4.2	4,750	-14.4	-13.7
Weaving	1,393	- 1.4	-11.8	2,680	- 1.8	-18.0
Other	1,097	+ 5.0	-12.5	2,520	+ 4.1	- 2.8
Not specified	342	- 2.3	-32.5	733	+ 7.2	-28.8
TOTAL	6,582	+ 0.6	-10.8	11,547	- 5.6	-15.5

Of 5,430 workpeople covered by reports received from certain firms relating to short time, 69 per cent. worked short time to the extent of 21 hours, on the average, during the week ended 26th February.

In the Macclesfield, Leek and Congleton districts employment continued bad; much short time was reported, large numbers of the operatives still working only two, three or four days a week, while at some firms the operatives were unemployed for two or three weeks at a time; there was, however, some improvement at the end of the month. In the Lancashire and West Riding districts employment was slack and worse than a month ago; much short time was reported. In the Eastern Counties employment at the end of February showed an improvement compared with a month earlier, but short time still continued.

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

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

Description.	Feb., 1921.		Jan., 1921.		Feb., 1921.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on	
	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.
<i>Imports (less re-exports)</i>								
Raw silk lb.	23,480	26,042	42,566	- 2,562	- 19,086			
Thrown silk lb.	2,870	2,318	39,113	+ 352	- 36,443			
Spun silk yarn lb.	36,588	34,799	42,450	+ 1,789	- 5,862			
Silk broadstuffs	6,312†	4,264†	8,123†	+ 1,068	-			
<i>Exports of British Manufacture:</i>								
Spun silk yarn lb.	29,851	43,631	71,573	- 13,780	- 41,727			
Silk broadstuffs	227†	349†	873†	- 123	-			

LACE TRADE.

Employment in the lace trade during February was bad and varied little as compared with the previous month.

Branches.	Number of Workpeople.		Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.	
	Week ended 26th Feb., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended 26th Feb., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Year ago.*
Lavers	1,080	+ 1.5	1,941	+ 6.4
Curtain	1,583	- 1.4	3,136	- 5.1
Plain Net	2,033	- 3.4	3,081	- 9.0
Others	667	+ 3.8	1,103	+ 4.4
TOTAL	5,353	- 1.0	9,261	- 3.2
<i>Districts.</i>				
Nottingham City ..	2,313	+ 1.1	4,313	+ 1.3
Long Eaton and other out-lying Districts ..	213	+ 5.4	410	+ 11.4
Other English Districts ..	1,884	- 3.1	2,749	- 9.9
Scotland	943	- 3.1	1,789	- 5.4
TOTAL	5,353	- 1.0	9,261	- 3.2

Returns from firms employing 3,626 workpeople showed that in the week ending 26th February, 83 per cent. of these employees were working short time, the average number of hours worked for the week being 21 hours less than full time.

At Nottingham two-thirds of the employees reported upon were working short time. There was a slight improvement towards the end of the month in the curtain section in this district. At Long Eaton there was much unemployment and short time was general amongst those operatives still employed. In Scotland 94 per cent. of the employees of firms reporting on the subject were working short time.

SHIRT AND COLLAR TRADE.

Employment during February showed a further slight decline and, on the whole, was very slack. More than half of the workpeople covered by the returns worked short time, the number of hours worked in these cases averaging about 16 per week short of full time.

District.	Number of Workpeople.		Total wages paid to all Workpeople.	
	Week ended 26th Feb., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended 26th Feb., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Year ago.*
London	2,781	- 3.5	3,924	- 2.1
Manchester	1,423	+ 1.6	2,004	- 10.5
Rest of Yorks, Lancs and Cheshire	1,567	- 3.5	1,609	+ 3.6
South-Western Counties	1,702	- 1.0	2,149	- 2.5
Rest of England and Wales	479	- 7.7	703	- 4.6
Glasgow	1,839	- 2.9	2,825	+ 0.6
London-derry	1,800	- 1.7	2,554	+ 2.4
Belfast	725	+ 3.8	1,001	+ 2.9
Rest of Ireland	479	- 17.1	776	- 7.6
TOTAL, UNITED KING- DOM	12,786	- 2.7	17,945	- 1.8

In London employment was bad and four-fifths of the operatives lost on an average between 17 and 18 hours per week through short time working. Employment remained bad in Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire generally, where about two-thirds of the workpeople worked short time during the month, losing, on an average over 20 hours per week in Manchester and over 15 hours per week in other districts. In the South Western Counties employment continued moderate, while in other parts of England and Wales it remained bad on the whole; short time was worked to an average extent of nearly 16 hours per week by about half of the workpeople in these districts.

* Comparison of earnings is affected by increases in rates of wages. † Thousands of square yards. ‡ Thousands of linear yards.

At Glasgow employment varied, but, on the whole, was slack, more than two-fifths of the workpeople losing, on an average, 16 hours per week on account of short time working.

Employment in Londonderry and at Belfast was only moderate, while in other parts of Ireland it was on the whole bad. Three-fifths of the operatives in the Londonderry district worked, on an average, about 11 hours per week less than full time, while at Belfast over one-third of the workpeople were similarly affected, their loss of time averaging between 14 and 15 hours per week.

BLEACHING, PRINTING, DYEING AND FINISHING.

Employment in these trades during February continued bad, and showed a further decline, particularly in the printing section. The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished returns:—

District.	Number of Workpeople.		Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.	
	Week ended 26th Feb., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended 26th Feb., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Year ago.*
Trades:				
Bleaching	2,207	+ 3.8	4,966	- 4.2
Printing	696	- 16.2	3,378	- 16.9
Dyeing	11,459	- 6.1	33,797	- 7.5
Trimming, Finishing, and other Departments	6,862	- 3.6	17,169	- 8.8
Not specified	704	+ 0.3	1,754	- 6.1
TOTAL	21,928	- 4.6	60,084	- 8.0
<i>Districts:</i>				
Yorkshire	10,742	- 6.9	32,150	- 7.2
Lancashire	7,311	- 2.2	18,864	- 10.3
Scotland	1,366	- 2.8	3,058	- 7.6
Ireland	491	0.2	1,032	+ 0.1
Other Districts	2,015	- 2.8	4,976	- 6.2
TOTAL	21,928	- 4.6	60,084	- 8.0

Returns received from firms employing 19,261 workers showed that over 86 per cent. of these employees lost on the average 21 hours (in the normal week of 48 hours) during the week ended 26th February.

CARPET TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT during February was slack and worse than in the previous month. In Kidderminster employment declined and was slightly worse than in January, and in Scotland generally it continued bad. More than one-third of the workpeople covered by the Returns worked short time during the month, their loss of time averaging 16 hours per week.

Returns received from firms employing 7,793 workpeople in the week ending 26th February and paying £18,987 in wages, showed a decrease of 0.6 per cent. in the number employed and of 2.3 per cent.* in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 6.7 per cent. in the number employed and of 17.8 per cent.* in the amount of wages paid.

FELT HAT TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT in the felt hat trade continued bad. Returns were received from Trade Unions covering 5,243 workpeople, of whom 9.3 per cent. were stated to be unemployed in February, as compared with 9.2 in January and 0.1 a year ago.

At Denton and at Stockport all the trade union members were reported to be on short time.

TAILORING TRADES.

BESPOKE.

London.—Employment during February, though still slack, showed a slight improvement on the whole. Returns from firms paying £12,077 to their workpeople (indoor and outdoor) during the four weeks ended 26th February, showed an increase of 6.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with the previous month, but a decrease of 9.4 per cent.* as compared with a year ago.

Other Centres.—In most provincial centres there was much unemployment, and short time continued general. At Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Sheffield employment continued to be very irregular, and short time to the extent of three days per week was still general. In Devon and Cornwall an improvement was shown, some firms having been able to reinstate the majority of their employees. In Scotland short time continued general. Employment in Ireland was very slack.

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

READY-MADE.

In this branch of the tailoring trade employment continued very slack. There was much unemployment, and short time continued to be general in most districts. The following Table summarises the information received from employers who furnished Returns. The number of workpeople employed by these firms was 21.5 per cent. less than in February of last year; while over 80 per cent. of those employed were on short time, losing, on an average, about 20 hours per week each during the month.

District.	Number of Workpeople.		Total Wages paid to all Indoor Workpeople.	
	Week ended 26th Feb., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended 26th Feb., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Year ago.*
Leeds	3,719	+ 2.7	4,966	+ 3.3
Manchester	1,856	- 26.1	2,288	- 27.1
Other places in Yorkshire Lancs. and Cheshire.	2,577	+ 0.6	3,646	+ 11.1
Bristol	1,360	- 5.3	1,454	+ 19.3
North and West Midland Counties (excluding Bristol).	2,001	+ 5.1	2,569	+ 23.8
South Midland and Eastern Counties.	1,569	+ 2.9	2,168	+ 37.1
London	1,749	+ 3.9	3,962	- 7.2
Glasgow	1,102	+ 7.1	2,190	+ 8.4
Rest of United Kingdom	1,410	+ 0.4	2,048	+ 1.9
TOTAL, UNITED KING- DOM.	17,143	- 1.5	25,341	+ 3.6

Employment in Leeds was very slack, but towards the end of the month there was a slight increase in the number of hours worked at many factories. There were still, however, a large number of female operatives totally unemployed. In Manchester the numbers employed by firms making returns decreased by about 26 per cent. as compared with the previous month, and about four-fifths of the workpeople covered by the returns were on short time, the average number of hours lost by these workpeople being about 24. In other parts of Lancashire and in Yorkshire and Cheshire there was a slight improvement; short time was still general, the amount of time lost varying from 12 to 38 hours per week. At Bristol employment continued bad and much short time was worked. At Nottingham and Leicester an increased number of hours was worked by some of the employees, but short time to the extent of three days per week continued in most parts of the North and West Midland Counties. In Glasgow an average of about 10 hours per week each was lost by about three-fourths of the workpeople employed. In Ireland employment showed a slight improvement on the whole.

LEATHER TRADES.

In the leather trades employment in February continued bad, and was much worse than a year ago. Short time was still almost general.

Trade unions with 15,754 members reported 11.7 per cent. of their members as unemployed at the end of February, the same percentage as at the end of January, and 1.2 per cent. in February, 1920.

With skippers employment was generally poor, though some branches gave slightly better reports than for the previous month. With tanners and curriers it was bad, with much short time and unemployment, and showed a decline compared with January. With saddlers and harness makers employment continued bad; in the Walsall and Birmingham districts many factories were working only two or three days per week. With fancy leather workers employment was reported as bad, with much short time.

BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

During the greater part of February, employment in this trade continued very bad; a large number of workpeople were totally unemployed, and the remainder, with few exceptions, were on short time. Towards the end of the month there was a slight improvement at some centres, but other centres showed a further decline.

The aggregate wage-bill of the firms making Returns showed a reduction of about 24 per cent. as compared with a year earlier, in spite of the advance in rates of wages granted last April. This reduction was due partly to a diminution of about 16 per cent. in the number employed, and partly to a reduction in the average earnings, owing to short time. Of the 32,000 workpeople covered by the Returns which gave information about short time working,

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

about 64 per cent. worked, on the average, 18 hours less than full time in the week ended 26th February.

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

District.	Number of Workpeople.		Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople.	
	Week ended 26th Feb., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended 26th Feb., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Year ago.*
ENGLAND AND WALES:—				
London	1,816	- 0.9	4,336	+ 1.7
Leicester	9,903	+ 3.0	22,619	- 3.2
Leicester Country District	2,483	- 0.8	5,276	+ 4.1
Northampton	7,453	- 0.1	15,929	+ 4.5
Northampton Country District	7,316	- 2.6	14,643	- 7.9
Kettering	3,224	+ 0.6	7,880	+ 3.2
Stafford and District ..	2,342	- 0.4	4,819	+ 7.5
Norwich and District ..	3,152	+ 10.9	6,766	+ 16.0
Bristol and District ..	279	- 9.4	687	- 12.8
Kingswood	1,384	- 6.3	2,135	- 20.2
Leeds and District ..	1,659	+ 0.9	3,623	- 1.1
Lancashire (mainly Rossendale Valley)	3,826	+ 0.4	6,869	- 0.7
Birmingham and District	833	+ 0.8	1,772	+ 7.7
Other parts of England and Wales	1,245	- 7.8	2,632	- 3.8
ENGLAND AND WALES	47,115	+ 0.4	99,771	+ 1.2
SCOTLAND	2,668	- 0.7	5,671	+ 2.7
IRELAND	204	- 6.4	386	- 11.5
UNITED KINGDOM	49,987	+ 0.3	105,828	+ 1.3

Employment in the Leicester and Northampton districts continued bad, and short time was still general at both centres; there was a slight improvement, however, in certain sections. At Wellingborough every firm was on short time, and employment was very bad; it was also very bad at Hinckley, and worse than in January. At Kettering a slight improvement was reported in some sections, but employment generally was still bad; many workers were unemployed, and some of those who remained in employment were only working, on an average, two days a week. At Stafford, also, a slight improvement was reported, but 90 per cent. of the workers were still on short time. At Norwich one or two firms re-started full time at the end of the month, but up to that time employment had been very bad, with many unemployed and short time general. At Bristol and Kingswood and at Street, employment was reported as very bad, and worse than a month earlier; large numbers were on short time to the extent of two or three days or more a week. Employment was also very bad, and worse than in January at Leeds. In Scotland, employment was bad or quiet at all the principal centres except Kilmarnock, where it was described as fair.

The exports of boots and shoes in February, 1921, amounted to 62,890 dozen pairs, or 4,688 dozen pairs less than in January, 1921, and 80,598 dozen pairs less than in February, 1913.

OTHER CLOTHING TRADES.

DRESSMAKING AND MILLINERY.

EMPLOYMENT in the dressmaking trade generally in London was again moderate on the whole, and about one-quarter of the workpeople covered by the returns received, were reported to have lost, on an average, over 12 hours per week through short time working. Returns from retail firms (chiefly in the West End) employing 991 workpeople in the week ended 26th February showed a decrease of 5.8 per cent. in the number employed, compared with January, and a decrease of 16.0 per cent. compared with February, 1920.

Employment with milliners in the West End varied, but on the whole was fair.

WHOLESALE MANTLE, COSTUME, BLOUSE, &c., TRADES.

In London, employment generally, showed an improvement on the previous month, although nearly half of the workpeople covered by the returns received, worked short time to an average extent of 15 hours per week. Returns from firms employing 2,867 workpeople in these trades on their premises (in addition to out-workers) in the week ended 26th February showed an increase of 6.9 per cent. in the number employed, compared with the previous month, but a decrease of 21.7 per cent. compared with February, 1920.

In Manchester, returns from firms employing 3,378 workpeople in the week ended 26th February showed a decrease of 2.9 per cent. in the number employed compared with January, and a decrease of 13.5 per cent. compared with February, 1920. Employment was fair and better than in January in the mantle trade, but remained bad in the costume and skirt trades; short time working was almost wholly confined to the operatives in the costume and skirt trades, over one-third of whom, according to the returns received, lost on an average about 23 hours per week.

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

In Glasgow, employment was slack, but somewhat better than in the previous month; short time was less prevalent, but nearly one-half of the operatives covered by the returns received worked on an average between 15 and 16 hours per week short of full time. Returns from firms employing 1,613 workpeople in the week ended 26th February, showed an increase of 4.4 per cent. in the number employed compared with the previous month, but a decrease of 18.9 per cent. compared with February, 1920.

CORSET TRADE.

Employment during February, with few exceptions, remained bad; nearly three-quarters of the workpeople covered by the returns, lost, on an average, about 14 hours per week through short time working. Returns from firms, chiefly in England, employing 4,581 workpeople in their factories showed a decrease of 0.6 per cent. in the number employed, compared with January, and a decrease of 10.6 per cent. compared with February, 1920.

BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION OF WORKS.

Employment in the building trade continued fairly good on the whole during February although a decline was reported from several districts. In most centres bricklayers, plasterers and carpenters were well employed and in some cases a shortage of bricklayers and plasterers was reported.

Painters continued slack generally, as is usual at this season of the year, but there was a slight improvement in some districts. Practically no short time was reported, except in the case of painters.

The following Table* shows the number of workpeople claiming unemployment benefit or out-of-work donation on 25th February, together with the increase or decrease as compared with 28th January:—

OCCUPATIONS.	No. of Unemployment Books and Out-of-Work Donation Policies remaining lodged at 25th February, 1921.	Percentage Unemployed at 25th February, 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with 28th January, 1921.
CARPENTERS	4,915	3.55	+ 0.23
BRICKLAYERS	748	1.27	+ 0.26
MASONS	1,067	4.73	+ 0.11
PLASTERERS	443	2.57	+ 0.67
PAINTERS	21,571	16.97	- 4.76
PLUMBERS	2,608	5.89	+ 1.41
OTHER SKILLED OCCUPATIONS	2,857	6.25	+ 0.45
NAVIES	8,228	7.37	+ 0.58
LABOURERS	43,850	12.42	+ 1.06
ALL OCCUPATIONS	86,307	9.39	- 0.02
			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in the numbers unemployed as compared with 28th January, 1921.
DIVISIONS.			
London	24,123	- 1,955	
Northern Counties	2,576	+ 37	
North Western	9,275	+ 38	
Yorkshire	5,549	+ 689	
East Midlands	2,108	+ 52	
West Midlands	5,713	+ 697	
South Midlands and Eastern	6,729	- 432	
South Eastern	4,638	- 612	
South Western	6,005	- 1,066	
Wales	2,817	+ 492	
Scotland	6,230	+ 381	
Ireland	10,544	+ 1,517	
UNITED KINGDOM	86,307	- 182	
Males	86,017	- 234	
Females	290	+ 62	

WOODWORKING AND FURNISHING TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in these trades continued bad on the whole during February. Numbers of workpeople in the mill-sawing and machining trades and of cabinet makers, &c., in shipyards, remained idle owing to the ship-joiners' dispute. Returns were received from trade unions covering 98,638 workpeople, of whom 8.3 per cent. were stated to be unemployed at the end of February (exclusive of those on short time), as compared with 7.5 per cent. at the end of January and 0.4 per cent. in February, 1920. In addition, considerable numbers were on short time.

Mill Sawing and Machining.—Employment remained bad in this trade during February. Short time was general, the principal centres affected being Bristol, Birmingham, Gainsborough, Grantham, Nottingham and Glasgow. Overtime was reported at Stamford and at Birmingham on work for railway carriages and for house building.

Furnishing.—In this trade employment continued bad. Short time was worked in most districts, at Bristol, Birmingham, London, Manchester, Nottingham and Dundee the majority of the workpeople being affected.

* See note* at foot of second column on p. 136.

Coach Building.—Employment was fair generally, and showed a slight improvement on a month ago. Short time was reported at Bristol, Coventry, Wolverhampton and Birmingham; and Peterborough, where half-time is general. Overtime was worked in London and Sattley, and was general in Birmingham in railway carriage works. A shortage of skilled workmen was reported at Stockton.

Coopering.—With coopers employment continued moderate. Short time was worked at Bristol, Manchester and Liverpool, where about half the workpeople in the dry and tight section of the trade were stopped for one to three days each week. A little overtime was reported at Dundee.

Miscellaneous.—Employment remained bad with brush-makers, and at Nottingham and Lincoln all the workpeople were on half-time. With basket makers employment was moderate, and slightly better than a month ago. The workpeople in London were reported as being on half-time. Employment continued bad with packing-case makers; much short time was worked, the districts principally affected being Bristol, Manchester, Nottingham, Liverpool and London. With wheelwrights and smiths, employment was moderate during February. Short time was reported at Grantham, Newark, Stamford and Lincoln.

BRICK AND CEMENT TRADES.

BRICK TRADE.

THE weather in February was unusually favourable for the time of year and employment was good on the whole. The number of workpeople employed was about the same as a month ago, but there was a small reduction in the amount of wages paid. Very little short time was worked, and some districts reported overtime and shortage of labour. Employment was good in the Midland counties, though in South Staffordshire it was bad.

Districts.	Number of Workpeople.		Total wages paid to all Workpeople.			
	Week ended 26th Feb., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended 26th Feb., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.		
				Per cent.	Per cent.	£
Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire.	2,172	+ 0.0	7,766	- 2.5	+ 36.0	
Midlands and Eastern Counties.	2,646	+ 1.6	9,260	+ 0.7	+ 52.0	
South and South-West Counties and Wales.	1,272	- 2.4	4,800	- 5.1	+ 31.4	
Other Districts	1,183	+ 0.9	3,967	- 2.6	+ 41.9	
Total	7,253	+ 0.3	25,793	- 1.9	+ 41.3	

CEMENT TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT during February continued good and much overtime was again reported. Returns from firms employing 11,669 workpeople in the week ended 26th February, 1921, showed a decrease of 2.0 per cent. in the number employed and of 4.0 per cent. in the total amount of wages paid, compared with the previous month. Compared with February, 1920, there was an increase of 24.8 per cent. in the number of employed, and of 55.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

PAPER, PRINTING AND BOOKBINDING TRADES.

IN the paper, printing and bookbinding trades generally employment during February was slack. In most districts it was reported to be slightly worse than during last month and considerably worse than a year ago. With a few exceptions short time was worked in all sections of these trades.

With letterpress printers employment showed a further slackening, especially in London. Although in some offices in London overtime was worked by compositors and readers, in others they were reported to be on short time. In the Provinces short time was worked at most centres. In the lithographic printing trade employment was generally bad and worse than a month ago, short time being prevalent. According to returns received by the Department relating to over 8,500 workpeople in the letterpress and lithographic printing trades, nearly one-third were working short time, to the average extent of nine hours per week.

Employment during February in the bookbinding trade was generally bad, showing a further decline as compared with the previous month. Over 40 per cent. of the workpeople covered by returns received by the Department were working, on an average, 11 hours per week short of full time.

* Comparison of earnings is affected by increases in rates of wage.

In the paper trade employment was generally bad, except with hand-made paper workers. Several mills were reported to be partially closed down, and over 60 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns received were working an average of 13 hours per week short of full time.

The following Table summarises the returns from Trade Unions relating to employment in February:—

	No. of Members of Unions at end of Feb., 1921.	Percentage Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on a	
		Feb., 1921.	Jan., 1921.	Feb., 1920.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Printing	80,794	5.2	4.8	0.7	+ 0.4	+ 4.5
Bookbinding	14,715	5.6	4.6	1.0	+ 1.0	+ 4.6

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

	Number of Workpeople.	Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople.					
		Week ended 26th Feb., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.		Week ended 26th Feb., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	
			Per cent.	Per cent.		£	Per cent.
Paper	13,150	- 3.4	- 4.1	38,705	- 7.6	- 2.2	
Printing	9,737	- 1.0	- 3.7	36,333	+ 1.4	+ 6.2	
Bookbinding	5,233	- 0.9	+ 3.1	11,613	+ 0.7	+ 4.1	
TOTAL	28,120	- 2.1	- 2.7	84,651	- 2.8	+ 2.1	

The following Table shows the imports of wood pulp and paper, and the exports of paper in February, 1921, January, 1921, and February, 1913:—

Description.	Feb., 1921.	Jan., 1921.	Feb., 1913.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on.	
				A month ago.	Feb., 1913.
Imports:					
Wood Pulp for paper making	32,609	47,065	56,470	- 14,556	- 23,861
Paper	472,573	402,273	1,050,111	+ 70,299	- 577,539
Exports of Paper	130,870	231,467	288,316	- 90,597	- 157,446

GLASS TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in these trades during February was bad, a further decline having occurred as compared with the previous month. Returns received from firms employing 7,155 workpeople showed that in the week ending 26th February 14 per cent. of these employees were working on the average 16 hours less than full time.

There was a falling off in employment with glass bottle makers in all districts, though at Mexborough it was still reported to be good. Flint glass makers were not affected to the same extent as other sections of the trade, but at Birmingham they were all on short time. Flint glass cutters there reported little change as compared with the previous month, but plate glass bevellers experienced a further decline. All the pressed glass makers on the Tyne and Wear worked short time and employment was slack. With sheet glass flatteners at St. Helen's, however, it was still reported as good.

BRANCHES.	Number of Workpeople.		Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.			
	Week ended 26th Feb., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended 26th Feb., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.		
				Per cent.	Per cent.	£
Glass Bottle	6,233	- 9.5	21,505	- 13.5	- 16.3	
Flint Glass Ware (not bottles)	2,418	+ 2.5	7,434	+ 2.3	+ 11.0	
Other Branches	515	- 7.3	2,080	+ 4.9	+ 9.6	
TOTAL	9,166	- 6.5	31,029	- 9.6	- 9.5	
DISTRICTS.						
North of England	680	- 7.9	2,304	- 11.9	- 7.7	
Yorkshire	4,138	- 8.0	14,888	- 10.5	- 6.6	
Lancashire	1,327	- 15.6	3,859	- 20.4	- 20.4	
Worcestershire and Warwickshire	758	+ 3.3	2,139	+ 4.8	- 12.6	
Scotland	1,087	- 8.8	3,906	- 12.6	+ 10.2	
Other parts of the United Kingdom	1,476	+ 6.2	4,933	+ 0.6	- 20.3	
TOTAL	9,166	- 6.5	31,029	- 9.6	- 9.5	

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

The exports of glass bottles during February, 1921, amounted to 38,219 gross, or 3,122 gross less than in January, 1921, and 36,779 gross less than in February, 1913.

The exports of all other manufactures of glass during February, 1921, amounted to 29,873 cwts., or 24,136 cwts. less than in January, 1921, and 37,587 cwts. less than in February, 1913.

POTTERY TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in these trades was generally fairly good in February, but showed a decline as compared with the previous month. At Bristol, however, it continued fair, and at Glasgow it was reported as bad, with much short time.

BRANCHES.	Number of Workpeople.	Total wages paid to all workpeople.					
		Week ended 26th Feb., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.		Week ended 26th Feb., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	
			Per cent.	Per cent.		£	Per cent.
China Manufacture	2,019	- 0.6	+ 5.7	5,552	- 2.3	+ 25.0	
Earthenware Manufacture	10,709	- 1.0	+ 4.3	26,773	- 1.2	+ 17.3	
Other branches (including unspecified)	2,032	- 2.4	+ 13.6	4,945	- 3.4	+ 26.7	
TOTAL	14,760	- 1.1	+ 5.7	37,270	- 1.7	+ 29.6	
DISTRICTS.							
Potteries	10,993	- 0.4	+ 5.8	27,164	- 0.9	+ 21.1	
Other Districts	3,767	- 3.2	+ 5.3	10,106	- 3.5	+ 15.7	
TOTAL	14,760	- 1.1	+ 5.7	37,270	- 1.7	+ 29.6	

The exports of chinaware, earthenware and pottery in February, 1921, amounted to 243,284 cwts., or 62,780 cwts. less than in January, 1921, and 57,188 cwts. less than in February, 1913.

FOOD PREPARATION TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in the food-preparation trades during February continued moderate on the whole; in some sections of the trade it was bad, many works being closed down and a large number of workpeople being put on short time.

In the sugar refining industry employment was fair, but in the cocoa, chocolate and sugar confectionery trade it was again only moderate.

In the biscuit and cake making industry employment was bad in some of the principal centres of the trade and only moderate in most others. A number of employees were on short time.

In the preserved meat and bacon-curing trade there was a slight improvement in some districts and a little overtime was reported. With jam and marmalade makers employment varied from fair to moderate, with a number of workpeople on short time.

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

Trade.	Number of workpeople.		Total wages paid to all workpeople.			
	Week ended 26th Feb., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended 26th Feb., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.		
				Per cent.	Per cent.	£
Sugar Refining, etc.	6,857	- 0.1	+ 1.8	27,581	+ 7.5	+ 25.4
Cocoa, Chocolate, and Sugar Confectionery	28,930	+ 0.1	- 3.4	68,381	- 3.0	+ 0.5
Biscuits, Cakes, etc.	11,525	- 0.4	- 23.6	24,845	- 0.4	- 20.7
Jams, Marmalade, etc.	5,326	+ 1.4	- 29.9	12,928	+ 2.0	- 18.2
Bacon and Preserved Meats	3,776	- 5.0	- 19.2	9,055	- 7.5	+ 1.9
Pickles and Sauces, etc.	674	+ 1.8	- 22.7	1,044	- 1.2	- 20.2
TOTAL	57,488	- 0.3	- 11.7	143,834	- 0.5	- 2.4

FISHING INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT continued fair, on the whole, but it showed some decline as compared with the previous month. The following Table shows the quantity and value of fish landed in the United Kingdom in February, 1921, as compared with February, 1920:—

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

	Quantity of fish landed.		Value.	
	Feb., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with Feb., 1920.	Feb., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with Feb., 1920.
	Cwts.	Cwts.	£	£
Fish (other than shell):				
England and Wales ..	791,504	+ 137,092	1,235,186	- 348,752
Scotland	504,547	- 40,704	412,145	- 151,726
Ireland	30,274	- 6,839	24,486	- 2,131
Total	1,326,325	+ 89,749	1,671,717	- 500,609
Shell Fish	—	—	51,434	- 10,077
Total	—	—	1,727,231	- 510,686

East, South and West Coasts.—Employment in the Tees and Hartlepool district continued good. At Hull it was moderate with fishermen, fair with fish dock labourers and good with fish curers. At Grimsby employment, though it showed some decline with fishermen, continued good generally. At Great Yarmouth it continued fair. At Lowestoft it was good with fishermen, fair with fish dock labourers and moderate with fish curers. In the Devon and Cornwall district it continued fair. At Cardiff, Swansea and Milford Haven employment was bad owing to fishing vessels being laid up.

Scotland.—At Aberdeen employment continued fair, but showed a slight decline at the end of the month. At Peterhead it declined to fair with fishermen, but continued moderate with fish dock labourers and fish curers. At Macduff employment was fair, and showed a decline as compared with January. At Fraserburgh it was moderate with fishermen and fish curers, and bad with fish dock labourers.

AGRICULTURE.*

ENGLAND AND WALES.

Weather conditions throughout February were favourable to agricultural operations, and field work proceeded without interruption. Very little change took place in the labour situation. The supply of labour was, in general, ample, but local shortages of skilled men still occurred. In some districts a surplus of unskilled men was reported, but, on the whole, there were not many regular workers out of employment.

More skilled workers were wanted in Yorkshire, parts of Lancashire and Cheshire, in several of the Midland counties, and in a few districts of South Wales. There was some demand for hedgers in parts of Bedford, Northampton, Warwick, Dorset, Wiltshire and Hampshire.

Such unemployment as occurred among casual labourers was not confined to any particular part of the country, but it was in no case very marked, and in several counties was practically non-existent.

SCOTLAND.

In most districts the supply of regular labour was adequate, and in Moray and Central Aberdeen some men were unemployed. More ploughmen and cattlemen, however, were needed in Dumfriesshire, and there was a scarcity of dairy workers in Renfrew. Casual labour was reported as deficient in South-West Fife, Clackmannan and Kinross.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR

EMPLOYMENT during February was slack and, on the whole, was worse than in the previous month.

London.—Employment continued slack during February. The average daily number of labourers employed in the docks and at the principal wharves in February was 2.9 per cent. less than in January, and 22.7 per cent. less than in February, 1920.

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—					
5th Feb., 1921 ..	8,813	2,882	9,795	8,406	18,201
12th "	8,927	3,451	10,378	8,283	18,661
19th "	7,147	3,449	10,596	8,305	18,901
26th "	7,153	3,625	10,778	8,247	18,025
Average for 4 weeks ended 26th Feb., 1921	7,035	3,352	10,387	8,310	18,697
Average for Jan., 1921	7,753	3,126	8,879	8,379	19,258
Average for Feb., 1920	10,481	4,207	14,688	9,498	24,186

* Based on information supplied by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and the Board of Agriculture for Scotland.

Tilbury.—The mean daily number of dock labourers employed in February was 1,417, as compared with 1,852 in the previous month and with 2,526 in February, 1920.

East Coast.—Employment was fair with tugboat men on the Tyne, but with this exception employment was generally slack on the Tyne, Wear and Tees; at Blyth it was reported as very slack. At Hull and Grimsby employment was slack, while at Yarmouth, Lowestoft and Ipswich it was reported as fair.

Southern and Western Ports.—At Plymouth employment was slack and worse than in the previous month. It was bad and worse than in January at the Bristol Channel ports generally. On the Mersey, also, employment was bad; the average weekly number of dock labourers employed at Liverpool during the four weeks ended 28th February, 1921, was 15,756, compared with 17,579 for the five weeks ended 31st January, 1921, and with 23,065 in the corresponding period of 1920.

Scottish and Irish Ports.—At Glasgow employment was bad and worse than in January. There was also a decline at Ayr and at Leith and Dundee. Employment was bad, and worse than in January at Belfast, but continued fair at Cork; at Limerick there was some improvement compared with the previous month, but at Waterford employment remained slack.

SEAMEN.

EMPLOYMENT among seamen during February was only moderate. There was some increase in the number of vessels laid up in various ports, and in the larger shipping centres the number of seamen unemployed showed an increase.

On the Thames, employment was reported as quiet, the demand for seamen not being so good as in January. On the Tyne, seamen were in small demand and there was an increase in the number unemployed. On the Tees there was some improvement towards the end of the month, but on the Wear employment was quiet, especially in the coasting trade. At Hull there was some falling off, and at Goole and Grimsby there was practically no demand for seamen. At Southampton there was some improvement at the beginning of the month after which there was a decline. On the Bristol Channel, employment was very dull in the first half of the month, but the demand became brisker towards the end. At Liverpool, employment in the foreign-going trade, though fair at the end of the month, showed a falling off compared with January. On the Clyde there was a decline, and a number of seamen were unemployed. At Leith there was some improvement over last month, but at Dundee it continued dull. At Aberdeen employment was poor, and no better than in the previous month. At Dublin and Belfast there was a decline, and many were unemployed at the end of the month.

The following Table shows the number of seamen shipped in British-registered foreign-going vessels at the principal ports during February:

Principal Ports.	Number of Seamen* shipped in February, 1921.					
	Feb., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Two months ended		
		Month ago.	Year ago.	Feb., 1921.	Feb., 1920.	Feb., 1913.
ENGLAND & WALES:—						
East Coast—						
Tyne Ports	1,170	- 512	- 639	2,852	3,342	4,517
Sunderland	105	- 102	- 178	312	513	671
Middlesbrough	463	+ 288	+ 273	640	803	824
Hull	948	- 357	+ 55	2,253	1,983	2,656
Grimsby	—	- 23	..	23	..	144
Bristol Channel—						
Bristol	788	+ 247	- 287	1,329	2,124	1,520
Newport, Mon	398	- 394	- 798	1,070	2,074	1,920
Cardiff	2,069	- 73	- 915	4,211	6,072	8,376
Swansea	286	- 117	- 185	689	1,053	747
Other Ports—						
Liverpool	9,773	-1,381	-2,244	20,927	22,940	29,710
London	6,102	- 969	- 481	13,173	14,639	15,729
Southampton	4,044	- 75	+1,228	8,163	7,308	7,452
SCOTLAND:						
Leith	393	+ 224	+ 38	562	657	976
Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth	42	- 26	- 57	110	283	517
Glasgow	1,207	- 465	-1,266	2,869	4,278	6,885
IRELAND:						
Dublin	49	- 80	- 44	178	217	132
Belfast	151	- 13	- 71	315	624	437
TOTAL	27,928	-3,820	-5,551	69,676	68,700	83,192

* It will be understood that the numbers given are the numbers of separate engagements, and not of separate individuals.
† Including Avonmouth and Portishead.
‡ Including Barry and Penarth.

EMPLOYMENT OVERSEAS.

[NOTE.—The following reports 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 countries, are, however, not the same as those for the United Kingdom, and therefore the figures quoted below cannot properly be used with those on pp. 133-134 to compare the actual level of employment in the United Kingdom with that in other countries. For further information on the subject of the bases of the unemployment statistics of the various countries see pp. xxiv-xxvi and 8-20 of the Fourth Abstract of Foreign Labour Statistics, (d. 5415 of 1911.)]

GERMANY.*

Employment in January.—A consideration of the various statistical indices for judging the state of the labour market as a whole in January still fails to suggest any improvement. On the contrary, the increasing numbers of persons in receipt of out-of-work donation, of unemployed trade union members and of applicants for work at employment exchanges continued to indicate a strongly marked tendency towards depression, in spite of a seasonal revival of industry, helped forward in many districts by the mild weather.

The number of totally unemployed persons in receipt of out-of-work donation increased from 409,928 on 1st January to 432,318 on 1st February, or by 5.4 per cent.; among men the rise amounted to 6.6 per cent., and among women to 0.2 per cent. only. These totals are exclusive of dependent members of families of unemployed workers, of whom 457,163 were in receipt of allowances on 1st January, and 495,284 on 1st February.

The returns from trade unions indicate increased unemployment among their members during January as compared with December. According to reports received from 39 organisations, with a total membership of 5,707,717, the number out of work at the end of January was 252,658, or 4.4 per cent of the total, as compared with 4.1 per cent. in the preceding month and 3.4 per cent. in January, 1920.

Unions.	Membership reported on at end of Jan., 1921.	Percentage of Membership Unemployed.		
		Jan., 1921.	Dec., 1920.	Jan., 1920.
All Unions making Returns ..	5,707,717	4.4	4.1	3.4
PRINCIPAL UNIONS:—				
Building trade operatives ..	470,602	12.0	10.1	5.9
Painters	52,602	16.4	13.1	4.4
Glass workers	59,453	0.8	2.8	4.4
Metal workers (Soc. Dem.) ..	1,428,650	3.5	3.5	2.2
Engineers and metal workers (Hirsch-Duncker) ..	107,189	1.6	1.7	2.5
Metal workers (Christian) ..	215,929	1.1	1.0	1.7
Textile workers (Soc. Dem.) ..	531,785	4.3	3.3	6.4
Clothing trade workers ..	82,097	2.3	..	..
Boot and shoe makers	80,852	4.3	3.8	1.8
Transport workers	577,016	4.5	3.9	3.3
Printers (book and job)	98,254	1.9	3.2	3.6
Bookbinders	69,535	3.9	3.6	1.4
Saddlers and bagmakers	37,414	11.5	12.5	5.9
Wood workers (Soc. Dem.) ..	360,613	5.0	4.8	1.4
Do. (Christian)	37,545	0.1	0.5	..
Percelain workers	52,593	2.2	3.5	..
Bakers	64,978	9.1	7.5	8.0
Brewery and corn-mill workers ..	72,743	2.2	2.0	2.1
Tobacco workers	59,542	1.0	1.3	2.2
Engineers and stokers	51,599	2.5	2.1	2.0
Factory workers, (irrespective of trade) ..	525,855	3.4	3.7	2.9
Factory and transport workers (Christian) ..	98,598	6.5	1.6	1.8
State and municipal workers ..	270,834	2.5	2.5	1.1

The greatest increase in the number of members unemployed occurred in the building, textile and transport trades; the woodworkers also reported a slight increase. Factory workers, on the other hand, reported fewer members out of work at the end of January. Reports concerning short time were received in regard to the copper-working, textile, boot and shoe, woodworking and clothing trades.

The Employment Exchanges reported a further increase during January in the number of men applying for situations. For every 100 situations registered as vacant there were 257 applications on the average, as against 232 in December. The situation showed some slight improvement as regards women, the applications being 135 per 100 vacancies, as against 143 in December. For both sexes combined there were 210 applications for each 100 vacancies, as compared with 204 in December.

According to returns from 6,341 Sickness Insurance Societies with an aggregate membership of 12,781,958 (8,407,766 males and 4,374,192 females), the number of persons whose premiums for compulsory insurance against sickness were being paid (and who were therefore assumed to be employed) showed no appreciable change between 1st January and 1st February; males increased by 0.3 per cent. and females decreased by 0.6 per cent.

FRANCE.†

Unemployment in February.—The total number of unemployed persons remaining on the live register at employment exchanges in the week ended 26th February was 43,839 (26,952 men and 16,887 women). The total number of

vacancies remaining unfilled was 6,828 (3,166 for men and 3,662 for women). The exchanges succeeded in the same period in placing 16,568 persons in situations (12,672 men and 3,896 women), and in addition employment was found for 347 foreign immigrants.

Out-of-Work Donation.—According to the latest returns received, 8 departmental and 84 municipal unemployment funds were in operation on 26th February, the total number of persons in receipt of out-of-work donation being 61,315 (37,491 men and 23,824 women). Of the total for 26th February, 53,176 were resident in the Seine Department, the large majority being in Paris.

BELGIUM.*

Unemployment in December and January.—Returns relating to December were received by the Belgian Ministry of Industry, Labour and Supplies, from 1,127 unemployment funds with an aggregate membership of 545,732. On the last working day of the month 94,796 of these, or 17.4 per cent. of the total, were out of work.† The corresponding percentage in November was 7.2. The percentage unemployed in the metal and engineering trades was 4.6, in the textile 4.9, in the building 19.2, and in transport 31.1. The aggregate days of unemployment reported in December reached a total of 1,064,469, out-of-work relief being paid in respect of 311,439 of these.

During January 16,503 applications for employment were reported by public employment exchanges, as compared with 15,914 in December, while offers of situations numbered 5,975 (6,415 in December). For every 100 situations vacant there were thus 276 applications, as against 248 in December.

SWITZERLAND.‡

Employment in January.—On 20th December, 1920, the total number of persons wholly unemployed in Switzerland was estimated at 17,624, and that of partially unemployed at 47,636. On 7th February these had increased to 37,042 and 76,236 respectively, and there was stated to be no immediate prospect of the numbers declining. Emergency employment works have been provided in many localities, and a grant of 15 million francs has been made by the Federal authorities. Special educational courses for unemployed have been organised in St. Gall and Zurich, and are in course of preparation at Berne and Basle. During January the applications for employment by men averaged 387 for each 100 situations offered, as compared with 347 in December, while applications by women numbered 243 per 100 vacancies, as compared with 190 in December.

ITALY.§

Unemployment in December.—According to returns received by the Italian National Employment Department in accordance with the Unemployment Insurance Act, the number of persons unemployed rose from 100,758 in October to 107,303 at the end of November, and then fell to 102,156 on 31st December. The number of communes reporting no unemployment fell from 509 in October to 451 in November and 344 in December.¶ The extent to which the principal groups of industries were affected by unemployment in the last two months of the year is shown below:—

Group of Industries.	Number of Persons reported Unemployed.	
	November.	December.
Agricultural	18,108	18,294
Manufacturing	12,179	12,774
Metal	12,981	11,960
Building, etc.	40,636	38,608

According to a recent circular issued by the Italian Minister of Labour the Unemployment Insurance Law is not yet being fully applied.

Out-of-Work Donation.—Under the Decree of 30th December last (see LABOUR GAZETTE for February, p. 89), the payment of out-of-work donation by the State ceased from 1st January, 1921. In order to provide for the large number of unemployed deprived of assistance, a supplementary Decree was issued on 30th January, 1921, which provides that unemployed

* *Revue du Travail*, February, 1921. Brussels.
† Later returns, though not complete, indicate a higher percentage of unemployed among insured workers on 31st January.
‡ *Eidgenössisches Arbeitsamt: Monatsbericht*, January, 1921.
§ Information supplied by the International Labour Office.
¶ The number of unemployed at the end of January, 1921, is stated to have been approximately 110,000, but fuller details are not available. (*Daily Intelligence*, 4th March, 1921, International Labour Office.)
¶ *Battaglia Sindacali*, 12th February, 1921.

* *Reichs-Arbeitsblatt*, 28th February, 1921. Ministry of Labour, Berlin.
† *Journal Officiel*, 5th March, 1921.

persons liable to compulsory insurance, and in respect of whom the 24 fortnightly contributions entitling them to out-of-work assistance have not been paid, through no fault or negligence of their own, may receive out-of-work donation for a period not exceeding 45 days between 1st February and 30th June of the present year. In order to be entitled to this donation workmen and employees must show proof that unemployment insurance contributions have been paid in respect of any periods of employment after 1st June, 1920, or, in the case of agricultural workers, after 1st July, 1920.

HOLLAND (AMSTERDAM).*

Unemployment in January.—A statement supplied by the Amsterdam Municipal Statistical Bureau shows that 24.5 per cent. of the members of trade unions affiliated to the State Unemployment Insurance Fund in that city were out of work in January, as compared with 19.2 per cent. in the preceding month, and 8.0 per cent. in December, 1919.† These figures include diamond workers, of whom 86.3 per cent. were unemployed in January, 70 per cent. in December, 1920, and 15.3 per cent. in December, 1919.†

SWEDEN.

Unemployment in December.—According to *Sociala Meddelanden*, No. 3, 1921, the proportion of members unemployed in Swedish trade unions reporting at the end of December was 15.8 per cent., as compared with 7.0 per cent. on 30th November, and 7.2 per cent. on 1st January, 1921.

NORWAY.‡

Unemployment in December.—The percentage of members reported as unemployed at the end of December in certain trade unions making returns to the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics was 6.5 as compared with 3.1 in the previous month, and 2.8 in December, 1919:—

Group of Trades.	Membership.			Percentage Unemployed.		
	Dec. 31, 1920.	Nov. 30, 1920.	Dec. 31, 1919.	Dec. 31, 1920.	Nov. 30, 1920.	Dec. 31, 1919.
	Bricklayers and masons (Christiania)	919	918	887	25.9	7.1	27.5
Carpenters, etc.	1,339	1,371	1,474	11.9	6.8	5.5
Painters (Christiania) ..	637	733	695	6.0	3.0	5.5
Metal workers	10,073	10,135	10,308	4.1	2.2	1.4
Boot and shoe makers ..	1,065	939	1,006	6.2	1.8	0.6
Printers	2,669	2,587	2,507	7.2	3.5	0.4
Bookbinders (Christiania) ..	877	885	932	3.5	1.8	0.5
Cabinetmakers	802	807	826	9.6	3.1	0.5
Bakers (Christiania)	590	590	510	4.4	4.2	1.2
Total	18,671	18,712	18,894	6.5	3.1	2.8

CANADA.§

Unemployment in November.—Returns relating to unemployment in November were received by the Canadian Department of Labour from 1,493 labour organisations, having a total membership of 216,285. For all occupations reporting, 10.01 per cent. of the members were unemployed at the end of November, as compared with 5.99 per cent. in October and 3.58 per cent. in November, 1919.

Group of Trades.	Membership reporting on 30th Nov., 1920.	Percentage Unemployed at end of Month.		
		Nov., 1920.	Oct., 1920.	Nov., 1919.
All trades reporting..	216,285	10.01	5.99	3.58
PRINCIPAL UNIONS.				
Building and construction ..	30,318	12.44	3.70	5.82
Mining, quarrying, and refining of ores ..	11,164	0.58	0.11	1.14
Metals, machinery, and conveyances ..	20,065	13.46	4.67	5.73
Textiles, carpets and cordage ..	4,823	2.07	0.55	0.06
Clothing and laundering ..	8,208	59.23	49.21	0.44
Food, tobacco and liquors ..	2,531	6.84	2.64	1.58
Leather, boots, shoes and rubbers ..	3,853	7.61	20.63	0.47
Steam railways ..	57,850	2.86	0.53	1.17
Trams and electric railways ..	9,897	1.32	0.47	0.24
Navigation, seafaring, dock labour, etc. ..	11,363	2.76	4.54	17.49
Teamsters and chauffeurs..	2,643	1.17	0.56	3.43
Pulp, paper and fibre ..	4,519	1.77	2.17	2.23
Printing, publishing and paper goods ..	9,178	2.57	2.23	1.05

Employment in January.—For the week ending 29th January employment reports were tabulated by the Department of Labour, Ottawa, from 5,258 firms with a total pay-roll of about 615,000 persons. As compared with the previous week fourteen industrial groups show additions to staffs totalling 3,154, but eighteen show reductions aggregating 3,389, a net decrease of 235, and as compared with the week ended 17th January, 1920, a decrease of nearly 10 per cent.

* Information supplied through the courtesy of the Municipal Statistica Bureau of Amsterdam.
 † Data for the corresponding month (January) of 1920 are not available.
 ‡ Information supplied through the courtesy of the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics.
 § The Labour Gazette, January, 1921. The Canadian Department of Labour, Ottawa.

UNITED STATES.*

Employment in January.—The following tabular statements showing the volume of employment in representative manufacturing establishments in fourteen selected industries (including coal mining) in the United States in January, 1921, as compared with (a) the preceding month and (b) January, 1920, are compiled from reports received by the United States Bureau of Labour Statistics:—

(a) January, 1921, as compared with December, 1920.

Industry.	Number of Establishments reporting.	Number of Workpeople.			Earnings.†		
		Dec., 1920.	Jan., 1921.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-).	Dec., 1920.	Jan., 1921.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-).
					Per cent.	£	£
Coal mining ..	78	20,526	20,354	- 2.3	393,582	294,934	- 25.1
Iron and steel ..	105	132,485	108,949	- 17.8	2,200,906	1,693,218	- 23.1
Railway and tramway car building and repairing.	45	48,577	42,573	- 12.4	777,986	620,871	- 20.2
Automobile manufacturing	40	24,377	24,977	+ 2.5	151,612	148,217	- 2.2
Cotton manufacturing	57	52,074	48,833	- 6.2	187,802	169,764	- 9.6
Cotton finishing	17	10,089	9,776	- 3.1	51,228	42,837	- 16.4
Hosiery and underwear.	63	15,882	15,022	- 5.4	57,966	47,456	- 18.1
Woolen ..	53	23,915	23,608	- 1.3	119,576	110,780	- 7.4
Silk ..	45	15,336	14,676	- 4.3	140,303	127,761	- 8.9
Men's ready-made clothing	48	16,014	18,423	+ 15.0	93,897	103,050	+ 9.7
Boots and shoes	74	41,604	41,180	- 1.0	201,108	189,442	- 5.8
Cigar manufacturing.	53	16,164	15,016	- 7.1	70,380	60,314	- 14.3
Leather manufacturing.	33	11,690	11,421	- 2.3	62,902	53,786	- 14.5
Paper making..	54	31,486	29,857	- 5.8	177,531	156,436	- 11.9

The figures in the above Table show that in twelve industries there was a decrease in the number of persons employed in January as compared with December, and in two an increase. The greatest decrease (17.8 per cent.) is shown in iron and steel, and the greatest increase (15 per cent.) in men's ready-made clothing.

Decreased aggregate earnings are shown in thirteen industries, the most important being 25.1 per cent. in coal mining, and 23.1 per cent. in iron and steel. An increase of 9.7 per cent. is reported in men's ready-made clothing.

(b) January, 1921, as compared with January, 1920.

Industry.	Number of Establishments reporting.	Number of Workpeople.			Earnings.†		
		Jan., 1920.	Jan., 1921.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-).	Jan., 1920.	Jan., 1921.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-).
					Per cent.	£	£
Coal mining ..	83	22,272	21,564	- 3.2	312,944	315,949	+ 0.3
Iron and steel ..	103	143,062	106,876	- 25.4	2,110,579	1,689,064	- 20.9
Railway and tramway car building and repairing.	46	47,199	44,613	- 5.5	593,877	551,059	+ 9.6
Automobile manufacturing	39	73,673	26,044	- 64.6	479,866	174,569	- 63.6
Cotton manufacturing	56	67,878	49,658	- 14.2	249,724	171,932	- 31.2
Cotton finishing	17	13,352	9,776	- 26.8	67,885	42,837	- 36.9
Hosiery and underwear	61	31,707	14,503	- 54.3	125,894	45,908	- 63.5
Woolen ..	53	51,966	23,608	- 54.6	276,307	110,780	- 59.9
Silk ..	46	20,307	15,015	- 26.1	193,350	130,454	- 32.5
Men's ready-made clothing	43	29,036	18,177	- 37.4	216,037	101,665	- 52.9
Boots and shoes	81	69,629	46,568	- 33.1	349,248	203,001	- 41.9
Cigar manufacturing.	51	16,894	14,821	- 12.3	72,945	59,774	- 18.1
Leather manufacturing.	32	17,172	10,863	- 37.9	91,639	50,922	- 44.4
Paper making..	53	30,994	28,812	- 7.0	163,228	151,263	- 7.3

Comparing the figures with those for January, 1920, every industry shows a decrease in the number of employed, the greatest appearing in automobile manufacturing (64.6 per cent.), and the woolen industry (54.6 per cent.). Twelve of the fourteen industries show a decrease in the aggregate earnings in January, 1921; in automobile manufacturing it amounted to 63.6 per cent., and in hosiery and underwear to 63.5 per cent.

Massachusetts.‡

Unemployment in December.—Returns from 1,027 trade unions, with an aggregate membership of 199,022, indicate that 28.9 per cent. of the members were unemployed for all causes on 31st December, 1920, as compared with 17.1 per cent. on 30th September and 18.8 per cent. at the end of June. (These figures include unemployment due to labour disputes, sickness, &c., as well as that due to want of work.)

* Information supplied through the courtesy of the Federal Commissioner of Labour Statistics, Washington.
 † The figures represent the aggregate wages bill for two weeks in the case of coal mining, the iron and steel, the railway and tramway car building and repairing and the silk industries, and for one week in other cases.
 ‡ Daily Intelligence, 24th February. (International Labour Office), Geneva.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES.

STATISTICS from the Employment Exchanges during the four weeks ended 25th February showed that, since 28th January, there was an average weekly increase of about 38,000 in the number of workpeople on the Live Register. The number on the Live Register rose from 1,065,320 at 28th January to 1,218,218 on 25th February. This increase was common to all departments, men accounting for 117,205, women, 32,463, and juveniles, 3,230. The average weekly number of applications from workpeople during the four weeks ended 25th February was 157,698, compared with a weekly average of 169,245 during the four weeks ended 28th January.

The following Table summarises the work of the Exchanges during the four weeks ended 25th February, 1921:—

Week ended	Applications by		Vacancies Filled.	Applications outstanding at end of week.	
	Work-people.	Employers.		From Workpeople (Live Register).	From Employers.
28th Jan., 1921	166,121	25,706	20,623	1,065,320	47,417
4th Feb., 1921	156,987	24,493	19,710	1,111,314	45,337
11th Feb. "	154,097	23,266	18,744	1,148,883	45,421
18th Feb. "	160,365	24,307	19,700	1,183,133	43,352
25th Feb. "	159,843	23,772	19,624	1,218,218	42,263
TOTAL (4 weeks)	630,792	95,838	77,778		

Of the total number of workpeople on the Live Register at 25th February, 802,423 were men, 51,143 were boys, 310,222 were women, and 54,430 were girls. Of the 42,263 vacancies unfilled, 14,574 were for men, 23,581 for women, and 4,108 for juveniles. The daily average number of vacancies notified shows an increase of 3.9 per cent. and the daily average of vacancies filled an increase of 7.5 per cent. as compared with the preceding period.

Details of the figures given above are not at present available, but the outstanding features of the work of the Employment Exchanges during the four weeks ended 4th February, 1921, are dealt with in the following notes:—

Applications from Workpeople.—The daily average number of applications from workpeople (25,795) during the four weeks ended 4th February showed a slight increase (0.3 per cent.) over the previous month. Of this daily average, men accounted for 15,385, women for 7,170, and juveniles for 3,240—increases of 0.7 per cent. and 5.0 per cent. respectively in the case of men and juveniles, and a decrease of 2.3 per cent. in the case of women. Compared with last month, there were increases in engineering and ironfounding (9.8 per cent.), shipbuilding (9.6 per cent.), miscellaneous metal trades (3.1 per cent.), and construction of vehicles (17.1 per cent.), and slight decreases in the case of building and construction of works, commercial and clerical occupations, textiles, and certain less important occupations. In the women's department there were slight increases in most of the more important industries, the principal exceptions being the textile and the dress (including boot and shoe) trades, in which decreases of 36.9 per cent. and 19.2 per cent. respectively were recorded.

Of the total applications from men, 18.2 per cent. were in engineering and ironfounding, 13.1 per cent. in building and construction of works, 12.3 per cent. in the transport trades, 8.9 per cent. in miscellaneous metal trades, and 13.8 per cent. general labourers. In the women's department, 22.9 per cent. of the total applications were in domestic service and 21.7 per cent. in the textile trades.

Vacancies Notified.—The average daily number of vacancies notified by employers during the four weeks ended 4th February was 3,779, as compared with 3,454 during the previous four weeks. Of this daily average, 2,058 were for men, 1,229 for women, and 492 for juveniles—increases of 13.0 per cent., 3.6 per cent., and 10.3 per cent. respectively, compared with the previous month.

In the men's department, there was an increase in the number of vacancies notified in engineering and ironfounding (65.4 per cent.), in building and construction of works (34.1 per cent.), and shipbuilding (33.8 per cent.), but in the transport trades there was a decrease of over 29 per cent. Of the total vacancies notified for men, 38.8 per cent. were in building and construction of works, 8.3 per cent. in engineering and ironfounding, 4.4 per cent. in the transport trades, and 26.5 per cent. as general labourers.

In the women's department, the vacancies notified in the dress (including boot and shoe) and textile trades increased by 91 per cent. and 55 per cent. respectively; decreases occurred in the majority of other important occupations. Of the total vacancies notified for women, 23,345 or 79.2 per cent. were in domestic service.

Vacancies Filled.—The average daily number of vacancies filled during the period ended 4th February was 2,960, as compared with 2,630 during the previous four weeks and 3,911 during the corresponding period a year ago. Compared with the previous month, the vacancies filled by men,

women and juveniles increased by 12.8 per cent., 10.4 per cent., and 15.6 per cent. respectively.

The proportion of vacancies filled to vacancies notified during the period was 78.3 per cent., as compared with 76.2 during the previous month. Of the vacancies filled by men 39.1 per cent. were in building and construction of works, 7.9 per cent. in engineering and ironfounding, and 27.7 per cent. as general labourers. In the women's department, domestic service accounted for 75.6 per cent. of the vacancies filled.

An increase of 40.4 per cent. occurred in the number of men placed in building and construction of works; in engineering and ironfounding and shipbuilding increases were also recorded, while the remainder of the more important industries show little change compared with the previous month. In the women's department vacancies filled in domestic service increased by 11.6 per cent., but in most of the principal occupations a decrease was recorded.

Juveniles.—With reference to juveniles, 35,309 applications were received from boys and 5,573 vacancies were notified for boys. Of the vacancies notified, 4,921 or 88.3 per cent. were filled. Of the total vacancies filled, 33.5 per cent. were in the transport trades, 12.9 per cent. in engineering and ironfounding, and 10.9 per cent. in commercial and clerical occupations.

The number of applications received from girls was 42,453. The number of vacancies notified was 6,242, of which number 5,027 or 80.5 per cent. were filled. Of the total vacancies filled, domestic service accounted for 48.6 per cent., commercial and clerical occupations for 9.5 per cent., and the transport trades for 7.4 per cent.

The proportion of vacancies filled to vacancies notified for boys among the more important trades was greatest in engineering (93.8 per cent.), commercial occupations (92.7 per cent.), transport trades (87.6 per cent.), and building (85.0 per cent.). In the case of girls, the following percentages of vacancies notified were filled in the principal occupations: Textiles, 93.1 per cent.; transport trades, 90.7 per cent.; commercial and clerical, 90.5 per cent., and shop assistants, 87.1 per cent.

Of the total vacancies (9,948) filled by juveniles, 2,063 or 20.6 per cent. were filled by applicants who obtained their first situation since leaving school.

The following Tables show, for men and for women, the number of applications from workpeople, vacancies notified and vacancies filled during the four weeks ended 4th February, and the number remaining on the Live Register at that date in the principal groups of trades:—

Group of Trades.*	Men.			
	Applications from work-people.	Live Register.	Vacancies Notified.	Vacancies Filled.
Building ..	42,560	69,470	6,561	5,367
Construction of Works ..	5,828	8,650	12,597	11,726
Engineering and Ironfounding ..	67,255	132,590	4,117	3,450
Shipbuilding ..	23,630	34,369	2,078	1,941
Construction of Vehicles ..	2,314	4,405	146	125
Miscellaneous Metal Trades ..	32,755	54,794	169	144
Domestic Service ..	5,655	11,639	753	554
Commercial and Clerical ..	8,207	15,472	1,956	1,689
Conveyance of Men, Goods, and Messages.	45,594	84,448	2,160	1,873
Agriculture ..	4,554	9,992	1,200	913
Textiles ..	15,075	37,869	179	148
Dress (including Boots and Shoes).	10,676	26,354	219	168
Food, Tobacco, Drink and Lodgings.	4,396	7,902	146	123
General Labourers ..	50,833	107,781	13,102	12,093
All other Trades ..	49,913	80,197	3,990	3,374
TOTAL ..	369,245	685,912	49,373	43,668
Women.				
Engineering and Ironfounding ..	8,106	17,764	231	185
Miscellaneous Metal Trades ..	6,919	13,050	182	125
Domestic Service:—				
Resident domestic servants	7,018	4,835	10,198	2,797
Non-resident domestic servants.	11,706	10,450	4,782	3,412
Other domestic offices and services.	20,997	22,500	8,365	6,927
Commercial and Clerical ..	8,552	11,598	1,437	1,151
Conveyance of Men, Goods and Messages ..	4,910	8,276	168	

TRADE DISPUTES.*

Number, Magnitude and Duration.—The number of trade disputes involving a stoppage of work, reported to the Department as beginning in February, was 63, as compared with 44 in the previous month, and 122 in February, 1920. In these new disputes over 14,000 workpeople were directly involved, and nearly 1,000 indirectly involved (i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, though not themselves parties to the disputes). In addition to the numbers involved in new disputes, nearly 13,000† workpeople were involved, either directly or indirectly, in 49 disputes which began before February, and were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The total number of disputes in progress in February was thus 112, involving about 28,000† workpeople, as compared with 23,000† workpeople involved in 93 disputes in progress in January, and 110,000 workpeople involved in 169 disputes in progress in February, 1920.

The following Table classifies the disputes by groups of trades:—

Groups of Trades.	Number of Disputes in progress in February.			Number of Work-people in all Disputes in progress in Feb.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress in Feb.
	Started before 1st Feb.	Started in Feb.	Total.		
Building	11	13	24	3,000	48,000
Mining & Quarrying ..	7	5	12	3,000	28,000
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding.	9	22	31	17,000†	255,000
Other Trades	22	23	45	5,000	47,000
Total, Feb., 1921.	49	63	112	28,000†	378,000
Total, Jan., 1921.	49	44	93	23,000†	408,000
Total, Feb., 1920.	47	122	169	110,000	450,000

Of the 378,000 working days lost in February by all disputes in progress, over 236,000 were lost by disputes which began before February and were still in progress at the beginning of that month, and nearly 142,000 by disputes which began in the month.

PRINCIPAL TRADE DISPUTES IN PROGRESS IN FEBRUARY, 1921.

Occupations and Locality.†	Approximate Number of Work-people Involved.		Date when Dispute		Cause or Object.‡	Result.‡
	Directly.	Indirectly.‡	Began.	Ended.		
BUILDING TRADES:—						
Building trades workpeople—Belfast.	1,500	..	1921. 1 Jan. ..	..	Against proposed reduction in wages and increase in working hours.	No settlement reported.
Building trades workpeople—Bideford.	200	..	6 Jan. ..	5 Feb. ..	For advance in wages of 1½d. per hour.	Immediate advance of 1d. per hour granted, with further advance of ½d. per hour in March, men agreeing to a modification of the working rule as to "walking time."
Painters—Aberdeen.	300	..	11 Feb. ..	..	Lockout falling acceptance of proposed new working agreement without concession of a wages advance which had been recommended by the Joint Industrial Council, under its grading scheme.	No settlement reported; work-people in other building occupations struck on 10th March.
COAL MINING:—						
Miners, etc.—Hamilton (near).	2,000	..	11 Feb. ..	19 Feb. ..	Dispute arising out of dismissal of certain workmen.	Work resumed on advice of Trade Union officials.
METAL, ENGINEERING AND SHIP-BUILDING TRADES:—						
Shipyard joiners and carpenters, and other shipyard workers—Great Britain.	10,000§	†	1920. 1 Dec. ..	..	Against proposed reduction in wages of 12s. per week.	No settlement reported.
Railway locomotive fitters, erectors, turners, smiths, labourers, etc.—Doncaster, etc.	923	190	13 Dec. ..	15 Feb. ..	For advance in wages and other concessions.	Men accepted modified advance applying only to fitters, turners, and smiths employed in running sheds.
Nut and bolt workers—Black Country.	5,000	..	1921. 9 Feb. ..	..	Against proposed reduction in wages.	No settlement reported.
Fitters, smiths, strikers, etc. (spring and axle manufacture)—Birmingham (near).	1,000	..	21 Feb. ..	..	Against proposed reduction in wages.	No settlement reported.
OTHER TRADES:—						
Woolen and worsted weavers, overlookers, warp dressers, twist-ers, menders, etc.—Bradford.	184	212	7 Jan. ..	18 Feb. ..	Lockout in consequence of alleged refusal of trade-unionists to work peaceably with non-unionists.	Agreement effected that there be no interference with non-unionists and that no collection of Trade Union contributions be made inside the works; employers reserving the right to determine whether six of the unionists be re-employed. Work resumed on old terms.
Trawl fishermen—Grimsby ..	1,000||	..	29 Jan. ..	10 Feb. ..	Demand by skippers and mates for increased share in earnings of boats.	Settlement effected in favour of workpeople.
Employees of co-operative society—Darlington.	356	..	7 Feb. ..	8 Feb. ..	Dispute respecting date to which wages advance to shop managers and manageresses should be made retrospective.	Carter in question reinstated; employees to be at liberty to join which Trade Union they prefer.
Employees of co-operative society—Ashton-under-Lyne.	281	..	28 Feb. ..	28 Feb. ..	For reinstatement of a carter, a member of the co-operative employees' Trade Union, who had been dismissed for refusing to join a road transport workers' Trade Union.	

* 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.

† Considerable numbers of other workers are reported to have been rendered idle as a result of the strike of ship joiners, but the information at present available is insufficient to enable a trustworthy estimate of the total number to be made.

‡ The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople "indirectly involved," i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes. The statements of cause and result do not apply to these persons.

§ Estimated number of workpeople originally involved. A number of joiners, etc., have since obtained work in the building trades.

|| Estimated number. Men were imported from other ports, and after the first few days the sailings of boats were very little affected by the strike.

Causes.—Of the 63 new disputes, 11, directly involving about 1,200 workpeople, arose on demands for advances in wages, 26, directly involving 8,700 workpeople, against proposed reductions in wages; 7, directly involving 400 workpeople, on other wages questions; 9, directly involving 2,700 workpeople, on questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons; and 10, directly involving 1,200 workpeople, on other questions.

Results.—During February settlements were effected in the case of 26 new disputes, directly involving about 4,400 workpeople, and 20 old disputes, directly involving about 3,000 workpeople. Of these disputes, 10, directly involving 1,100 workpeople, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 21, directly involving 4,500 workpeople, in favour of the employers; and 15, directly involving 1,800 workpeople, were compromised. In the case of 6 disputes, directly involving 500 workpeople, work was resumed pending negotiations.

DISPUTES IN FIRST TWO MONTHS OF 1920 AND 1921.

Groups of Trades.	Jan. and Feb., 1920.			Jan. and Feb., 1921.		
	No. of Disputes.	Number of Work-people involved in all Disputes in progress.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.	No. of Disputes.	Number of Work-people involved in all Disputes in progress.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.
Building	33	10,000	87,000	22	4,000	95,000
Mining and Quarrying ..	40	68,000	203,000	12	6,000	50,000
Engineering and Shipbuilding.	25	74,000	1,445,000	14	14,000†	473,000
Other Metal	14	25,000	125,000	17	7,000	75,000
Textile	28	9,000	52,000	5	1,000	25,000
Transport	17	9,000	73,000	2	1,000	6,000
Other Trades	39	16,000	251,000	30	4,000	49,000
Employees of Public Authorities.	12	1,000	7,000	5	1,000	19,000
TOTAL	208	207,000	2,243,000	107	38,000†	788,000

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.

[Based on Returns from Employers and Workpeople.]

Rates of Wages.

In the industries covered by the Department's statistics (see Note in next column) the changes in rates of wages arranged to come into operation in February, with effect either from that or the previous month, affected about 1,625,000 workpeople, of whom 70,000 received increases amounting to £8,700 on their weekly wages, and over 1,550,000 sustained decreases amounting to nearly £450,000 a week. The groups of industries in which the work-people affected by these changes were employed are as shown below:—

Groups of Trades.	Approximate Number of Work-people affected by		Amount of Changes in Weekly Wages.	
	Increases.	Decreases.	Increases.	Decreases.
Mining and Quarrying ..	—	1,239,000	—	413,700
Metal	29,000	88,000	2,100	81,100
Textile	12,000	209,000	500	25,100
Other	24,000	22,000	6,100	2,800
TOTAL	70,000	1,656,000	8,700	449,700

In mining and quarrying, 1,200,000 coal miners sustained decreases in wages amounting to 1s. 6d. per shift or day for those 18 years of age and over, 9d. for those 16 and 17 years of age, and 6½d. for those under 16. These decreases, added to those which took effect in January (see page 93 of the February LABOUR GAZETTE), brought wages back to the level at which they stood prior to the strike of October-November, 1920. Similar decreases took effect in the wages of coke oven workers and fireclay, etc., miners in certain districts. There were also decreases in the wages of ironstone miners in the Cleveland district, where wages were reduced by 2s., 1s., and 9d. per shift or day for workers of 18 years and over, 16 and 17 years, and under 16 years respectively, and in Lincolnshire, where there was a reduction, under the sliding scale, of 6½ per cent. in basis rates.

The principal changes in the metal trades affected iron and steel workers. Under the operation of sliding scale arrangements by which wages fluctuate with the selling price of the finished product steel melters in England and Scotland had their wages increased by 1½ per cent. on basis rates, while wages were reduced by 5 per cent. on basis rates for iron puddlers and iron and steel millmen in the Midlands, and steel sheet millmen and galvanisers of iron and steel sheets in various districts, and by 6½ per cent. for blastfurnacemen in Lincolnshire. The wages of blastfurnacemen in the West of Scotland were increased, as the result of the adoption of new basis rates. Tinplate workers in South Wales sustained decreases in wages under the sliding scale adopted in January, and there was a reduction of 4s. 9d. per week in the wages of adult women employed on time work in the screwmaking trade in the Birmingham district, with proportionate decreases for piece-workers and for girls.

In the textile group, the wages of about 200,000 woollen and worsted operatives in Yorkshire, Lancashire and Wales were reduced by 10 per cent. on basis rates for time-workers and by smaller percentages for piece-workers, under sliding scale arrangements by which wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices and rents. Under similar arrangements there were decreases in the wages of carpet workers and

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING FEBRUARY, 1921.

NOTE.—The following Table relates mainly to changes which came into operation in February, with effect either from that month or from earlier dates. Certain earlier changes, however, of which particulars were received during February, are also included.]

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change.
Building	ENGLAND—Bideford	7th Feb.	Bricklayers, masons, carpenters and joiners, slaters, plumbers, plasterers, painters and labourers.	Increase of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: tradesmen, 1s. 10d., labourers, 1s. 7d.
	SCOTLAND*—Airdrie, Alexandria, Bellshill, Broughty Ferry, Clydebank, Coatbridge, Dumbar-ton, Dundee, Dunfer-mine, Glasgow, Gourrock, Greenock, Hamilton, Helensburgh, Irvine, Johnstone, Kilmaolm, Kirkintilloch, Mother-well, Paisley, Port Glasgow, Renfrew, Rothessy, Uddingston, and Vale of Leven, Carnoustie, Gullane, and North Berwick.	1st pay after 25 Jan.	Painters	Increase of 1d. per hour (2s. 3d. to 2s. 4d.).

* The increase took effect under a Decision of the Industrial Court, and an agreement subsequently arrived at by the Scottish National Painters and Decorators Joint Council representing the employers and workpeople, by which the various towns were divided into 3 grades with maximum rates of 2/4d., 2/3d., and 2/2d. per hour for grades A, B and C respectively. A number of towns other than those shown above were included in the grading scheme, but information is not yet available to show whether the maximum rates fixed are actually being paid at towns other than those mentioned.

machine calico printers in various districts, linen workers at Kirkcaldy, and silk spinners at Brighthouse, while there was a small increase in the wages of workpeople in the dyeing, bleaching, etc., trades in Scotland. New minimum rates were fixed under the Trade Boards Acts for work-people in the machine-made lace and net finishing trade in Great Britain, and the rope, twine and net trade in Ireland.

In trades other than the above the principal changes in February affected painters in Scotland, who obtained increases of varying amounts at all the principal towns except Aberdeen and Inverness, as the result of the adoption of a national grading scheme, and workpeople in the dyeing and dry cleaning trade in England and Scotland, whose wages were reduced by amounts varying from 1s. to 2s. per week. Under sliding scale arrangements there was an increase in the wages of workpeople employed in the non-trading departments of various local authorities in London, and a decrease in the wages of workpeople in London electricity supply undertakings.

Of the changes taking effect in February, 8, affecting 10,000 workpeople, were arranged by arbitration; 42, affecting nearly 1,590,000 workpeople, took effect under sliding scales; and the remaining 20 changes, affecting over 28,000 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople, or their representatives, or took effect as the result of Orders under the Trade Boards Acts. In only 6 cases, involving less than 1,000 workpeople, were the changes preceded by disputes causing stoppages of work.

CHANGES TAKING EFFECT IN JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 1921.

The following Table summarises the effect of changes in January and February so far as particulars are available. Increases amounting to nearly £13,000 in the weekly wages of about 75,000 workpeople, which were arranged in January, to have effect from various dates in 1920, are not included in these figures:—

Groups of Trades.	Number of Work-people affected.		Amount of Net Change per week.	
	Increases.	Decreases.	Increases.	Decreases.
Building	7,300	1,800	1,700	800
Mining and Quarrying ..	8,800	1,240,700	1,100	551,300
Iron and Steel Smelting and Manufacture.	57,300	88,000	7,300	8,800
Engineering, Shipbuilding and Metal.	9,300	18,100	1,700	5,100
Textile	84,000	209,000	1,400	49,800
Transport	471,500	—	25,200	—
Other	50,500	22,800	12,900	3,400
TOTAL	688,700	1,580,000	51,300	619,500

Hours of Labour.

Only three changes in recognised hours of labour were reported during February, details of which are given in the Table below.

[NOTE.—The statistics given above, both as regards wages and hours, exclusive of changes affecting Government employees, domestic servants, seamen, agricultural labourers, shop assistants and clerks, for which classes the information available is not sufficient to provide a basis for statistics. Details of changes in current rates of shop assistants and clerks, however, so far as reported to the Department, are included in the Table below.]

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING FEBRUARY, 1921—(continued).

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Includes sections for Building and Allied Trades, Mining and Quarrying, Coal Mining, Coke and By-product Manufacture, Fireclay, Gypsum Mining, Iron Mining, and Limestone Quarrying.

* The increase took effect under a Decision of the Industrial Court, and an Agreement subsequently arrived at by the Scottish National Painters and Decorators' Joint Council... † Including the coalfields of Cumberland, South Yorkshire, North Staffordshire, Cannock Chase, South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire...

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING FEBRUARY, 1921—(continued).

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Includes sections for Iron and Steel Smelting and Manufacture, Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades, Ship Building and Ship Repairing, Light Castings Manufacture, Galvanising of Iron and Steel Sheets, Tin Plate Manufacture, and Screw Manufacture.

* The change took effect under Decision, No. 609, of the Industrial Court, dated 2 February, 1921, with retrospective payment from the date shown. † The change took effect under Decision, No. 618, of the Industrial Court, dated 9 February, 1921, with retrospective payment from the date shown.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING FEBRUARY, 1921—(continued).

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
OTHER METAL TRADES—(continued).				
Sheet Metal Working.	Halifax and District ..	Feb.	Sheet metal workers and braziers..	Decrease of 3d. per hour (2s. 3d. to 2s.).
Nut and Bolt Manufacture.	Halesowen and District ..	Feb.	Blank bolt workers	Decrease of 10 per cent. on piece price list, leaving wages from 210 to 250 per cent. above pre-war prices.
Musical Instrument Making.	London	Pay preceding 1st pay day in Feb.	Military musical instrument makers— Timeworkers	Decrease, under sliding scale, of 1d. per hour. Minimum hourly rates after change 2s. 1½d. and 2s. 2½d. for brass instrument makers; 2s. 1½d. for drum makers; 2s. 2½d. for wood wind and saxophone makers; 2s. 0½d. for brass polishers, finishers and other workers (except improvers); and 1s. 7½d. and 1s. 9d. for improvers.
			Pieceworkers	Decrease, under sliding scale, of 4½ per cent. on piece price list of December, 1919.
TEXTILE TRADES.				
Sheet Metal Working.	Bradford, Dewsbury, Halifax, and Huddersfield.	Pay preceding 1st pay day in March.	Wool sorters	"Cost of living wage" reduced, under sliding scale, from 165 per cent. to 155 per cent. on current basic rates* for timeworkers, and from 119'482 per cent. to 112'24 per cent. for pieceworkers (leaving wages 133'46 per cent. above the standardised peak rate for English wool). Total rate after change for timeworkers, 101s. 10½d.
			Mohair and alpaca sorters	"Cost of living wage" reduced, under sliding scale, from 165 per cent. to 155 per cent. on current basic rates* for timeworkers, and from 181'50 per cent. to 171'75 per cent. for pieceworkers. Total rate after change for timeworkers, 101s. 10½d.
Musical Instrument Making.	West Riding of Yorkshire.	Pay preceding 1st pay day in March.	Workpeople employed in the wool carbonising industry.	"Cost of living wage" reduced, under sliding scale, from 165 per cent. to 155 per cent. on current basic rates, subject to a maximum decrease of 3s. 5½d. per week. Total day work rates after change: skilled men, 88s.; warehousemen, 88s. 1d.; semi-skilled men, 82s. 9d.; unskilled men, 78s. 8d.
			Workpeople employed in the wool-combing and wool scouring industries (including warehousemen, but excluding overlookers, mechanics, firemen, &c.).	"Cost of living wage" reduced, under sliding scale, from 165 per cent. to 155 per cent. on current basic rates, subject to a maximum decrease of 3s. 5½d. per week. Total rates after change on day turn:—Men: bowl minders, with dryer, 86s. 8d., without dryer, 85s. 4d.; card grinders, wood cards, 88s. 11d., iron cards, 94s. 1d.; comb minders with noll, 85s. 9d., without noll, 83s. 5d.; card jobbers (7 or more), 85s. 4d.; warehousemen, 88s.; others, 78s. 10d. to 84s. 1d.;—Women: comb minders, 64s. 1d. to 60s. 4d.; others, 52s. 10d. to 56s.
Woollen and Worsted Industry.	Yorkshire	Pay preceding 1st pay day in March.	Workpeople employed in the worsted spinning industry (including yarn warehousemen, but excluding overlookers, engine-men, firemen, &c.).	"Cost of living wage" reduced, under sliding scale, from 165 per cent. to 155 per cent. on current basic rates* for timeworkers, and for pieceworkers from 138'30 per cent. to 128'04 per cent. for males, and from 143'47 per cent. to 134'78 per cent. for females. Total rate after change for yarn warehousemen, 84s. 8½d.
	West Riding of Yorkshire	Pay preceding 1st pay day in March.	Woolcarding and combing overlookers, and worsted drawing, spinning, twisting, winding, warping, and reeling overlookers, improvers and apprentices.	"Cost of living wage" reduced, under sliding scale, from 165 per cent. to 155 per cent. on current basic rates.* Total minimum rate after change for overlookers, 114s. 7d.
Woollen and Worsted Industry.	Yorkshire and Lancashire.	Pay preceding 1st pay day in March.	Workpeople employed in woollen spinning, woollen and worsted manufacturing, and mungo and shoddy industries (including dyers, millers, scourers, &c. employed by manufacturers, but excluding engine-men, firemen, &c.).	"Cost of living wage" reduced, under sliding scale, from 165 per cent. to 155 per cent. on current basic rates for timeworkers, and for pieceworkers from 138'30 per cent. to 128'04 per cent. for males, and from 143'47 per cent. to 134'78 per cent. for females, and from 107'61 per cent. to 101'09 per cent. for pressers and blanket raisers (except those employed on rigs, who receive the same decrease as other pieceworkers). Minimum total rates after change in manufacturing section: Men 21 years and over: Scheduled, 84s. 9d.; unscheduled (labourers, oddmen, &c.) 81s. 4½d.; women 18 years and over, 49s. 10d.
	Yorkshire	Pay preceding 1st pay day in March.	Enginemen, firemen, and greasers employed in the woollen and worsted industries.	"Cost of living wage" reduced, under sliding scale, to 60s. 2d. per week reduced, under sliding scale, to 56s. 6½d. per week. Total minimum wages after change: firemen and greasers: day shift, 89s. 0½d. or 89s. 11d., night shift, 92s. 5d. or 92s. 8d.; enginemen on ordinary time rates: day shift, 92s. 5d. or 92s. 8d., night shift, 94s. 11d. or 98s. 4½d.; enginemen on standing wages: day shift, 99s. 1d. or 102s. 6½d., night shift, 101s. 5d. or 104s. 10d.
Woollen and Worsted Industry.	Wales	Pay preceding 1st pay day in March.	Workpeople employed in the flannel industry.	"Cost of living wage" reduced, under sliding scale, from 165 per cent. to 155 per cent. on basic rates to 124 per cent. for pieceworkers. Minimum time rates after change including "cost of living wage":—Men 21 years and over, 63s. 8d.; stokers, 63s. 10d.; tuners, 75s. 1d.; wool sorters, 72s. 1d.; women 19 years and over, 31s. 4d.
	Kirkcaldy and District..	15 Feb.	Males	Decreases, under sliding scale, of 4s. 3d. per week to tenters and dressers, of 4s. 1d. per week to lappers and finishers, and of 3s. 7d. per week to labourers. Rates after change: Tenters and dressers, 71s. 1d.; lappers and finishers, 72s. 11d.; labourers, 63s. 6d.
Linen Manufacture	Brighouse	Pay preceding 1st pay day in March.	Females	Decrease of 6 per cent. on rates as adjusted in May, 1920.
Silk Spinning ..	Brighouse	Pay preceding 1st pay day in March.	Workpeople employed in the silk spinning industry.	"Cost of living wage" reduced, under sliding scale, from 165 per cent. to 155 per cent. on basic rates, subject to a maximum net decrease of 3s. 5½d. per week. Inclusive rates after change: Males: 1st. framers, 83s. 9d.; 2nd. framers, 84s. 11d. or 89s. 4d.; joiners, 88s. 4d. or 91s. 6d.; warehousemen, 84s. 11d.; boiler-men and machinemen, 86s. 11d.; Females: gassers, 55s.; warpers, 50s. 4d.; reelers, 43s. 4d.; winders, 42s. 3d.; pieceworkers, 15 per cent. above time rates.
			Workpeople employed in the machine made lace and net finishing trade: Timeworkers (other than learners).	Increased under Trade Boards Acts, of 3d. per hour in the minimum rate (7d. to 7½d.). (See Order on pp. 105-106 of February LABOUR GAZETTE.) Minimum piece rates fixed, under Trade Boards Acts, for cutting, and for cutting and scolloping lace other than cross band lace and these rates, together with the piece rates previously fixed (with slight variations) for various classes of work to be subject to an addition of 8½ per cent. i.e., 1d. in the shilling. (See Order on pp. 105-106 of February LABOUR GAZETTE.)
Textile Bleaching, Dyeing, Finishing, &c.	Great Britain	4 Feb.	Pieceworkers.	Increased under Trade Boards Acts, of 3d. per hour in the minimum rate (7d. to 7½d.). (See Order on pp. 105-106 of February LABOUR GAZETTE.) Minimum piece rates fixed, under Trade Boards Acts, for cutting, and for cutting and scolloping lace other than cross band lace and these rates, together with the piece rates previously fixed (with slight variations) for various classes of work to be subject to an addition of 8½ per cent. i.e., 1d. in the shilling. (See Order on pp. 105-106 of February LABOUR GAZETTE.)

* The above percentage is paid on the full basic rates up to 34s. 6d.; on higher rates it is subject to a maximum of 53s. 6d. per week for basic rates up to 43s. 1½d.; and on rates above 43s. 1½d. is paid on 80 per cent. of the basic rates.
 † Employed by members of the British Wool Federation.
 ‡ A slightly lower rate is paid to men who receive payment for holidays.
 § In the Saddleworth district, where the previous percentages varied from those in other districts, the percentages were reduced to 131'41 for weavers, to 118'67 for other female pieceworkers, and for timeworkers under 21 years of age to amounts varying from 105'60 to 159'41; in this district the "cost of living wage" is subject to maxima of 51'15s. for adult male time and pieceworkers, 32'03s. for female timeworkers and 40'34s. for female pieceworkers.
 ¶ In the case of workers entering the trade for the first time after the age of 18, the minimum rate is to be 3d. per hour during the first six months of employment and 7½d. per hour after. For workers who fetch their own work from the warehouse the minimum time rate is to be 8½d. per hour and piece rates not less than 15 per cent. above those otherwise payable.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING FEBRUARY, 1921—(continued).

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
TEXTILE TRADES—(continued).				
Sheet Metal Working.	Bradford	Pay preceding 1st pay day in March.	Workpeople employed in the grey room, and stock, pattern, making-up, and packing departments	"Cost of living wage" reduced under sliding scale, from 165 per cent. to 155 per cent. on current basic rates.* Total minimum rate after change for men 24 years of age and over, 86s. 6d.
	Musical Instrument Making.	Hebden Bridge and District.	Pay preceding 1st pay day in Feb.	Workpeople employed in fustian dyeing, finishing, and cutting trades:— Timeworkers: Males .. .. .	"Cost of living wage" increased, under sliding scale, from 49s. 7d. per week to 49s. 11d. for workers 21 years of age and over; from 39s. 4d. per week to 39s. 7d. for those 18 to 20 years; from 27s. 11d. per week to 28s. 1d. for those 16 and under 18 years; and from 21s. 4d. per week to 21s. 5d. for those under 16 years.
Females				"Cost of living wage" increased, under sliding scale, from 29s. 6d. per week to 29s. 8d. for workers 18 years of age and over; from 23s. per week to 23s. 1d. for those 16 and under 18 years; and from 18s. per week to 18s. 2d. for those under 16 years.
Musical Instrument Making.	Hebden Bridge and District.	Pay preceding 1st pay day in Feb.	Pieceworkers	Increases, under sliding scale, proportionate to those granted to timeworkers, making total increases over basic rates of approximately 141 per cent. for netherwood cutters, 128 per cent. for hand cutters, 108 per cent. for menders, and 121 per cent. for all other pieceworkers.
			Workpeople employed in the bleaching, dyeing, calico printing and finishing trades (except waste bleachers, machine calico printers, engravers and mechanics, etc. employed in repair and maintenance of plant):— Males	"Cost of living wage" increased, under sliding scale, from 49s. 7d. per week to 49s. 11d. for workers 21 years of age and over; from 39s. 4d. per week to 39s. 7d. for those 18 to 20 years; from 27s. 11d. per week to 28s. 1d. for those 16 and under 18 years; and from 21s. 4d. per week to 21s. 5d. for those under 16 years. Minimum rate after change for timeworkers 21 years of age and over, 26s. plus 49s. 11d.
Textile Bleaching, Dyeing, Finishing, etc. Trades.	Scotland	Pay preceding 1st pay day in Feb.	Females	"Cost of living wage" increased, under sliding scale, from 29s. 6d. per week to 29s. 8d. for workers 18 years of age and over; from 23s. per week to 23s. 1d. for those 16 and under 18 years; and from 18s. per week to 18s. 2d. for those under 18 years. Minimum rate after change for timeworkers 18 years of age and over, 16s. plus 29s. 8d.
			Workpeople employed in the bleaching, dyeing, calico printing and finishing trades (except waste bleachers, machine calico printers, engravers and mechanics, etc. employed in repair and maintenance of plant):— Males	"Cost of living wage" of 125 per cent. on basic wages reduced, under sliding scale, to 107'1 per cent., the flat rate bonus of 20s. per week, previously granted, being paid in addition. Increase of 25 per cent. on pre-war rates, making wages 100 per cent. above pre-war rates. Minimum hourly rates fixed, under Trade Boards Acts, of 8½d. and 8½d. for hand braiders (nets), house machine minders, spreaders, carders, spinners, twistors, reelers, warpers, plaiters, scourers, polishers, ballers, lesson roll winders, parcellers, and sample makers; of 8½d. and 8d. for drawers and rovers; of 8½d. and 7½d. for winders, spoolers, cop-winders, plaiting winders and picers; of 7½d. and 6½d. for layers; of 6½d. and 5½d. for doffers; and of 7d. and 6½d. for all other workers (excluding learners who have had less than 12 months' experience in any branch of the trade). Decrease, under sliding scale, of 10 per cent. on pre-war rates, leaving wages 150 per cent. and 160 per cent. above pre-war rates for timeworkers and pieceworkers respectively.
Textile Bleaching, Dyeing, Finishing, etc. Trades.	Lancashire, Cheshire, Derbyshire, Scotland, and certain firms in Yorkshire.	Pay preceding 1st pay day in March.	Machine calico printers	"Cost of living wage" of 125 per cent. on basic wages reduced, under sliding scale, to 107'1 per cent., the flat rate bonus of 20s. per week, previously granted, being paid in addition.
	Hucknall	1 Jan.	Shetland shawl and scarf makers	Increase of 25 per cent. on pre-war rates, making wages 100 per cent. above pre-war rates. Minimum hourly rates fixed, under Trade Boards Acts, of 8½d. and 8½d. for hand braiders (nets), house machine minders, spreaders, carders, spinners, twistors, reelers, warpers, plaiters, scourers, polishers, ballers, lesson roll winders, parcellers, and sample makers; of 8½d. and 8d. for drawers and rovers; of 8½d. and 7½d. for winders, spoolers, cop-winders, plaiting winders and picers; of 7½d. and 6½d. for layers; of 6½d. and 5½d. for doffers; and of 7d. and 6½d. for all other workers (excluding learners who have had less than 12 months' experience in any branch of the trade). Decrease, under sliding scale, of 10 per cent. on pre-war rates, leaving wages 150 per cent. and 160 per cent. above pre-war rates for timeworkers and pieceworkers respectively.
Hosiery Industry.	Ireland	11 Feb.	Female workers 18 years of age and over employed in the rope, twine, and net trade.	Increase of 25 per cent. on pre-war rates, making wages 100 per cent. above pre-war rates. Minimum hourly rates fixed, under Trade Boards Acts, of 8½d. and 8½d. for hand braiders (nets), house machine minders, spreaders, carders, spinners, twistors, reelers, warpers, plaiters, scourers, polishers, ballers, lesson roll winders, parcellers, and sample makers; of 8½d. and 8d. for drawers and rovers; of 8½d. and 7½d. for winders, spoolers, cop-winders, plaiting winders and picers; of 7½d. and 6½d. for layers; of 6½d. and 5½d. for doffers; and of 7d. and 6½d. for all other workers (excluding learners who have had less than 12 months' experience in any branch of the trade). Decrease, under sliding scale, of 10 per cent. on pre-war rates, leaving wages 150 per cent. and 160 per cent. above pre-war rates for timeworkers and pieceworkers respectively.
	Great Britain	Pay preceding 1st pay day in March.	Workpeople employed in carpet manufacture (except staff hands, such as office staff, tuners, etc.).	Decrease, under sliding scale, of 10 per cent. on pre-war rates, leaving wages 140 per cent. and 150 per cent. above pre-war rates for timeworkers and pieceworkers respectively.
CLOTHING TRADES.				
Hat Manufacture.	Atherstone	Week ending 26 Feb.	Male pieceworkers employed in the felt hat making trade.	Bonus reduced, under sliding scale, from 62½ per cent. to 65 per cent. on piece price lists.
Handkerchief, &c. Manufacture.	Great Britain	25 Feb.	Males employed in the linen and cotton handkerchief and household goods and linen piece goods trade.	Scale of minimum hourly rates fixed, under Trade Boards Acts, starting at 4½d. at 14 and under 15 years, and increasing with each year of age to 10½d. at 18 and under 19 years, and to 1s. 3d. at 21 years and over; also overtime rates fixed for all hours worked in excess of 48 per week, 9 hours on any day (other than Saturday) and 4½ hours on Saturday. (See Order on p. 163).
Clogging, Dyeing and Dry Cleaning.	St. Helens	18 Jan. 26 Feb.	Cloggers	Increase of 10 per cent. on current rates.
			Workpeople employed in the dyeing and dry cleaning trade.	Decreases, under sliding scale, of 2s. per week to males earning 40s. per week or more; 1s. 6d. per week to males and females earning 20s. per week or more; and of 1s. per week to males and females earning less than 20s. per week. Rates after change for timeworkers: Males: skilled dyers, 84s. or 89s.; dyers (one colour), 70s.; wet or dry cleaners, finishers, glazers and other skilled workers, 74s.; labourers, 69s.; Females: 18 years, 32s. 6d.; 21 years, 40s. 6d.
TRANSPORT TRADES.				
Carting Industry.	Macclesfield	1st pay following 31 Dec. 1920.†	Horse drivers employed by wholesale grocers, corn merchants, coal merchants, &c.	Increase of 5s. per week. Rates after change: 1-horse drivers, 63s.; 2-horse drivers, 65s. (See Decision No. 611 on p. 161).
FISHING INDUSTRY.				
Fishing	Ramsgate	28 Feb.	Trawl fishermen: Skippers and mates	Bonus of £1 and 10s. per £100 catch previously granted reduced to 15s. and 7s. 6d. for skippers and mates respectively, and to 7s. 6d. and 3s. 6d. respectively for each £50 catch above £100.
			Third hands All hands	Decrease of 10s. per week (80s. to 70s.). "Stockabait" money of £1 per £100 catch previously granted reduced to 10s.

* The above percentage is paid on the full basic rates up to 34s. 6d.; on higher rates it is subject to a maximum of 53s. 6d. per week for basic rates up to 43s. 1½d.; and on rates above 43s. 1½d. is paid on 80 per cent. of the basic rates.
 † The higher rates quoted apply in each case to workers employed in the County Borough of Belfast, and the lower rates to those employed in all other districts.
 ‡ The change took effect under an Agreement previously made between the National Federation of Dyers and Cleaners and the Amalgamated Society of Dyers, Bleachers, Finishers, and Kindred Trades.
 § The increase was arranged in February, with retrospective payment from the date shown.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING FEBRUARY, 1921—(continued).

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
PAPER, PRINTING AND ALLIED TRADES.				
Papermaking ..	Darwen, Derby, Doncaster, Golborne, Holmes Chapel, Hull, Leeds, Little Lever, London, Manchester and Oldham. Great Britain ..	11 Feb. 1st pay day after 31 Jan.	Youths and girls 14 to 18 years of age employed in the wall paper staining industry. Press telegraphists .. Clerks employed in newspaper offices:— Males	Decrease, under sliding scale, of 1d. per hour to those 16 to 18 years, and of 3d. per hour to those under 16 years; leaving total war bonuses of 4½d. and 3d. per hour for those of 16 to 18 years and under 16 years respectively. Increase of 15s. per week in minimum rates after change: operators employed in offices fitted with high-speed machines: London, £8, Provinces, £5 10s.; Morse operators: London £5 10s.; Provinces, £5 5s. Minimum weekly rate of 80s. adopted for adults and scale of minimum weekly rates adopted for juniors starting at 20s. at 16 years of age and increasing with each year of age to 40s. at 18 and to 60s. at 20 years; and an increase of 10 per cent. (subject to a maximum increase of 10s.) to employees not affected by these minimum rates.* Males
Printing and Allied Trades.	Manchester ..	4 Oct., 1920.	Females	Minimum weekly rate of 65s. adopted for adults, and scale of minimum weekly rates adopted for juniors, starting at 24s. at 16 years of age and increasing with each year of age to 34s. at 18 and to 48s. at 20 years; and an increase of 10 per cent. (subject to a maximum increase of 10s.) to employees not affected by the above minimum rates.*
			1 Jan.	Clerks employed in newspaper offices.	Increases, under sliding scale, of 2s. 10d. per week to adults and of 1s. 5d. per week to juniors. Minimum rates after change: adult males, 82s. 10d.; adult females, 67s. 10d.
FURNITURE AND WOODWORKING TRADES.				
Perculator and Invalid Carriage Making.	Great Britain ..	28 Feb.	Timeworkers: Workers 21 years of age and over:— Section I occupations (workers with not less than 4 years' experience in respective occupations 12 years in the case of sawyers or planers not sharpening and setting their own tools, lowest rated cold smiths, brush hands and wheel hands).	Minimum hourly rates fixed, under Trade Boards Acts, as follows, resulting usually in increases of from 1d. to 3d. per hour:— <i>Men</i> : woodworking machinists and sawyers using boring, sanding and dowelling machines, 1s. 6d., others, 1s. 10d. or 2s.; wood body makers on invalid and side-car bodies, 2s.; others, 1s. 8d. or 1s. 10d.; perculator fire smiths, 2s.; cold smiths, 1s. 8d. or 1s. 9d.; nickel platers, 2s.; cane and wicker body makers, 1s. 9d. or 1s. 10d.; body finishers or body fine liners, 2s.; finishers or fine liners of springs or wheels, 1s. 8d.; brush hands, 1s. 6d.; wheel workers, 1s. 9d.; <i>Women</i> : body finishers or body fine liners, 1s. 1d.; other occupations, 10d. to 11½d. (See Order on p. 163.)
			Section II occupations (workers with not less than 2 years' experience).	Minimum hourly rates fixed under Trade Boards Acts, as follows, resulting usually in increases of from 1d. to 3d. per hour:— <i>Men</i> : upholsterers and hood coverers, 1s. 11d., cutters, 1s. 9½d., rubber tyre workers, 1s. 7½d., rim workers, spoke workers, and all other wheel workers, 1s. 6½d. <i>Women</i> : upholsterers and hood coverers, 1s., cutters, 11d., machinists, 10d. or 10½d., wheel workers, 10d. (See Order on p. 163.)
			Section III occupations (all workers other than above).	Minimum hourly rates fixed, under Trade Boards Acts, as follows, resulting usually in increases of from 1d. to 2d. per hour:— <i>Men</i> , 1s. 5d. to 1s. 8d.; <i>Women</i> , 9d. to 10d. (See Order on p. 163.)
			Workers under 21 years of age.	Minimum weekly rates adopted, under Trade Boards Acts, of 20s. and 18s. for males and females respectively of 15 and under 16 years of age, and new scale of minimum rates fixed of 30s., 32s., and 34s. for males of 18, 19, and 20 years of age respectively; males 16 to 21 years and females of 16 and 17 years to receive the same rates as previously granted. (See Order on p. 163.)
Pieceworkers (all classes).	Piece-work basis time rates fixed, under Trade Boards Acts, at 10 per cent. above the appropriate minimum time rates. (See Order on p. 163.)			
CHEMICAL, GLASS, BRICK, POTTERY, ETC., TRADES.				
Pottery Manufacture.	Glasgow and Rutherglen	16 Dec., 1920.	Throwers, turners, jiggerers, handiers, &c., employed in the rockingham trade.	Increase of 8½ per cent. on pre-war rates.
FOOD, DRINK, AND TOBACCO TRADES.				
Baking and Confectionery Trades.	Burslem, Crewe, Leek, and Silverdale.	3 Jan.	Managers employed by co-operative societies in the bread baking and confectionery trades.	Increase of 7s. 6d. per week on present scales for both bread and confectionery departments, and the additional 15 per cent. (based on the confectioners' scale) previously granted when both departments are under the same manager, increased to 20 per cent. Rates after change: bread department, 102s. 6d. up to 75 sacks per week, increasing thereafter in proportion to number of sacks; confectionery department, 102s. 6d. up to £75 per week sales, increasing thereafter in proportion to amount of sales.
	Airdrie and Coatbridge	13 Dec., 1920.		Increase of 7s. 6d. per week. Minimum rate after change, 97s. 6d.
	Brechin	27 Dec., 1920.		Increase of 7s. 6d. per week. Minimum rate after change, 91s. 6d.
	Sellsbill	13 Dec., 1920.		Increase of 7s. 6d. per week. Minimum rate after change, 97s. 6d.
	Broxburn	25 Dec., 1920.		Increase of 7s. 6d. per week. Minimum rate after change, 96s. 6d.
	Campbeltown ..	24 Dec., 1920.		Increase of 6s. per week. Minimum rate after change, 87s.
	Carnoustie	29 Dec., 1920.		Increase of 5s. per week. Minimum rate after change, 90s.
	Cowdenbeath ..	25 Dec., 1920.		Increase of 7s. 6d. per week. Minimum rate after change, 93s. 6d.
	Haddington	20 Dec., 1920.		Increase of 9s. per week. Minimum rate after change, 94s.
	Kilwinning	27 Dec., 1920.		Increase of 7s. 6d. per week. Minimum rate after change, 93s. 6d.
	Kirkintilloch ..	13 Dec., 1920.		Increase of 7s. 6d. per week. Minimum rate after change, 97s. 6d.
	Lanark	18 Dec., 1920.		Increase of 7s. 6d. per week. Minimum rate after change, 97s. 6d.
	West Calder	25 Dec., 1920.		Increase of 7s. 6d. per week. Minimum rate after change, 99s. 6d.
	Wick	4 Jan.		Increase of 5s. per week. Minimum rate after change, 85s.
Wishaw	20 Dec., 1920.		Increase of 7s. 6d. per week. Minimum rate after change, 97s. 6d.	

* See also under "Changes in Hours of Labour."

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING FEBRUARY, 1921—(continued).

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
FOOD, DRINK, AND TOBACCO TRADES—(continued).				
Brewing	Bristol	18 Dec., 1920.	Inside brewery workers:— Males	Increases on minimum rates of 5s. per week to those 21 years of age and over and of 2s. 6d. per week to those under 21. Minimum rates after change: 23s. 6d. at 15 years, increasing to 42s. 6d. at 18 years and to 67s. at 21 years and over.
			Females	Increases on minimum rates of 3s. per week to those 21 years of age and over and of 1s. 6d. per week to those under 21. Minimum rates after change: 19s. 6d. at 15 years increasing to 31s. 6d. at 18 years and to 40s. at 21 years and over.
Cocoa and Chocolate Manufacture.	Bournville, Bristol, and York.	1 Feb.	Clerks 18 years of age and over employed by cocoa and chocolate manufacturers.	Bonus of 20 per cent. on basic minimum rates fixed by Award of 6 January, 1920, reduced, under sliding scale to 10 per cent. Rates after change (including the bonus of 10 per cent.):—Males: 18 years, 39s. 7½d., 21 years 69s. 4½d., 24 years, 85s. 10d., 27 years, 99s. 0d.; Females: 18 years, 39s. 7½d., 21 years, 49s. 6d., 24 years, 69s. 5d.
MISCELLANEOUS TRADES.				
Fellmongering Trade.	Glasgow and Barrhead	Feb. ..	Skinner employed on time rates ..	Decrease of 2d. per hour (2s. 2d. to 2s.)
Basket Making	Yorkshire	First full week in Feb.	Basket, skip and hamper makers ..	Decrease, under sliding scale, of 10 per cent. on Yorkshire list prices, leaving wages 178 per cent. and 193 per cent. above the list for pieceworkers and timeworkers respectively.
Other Trades and Occupations.	Southampton ..	13 Sept. 1920.	Workpeople employed by undertakers	Increase of 3d. per hour to coffin makers (1s. 2d. to 1s. 5d.), of 9s. per week to funeral carriage drivers (68s. to 65s.); and of proportionate amounts to bearers.
	London (West End) ..	27 Dec. 1920.	Theatrical employees:— Master carpenters, chief electricians, and property masters making properties. Daymen employed in stage department:— Property bench hands	Increase of 15s. per week in minimum rate (115s. to 130s.) Increase of 1d. per hour in the minimum rate (1s. 8d. to 1s. 9d.)
			Other daymen	Increases in minimum rates of 3d. per hour to charge hands (1s. 6d. to 1s. 9d.), and of 2d. per hour to others (1s. 5d. to 1s. 7d.).
			Front of the house employees ..	Increases in minimum rates of 4s. per week to programme sellers and cloakroom attendants, and of 6d. per performance to money takers, check takers, janitors, etc. Rates after change: money takers, 4s. 6d. per performance; check takers, etc., 4s. per performance; programme sellers and cloakroom attendants, 28s. per week.
	Box office employees	Increase of 5s. per week in minimum rates. Minimum rates after change: first assistants, 60s.; other assistants and/or telephone operators, 45s.		
	Wardrobe department employees ..	Increases in minimum rates of 4s. per week to wardrobe mistresses (56s. to 60s.), of 3½d. per hour to charge hand assistants (11½d. to 1s. 3d.), and of 2½d. per hour to other assistants (10½d. to 1s. 1d.).		
	Advertising department	Increases in minimum rates of 5s. per week to chief bill inspectors (55s. to 60s.), and of 3d. per hour to assistants and bill posters (1s. 3d. to 1s. 6d.).		
	Refreshment department employees	Increases in minimum rates of 5s. per week to managers and manageresses (60s. to 65s.), and of 10s. per week to cellar men (50s. to 60s.).		
	Housekeeper's department employees.	Increases in minimum rates of 5s. per week to housekeepers, of 1½d. per hour to women canvas sewers, of 2d. per hour to women cleaners, of 3d. per hour to men cleaners, and of 6d. per performance to dressers. Minimum rates after change: housekeepers, 45s. per week; canvas sewers, 1s. per hour or 7s. per day; women cleaners, 1s. per hour or 5s. per day or 30s. per week; men cleaners, 1s. 6d. per hour; dressers, 4s. per performance.		
	Firemen and hallkeepers	Increase of 10s. per week in minimum rates. Minimum rates after change: firemen, 70s.; hallkeepers, 60s.		
Juniors, "call" boys, "book" boys, or pages.	Increases proportionate to those granted to adult employees.			
Employees of Co-operative Societies:— Grade I towns:— Male assistants	Increases in minimum rates varying from 2s. to 10s. per week for those from 16 to 21 years of age, and new minimum rates adopted of 68s., 72s., 74s., and 76s., for those of 22, 23, 24, and 25 years of age and over respectively. Minimum rates after change: 23s. at 16 years, increasing with each year of age to 65s. at 21 years, thence as above. (See Decision No. 622 on p. 161.)			
Female assistants	New minimum weekly rates adopted of 29s., 34s., and 39s., at 18, 19, and 20 years, and 48s. and 51s. at 22 and 23 years and over respectively; those of 21 years and those under 18 to receive the same rates as previously granted. (See Decision No. 622 on p. 161.)			
First assistants	To receive 3s. per week above the rate for age where not less than 3 persons (including manager or manageress) are employed, and an additional 1s. per week for each person above 3 employed, with a maximum of 7s. where not less than 7 are employed. (See Decision No. 622 on p. 161.)			
Branch managers and manageresses	New minimum rates of 82s. and 60s. per week adopted for males and females respectively when weekly sales are less than £60 or £100 according to department, and increasing by varying amounts as the weekly sales increase. (See Decision No. 622 on p. 161.)			
Clerks:— Males	Scale of minimum weekly rates adopted starting at 23s. at 16 years and increasing with each year of age to 37s. at 18, 64s. at 21, 70s. at 22, and to 80s. at 26 years. (See Decision No. 622 on p. 161.)			
Females	Scale of minimum weekly rates adopted starting at 21s. at 16 years and increasing with each year of age to 29s. at 18, 47s. at 21, 51s. at 22, and to 55s. at 24 years. (See Decision No. 622 on p. 161.)			
Head warehouseman	Increase of 17s. per week in minimum rates. Minimum rates after change: 82s. where staff does not exceed 3 (including head warehouseman himself) and 87s. where more than 3 are employed. (See Decision No. 622 on p. 161.)			

* Additional payments are made to men who act as bearers.
† The change took effect under a Decision of the Industrial Court to which the Southern Sectional Hours and Wages Council of the Co-operative Union Ltd. and the National Union of Distributive and Allied Workers were parties.
‡ The change was arranged in February with retrospective payment from the date shown.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING FEBRUARY, 1921—(continued).

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Includes sections for MISCELLANEOUS TRADES and PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES.

* The change took effect under a decision of the Industrial Court to which the Southern Sectional Hours and Wages Council of the Co-operative Union Limited and the National Union of Distributive and Allied Workers were parties.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING FEBRUARY, 1921—(continued).

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Includes sections for PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES and Local Authority Services.

* The rates of wages described are in accordance with recommendations made by the South Coast District Council of the National Joint Industrial Council for the Electricity Supply Industry.

LEGAL CASES, OFFICIAL NOTICES, ETC.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

(1) Workmen's Compensation Acts.

ACCIDENT ARISING OUT OF EMPLOYMENT: BREACH BY WORKMAN OF STATUTORY REGULATION: COAL MINES ACTS: RETURNING TOO SOON TO MISSED-FIRE SHOT: ADDED PERIL.

A workman injured by accident in the course of his employment is not entitled to compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Acts unless the accident was one arising out of, as well as in the course of, the employment.

By a Regulation under the Coal Mines' Act, 1911, it is provided that if a shot misses fire the person firing the shot shall not approach or allow any one to approach the shot hole until an interval has elapsed of not less than ten minutes in the case of shots fired by electricity or by a squib, and not less than an hour in the case of shots fired by other means.

Two miners had each to fire a shot within a short distance of one another and proceeded to do so by simultaneously setting light to a fuse, the method adopted being the application of a naked light to the fuse. One succeeded in starting his fuse and as it was burning they both went to a place of safety; but it was not certain whether the other fuse had caught fire, though subsequently each man expressed the opinion that it had done so. The first man's shot went off and the two had some food and a smoke and waited between 30 and 40 minutes. The second man then returned towards his shot in order to re-light his fuse, but as he was approaching it exploded and he was injured. The injured man claimed compensation and obtained an award in his favour from the Sheriff-Substitute.

The employers appealed.

On behalf of the claimant it was contended that his fuse was ignited by the explosion of the other man's shot, and that the Regulation did not apply to him as he had not lighted his fuse, so that his shot had not missed fire. The Court of Session allowed the appeal. They held that the injured man had broken the Regulation, and by so doing had added a peril to his employment and gone outside the sphere of his employment; therefore the accident was not one arising out of the employment and he was not entitled to compensation.—*Costello v. Robert Addie and Sons, Ltd.*—*Court of Session—28th January, 1921.*

CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION: NO WEEKLY PAYMENT OR ADMISSION OF LIABILITY: COMPROMISE OF CLAIM FOR LUMP SUM: WAR ADDITION SUBSEQUENTLY CLAIMED: NO REDEMPTION OF WEEKLY PAYMENT.

It is provided by the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906, that any question arising under the Act as to the liability to pay compensation, or the amount and duration of compensation, if not settled by agreement, shall be settled by arbitration in the manner provided. Where liability is not admitted there does not appear to be anything in the Act to invalidate the compromise of a claim, where there has been no fraud or unfair dealing.

It is provided by the Workmen's Compensation (War Addition) Act, 1917, that in case of total incapacity arising before or after the passing of the Act, the person entitled to any weekly payment shall have the right to receive from the person liable to make the payment by way of addition to the weekly payment a sum equal to one quarter of the amount of such payment. It is further provided that although the liability to make such weekly payment is redeemed subsequently to the passing of the Act, the addition shall continue to be payable in the same way as if the liability had not been redeemed. These provisions are to continue during the War and for six months after the termination thereof and by an Amending Act of 1919 "three quarters" was substituted for "one quarter" as the War addition. Where any weekly payment has been continued for not less than 6 months, the principal Act allows the employer to redeem his liability by the payment of a lump sum, to be ascertained in the manner directed.

A workman alleged that he had been injured by accident arising out of and in the course of his employment, and he claimed compensation from his employers. No liability was ever admitted by the employers, nor was any payment made; but when the claim came before a County Court Judge, the parties, having come to an agreement, asked the Judge to make an award by consent. This the Judge did, awarding to claimant "the sum of £150 with agreed costs in full settlement of all claims in respect of an injury by accident arising out of and in the course of his employment." The Judge, however, expressed doubt whether he had any jurisdiction to make such an award for a lump sum even by consent, but he was satisfied that if the document was not good as an award under the Act it was good as an agreement for the payment and acceptance of a lump sum to the applicant.

Subsequently the claimant took fresh proceedings before the County Court Judge claiming to be entitled to the

benefit of the War Addition Acts, as he was totally incapacitated and therefore entitled to a weekly payment. The employers contended that he was not entitled to any weekly payment because he had accepted £150 in full settlement of all claims in respect of his injury, and therefore he could make no further claim. They maintained that the award was a compromise of all possible or contingent liabilities under the Acts, and was not a redemption of a liability to make a weekly payment. The Judge decided in the claimant's favour. The employers appealed.

The Court of Appeal allowed the appeal. They held that since the award was made the claimant had never been entitled to any weekly payment by way of compensation, as he had agreed to relinquish all claim to such payment for a lump sum which he had received. There had been no redemption of a weekly payment, for until the amount of a weekly payment had been ascertained by agreement or award a compromise of the claim is not a redemption of a weekly payment.

Haydock v. Goodier.—Court of Appeal—7th February, 1921.

(2) Trade Unions.

TRADE IN WHICH ONLY UNIONISTS EMPLOYED: MEMBER OF UNION FAILING TO PAY DUES: LAPSE OF MEMBERSHIP: REFUSAL TO JOIN AS NEW MEMBER: ALLEGED EXCLUSION.

In the South Wales coalfield only Trade Unionists are employed. For the purposes of organisation the South Wales Miners' Federation is divided into districts and each district into lodges. Every miner must be a member of a lodge in order to obtain employment at a colliery. A Rule of the Federation is as follows:—

"Any member removing from one colliery to another must deposit his transfer card at the lodge connected with the colliery he has removed to within a month of the date of his employment thereat, and he shall upon producing his transfer card be considered a financial member of the branch to which he has removed. A member failing to produce his transfer card within a month shall pay the entrance fee and shall be treated as a new member."

Another rule provided for a weekly payment to members victimised, locked out or on strike.

A miner had been for many years employed in the South Wales coalfield. While working at a heading in a pit, which is the highest grade of a hewer's work, he stayed away from work for seven days without leave, for domestic reasons, in May, 1917. When he returned he was refused admittance on the ground that the reasons he gave for his absence were not sufficient excuse.

His lodge took the matter up and a deputation saw the management on his behalf. In consequence the manager agreed to reinstate the man, but not at a heading—only in a stall, which is less highly paid work. His lodge advised him to accept this offer under protest, but he refused. He left the colliery, and the question then arose whether he had been dismissed, and so victimised, or whether he had voluntarily left his employment. It was decided he had been victimised and an allowance was paid him by the Federation on this account.

He then worked at two other collieries in other districts, but did not remain for a month at either, nor did he deposit his transfer card at the local branch in either case. Subsequently he tried to obtain work in his original district. He got employment, but was dismissed in March, 1920, on the ground that he was not a member of the union. By paying an entrance fee of £1 as a new member he could have rejoined the union, but this he refused to do, claiming that he had never ceased to be a member of the union.

He then brought an action in the High Court against the Federation, alleging that the defendants had wrongfully declared him to be a non-unionist, by reason of which he was unable to obtain employment, and claiming a declaration that he was, and had been continuously since May, 1917, a member of the Federation.

The defendants contended that the plaintiff had voluntarily left his employment and not having paid his dues according to the rules he had ceased to be a member, but that it was open to him to rejoin by paying an entrance fee of £1. On the other hand the plaintiff said that as the defendants had paid him victimisation allowance they could not set up the contention that he had voluntarily left his employment.

In giving judgment the Judge said that the plaintiff was obviously a person who was extremely tenacious of his rights and who had been treated by his union with great consideration. On the evidence the Judge decided that the plaintiff was in arrear with his contribution for more than six months and in accordance with the rules had ceased to be a member in December, 1918. Subsequently, however, the local officials of the district where he was working in 1920 recognised him as still a member. This they had no authority to do and their irregular act did not bind the defendants. The plaintiff had ceased to be a member of the Federation and could only rejoin by paying the entrance fee of £1 as a new member. Therefore he failed in his claim. Judgment was accordingly given for the defendants.—*Harlow v. South Wales Miners' Federation—Chancery Division—16th, 17th, 18th and 23rd February, 1921.*

RECENT CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION CASES.

THE INDUSTRIAL COURT

CONSTITUTED UNDER THE INDUSTRIAL COURTS ACT, 1919.

Engineering, Shipbuilding and Other Metal Trades.

WAGON LIFTERS AND WAGON VICEMEN—DUNDALK.—Wagon lifters and wagon vicemen employed by the Company v. Great Northern Railway Company (Ireland). Decision—The wages of the men concerned employed in the Company's works at Dundalk to be 34s. per week with the same war advances and bonus addition as apply to the present base rates. Piece-work rates, in the case of wagon lifters employed on piece-work, to be adjusted on the basis of the new time-rate. Effective from 1st December, 1920. Issued 2nd February. (609)

GAS FITTERS, RAILWAY SHOPS—DUBLIN.—Gas fitters employed in the locomotive departments of the railway companies v. Dublin and South Eastern Railway Company, Great Southern and Western Railway Company. Decision—The claim of the gas fitters concerned for an increase in weekly rates not established. Issued 2nd February. (610)

OIL TANK RIVETERS, SHIPBUILDING TRADE—TYNE, WEAR, TEES AND HARTLEPOOL DISTRICTS.—Boilermakers' and Iron and Steel Shipbuilders' Society v. Tyne Shipbuilders' Association, Wear Shipbuilders' Association, Tees and Hartlepool Shipbuilders' Association. Decision—No extra payment granted for riveting cellular bottoms where water-tight riveting only is to be done. If riveters are required to do extra work or to perform their work with extra care in order specially to ensure that the work shall be oil-tight, a rate of 1s. per 100 rivets extra on the prices scheduled in the Tyne and Wear riveters' piece-work price list to be paid in respect of the shell and 9d. per 100 rivets in respect of the tanktop, tank margin and other pressed work in connection with cellular bottoms. A similar rate to be paid for work on the shell in the wake of other oil compartments. This decision to apply in the Tyne, Wear, Tees and Hartlepool Districts from 1st January, 1921. Issued 7th February. (614)

OIL TANK RIVETERS, SHIPBUILDING TRADE—CLYDE DISTRICT.—Boilermakers' and Iron and Steel Shipbuilders' Society v. Clyde Shipbuilders' Association. Decision—Where water-tight riveting only is done no extra payment to be made, but where riveters are required to do extra work on double bottoms or to perform their work with extra care in order to ensure their work is oil-tight, the Court recommends an extra rate be paid as set out in note 7 of the Clyde piece-work riveting rates list. Issued 7th February. (615)

RAILWAY SHOP WORKERS—LIMERICK.—National Union of Railwaymen v. Great Southern and Western Railway Company (Ireland). Decision—The claim of the issuer, oil issuer, vanman and assistant issuer employed in the shops of the company at Limerick for an increase in wages not established. Issued 9th February. (616)

BOILERMAKERS AND BLACKSMITHS—IRISH RAILWAYS.—Amalgamated Union of Shipbuilding, Engineering and Constructional Workers v. Great Southern and Western Railway Company, Midland Great Western Railway Company, Dublin and South Eastern Railway Company and the Cork,

Bandon and South Coast Railway Company. Decision—The claim for payment to the boilermakers and blacksmiths employed in the railway shops in Dublin, Cork, Waterford and Limerick of the rates now paid in Belfast and Dundalk not established. The base rate of boilermakers in Dublin railway shops to be increased by 1s. 9d. a week. Issued 12th February. (619)

Transport Workers.

CARTERS—MACCLESFIELD.—The United Road Transport Workers' Association of England v. The Macclesfield Traders' Association, Master Carters' Section. Decision—The rate for drivers of one-horse vehicles to be increased by 5s. per week, and that of drivers of two-horse vehicles, if and when employed, to be 2s. per week above that of drivers of one-horse vehicles. Effective from first pay period following 31st December, 1920. Issued 2nd February. (611)

SIGNAL AND TELEGRAPH STAFF—GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY (IRELAND).—Electrical Trades Union v. Great Northern Railway Company (Ireland). Decision—The claim for electricians' district rate not established. Issued 9th February. (617)

TRAIN LIGHTING STAFF—GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY (IRELAND).—Electrical Trades Union v. Great Northern Railway Company (Ireland). Decision—From 3rd September, 1920, the weekly base rate for the agreed grades to be—

Grade I	...	...	...	...	38s.
" II	...	...	...	...	35s.
" III	...	...	...	...	30s.

The claim that the wages of the men concerned should in future be regulated according to changes in the district rate of electricians in Belfast and Dublin not established. Issued 9th February. (618)

CARTERS—LONDON.—Workers' Union, National Union of Vehicle Workers, United Vehicle Workers, National Federation of Women Workers v. London Beer Bottlers' Association. Decision—For the purpose of the payment of overtime in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 10, of the Court's decision No. 572, the working week of the transport and delivery workers employed in the beer-bottling trade, London, to consist of 48 hours exclusive of meal times. Effective from 1st December, 1920. Issued 22nd February. (621)

Public Utility Services.

REGISTRARS—CAMBERWELL BOARD OF GUARDIANS.—National Amalgamated Workers' Union (Poor Law Section) v. Camberwell Board of Guardians. Decision—Messrs. Bartlett, Lucas & Woodland each to receive a gratuity for periods 1st April, 1920, to 31st December, 1920, calculated as provided in the report of the Civil Service National Whitley Council Cost of Living Committee and based on their total emoluments. In view of their holding other official appointments, Mr. Baker to receive nine-tenths and Mr. Quaif four-fifths of the gratuity reckoned as in the case of the other registrars during the period 1st April to 31st December, 1920. Issued 2nd February. (612)

Miscellaneous Trades.

LAMPLIGHTERS—DUBLIN.—Irish Transport and General Workers' Union v. Alliance and Dublin Consumers' Gas Company. Decision—The men concerned are at present entitled to £3 6s. 3d. for a week of seven days with the addition, in respect of Sunday work, of five hours' pay calculated on the basis of a 47-hour week. To take effect from the date on which the men concerned began duty for the present public lighting season. Issued 7th February. (613)

WOMEN AIRCRAFT WORKERS—CARDINGTON.—Workers' Union v. Air Ministry. Decision—An advance of 3s. 6d. a week from first pay period following 13th July, 1920, to be paid to the women concerned engaged upon the various processes in connection with the making of airship envelopes at the Royal Airship Factory, Cardington. Issued 22nd February. (620)

CO-OPERATIVE TRADE (SOUTHERN SECTION).—The National Union of Distributive and Allied Workers v. Southern Sectional Hours and Wages Council of the Co-operative Union, Limited. Decision—Minimum rates fixed for certain classes of workpeople, including shop assistants, clerks, warehousemen, managers and manageresses, etc., workpeople employed in the boot and shoe repairing departments, and others. Two weeks' full sick pay and two weeks at half-pay to be allowed during the year; employees with not less than two years' service entitled to 12 working days' holiday; 12 months' service, six days' holiday. The variations effected by this decision to operate from beginning of the pay period immediately following 31st December, 1920. Issued 28th February. (622)

CONCILIATORS, SINGLE ARBITRATORS AND AD HOC BOARDS OF ARBITRATION APPOINTED BY THE MINISTER OF LABOUR UNDER THE INDUSTRIAL COURTS ACT, 1919, AND UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT, 1896.

Engineering Trades.

RAILWAY SHOPMEN, EASTLEIGH.—Railway Committee of Crafts Unions v. London and South Western Railway Company. The National Union of Railwaymen applied for leave to intervene and the parties agreed to such intervention. Difference—Application that Schedule C of the award dated 13th March, 1918, should apply to Schedules A and B; application concerning the payment of certain men who have served apprenticeship elsewhere than in the Eastleigh shops. Arbitrator—Mr. A. B. Pilling. Award—(1) The conditions set forth in Schedule C. of the said award of the 13th day of March, 1918 (hereinafter called "the said Award") apply to Schedule A. of the said Award and also to Schedule B. thereof. (2) Paragraph 1 of Schedule C. of the said Award does not apply to a man who enters the service of the Railway Company after duly serving his apprenticeship elsewhere. Such a man is entitled to the Eastleigh District Rate of Wages in full as from the date on which he enters the service. (3) Paragraph 1 of Schedule C. of the said Award does not debar the Railway Company from paying full journeyman's wages at an earlier date than the end of two years after the completion of apprenticeship on their Railway. (4) The application of the National Union of Railwaymen was that notwithstanding the terms of paragraphs 1 and 2 of Schedule C. to the said Award men should be qualified for skilled employment in the Railway Company's shops without first serving an apprenticeship or probationary period and alternatively that the apprenticeship or probationary period should be for a less term than five years. As this application raises an important point of principle it is inexpedient to determine the question in relation to the Eastleigh Works alone. (5) The Crafts Unions stated before the arbitrator that whilst they could not agree to any variation with regard to the period or the starting age (i.e., not more than 18 years of age) yet with regard to Ex-Service men special consideration would be given to special cases by both sides on the spot. (6) It was agreed that a labourer may be put to work on an "unskilled" machine, but is not to be transferred to a "skilled" machine unless otherwise qualified. Issued 21st February, 1921. I.R. 771.

Textile Trades.

DYERS AND BLEACHERS: CHESHIRE, LANCASHIRE AND YORKSHIRE.—National Society of Dyers, Finishers, and Textile Workers representing various societies v. Allied Association of Bleachers, Dyers, Printers and Finishers representing various Associations. Difference—Claim for an advance of 40 per cent. on current rates, for the establishment of minimum rates and certain working conditions. Board of Arbitration—Mr. J. A. Compston, K.C. (Chairman), Sir Allan Smith, K.B.E., M.P. (Employers' Representative), Mr. Hugh Dalton (Workpeople's Representative). Award—Claim for an advance and a minimum rate not established as the workers are protected by a sliding scale dependent on the cost of living. Pieceworkers are entitled to 25 per cent. higher earnings over the day-workers. With regard to shorter working week and payment for holidays it was pointed out that it was desirable for the employers to settle with the workmen without delay a scheme which would embrace these matters. An interpretation was given on the clause that "pieceworkers are entitled to 25 per cent. higher earnings over the day workers." The question submitted was whether that increase was to be applied before the addition of the cost of living wages, or after such addition. The Arbitrator ruled that the 25 per cent. higher earnings to pieceworkers over day workers was to have effect before the addition of the cost of living wage. Issued 5th February, 1921. I.R. 625.

AGREEMENTS NEGOTIATED BY OFFICERS OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR.

Boot and Shoe Trades.

BOOTMAKERS AND BOOT REPAIRERS, BELFAST.—Hand-Sewn Bootmakers and Knee Repairers' Society v. Belfast Master Bootmakers and Repairers' Association. Difference—The masters decided to reduce the rates for all "knee" work to the level of those fixed by the Trade Board. Agreement—(1) That for all new work a reduction of 1s. 8d. per pair shall be made on the present ground rate. (2) That for men's, women's and boys' (2 to 5) soles and heels, a reduction of 3d. per pair shall be made on present rate. (3) That the rate for boys (11 to 1) shall be reduced by 2d. per pair. (4) That the rate for all children's sizes under 10 shall be the Trade Board rate. (5) That the present rate for all heels shall be reduced by 1d. per pair. (6) That Trade Board minimum rates shall apply to extras on new work and repairs, with the exception of welted extension seats, which shall be paid for at the rate of 1s. 6d. per pair. Where any alteration as above would reduce the rate to a

sum less than the Trade Board rate, the Trade Board rate shall apply. Effective from 1st March, 1921. Agreed 28th February, 1921. I.R. 600/2.

Public Utility Services.

GAS STOKERS, TIPPERARY.—Irish Transport and General Workers' Union v. Tipperary Gas Company, Ltd. Difference—The Company maintained that their stokers had failed to carry into effect an understanding which the Company considered had been arrived at in the course of an arbitration hearing on 23rd December, 1920, and which concerned the output of the stokers. As a consequence the Company had not paid the increase in wages awarded as a result of the arbitration. Agreement—The following offer of the Union in regard to the question of output was accepted by the Company on an undertaking which the Union gave that when necessary on account of low stock of gas, seven charges should be put in. (1) In the winter time the work shall be done by three stokers and an assistant whose time shall be divided between the two day shifts. The maximum number of retorts to be charged by the day shifts shall be eight each, and by the night shift six retorts. The stoker on the night shift shall not be required to clinker the furnace. (2) In the summer time the work shall be done by three stokers. The maximum number of retorts to be charged by each stoker shall be six per shift. An assistant shall be provided while the stoker is clinking the furnace. I.R. 600/2.

TRAMWAYMEN, DUBLIN.—United Vehicle Workers' Union v. Dublin United Tramway Co., Ltd. Difference—Application for an advance of 12s. per week. Agreement—The Union agreed to withdraw its demand pending the issue of the report of the Tramways Court of Inquiry. Agreed 18th February, 1921. I.R. 600/2.

TRADE BOARDS ACTS, 1909 AND 1918.

IN pursuance of his statutory powers, the Minister of Labour has made Orders, as set out below, under Section 4 (2) of the Trade Boards Act, 1918, confirming minimum rates of wages as varied or fixed by the following Trade Boards. These rates become effective as from the dates specified, in cases in which they are applicable, in respect of all persons employing labour and all persons employed in the trade coming within the scope of the respective Trade Boards. Where, however, as respects any employer who pays wages at intervals not exceeding seven days, the date specified does not correspond with the beginning of the period for which wages are paid by that employer, the rates become effective as from the beginning of the next full pay period following the date specified.

The penalty for paying wages at less than the minimum rates is a fine not exceeding £20 for each offence; but in the case of time-workers affected by infirmity or physical injury the Trade Board may, in certain circumstances, grant permits exempting their employment from the operation of the minimum rates.

Where general minimum time-rates, but no general minimum piece-rates have been fixed, the rates payable to workers employed on piece-work must be such as would yield, in the circumstances of the case, to an ORDINARY WORKER not less than the equivalent of the general minimum time-rate, or of the piece-work basis time-rate when such a rate has been fixed.

The hours which female workers, young persons and children are allowed to work are subject to the provisions of the Factory and Workshop Acts.

Further particulars regarding the minimum rates of wages set out below (which do not include general minimum piece-rates) may be obtained from the Secretary of the Trade Board concerned at 5, Chancery Lane, London, W.C.2, in the case of Trade Boards in Great Britain, and at 21, Parliament Street, Dublin, in the case of Irish Trade Boards.

Hat, Cap and Millinery Trade Board (Ireland).

ORDER, DATED 15TH FEBRUARY, 1921, CONFIRMING GENERAL MINIMUM TIME-RATES, PIECE-WORK BASIS TIME-RATES AND OVERTIME RATES FOR MALE AND FEMALE WORKERS, AND MADE EFFECTIVE AS FROM 1ST MARCH, 1921.

I.—General Minimum Time-Rates and Piece-Work Basis Time-Rates.

	General Minimum Time-Rates.		Piece-Work Basis Time-Rates.	
	Per hour.		Per hour.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
(a) Male workers:—				
22 years of age and upwards	1	2		
21 and under 22 years of age	1	0		
20 " 21 "	0	10½		
19 " 20 "	0	9		
18 " 19 "	0	7½		
17 " 18 "	0	6	1	3½
16 " 17 "	0	5		
15 " 16 "	0	4		
under 15 years of age	0	3		

Male workers commencing employment in the Hat, Cap and Millinery trade for the first time at or over the age of 19 may serve a period of 6 months at 7d. per hour, and thereafter a period of 6 months at 8½d. per hour. On the expiration of one year's service in the trade, these workers are to receive the rates to which they are entitled under the above provisions.

	General Minimum Time-Rates.		Piece-Work Basis Time-Rates.	
	Per hour.		Per hour.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
(b) Female workers (other than learners) employed in the Retail Branch:—				
(i) Homeworkers	0	8½	0	9½
(ii) Workers of 22 years of age and over (employed within the areas of the County Boroughs of the Cities of Dublin, Belfast, Cork, Limerick, Waterford and Londonderry) of not less than 3 years' experience after learnership...	0	9½	0	10½
(iii) Workers of 22 years of age and over of not less than 3 years' experience after learnership other than those employed within the areas specified in (ii) above	0	9	0	10
(iv) Workers other than those specified in (i), (ii) and (iii) above	0	8½	0	9½
(c) Female workers (other than learners) excluding those employed in the Retail Branch:—				
(i) Workers other than Homeworkers, Knife Cutters and Blockers	0	8	0	9
(ii) Knife Cutters and Blockers	0	11	1	0
(iii) Homeworkers	0	8	0	9

II.—Overtime Rates.

For male and female workers (all ages) whether engaged on time- or piece-work:—

- (i) For the first two hours of overtime on any day except Saturdays, Sundays and Customary Public and Statutory Holidays, TIME-AND-A-QUARTER.
- (ii) For overtime after the first two hours on any day except Sundays and Customary Public and Statutory Holidays, and for all overtime on Saturdays (or the weekly short-day substituted therefor), TIME-AND-A-HALF.
- (iii) For all time worked on Sundays and Customary Public and Statutory Holidays, DOUBLE TIME.
- (iv) For all hours worked in any week in excess of 48, TIME-AND-A-QUARTER, except in so far as higher overtime rates are payable under the above provisions.

For the purpose of these overtime rates the Trade Board have declared the normal number of hours of work to be: In any week, 48; on any day (other than Saturday), 9; on Saturdays, 5.

Where it is the established practice of an employer to require attendance—

- (a) only on five days a week, the overtime rate for all time worked on Saturday is TIME-AND-A-HALF, and the rates set out in II (i) and (ii) above shall not apply until the number of hours worked exceeds 9½ and 11½ respectively;
- (b) only on alternate Saturdays, the overtime rate shall not be payable in the week in which attendance on Saturday is required until 50 hours have been worked.

Linen and Cotton Handkerchief and Household Goods and Linen Piece Goods Trade Board (Great Britain).

ORDER, DATED 10TH FEBRUARY, 1921, CONFIRMING GENERAL MINIMUM TIME-RATES AND OVERTIME RATES FOR MALE WORKERS, AND MADE EFFECTIVE AS FROM 25TH FEBRUARY, 1921.

I.—General Minimum Time-Rates.

	Per hour.
	s. d.
14 and under 15 years of age	0 4½
15 " 16 "	0 5½
16 " 17 "	0 6½
17 " 18 "	0 8
18 " 19 "	0 10½
19 " 20 "	0 11½
20 " 21 "	1 0½
21 years of age and over	1 3

II.—Overtime Rates for male workers of all ages.

- (i) For the first two hours of overtime on any day except Sunday, TIME-AND-A-QUARTER.
- (ii) For overtime after the first two hours on any day except Sunday, TIME-AND-A-HALF.
- (iii) For all time worked on Sunday, DOUBLE-TIME.
- (iv) For all hours worked in any week in excess of 48, TIME-AND-A-QUARTER, except in so far as higher overtime rates are payable under the above provisions.

For the purpose of these overtime rates the Trade Board have declared the normal number of hours of work to be: In any week, 48; on any week-day other than Saturday, 9; on Saturday, 4½.

Perambulator and Invalid Carriage Trade Board (Great Britain).

ORDER, DATED 18TH FEBRUARY, 1921, CONFIRMING GENERAL MINIMUM TIME-RATES AND OVERTIME RATES, AS VARIED AND AS FIXED, AND PIECE-WORK BASIS TIME-RATES, AS FIXED, FOR MALE AND FEMALE WORKERS, AND MADE EFFECTIVE AS FROM THE 28TH FEBRUARY, 1921.

PART I.

General Minimum Time-Rates.

	Male Workers.		Female Workers.	
	Per hour.		Per hour.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Section I.				
(a) Wood-working Machinists and Sawyers:				
(i) General Wood-working Machinists capable of working wood-working machines and sharpening and setting own tools, who have not had less than 4 years' experience as Wood-working Machinists or Sawyers	2	0	—	—
(ii) Sawyers or Planers not sharpening and setting own tools (excluding workers employed on Boring, Sanding and Dowelling machines) who have not had less than 2 years' experience as Wood-working Machinists or Sawyers	1	10	—	—
(iii) Workers employed on Boring, Sanding and Dowelling machines only who have had not less than 4 years' experience as Wood-working Machinists or Sawyers	1	6	0	10
(b) Wood Body Makers:				
(i) Invalid and Side Car Body Makers who have had not less than 4 years' experience as Wood Body Makers	2	0	—	—
(ii) Wood Body Makers (other than Invalid and Side Car Body Makers) who have had not less than 4 years' experience as Wood Body Makers	1	10	0	11½
(iii) Body Makers who have had less than 4 years' experience as Wood Body Makers, and other Wood Makers	1	8	0	10½
(c) Perambulator Smiths:				
(i) Fire Smiths who have had not less than 4 years' experience as Perambulator Smiths	2	0	—	—
(ii) Cold Smiths on Invalid work Perambulator Spring and Lever work who have had not less than 4 years' experience as such	1	9	—	—
(iii) Cold Smiths other than those specified in Sub-section (ii) of this Sub-section, and Hood Frame Smiths who have had not less than 2 years' experience as such	1	8	—	—
(d) Nickel Platers:				
Nickel Platers who have had not less than 4 years' experience as Nickel Platers	2	0	—	—
(e) Cane and Wicker Body Makers:				
(i) Cane and Wicker Body Makers employed on Invalid, Side Car and Perambulator bodies who have had not less than 4 years' experience as Cane or Wicker Body Makers	1	10	0	11½

	Male Workers. Per hour. s. d.	Female Workers. Per hour. s. d.
(ii) Cane and Wicker Body Makers other than those specified in Sub-section (i) of this Sub-section who have had not less than 4 years' experience as Cane or Wicker Body Makers	1 9	0 10½
(f) Painters:		
(i) Body Finishers or Fine Liners who have had not less than 4 years' experience as Painters	2 0	1 1
(ii) Spring or Wheel Painters or Fine Liners who have had not less than 4 years' experience as Painters	1 8	0 10½
(iii) Brush Hands (up to first coat of colour) who have had not less than 2 years' experience as Painters	1 6	0 10
(g) Wheel Workers:		
Wheel Truers, Brass Turners, Brass Filers or Brass Threaders who have had not less than 2 years' experience as Wheel Workers	1 9	0 10½

Provided—

(A) That workers who enter the trade under 21 years of age and on reaching the age of 21 have completed less than the experience as specified in this Section may be employed during the period after the age of 21 required to complete such experience at a rate of 1d. per hour less than the General Minimum Time-Rates applicable as set out in this Section during the last 12 months of such period, and at a rate of 2d. per hour less during any previous part of such period: Provided that in no case shall the rate paid to a worker be less than the General Minimum Time-Rate payable to the same worker between the ages of 20 and 21.

(B) That workers who enter the trade for the first time at or over the age of 21 years may be employed for a period of 12 months at a rate of 2d. per hour and for a second period of 12 months at a rate of 1d. per hour less than the General Minimum Time-Rates applicable as set out in this Section. Thereafter the respective General Minimum Time-Rates set out in this Section shall be payable to such workers irrespective of experience.

Section II.

	Male Workers. Per hour. s. d.	Female Workers. Per hour. s. d.
(a) Upholsterers and Hood Coverers: Upholsterers and Hood Coverers who have had not less than 2 years' experience as Upholsterers or Hood Coverers	1 11	1 0
(b) Cutters: Cutters who have had not less than 2 years' experience as Cutters	1 9½	0 11
(c) Sewing Machinists:		
(i) Workers employed on Treadle Machines who have had not less than 2 years' experience as Sewing Machinists	—	0 10½
(ii) Workers employed on Power Machines who have had not less than 2 years' experience as Sewing Machinists	—	0 10
(d) Wheel Workers:		
(i) Rubber Tyre Workers who have had not less than 2 years' experience as Wheel Workers	1 7½	0 10
(ii) Rim Workers, Spoke Workers, Hub Workers, Wheel Builders, Drillers, Borers, Stampers, Axle Workers, and all other wheel workers (excluding workers referred to in Sub-section (g) of Section I and Sub-section (i) of this Sub-section) who have had not less than 2 years' experience as Wheel Workers	1 6½	0 10

Provided—

(A) That workers who enter the trade under 21 years of age and on reaching the age of 21 have completed less than 2 years' experience as specified in this Section may be employed during the period after the age of 21 required to complete the 2 years' experience at a rate of 1d. per hour less than the General Minimum Time-Rates applicable during the last 6 months of such period and at a rate of 2d. per hour less during any previous part of such period: Provided that in no case shall the rate paid to a worker be less than the General Minimum Time-Rate payable to the same worker between the ages of 20 and 21.

(B) That workers who enter the trade for the first time at or over the age of 21 years may be employed for a period of 6 months at a rate of 2d. per hour less and for the second period of six months at a rate of 1d. per hour less than the General Minimum Time-Rates applicable as set out in this Section. Thereafter such workers shall be entitled to the respective General Minimum Time-Rates set out in this Section notwithstanding that they have had less than 2 years' experience.

Section III.

	General Minimum Time-Rates. Male Workers. Per hour. s. d.	Female Workers. Per hour. s. d.
(a) Workers employed on all the operations of assembling, mounting and finishing the same Perambulator throughout	1 8	0 10
(b) Drillers other than Drillers on Wheel Work, Riveters, Erectors of Steel Folders, Acetylene or Electrical Welders, Tube Benders and Press Workers	1 7	0 10
(c) Workers employed on any one of the operations of assembling, mounting or finishing, or as Stove Japanners, Packers or Warehouse Hands	1 6	0 9½
(d) All other Workers	1 5	0 9

Section IV.

Male and Female Workers under 21 years of age.

Male and Female Workers employed in learning one or more of the Operations specified in Section I., Section II., and Sub-sections a, b, and c of Section III. above:—

Workers of 15 and under 16 years of age	General Minimum Time-Rates.		Unchanged
	Male Workers. per week of 48 hours. s. d.	Female Workers. per week of 48 hours. s. d.	
" 16 " 17	26 0	16 0	Unchanged
" 17 " 18	35 0	20 0	
" 18 " 19	40 0	30 0	
" 19 " 20	47 0	32 0	
" 20 " 21	54 0	34 0	

Provided that workers of 18 and under 21 years of age who at that age shall have had less than 2 years' experience in the trade may be employed during the period required to complete the 2 years' experience at a rate of ½d. per hour less than the General Minimum Time-Rate applicable during the last 12 months of such period, and at a rate of 1d. per hour less during any previous part of such period. The weekly rates for Learners set out in this Section are based on a week of 48 hours and are subject to a proportionate adjustment according as the number of hours of employment in any week is less than 48.

Section V.

Male Workers employed as Porters or Labourers.

	General Minimum Time-Rates. Per hour. s. d.	Unchanged.
18 and under 19 years of age	1 0	Unchanged.
19 " " 20 " "	1 1	
20 " " 21 " "	1 2	

PART II.

Piece-Work Basis Time-Rates for Male and Female Workers.

The Piece-work Basis Time-Rate for each of the classes of workers specified in Part I. above shall be 10 per cent. above the appropriate General Minimum Time-Rate set out therein.

PART III.

Overtime Rates for Male and Female Workers.

(a) Workers employed on Time-work:
Overtime Rates in substitution for the rates as varied or fixed by this Order are to be calculated in the manner

set out in the Minister's Order dated 17th June, 1920, S.R.O. 986 (1920).

(b) Workers employed on Piece-work:

Workers employed on piece-work shall be entitled to receive in respect of each hour of overtime worked piece-rates which would yield, in the circumstances of the case to an ordinary worker at least the equivalent of the appropriate Piece-work Basis Time-Rate, with the addition of:—

- as respects each of the first 10 hours of Overtime in any week, a sum equivalent to one-quarter of the General Minimum Time-Rate which would be applicable if the worker were employed on time-work;
- as respects each hour in excess of 10 hours of Overtime in any week, a sum equivalent to one-half of the General Minimum Time-Rate which would be applicable if the worker were employed on time-work;
- as respects each hour of employment on Sundays, on Christmas Day as respects England and Wales, on New Year's Day as respects Scotland, and on Statutory Bank Holidays (but not including Good Friday when Easter Monday is not worked and not including Easter Monday when Good Friday is not worked) a sum equivalent to the General Minimum Time-Rate which would be applicable if the worker were employed on Time-work.

PROPOSALS TO FIX OR VARY MINIMUM RATES.

A proposal to fix minimum rates of wages has been issued by the following Trade Board.

Objections to the proposal set out below may be lodged with the Trade Board issuing the notice within two months from the day following the date of the Notice of Proposal. Such objections should be in writing and signed by the person making the same (adding his or her full name and address), and should be sent to the Secretary of the Trade Board at 21, Parliament Street, Dublin.

Milk Distributive Trade Board (Ireland).

THE BOARD HAVE ISSUED A NOTICE OF PROPOSAL, DATED 9TH FEBRUARY, 1921, TO FIX GENERAL MINIMUM TIME-RATES AND OVERTIME RATES FOR MALE AND FEMALE WORKERS.

I. Proposed General Minimum Time-Rates.

(a) Male Workers:

	Per Week of 48 Hours.		
	Scale A. s. d.	Scale B. s. d.	Scale C. s. d.
19 years of age and upwards	48 6	59 6	65 0
18 and under 19 years of age	39 0	47 6	52 0
17 " 18 " "	31 0	38 0	41 0
16 " 17 " "	24 6	30 0	32 6
15 " 16 " "	19 0	22 6	25 0
Under 15 years of age	14 0	17 0	18 6

(ii) Roundsmen and Male Shop Assistants:

19 years of age and upwards	40 0	49 0	53 3
18 and under 19 years of age	32 0	39 0	42 9
17 " 18 " "	25 3	31 0	33 9
16 " 17 " "	20 0	24 6	26 9
15 " 16 " "	15 6	18 9	20 6
Under 15 years of age	11 6	13 9	15 0

(iii) All other male workers:

19 years of age and upwards	38 3	46 9	51 0
18 and under 19 years of age	30 9	37 3	41 0
17 " 18 " "	24 6	29 9	32 6
16 " 17 " "	19 0	23 6	25 3
15 " 16 " "	15 0	17 9	19 6
Under 15 years of age	11 0	13 3	14 9

(b) Female Workers:

	Scale A. s. d.	Scale B. s. d.	Scale C. s. d.
19 years of age and upwards	32 6	39 6	43 6
18 and under 19 years of age	26 0	31 6	34 6
17 " 18 " "	20 6	25 6	27 6
16 " 17 " "	16 6	20 0	21 6
15 " 16 " "	12 6	15 0	16 6
Under 15 years of age	10 0	11 6	12 6

(ii) Roundswomen and Female Shop Assistants:

19 years of age and upwards	26 9	32 6	35 6
18 and under 19 years of age	21 3	26 3	28 6
17 " 18 " "	17 0	21 0	22 9
16 " 17 " "	13 3	16 6	17 9
15 " 16 " "	10 3	12 6	13 9
Under 15 years of age	9 0	9 3	10 3

	Per Week of 48 Hours. Scale A. Scale B. Scale C.					
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
(iii) All other female workers:						
19 years of age and upwards	25 3	31 0	34 3			
18 and under 19 years of age	20 6	25 0	27 0			
17 " 18 " "	16 6	20 0	21 9			
16 " 17 " "	13 0	15 6	17 0			
15 " 16 " "	10 3	12 0	13 0			
Under 15 years of age	9 0	9 0	9 9			

II. Proposed Overtime Rates.

For Male and Female Workers (all ages).

- (a) For Clerks.—For all hours in excess of 48 in any week, TIME-AND-A-QUARTER.
- (b) For all other workers.—For all hours in excess of 54 in any week, TIME-AND-A-QUARTER. NOTE.—During the first six hours in excess of 48 in any week the minimum rate applicable shall be the appropriate general minimum time-rate, as set out in I. above.

For the purpose of these overtime rates the Board propose to declare the number of hours in any week to be 48.

The Minimum Rates set out in the respective scales A, B and C above shall apply as follows:—

- Scale A in areas administered by Rural District Councils, except any town or village within such area with population of 5,000 or more.
- Scale B in all areas other than those specified in (i) and (ii) of this paragraph.
- Scale C in all areas of the County Boroughs of Belfast, Cork, Limerick, Londonderry and Waterford and in the area of the Dublin Metropolitan Police District.

Provided that the rate applicable to a Roundsman or Roundswoman shall be determined by reference to the area in which the greater part of his or her round lies.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT, 1920.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (COURSES OF INSTRUCTION) REGULATIONS MADE BY THE MINISTER OF LABOUR UNDER THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT, 1920.*

The Minister of Labour, after consultation with the Board of Education and the Scottish Education Department, hereby makes the following Regulations in pursuance of Sections 7 and 35 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, and all other powers in that behalf.

(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Unemployment Insurance (Courses of Instruction) Regulations, 1921, and shall come into operation on the date hereof.

(2) In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires or admits,

The expression "The Minister" means the Minister of Labour.

The expression "the Act" means the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920.

The expression "insured contributor" has the same meaning as in the Act.

(3) For the purposes of Section 7 (1) (v) of the Act the Minister may approve, subject to the concurrence of the Board of Education, or the Scottish Education Department, such courses of instruction as he thinks fit.

(4) An Insurance Officer may require any insured contributor who is an applicant for unemployment benefit (or for payment in respect of unemployment from an Association of employed persons with which an arrangement has been made under Section 17 of the Act, after consultation with the Association concerned) to attend an approved course of instruction at such times and places and for such periods as the Insurance Officer may specify.

Provided that in determining whether such an insured contributor shall be required to attend an approved course of instruction and, if so, at what times and for what periods the Insurance Officer shall take into account.

(a) the distance of the insured contributor's place of residence from the place where the approved course of instruction is to be held.

(b) any available evidence tending to show that the insured contributor is attending a genuine educational course other than a course of instruction approved by the Minister under Regulation 3.

(5) An insured contributor shall be exempt from the obligation to attend at a Local Office and sign the unemployed register as a condition of qualification for or receipt of unemployment benefit upon any day on which the insured contributor duly attends an approved course of instruction, in accordance with the Insurance Officer's requirements.

(6) In the event of an insured contributor being excluded from an approved course of instruction on the ground of misbehaviour or unpunctuality or failing, without sufficient cause, to attend for the full period specified by the Insurance Officer, he shall not be deemed to have satisfied

* These Regulations, although Statutory, are provisional only. Permanent Regulations will be made later.

the statutory conditions for the receipt of unemployment benefit on any day of such exclusion or failure, unless after consideration of any special circumstances it has been otherwise determined in accordance with Section 11 of the Act or Regulation 7 of the Unemployment Insurance (Associations) Regulations, 1920.

(7) An insured contributor who is attending an approved course of instruction shall not be deemed to have proved that he is unable to obtain suitable employment if he fails to present himself at the Local Office for interview by an Officer of the Ministry of Labour in connection with a vacancy for employment, when so required, and if so required, he shall be deemed to be available for work notwithstanding the fact that he is attending an approved course of instruction.

(8) These Regulations shall be operative only in Great Britain.

Signed by Order of the Minister of Labour,
This eighteenth day of January, 1921.

J. E. MASTERTON SMITH,
Secretary of the Ministry of Labour.

DECISIONS GIVEN BY THE MINISTER.

NOTICE is hereby given of decisions given by the Minister of Labour on questions submitted to him for determination under Section 10 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920.

A.—The Minister has decided that contributions ARE payable in respect of persons employed:—

As painter and decorator, by a farming company, to keep the cottages, farm houses, and buildings on the farms occupied by the said company in repair. (S.D.U. 127.)

On a private estate to run the electric light installation at a mansion house, also to perform plumbing work and attend to the drains and roofs of the said mansion house and stables, and to run the turbine which supplies the power for the electric light and for the water supply to the said house, home farm and fields, and further to attend to the general water supply to the farms and to do small repairs to cottage roofs and houses. (S.D.U. 144.)

As carter, by a firm of nurserymen, who as such is engaged in the delivery of produce to local customers and to the station for transit. (S.D.U. 152.)

As ground labourer, by a firm of landscape gardeners and nurserymen, such occupation including ground formation, such as excavation, laying drain pipes, making paths, and laying and making football, cricket and tennis grounds and lawns, and further arranging flower beds under the supervision of a skilled foreman. (S.D.U. 153.)

To kill vermin and to watch game on a private estate. (S.D.U. 154.)

By the trustees of a private estate, to clean drains and water courses and to repair and keep up brook-banks and sea embankments in connection with the drainage system of agricultural land. (S.D.U. 156.)

As carter, by the trustees of a private estate, to cart coal to the pumping station, and materials for the repair of farm buildings and private roads leading to the farms on the estate. (S.D.U. 157.)

As aviary man in large aviaries which are open to the general public. (S.D.U. 161.)

As groundsman to look after two hard courts for lawn tennis which are not situated at the owner's private residence, and one of which can be hired by the public. (S.D.U. 165.)

As keeper of the ruins of a castle, whose duties include acting as guide to visitors, from whom he collects entrance fees and pays the amounts to his employer. (S.D.U. 166.)

As sluice keeper, by Commissioners for Drainage and Navigation. (S.D.U. 168.)

As navigation, sluice and lock keeper, by Commissioners for Drainage and Navigation. (S.D.U. 169.)

As labourers, by Commissioners for Drainage and Navigation, engaged in repairing sluices, locks, fences, bridges, &c. (S.D.U. 170.)

As labourer, by Commissioners of Drainage and Navigation, to cut weeds in drains and to carry out general drainage maintenance work. (S.D.U. 171.)

As labourer, by Commissioners for Drainage and Navigation, on a dredger used to clear drains in connection with the land drainage work carried out by the said Commissioners. (S.D.U. 172.)

As milk recorder by a Milk Recording Society, who as such performs the duties set out in that part of the memorandum on milk recording entitled "Duties of Milk Recorders," issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in June, 1920, and numbered L. 4. (S.D.U. 173.)

As park keeper, by a Corporation, who patrols the park with a view to the preservation of order and the enforcement of the bye-laws. (S.D.U. 175.)

As keeper of recreation and pleasure grounds, by a Corporation, whose duties include the mowing, rolling and keeping in condition of the bowling

greens, and collecting the charges for the use of the greens. (S.D.U. 176.)

As warehouseman, by a firm of seed merchants and nurserymen, engaged in packing and general seed order work. (S.D.U. 178a.)

As warehouseman, by a firm of seed merchants and nurserymen, engaged in sorting potatoes and testing them for trueness. (S.D.U. 179a.)

As typist and secretary in private mansion. (S.D.U. 180.)

As mechanic, by a person carrying on business as an agricultural mechanic and farmer, to erect and repair agricultural machines of all sorts, and occasionally to grind lawn mowers. (S.D.U. 181.)

As estate constable on a private estate, whose duties include the preservation of game and the prevention of trespass on the estate. (S.D.U. 182.)

As statistical and survey assistant by the Forestry Commissioners. (S.D.U. 189.)

As sawyer on a private estate, who as such saws timber for fencing, buildings and firewood. (S.D.U. 195.)

As matron in private preparatory school, who as such has charge of the general care and well-being of the boys, and also superintends the management of the dormitories. (S.D.U. 197.)

As dormitory maid at a private preparatory school. (S.D.U. 198.)

As cook at a private preparatory school. (S.D.U. 201.)

As guide, by the owner of a castle to show visitors round the castle. (S.D.U. 207.)

B.—The Minister has decided that contributions are NOT payable in respect of persons employed:—

As cowman and oddman, by a private land owner, to attend to three cows kept for private use, and two pigs, and further to keep the water pump and acetylene gas engine going for the supply of the mansion house, and also to stoke the house heating furnaces. (S.D.U. 115.)

As groom, by a farmer, to look after a carriage horse, riding horse, pony stallion, sundry mares and young stock, and to help on the farm at hay time and harvest. (S.D.U. 133.)

As head messenger in a large private mansion, who as such is in charge of the office at the entrance and is responsible for the care and delivery of all letters and parcels. (S.D.U. 139.)

As cowman by a cow keeper and dairyman to milk and feed cows, to work in the fields, and to deliver milk. (S.D.U. 145.)

As matron at a convalescent home, who superintends the domestic affairs, and is responsible for the management and for the stores, furniture, beds and household effects of the home. (S.D.U. 162.)

As farm hand, by a firm of potato merchants, to work on a farm during the potato lifting season and during hay time and harvest, also to superintend the dressing of potatoes in the country and occasionally to deliver potatoes to shops. (S.D.U. 167.)

As lodge keeper, on a private estate, to open and close the lodge gates and to keep the entrance to the drive clean and tidy. (S.D.U. 177.)

In general horticultural work on the trial grounds of a firm of seed merchants and nurserymen. (S.D.U. 178.)

On the potato section of the trial grounds of a firm of seed merchants and nurserymen. (S.D.U. 179.)

As carter and labourer on a farm by a land owner. (S.D.U. 183.)

As gardener on a private estate, to mow lawns, to prune trees and shrubs, to prepare ground for the re-planting of trees and to erect and repair fences enclosing the plantations in which the said trees have been planted. (S.D.U. 186.)

As free trainee by the Forestry Commissioners. (S.D.U. 187.)

As free trainee by the Forestry Commissioners. (S.D.U. 188.)

As general estate workman on a private estate, who as such is engaged during the summer in hedging, repairing gates, fences, &c., and further during the season acts as woodman to cut underwood and to fell trees. (S.D.U. 190.)

CORRIGENDA.

The following are corrections of Decisions reported in the February GAZETTE.

A. Stores porter, performing the ordinary duties of butcher at a mental hospital by the Metropolitan Asylums Board. Should be S.D.U. 124.

B. Feeder for a threshing machine, employed by a firm of engineers and contractors, engaged in threshing out corn, whose duties consist of oiling, tuning up and testing the machine, which he afterwards feeds with corn on various farms. Should be S.D.U. 50.

Attendant on aged inmates at a workhouse by a Board of Guardians, who attends to the changing of their clothing, linen, and bedding, and supervises their cleansing, bathing and feeding. Should be S.D.U. 135.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO LABOUR RECEIVED DURING FEBRUARY.

UNITED KINGDOM.

[All the Official Publications (distinguished by Cd., Cmd., H.L., H.C. or S.O. publication) may be purchased through any bookseller or directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses: Imperial House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2, and 28, Abingdon Street, London, S.W.1; 57, Peter Street, Manchester; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff; 23, Forth Street, Edinburgh; or from E. Ponsonby, Ltd., 118, Grafton Street, Dublin.]

CIVIL SERVICE.—(1) Civil Service National Whitley Council Re-organisation Committee, Final Report. [S.O. publication: price 3d.] (2) Statement showing the staffs of government departments on 1st January, 1921. Treasury. [Cmd. 1152: price 1d.]

EDUCATION.—(1) Report of the University Grants Committee, 3rd February, 1921. Treasury. [Cmd. 1163: price 3d.] (2) Standard scales of salaries for teachers in public elementary schools. England and Wales. Correspondence in January, 1921, between the President of the Board of Education and the Chairman of the Standing Joint Committee . . . upon the Committee's reports of the 30th September and 16th December, 1920. Board of Education. [S.O. publication: price 2d.] (3) Regulations as to reformatory and industrial schools. Scottish Education Department. [Cmd. 1159: price 1d.] (4) The eighty-fifth report of the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland, school year 1918-19. [Cmd. 1048: price 4d.]

EMIGRATION.—Return of the numbers of emigrants (natives of Ireland) who left Irish ports during the month of January, 1921. Registrar General. [S.O. publication: price 1d.]

EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES.—Minutes of evidence taken before the Committee of enquiry. Ministry of Labour. [Cmd. 1140: price 5s.]

EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN.—Report on the bye-laws made by the London County Council under the Employment of Children Act, 1903, and the Education Act, 1918, and on the objections thereto, by Chester Jones, one of the Metropolitan Police Magistrates. Home Office. [Cmd. 1122: price 2d.]

EX-SERVICE MEN.—(1) Ex-Service men in Government offices on 1st January, 1921. Treasury. [Cmd. 1151: price 1d.] (2) Reports upon openings in industry suitable for disabled soldiers and sailors. No. III (2nd revision). Tailoring (Bespoke individual section). M.5/III. Ministry of Labour. [S.O. publication: price 2d.]

INSURANCE.—(1) National Health Insurance. Interim Report by the Government Actuary upon the valuation of the assets and liabilities of approved societies as at 31st December, 1918, showing the summarised results of the valuations up to 24th December, 1920. Ministry of Health. [Cmd. 1130: price 1d.] (See p. 124.) (2) Report by the Government Actuary on the financial provisions of the Unemployment Insurance Act (1920) Amendment Bill. Ministry of Labour. [Cmd. 1164: price 1d.]

LEAD POISONING.—Memorandum on industrial lead poisoning. Home Office, Factory Department. [S.O. publication: price 3d.] (See p. 126.)

MERCANTILE MARINE.—International Labour (Seamen's) Conference, 1920. Draft conventions and recommendations, with an introduction. Ministry of Labour. [S.O. publication: price 3d.] (See p. 127.)

MINING.—(1) Coal output (monthly statistics) for the four weeks ended (a) 4th December, 1920, and (b) 1st January, 1921. Board of Trade, Mines Department. [H.C. 33-XII and H.C. 33-XIII: price 1d. each.] (2) Return of Coal output (weekly statistics) to the week ended 22nd January, 1921. Board of Trade, Mines Department. [H.C. 28-IX: price 1d.]

NATIONAL EXPENDITURE.—(1) Reports from the Select Committee on National Expenditure together with the proceedings of the Committee, minutes of evidence, and appendices, 1920. [H.C. 100, 118, 138, 150, 172, 183, 209, 248: price 3s.] (2) Report from the Select Committee on Members' expenses, together with the proceedings of the Committee, minutes of evidence and appendices. [H.C. 255: price 9d.] (3) Civil Service and Revenue Departments, Appropriation Accounts, 1919-20, with the reports of the Comptroller and Auditor-General thereon. [H.C. 4: price 6s.] (4) Index to Reports from the Select Committee on publications and debates reports. Session 1920. [H.C. 64, 165, 254—Ind.: price 1d.]

OVERSEA SETTLEMENT.—Professional handbook. Part III. Civil Service clerks, stenographers, typists and accountants, governesses, teachers. Oversea Settlement Office. [S.O. publication: price 6d.]

POLICE.—Committee on the employment of women on police duties. Minutes of evidence. [Cmd. 1133: price 2s.]

PROFITTEERING.—Reports of Committee of Investigation. Board of Trade. (a) Second report on motor fuel. [Cmd. 1119: price 2d.] (b) Soap industry. [Cmd. 1126: price 3d.] (c) Scheme for maximum retail prices for coal in London. [Cmd. 1161: price 2d.]

RAILWAYS. (1) Returns of the capital, traffic, receipts and working expenditure, etc., of the railway companies of the

United Kingdom for the year 1919. Ministry of Transport. [Cmd. 1160: price 3s.] (2) Report of the Rates Advisory Committee on the interim revision of railway rates, tolls, fares and charges, July and October, 1920. Part III. Fares lower than ordinary and services rendered free or at nominal charges. Ministry of Transport. [Cmd. 1148: price 2d.] (3) Departmental Committee on railway agreements, report and appendices. Ministry of Transport. [Cmd. 1152: price 3s.]

TRADE UNIONS.—Reports of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies for the year ending 31st December, 1918. Part C. Trade Unions. [S.O. Publication: price 10s.]

DOMINIONS AND FOREIGN.—REPORTS.—(1) Ashanti. Report No. 1053 for 1919. Colonial Office. [Cmd. 1103-1: price 3d.] (2) Bahamas. Report No. 1059 for 1919-20. Colonial Office. [Cmd. 1103-2: price 2d.] (3) British Solomon Islands. Report No. 1060 for 1919-20. Colonial Office. [Cmd. 1103-3: price 1d.] (4) Report of the special mission to Egypt. Egypt, No. 1 (1921). Foreign Office. [Cmd. 1131: price 6d.] (5) Malay States. Reports for 1919 on the Unfederated Malay States under British protection. Colonial Office. [Cmd. 1135: price 2s.] (6) Montenegro. Report on political conditions. Misc. No. 1 (1921). [Cmd. 1123: price 1d.] Further Report. Misc. No. 2 (1921). Foreign Office. [Cmd. 1124: price 2d.] (7) Norway. General report on the industrial and economic situation in December, 1920. Department of Overseas Trade. [Cmd. 1145: price 9d.]

BRITISH DOMINIONS AND INDIA.

CANADA.—(1) The Labour Gazette. January, 1921. Minister of Labour on Canada's programme for meeting unemployment; Employment Service Council and Trades and Labour Congress on unemployment; the Technical Education Act in operation, &c. Department of Labour. (2) Monthly Bulletin of Agricultural Statistics. December, 1920. World's production of cereals, potatoes and wool; prices; &c. Dominion Bureau of Statistics. [Ottawa: Thomas Mulvey.] (3) ONTARIO.—(a) Vocational opportunities in the industries of Ontario. A Survey. Bulletin No. 5. Boots and shoes, harness and saddlery. No. 6. Textiles. No. 7. Bread, biscuits and confectionery. No. 8. Furniture and upholstery. No. 10. Foundry and machine shop products. Department of Labour. (b) Course in employment management, September, 1919. Lectures given at the Social Service Department of Toronto University on economics and industry; personnel management; and industrial psychology. Department of Labour. [Toronto: The Ryerson Press.]

NEW SOUTH WALES.—The Industrial Gazette. November, 1920. Prices; employment; workmen's compensation; industrial agreements and awards; &c. Department of Labour and Industry. [Sydney: W. A. Gullick, Government Printer.]

VICTORIA.—Report of the Registrar of Friendly Societies for the year 1919. [Melbourne: A. J. Mullett, Government Printer.]

EGYPT.—Report on Cost of Living. (Supplement to "Monthly Agricultural Statistics." November, 1920). Ministry of Finance, Statistical Department. [Cairo: Government Press.]

INDIA.—(1) Monthly Circular of the Department of Industries. January, 1921. Labour in India during December, 1920, &c. [Delhi.] (2) Prices and wages in India. Wholesale and retail prices; wages in 1893 and from 1895 to 1920; &c. Department of Statistics. (3) Statistics of British India. Vol. II. Financial Statistics. Includes figures for co-operative societies showing increase since 1906-7. Department of Statistics. (4) Return showing the wholesale and retail prices of cereals, pulses, oil-seeds, sugar (raw), salt, &c., in India and districts for the fortnight ending the 30th November, 1920. Department of Statistics. (5) Monthly statistics of cotton spinning and weaving in Indian mills. October, 1920. Department of Statistics. (6) Third cotton forecast, 1920-21. December 24th and 30th, 1920. Department of Statistics. (7) First general memorandum on the sesamum (til or jinjira) crop of 1920-21. January 18th, 1921. Department of Statistics. [Calcutta: Superintendent Government Printing.]

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

INTERNATIONAL.—(1) International crop report and agricultural statistics. January, 1921. Part I. Prices. Part II. Production. National Institute of Agriculture, Bureau of Statistics. [Rome.] (2) International Labour Office, Official Bulletin. (a) 19th January, 1921. Vol. III. No. 2-3. Swiss peasants' union and agricultural questions at forthcoming conference; labour legislation, &c. (b) 26th January. Vol. III. No. 4. Postponement of 1921 Conference; social insurance funds under the Peace Treaties; labour legislation arising out of the International Labour Conference, Washington. (c) 2nd February, 1921. Vol. III. No. 5. Meeting of the Technical Commission on unemploy-

ment, &c. [Geneva.] (3) *International Labour Office. Studies and Reports Series.* (a) 15th Congress of the General Confederation of Labour (*Confédération Générale du Travail*) (France), at Orleans 27th Sept. to 2nd Oct., 1920. Series A. No. 14. The May strike and nationalisation; the International Federation of Trade Unions and the Communist International of Moscow; &c. (b) *The International Congress of General Factory Workers.* Series A. No. 15. Amsterdam Congress; problems of organisation; attitude towards Bolshevism; future of the chemical industry; &c. (c) *Tendencies of European labour legislation since the War.* Series A. No. 16. Eight hour day; workers' control; collective agreements; wages and welfare; &c. (d) *The growth of trade unionism during the ten years 1910-1919.* Series A. No. 17. Shows that in the twenty countries for which reliable figures are available trade union membership has more than doubled since 1913 and trebled since 1910. (e) *The socialisation of the coal mines in Germany.* Series B. No. 4. Report of the Socialisation Commission of July 31st, 1920. (f) *The Essen Memorandum on the socialisation of the coal mines in Germany.* Series B. No. 5. Produced by the Commission established on 9th May by the Federal Economic Council and the Coal Council but signed by the employers' delegates only. (g) *Works Councils in Germany.* Series B. No. 6. Their history; the Act of 1920; relations with employers and trade unions; legislation in other countries, &c. (4) *The admission of Germany and Austria to the International Labour Organisation.* Question raised in February, 1919; admission resolved on at the Washington Conference, 30th October, 1919; representatives at the Genoa Conference. International Labour Office. [Geneva.]

ARGENTINE.—*Cronica Mensual del Departamento Nacional del Trabajo.* November and December, 1920. Retail prices, 1919-20 (June). Labour Department. [Buenos Aires.]

AUSTRIA.—(1) *Amtliche Nachrichten des Oesterreichischen Bundes-Ministeriums für Soziale Verwaltung.* No. 1. 1921. Law preparatory to amendment of sickness insurance; accident insurance statistics for 1917. Department for Social Administration. [Vienna.] (2) *Bundesgesetzblatt für die Republik Oesterreich.* Nos. 13 to 23, 1920. (Federal Gazette of Laws). [Vienna.]

BELGIUM.—(1) *Bulletin de Documentation Economique.* 5th, 12th and 19th February, 1921. Notices, statistics, &c., relating to reconstruction; supplies; industrial and labour matters of foreign countries; employment exchanges in December, 1920; retail prices on 15th December in Belgium. Ministry of Economics. [Brussels.] (2) *Revue du Travail.* January and February, 1921. Employment in December and January; unemployment in November and December; labour disputes; industrial councils in Luxemburg; retail prices in December; Bill relating to freedom of association for trade unions; workmen's accident compensation, 1914-1919; wages in food and glove making trades. Ministry of Industry, Labour and Supplies. [Brussels.]

CHILE.—*Boletín de la Oficina del Trabajo.* No. 5, 1920. Report on conditions in mining industry; industrial accidents in 1919; work of employment exchanges, 1st January to 30th October, 1920; wages and labour conditions in Santiago. National Labour Office. [Santiago de Chile.]

CZECHO-SLOVAKIA.—(1) *Rapports de l'Office de Statistique de la République Tchécoslovaque.* No. 10, 1920. Foreign trade statistics. Statistical Office. [Prague.] (2) *Bulletin Statistique de la République Tchécoslovaque.* February, 1921. First census of Teheco-Slovakia, 15th February, 1921, and provisional results of census of Slovakia (1919). Statistical Office. [Prague.] (3) *Exposé Sommaire des Travaux Legislatifs de l'Assemblée Nationale Tchécoslovaque.* Resumé of legislation from 28th October, 1918 to 26th May, 1920. [Prague.]

DENMARK.—(1) *Beretning fra Arbejderforsikrings-Raadet for aaret 1919.* Workmen's insurance in 1919. Unemployment Council, Workmen's Council, &c. [Copenhagen.] (2) *Statistiske Efterretninger.* 4th, 11th, 16th and 24th February, 1921. Wages for 3rd quarter of 1920; unemployment and retail prices in January, 1921; Census of 1st February, provisional results. Statistical Department. [Copenhagen.] (3) *Social Forsorg.* January, 1921. Public relief in Copenhagen 1919-20; law of 22nd December, 1920, on State grants for unemployed; recent unemployment statistics. Unemployment Council, Workmen's Council, &c. [Hellerup.]

FINLAND.—(1) *Statistisk Årsbok för Finland, 1919.* Statistical Year Book. Wages; mutual benefit societies; industrial accidents; unemployment; employment exchanges. Central Statistical Bureau. [Helsingfors.] (2) *Social Tidkrift.* No. 6, 1920. Labour disputes, January to June, 1920; retail prices and cost of living in October, 1920. Department for Social Affairs. [Helsingfors.]

FRANCE.—*Journal Officiel* (daily). Issues from 29th January—25th February (inclusive). [Paris.]

GERMANY.—(1) *Reichs-Arbeitsblatt.* 30th January and 15th February, 1921. Relief measures against unemployment; recent collective labour agreements; wages; hours of labour; employment in December; Bills concerning works councils and rent restriction, cost of living in German towns, work of employment exchanges. Ministry of Labour. [Berlin.] (2) *Die Pflicht zur Beschäftigung Schwerbeschädigter.* Obligatory employment of disabled soldiers; Orders of 9th January, 1919, and 1st February,

1919; text and commentary. Committee for Welfare of Disabled Soldiers. [Berlin.] (3) *Reichs-Gesetzblatt.* Nos. 1-7, 1921; 230-243, 1920 (inclusive). Federal Bulletin of Laws. [Berlin.] (4) *Deutscher Reichsanzeiger* (daily). Issues from 28th January—25th February (inclusive). [Berlin.]

HOLLAND.—(1) *Bijdragen tot de statistiek van Nederland: (a) Statistiek van het Gewerkschapswezen 1918.* Prisons statistics. (b) *Criminele statistiek over het jaar 1918.* Criminal statistics, 1918. (c) *Statistiek van den loop der bevolking in Nederland.* Births, marriages, deaths, &c., in 1919. Central Bureau of Statistics. [The Hague.] (2) *Jaarcijfers voor het Koninkrijk der Nederlanden.* Statistics of persons employed in factories; industrial inspection; unemployment; employment exchanges; wages and hours of labour; labour disputes; collective agreements; trade unions; retail prices; &c., 1919. Central Statistical Bureau. [The Hague.] (3) *Centraal Verslag der Arbeidsinspectie in het Koninkrijk der Nederlanden over 1919.* Report of the Inspector of Labour for the year 1919. [The Hague.]

ITALY.—(1) *Il Mercato del Lavoro.* 31st December, 1920. Provision for relief works against unemployment; employment exchanges; unemployment statistics. Ministry of Labour and Social Thrift. [Rome.] (2) *Bollettino Ufficiale del Ministero per il Lavoro e la Previdenza Sociale.* (a) 16th January, 1921. Recent legislation concerning insurance against unemployment. (b) 1st February, 1921. Royal Decree of 23rd December, 1920, prohibiting use of white phosphorus in match making. Ministry of Labour and Social Thrift. [Rome.] (3) *Bollettino della Emigrazione.* Nos. 10-12, 1920. Emigration and immigration regulations; statistics of emigration, Italy and other countries; Emigration Commission. [Rome.]

MEXICO.—*Gaceta Mensual del Departamento del Trabajo.* November, 1920. Retail prices in Mexico City in November; electricians' strike (26th November). Department of Labour. [Mexico City.]

NORWAY.—(1) *Norges Offisielle Statistik. (a) Meddelelser fra det Statistiske Centralbyrå No. 11, 1920* (Journal of the Statistical Central Bureau). Supplement on the "Races of Northern Norway." (b) *Norges Telegrafvaesen 1918-1919.* (Telegraphs and telephones in 1918 and 1919.) (c) *Kriminalstatistik 1915 and 1916.* (Criminal Statistics.) (d) *Fattigvaesenet 1916 and 1917.* (Public poor relief.) (e) *Den Civile Rettspleie, 1916, 1917 and 1918.* (Judicial Statistics.) (f) *Rekruttering for den Norske Haer 1916.* (Army recruiting.) (g) *Private Aktiebanker 1919.* (Joint Stock Banks.) Central Statistical Bureau. [Christiania.] (2) *Sociale Meddelelser.* Nos. 1 and 2, 1921. Retail prices in December, 1920, and January, 1921; wages in brewery and mineral water industry in 1917; employment exchanges. Ministry for Social Affairs. [Christiania.] (3) *Foreløbige resultater av Folketellingen i Norge.* Population census of 1st December, 1920. Preliminary results. Central Statistical Bureau. [Christiania.]

SPAIN.—*Boletín del Instituto de Reformas Sociales.* December, 1920. Wages and hours of labour in Tarragona province; retail prices April to September, 1920; labour disputes in October, 1920. Institute of Social Reforms. [Madrid.]

SWEDEN.—(1) *Sveriges Officiella Statistik. (a) Fattigvården år 1918.* (Public poor relief statistics for 1918.) (b) *Statens Förlämningsmans för Medling i Arbets-tvister.* State conciliation in Sweden—Report 1919. (c) *Arbetsinställelser i Sverige år 1919.* Labour disputes in 1919. Central Statistical Bureau. [Stockholm.] (2) *Sociala Meddelanden.* No. 2, 1921. Employment in December; wages and hours of labour in agriculture in 1919; labour disputes in 1919; official conciliation in 1919; employment exchanges in December; trade union unemployment in October; retail prices and cost of living. Department for Social Affairs. [Stockholm.]

SWITZERLAND.—(1) *Der Schweizerische Arbeitsmarkt.* 17th February, 1921. (Statistics relating to work of employment exchanges.) Central Employment Exchange. [Berne.] (2) *Preisbericht.* No. 7, 1921. Retail prices; summary of budgets of 277 Swiss households. Federal Statistical Bureau. [Berne.] (3) *Eidgenössisches Arbeitsamt: Monats-Bericht.* No. 1, January, 1921. Monthly report of unemployment statistics. [Berne.] (4) *Feuille Fédérale et Recueil des Lois Suisses.* (Weekly.) Issues from 26th January—16th February (inclusive). [Berne.]

URUGUAY.—(1) *Boletín de la Oficina Nacional del Trabajo.* December, 1920. Bills relating to minimum wages and weekly rest; eight-hour day regulations. National Labour Office. [Montevideo.] (2) *Estadística del Trabajo y de las Subsistencias.* Statistics of Labour and Food Supply. National Labour Office. [Montevideo.]

UNITED STATES.—(a) *Federal. (1) Eighth annual report of the Chief, Children's Bureau, for the year ended June 30, 1920.* Standards of development and physical fitness for working children; children engaged in rural labour and industrial home work; children in Czechoslovakia, Poland; &c. Department of Labour, Children's Bureau. [Washington:] Government Printing Office. (2) *Comparative railway statistics, United States and Foreign Countries, 1916* (with later statistics where available). Includes average yearly compensation per employee, 1916. Consec. No. 170. Misc. Series No. 35. December, 1920. Bureau of Railway Economics. [Washington:] Government Printing

Office.] (3) *Industrial News Survey,* February 5th, 1921. National Industrial Conference Board. [New York.]

—(b) *State.*—CONNECTICUT. *Twenty-ninth report of the Bureau of Labour for the period ended June 30th, 1920.* Strikes and lock-outs; directory of labour organisations; &c. [Hartford.]

—MINNESOTA. *Court decisions, Attorney-General's opinion, Department of Labour advice, relative to the Workmen's Compensation Act, from date when Act was effective to July, 1920.* Bulletin No. 17. Chief Statistician, Department of Labour and Industries. [St. Paul.]

—NEW YORK. (1) *Asphyxiation in garages and other automobile accidents.* Special Bulletin No. 101. Department of Labour, Division of Industrial Hygiene, Bureau of Inspection. [Albany:] J. B. Lyon. (2) *Annual report of the Industrial Commission, for the year ended 30th June, 1919.* Inspection; workmen's compensation; arbitration; employment bureaux; women in industry. Department of

Labour. [Albany.] (3) *New York State Industrial Code, 1920.* Supplementary to the Labour Law, and in addition to rules applying to all factories, contains special regulations for building, canning, compressed air work, etc. Bureau of Statistics and Information. [Albany.]

—PENNSYLVANIA. *Bulletin of the Department of Labor and Industry.* Vol. VII. 1920. No. 8. Report of activities of Bureau of Inspection during 1919. [Harrisburg, Penna:] J. L. L. Kuhn.

—WISCONSIN. (1) *Industrial Commission of Wisconsin, Biennial Report, 1918-20.* Industrial safety; factory inspection; employment agencies; women and children in industry; minimum wages; etc. [Madison.] (2) *Labour Laws and Orders of the Industrial Commission, 1920.* Classified under safety, sanitation, industrial compensation, hours of labour, etc., and includes a private employment agency law. Industrial Commission. [Madison, Wis.]

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.

LIST OF NEW CONTRACTS, FEBRUARY, 1921.

ADMIRALTY

(CONTRACT AND PURCHASE DEPARTMENT).

Air Filter: Heenan & Froude, Manchester.—Automatic Telephone Exchange Equipment: Relay Automatic Telephone Co., London, W.C.—Badges, Embroidered: R. F. Bloomfield, Ltd., London, S.W.; E. Day (St. Albans), Ltd., St. Albans; Elsmere, Ltd., London, S.W.; Herbert & Co., London, W.C.; Hobson & Sons (London), Ltd., London, W.; H. James, London, W.; G. Kenning & Son, London, E.C.; Magna & Co., London, W.; R. Stevenson, London, E.C.; E. Stillwell & Son, Ltd., London, E.C.; S. Simpson, Preston; Stokoe & Co., London, S.W.; R. Virgo & Co., London, S.W.; War Service Legion, London, W.—Bindings for Pins and Blocks: Carron & Co., Carron, N.B.; Laird & Son, Ltd., Irvine, N.B.—Britannia Metal: Cooper Bros. and Sons, Ltd., Sheffield; T. Wilkinson & Sons, Birmingham.—Blow Lamps and Brazing Apparatus: The Kitson Empire Lighting Co., Ltd., Lincoln.—Bolts, Steel, with Iron Nuts: Blakemore & Co., Ltd., Atherton; Stones Bros., Ltd., West Bromwich.—Boots, Half: O. Smith, Raunds.—Brushes, Steel Wire: W. Greening & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.; C. H. Leng & Sons, Birmingham; Mechanical Appliances Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; W. Riddell & Co., Glasgow; Thornton, Williams & Co., London, S.E.; W. Turner, Boxmoor; J. & R. Whyte, Glasgow.—Circulating Water Screen: F. W. Brackett & Co., Ltd., Colchester.—Cap Covers, Marcellene: S. Schneiders & Son, London, E.C.—Casks, Drums and Cans: Baldwins, Ltd., London E.C.; F. Francis & Sons, Ltd., London, S.E.—Cast Iron Underbeds and Slabs: J. J. Thornycroft & Co., Southampton.—Earthenware: T. G. Green & Co., Ltd., Burton-on-Trent; F. Winkle & Co., Ltd., Stoke-on-Trent.—Electrically Operated Jib Crane: Armstrong & Main, Ltd., London, W.C.—Electrical Condenser: W. A. Hole, London, E.C.—Electric Lighting, etc.: G. E. Taylor & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—Fans, Electric: General Electric Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—Flour: E. Marriage & Son, Ltd., Felixstowe.—Glass, Table: A. & R. Cochran, Glasgow; Edinburgh & Leith Flint Glass Co., Ltd., Edinburgh; J. Fleming & Co., Stourbridge; Greener & Co., Sunderland; Molineaux, Webb & Co., Manchester; H. G. Richardson & Sons, Stourbridge; Robinson, Son & Co., Warrington; Stevens & Williams, Ltd., Brierley Hill; Walsh J. Walsh, Birmingham.—Gardner Engines: Norris, Henty & Gardners, Ltd., London, E.C.—Handkerchiefs, Black Silk: J. & T. Brocklehurst & Sons, Ltd., Macclesfield; J. Dunkerley & Son, Ltd., Macclesfield.—Hand Travellers: H. Morris, Ltd., Loughborough.—Hose Fittings: Consolidated Pneumatic Tool Co., Ltd., London, W.; Globe Pneumatic Engineering Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—Jerseys, Blue Worsted: Fraser Frasers & Co., Kilmarnock; C. Lewin, Leicester; J. & R. Morley, London, E.C.—Lead, Sheet and Pipe: A. D. Foulkes, Ltd., Birmingham; Walkers, Parker & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—Lime Juice: Evans, Sons, Lescher & Webb, Ltd., Liverpool.—Manganese Bronze Bars: The Manganese Bronze and Brass Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—Marrowfat Peas: White, Tomkins & Courage, Ltd., London, E.C.—Overcoats, Seamen's: A. Berman, London, E.C.; H. Freedman & Co., Leeds; Myers & Co., London, E.C.; Rego Clothiers, Ltd., London, E.C.; Silman & Rueben, Leeds; Utilis Coat Co., Ltd., Leeds.—Paddocks: Walsall Locks & Cart Gear, Ltd., Walsall.—Plates, Sheets and Flats, Steel: The Park Gate Iron & Steel Co., Ltd., Rotherham.—Plates, Steel, Chequered: The Park Gate Iron & Steel Co., Ltd., Rotherham.—Racks, Steel: Estler Bros., London, E.—Rotary Strainer: Worthington-Simpson, Ltd., Birmingham.—Steam Generating and Cooking Plant: Benham & Sons, London, W.—Screws and Nuts, Iron and Brass: H. Cox Screw Co., Ltd., Birmingham; T. Eaves, Ltd., Birmingham; A. Stokes & Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—Sectional Material, Steel: W. Beardmore & Co., Ltd., Glasgow; Cargo Fleet Iron Co., Ltd., Middlesbrough; D. Colville & Son, Ltd., Motherwell, N.B.; Frodingham Iron & Steel Co., Ltd., Scunthorpe.—Shoes, White Buckskin: Crick & Co., Northampton.—Sheets,

Copper: Broughton Copper Co., Ltd., Manchester.—Sheets, Zinc: Ash & Lacy, Ltd., Birmingham; Locke, Lancaster & W. W. & R. Johnson & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.; London Zinc Mills, Ltd., London, N.—Suits, Bluett: Fleming, Birkby & Goodall, Ltd., Halifax; Johnson & Sons, Ltd., Great Yarmouth.—Scutching Machine, Replace Parts for: Fairbairn, Lawson, Coombe, Barbour, Ltd., Leeds.—Travellers and Pulley Blocks: H. Morris, Ltd., Loughborough.—Thermometers: T. E. Thompson & Co., London, E.C.—Vinegar: Fardon's Vinegar Co., Ltd., Birmingham.

ADMIRALTY

(CIVIL ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF'S DEPARTMENT).

Concrete Mixers for Gibraltar: R. O. Graham, London, S.W.—Galvanised Corrugated Sheets for Gibraltar and Malta: Dorman, Long & Co., Ltd., Middlesbrough; Bowesfield Steel Co., Ltd., Stockton-on-Tees.—Office at Hull for Commanding Officer (Humber Area): J. Taylor & Son, Hull.—Repairs, Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve Batteries at Hove and Newhaven: George Lynn & Sons, Brighton; The Hughes Engineering Co., Newhaven.

WAR OFFICE.

Axles: Fodens, Ltd., Sandbach.—Boards, Distributing: General Electric Co., London, E.C.; Wm. Sanders & Co., Wednesbury.—Bolts and Nuts: Prestwick, Ltd., Atherton; C. Richards & Sons, Darlaston; Stones Bros., West Bromwich; Wilkes, Ltd., Darlaston.—Bridge Meggers: Evershed & Vignoles, Ltd., Chiswick.—Caps, Service Dress, etc.: J. Avon & Co., London.—Cement: Cement Marketing Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—Chloride of Lime: Castner, Kellner Alkali Co., Liverpool.—Copper: Elder, Smith & Co., London, E.C.—Copper Manganese: United Brass Founders & Engineers, Manchester.—Cordage: Frost Bros., Ltd., London, E.—Corrugated Steel Sheets: Burnell & Co., Birkenhead; Wolverhampton Corr. Iron Co., Ltd., Ellesmere Port.—Electric Cells: Fullers United Electric Co., Essex; Siemens Bros., Woolwich.—Extinguisher Re-fills: The Webb Lamp Co., Ltd., London.—Gold Lace: S. Simpson, Preston; E. Stilwell & Son, Ltd., London.—Inspection of Boilers: Manchester Steam Users' Association, Manchester.—Metal Rod: Delta Metal Co., Greenwich, S.E.—Millband Butts: S. E. Norris & Co., Ltd., London.—Motor Car Chassis: Rolls-Royce, Ltd., Derby.—Motor Chassis: International Motors, Ltd., Hammersmith, W.—Motor Spares: Albion Motor Car Co., Ltd., London, W.; International Motors, Ltd., Hammersmith, W.; Slough Trading Co., Slough; Sunbeam Motor Car Co., Ltd., Wolverhampton.—Oxygen: British Oxygen Co., Ltd., London.—Paint, Ground in Oil: Cookson & Co., London, E.C.—Phosphor Tin: Billington & Newton, Longport.—Pitch: Rylance & Sons, Liverpool.—Pneumatic Tubes: Industrial Rubber Manufacturers, Ltd., St. Albans.—Ranges, Kitchen: Dobbie, Forbes & Co., Larchburn.—Scientific Instruments: T. Hamblin, Ltd., London.—Shoes, Gymnasium: North British Rubber Co., Ltd., Edinburgh.—Steel, Round: Frodingham Iron & Steel Co., Leeds.—Steel Rounds, Flats, Squares and Channels: David Colville & Sons, Motherwell.—Turbine Pumps: Drysdale & Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—Periodical Services: M. Gough, Limerick; T. Kelleher, Cork.—Building Works: Prosbey & Co., Ltd., Farnham.

AIR MINISTRY.

Aeroplanes: Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Bristol.—Aeroplane Spares: Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Bristol; English Electric Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—Aluminium Ingots: British Aluminium Co., London, E.C.—Amphibian Aircraft: Supermarine Aviation Works, Ltd., Southampton.—Amphibian Machine: Supermarine Aviation Works, Ltd., Southampton.—Aviation Spirit: Shell Mex, Ltd., London, W.C.—Ballast: G. E. Cloke, London, N.W.—Bolts and Brads: C. Richards & Sons, Darlaston.—Carburettors and Spares: H. M. Hobson, Ltd., London, S.W.—Caustic Soda: Castner-Kellner Alkali Co., Ltd., Liverpool; East Lancashire Chemical Co., Ltd., Manchester.—Electric Wiring:

T. Clarke & Co., London, S.W.—Engines: The Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Bristol—Engine Spares: Liquidation Peter Hooker, Ltd., London, E.; British Thomson Houston Co., Ltd., Coventry.—Fenders, Guards and Tongs: R. Peel & Co., Pudsey.—Ferro Silicon: Allen-Liversidge, Ltd., London, S.W.—Fire Hose: London Fire Brigade, London, S.E.—Furnace Fuel Oil: Anglo-American Oil Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—Foundations: Cannon, Green & Co., Aylesbury.—Gravel: T. Paterson & Sons, Farnham.—Illuminated Ground Wind Indicating Sign: Gas Accumulator Co. (U.K.), Ltd., Brentford.—Japanese Posters: Franco-British Electrical Co., London, W.—Magnets: British Thomson Houston Co., Ltd., Coventry.—Magneto Spares: North & Sons, Ltd., Watford.—Mahogany: W. Oliver & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.—Maintenance (Jobbing Repairs): Sobey & Son, London, N.—Petrol Pumps: De Havilland Aircraft Co., Ltd., Edgware, Middlesex.—Petrol Storage: Oil Storage & Equipment Co., London, Bywater & Co., London, W.C.—Portland Cement: Smead, Dean & Co., Sittingbourne.—Propellers, Metal Sheathed: D. M. Davies, London, N.—Reinforced Concrete: G. Greenwood & Sons, London, E.C.—Steel Sheets, Cover to Reservoir: Burys & Co., Ltd., Sheffield.—Small Tools: Buck & Hickman, Ltd., London, E.; G. Hatch & Co., London, E.C.—Sparkling Plugs and Clips: Robinhood Eng. Works, Ltd., London, S.W.—Spruce: Gabriel Wade & English, Ltd., London, S.E.—Tyres, Outer: Associated Rubber Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Harpenden.

POST OFFICE.

Apparatus, Protective: British L. M. Ericsson Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Beeston, Notts.—Apparatus, Telephonic: British L. M. Ericsson Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Beeston, Notts; Phoenix Telephone & Electric Works, Ltd., London, N.W.; Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—Bends and Couplings: Jones & Attwood, Ltd., Stourbridge.—Blocks, Terminal: General Electric Co., Ltd., Wembley, Middlesex; Phoenix Telephone & Electric Works, Ltd., London, N.W.—Cable, Telegraphic and Telephonic: British Insulated & Helsby Cables, Ltd., Prescott; Glover & Co., Ltd., Manchester; Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Western Electric Co., Ltd., London, E.—Castings, Joint Box: United Steel Companies, Ltd. (Thomas Butlin & Co. Branch), Irthlingborough, Wellingborough.—Conveyance of Mails: W. A. Palmer, Durham; J. Gibbons & Son, Wolverhampton; Durham Motor Transport Co., Durham.—Cords for Telephones: London Electric Wire Co. & Smiths, Ltd., London, E.; Phoenix Telephone & Electric Works, Ltd., London, N.W.—Crowns, Gold Embroidered: E. Day (St. Albans), Ltd., St. Albans.—Drums, Cable: Macintosh Cable Co., Ltd., Manchester.—Ducts: Executors of the late H. R. Mansfield, Church Gresley, Burton-on-Trent; Sharp, Jones & Co., Parkstone, Dorset.—Large Manholes: London-Brighton (S.E. District): J. W. Woolnough, Eastbourne.—Laying Conduits: Birmingham-Worcester (Section III) and Birmingham-Worcester and Droitwich (Section II): E. E. Jeavons & Co., Ltd., Dudley Port, Staffs. Canterbury-Ramsgate-Margate, Colchester-Ipswich (Sections I and II), Hampstead (Belsize Park) and Purley-New Oxted (Section II): O. C. Summers, London N. Ealing (Castlebar) and London-Bristol-Newport (S.W. Section 5): Whittaker Ellis, Ltd., London, S.W. London-Dorking (Section I): J. Mowlem & Co., Ltd., London, S.W. London-Uxbridge-High Wycombe (Hyde Park, etc.): G. J. Anderson, London, E. Newcastle-Durham (Section I): W. Turner (Ardwick), Ltd., Ardwick, Manchester. Portsmouth-Ryde: H. Linington, Wroxall, Isle of Wight. St. Pancras: A. Thomson & Co., London, W.C. Wembley (N. & N.W.) Area: J. A. Ewart, Ltd., London, S.W. Widnes-Runcorn: Hodge Bros. (Contractors), Ltd., Northfield, Birmingham.—Lead, Strip: Lanes, Ltd., London, S.E.—Manufacture, Supply, Drawing-in and Jointing Cable: Chester-Hawarden: British Insulated & Helsby Cables, Ltd., London, W.C. Derby-Sheffield and Sheffield-Leeds: Western Electric Co., Ltd., London, E.—Plugs, Cable, Distribution: British Insulated & Helsby Cables, Ltd., Prescott.—Ratchets and Tongs: Joseph Bradbury, Braintree.—Rings, Insulator: Avon India Rubber Co., Ltd., Melksham.—Solder: British Insulated & Helsby Cables, Ltd., Prescott; E. Cowles, Hounslow.—Telephone Exchange Equipment: Cambridge: Western Electric Co., Ltd., London, E.—Wallboards: Thornton-Pickard Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Altrincham.—Wire, Bronze: T. Bolton & Sons, Ltd., Oakmoor, Staffs; British Insulated & Helsby Cables, Ltd., Prescott; Shropshire Iron Co., Ltd., Hadley, Salop; F. Smith & Co., incorporated in the London Electric Wire Co. & Smiths, Ltd., Salford, Manchester.—Wire, Copper, Binding: F. Smith & Co., incorporated in the London Electric Wire Co. & Smiths, Ltd., Salford, Manchester.—Wire, Copper, Enamelled and Silk Covered: Phoenix Telephone & Electric Works, Ltd., London, N.W.—Wire, Copper, Tinned: Richard Johnson & Nephew, Ltd., Bradford, Manchester.

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA.

Axes, Pick: J. Perks & Sons, Ltd., Wolverhampton.—Axles: Glasgow Railway Engineering Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—Boilers: R. & W. Hawthorn, Leslie & Co., Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne; Marshall, Sons & Co., Ltd., Gainsborough; North British Locomotive Co., Ltd., Glasgow; Vulcan Foundry, Ltd., Newton-le-Willows.—Bottles: Lewis

& Towers, London, N.E.—Brass, Sheet: Elliotts' Metal Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—Brushes: J. Mason & Sons, London, W.—Buffers: A.B.C. Coupler, Ltd., London, S.W.; Metropolitan Carriage, Wagon & Finance Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—Cable: British Insulated & Helsby Cables, Ltd., London, W.C.; W. T. Glover & Co., Ltd., Trafford Park, Manchester; Pirelli General Cable Works, Ltd., London, E.C.; Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; F. Smith & Co. (London Electric Wire Co. & Smiths, Ltd.), Manchester; Union Cable Co., Ltd., Dagenham Dock; Western Electric Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—Cambic: F. Steiner & Co., Ltd., Church, Lancs.—Canvas, Sail: Port Glasgow & Newark Sailcloth Co., Ltd., Port Glasgow.—Cells, Inert: Fullers' United Electric Works, Ltd., Chadwell Heath.—Cement: Cement Marketing Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—Chains, Measuring: J. Rabone & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham.—Chloroform: Duncan, Flockhart & Co., Edinburgh.—Cloth, Rexine: Rexine, Ltd., Hyde.—Cocks: Lamberts, Ltd., Walsall.—Copper, Manganese: United Brassfounders & Engineers, Ltd., Glasgow.—Couplings, Screw: J. Butler & Co., Ltd., Leeds; Metropolitan Carriage, Wagon & Finance Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—Cresol: Jeyes' Sanitary Compounds, Ltd., London, E.C.—Crucibles: Morgan Crucible Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—Cups, Insulator: T. De la Rue & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—Drills, Twist: W. Jessop & Sons, Ltd., London, S.W.—Duplicators: Ellams' Duplicator Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—Engines, Marine: Gleniffer Motors, Ltd., Glasgow.—Engines, Oil: Fielding & Platt, Ltd., Gloucester.—Engines, Oil, Spares for: Crossley Bros., Ltd., London, E.C.—Engines, Portable: Marshall, Sons & Co., Ltd., Gainsborough.—Files (Sheffield), Ltd., Sheffield; Howell & Co., Ltd., Sheffield.—Filing Cabinets: Roneo, Ltd., London, E.C.—Fishplates: United Steel Corporation, Ltd. (Workington Iron & Steel Branch), Workington.—Forges: Alldays & Onions, Ltd., Birmingham.—Fuchsina: Blackwood & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—Generating Sets: Lanes Dynamo & Motor Co., Ltd., Trafford Park, Manchester.—Glass: Pilkington Bros., Ltd., St. Helens, Lancs.—Headlights: C. Stewart & Co., Glasgow.—Helmets: P. Ayers & Co., London, S.W.; Barrow, Hepburn & Gale, Ltd., London, S.E.—Iron, Pig: North Londale Iron & Steel Co., Ltd., Ulverston; Summerlee Iron Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—Jaw Crushers: E. Allen & Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—Lamps: J. Beresford & Son, Ltd., Birmingham.—Lamps, Electric: General Electric Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—Lathes: Dean, Smith & Grace, Ltd., Keighley.—Lead, Sheet: Walkers, Parker & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—Locomotives: Vulcan Foundry, Ltd., Newton-le-Willows.—Machines, Planing: J. Stirk & Sons, Ltd., Halifax.—Machines, Punching: Craig & Donald, Johnstone.—Machines, Slotting: Butler Machine Tool Co., Ltd., Halifax.—Meters: Ferranti, Ltd., London, W.C.—Motors, Electric: Lanes Dynamo & Motor Co., Ltd., Trafford Park, Manchester; Veritys, Ltd., London, W.C.—Motors, Spares for: Automotive Spares, Ltd., London, S.W.; Crossley Motors, Ltd., Manchester; Daimler Co., Ltd., Coventry; Gaston, Ltd., London, E.C.; Leyland Motors, Ltd., Leyland, Lancs; Whiting, Ltd., London, N.W.—Motor Trolleys: Drewry Car Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—Neocyclostyle Machines: D. Gestetner, London, N.—Nuts, Iron: C. Richards & Sons, Ltd., Darlaston.—Pans, Iron: F. Francis & Sons, Ltd., London, S.E.—Parchment: H. Gibbs & Son, London, E.C.—Phonopore Carriers, etc.: Phonopore Construction Co., Ltd., Southall.—Phowrahs: A. W. 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Allen & Co., Ltd., London, S.W.; J. H. Andrew & Co., Ltd., Sheffield; Cammell, Laird & Co., Ltd., Sheffield; R. Heath & Low Moor, Ltd., Stoke-on-Trent; Improved Steel Co., Ltd., Great Bridge, Staffs; S. Osborn & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Sanderson Bros. & Newbould, Ltd., Sheffield; Steel Co. of Scotland, Ltd., Glasgow.—Stills, Copper: Blair, Campbell & McLean, Ltd., Glasgow.—Sulphate of Copper: G. Boor & Co., London, E.C.—Switchboard: Erskine, Heap & Co., Ltd., Manchester; General Electric Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—Tape: India Rubber, Gutta Percha & Telephone Works Co., Ltd., London, E.—Tapes, Measuring: J. Rabone & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham.—Telephone Apparatus: Automatic Telephone Manufacturing Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—Tissue, Gutta Percha: Gutta Percha Co., London, N.—Trough Plate Bridges: Braithwaite & Co., London, S.W.—Tubes, etc.: Stewarts & Lloyds, Ltd., Glasgow.—Tubes, Boiler: Metallic Seamless Tube Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—Type: Miller & Richard, London, E.C.—Type Metal: Hallett &

Son, London, S.E.—Tyres: J. Baker & Co., Ltd., Rotherham; W. Beardmore & Co., Ltd., Glasgow; J. Brown & Co., Ltd., Sheffield; Steel, Peech & Tozer, Ltd., Sheffield; Vickers, Ltd., Sheffield.—Varnish: R. Kearsley & Co., Ltd., Ripon; Wilkinson, Heywood & Clark, Ltd., London, W.C.—Wheels, Emery: A. W. Penrose & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—Wire, Electric: Derby & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—Wire, Galvanised: R. Johnson & Nephew, Ltd., Manchester; Rylands Bros., Ltd., Warrington.—Wire, Iron: Dorman, Long & Co., Ltd., Middlesbrough.—Wire, Steel: Shropshire Iron Co., Ltd., Hadley; Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Whitecross Co., Ltd., Warrington.—Workshop Building: G. W. Sharples, Manchester.

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Alternator and Condensing Plant: C. A. Parsons & Co., Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne.—Ambulances: Albion Motor Car Company, Scotstoun, Glasgow.—Axleboxes: Birmingham Carriage & Wagon Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—Axles: T. Firth & Sons, Ltd., Sheffield.—Barges: Alley & McLellan, Ltd., Glasgow.—Battery: Tudor Accumulator Company, London, W.C.—Bellows: V. & R. Blakemore, London, E.C.—Bicycles: Triumph Cycle Company, Coventry.—Blankets: T. Lee & Sons, Dewsbury; Dodgson & Hargraves, Leeds.—Block Interlocking Material: McKenzie & Holland, London, S.W.—Boiler, etc.: Babcock & Wilcox, Ltd., London, E.C.—Boiler Plates: P. & W. Maclellan, Ltd., Glasgow.—Boiler Tubes: Allen Everett & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham.—Bolts, etc.: Horton & Son, Ltd., Darlaston.—Bolts and Nuts: Phoenix Bolt & Nut Company, Birmingham; Horton & Son, Darlaston.—Book Sewing Machines: Oscar Freedheim, Ltd., London, E.C.—Books: Waterlow & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.—Boots: Adam Bros., Northampton.—Brass Tubes: Birmingham Battery & Metal Company, Birmingham.—Buffers: J. Butler & Company, Ltd., Leeds.—Buoys: Brown, Lenox & Co. (London), Ltd., London, E.—Burlaps: Baxter Bros. & Company, Dundee.—Cabin Bread: Wright & Company (Liverpool), Liverpool.—Cable: Western Electric Company, Ltd., London, E.; W. T. Glover & Co., Ltd., Manchester.—Cables: Callenders' Cable & Construction Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; W. T. Henleys Telegraphic Works Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—Calico: Cottrill & Co., Manchester.—Canvas: Boase Spinning Company, Dundee.—C.I. Pipes: Walter Macfarlane & Company, Glasgow; Stanton Ironworks Co., Ltd., near Nottingham; Staveley Coal & Iron Company, near Chesterfield.—Ceiling Fans: General Electric Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—Cement: Cement Marketing Company, London, E.C.—Chain Crabs: Stothert & Pitt, Ltd., Bath.—Clothing (Khaki Drill): Hollington Bros., London, E.—Clothing (Serge): J. & B. Pearce & Company, London, E.—Cotton Drill: J. Booth & Company, Manchester; E. Spinner & Company, Manchester.—Cotton Waste: J. White, Ltd., Wigan.—Couplings: Bayliss, Jones & Bayliss, Ltd., London, E.C.—Decauville Rails and Tracks: R. Hudson, Ltd., Leeds.—Dressing Chests: Mr. A. C. Gill, London, N.—Ejectors and Brake Fittings: Vacuum Brake Company, London, S.W.—Engine, Portable Steam: Marshall, Sons & Co., Ltd., Gainsborough.—Files: Vickers, Ltd., Sheffield.—Filters: Br. Pasteur Chamberland Filter Co., London, E.C.—Fishbolts and Spikes: Bayliss, Jones & Bayliss, Ltd., London, E.C.—Fishplates: T. Summerson & Sons, Ltd., Darlington.—Frocks, White Drill: J. Compton & Sons, Ltd., London, E.—G.I. Wire: Rylands Bros., Ltd., Warrington.—Galvanised Weld M.S. Drums: F. Brabey & Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—Glass Boxes: Chloride Electrical Storage Co., London, S.W.—Greatcoats and Capes: T. Briggs, Ltd., London, E.C.—Ground Sheets: C. Groom, Ltd., London, E.C.—Insulator Cups: Bullers, Ltd., London, E.C.—Ironwork: Tees Side Bridge & Engineering Works, Middlesbrough; Robey & Co., Ltd., Lincoln.—Jerseys: D. Payne & Sons, Hincley.—Kamabands: Bell Bros. & Co., Manchester.—Laboratory Fittings: Baird & Tatlock, London, E.C.—Lathes: Dean, Smith & Grace (1908), Ltd., Keighley.—Lathes and Jaw Chucks: Ward, Haggas & Smith, Keighley.—Launches: Bergius Launch & Engine Company, Glasgow.—Letter Boxes: Cyrus Price & Co., Ltd., Wolverhampton.—Lint: Vernon & Co., Ltd., Preston.—Loco. Boiler: Hawthorn, Leslie & Co., Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne.—Loco. Hoist: Ransomes & Rapier, Ltd., London, S.W.—Loco. Cylinders: Kitson & Co., Ltd., Leeds.—Longcloth: G. I. Sidebottom & Co., Manchester.—Mamoties: V. & R. Blakemore, London, E.C.—Marine Equipment: Bergius Launch & Engine Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—Measures: V. & R. Blakemore, London, E.C.—Mosquito Nets: Heymann & Alexander, Nottingham.—Novarsenobillon: May & Baker, Ltd., Battersea.—Nuts, Bolt and Rivet Making Machine: D. Etchells & Son, Ltd., Darlaston.—Oil: J. I. Thornycroft & Co., Ltd., London, S.W.; C. C. Wakefield & Co., London, E.C.—Oakum: Tough Bros., London, E.C.—Packing (Greasy Flox Bulldog): Beldam Packing & Rubber Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—Padlocks: Chubb & Sons Locke Safe Co., London, E.C.—Pails: Parkinson & Sweeney, Manchester.—Paper: T. H. Saunders & Company, London, E.C.; Dunster & Wakefield, London, E.C.; C. Baker & Company, London, E.C.—Petrol: Miller Bros., Liverpool.—Piping: Stewarts & Lloyds, Glasgow.—Plates, etc.: R. Heath & Low Moor, Ltd., London, E.C.—Poles: F. Morton & Co., Ltd., Garston, near Liverpool.—Pole Distribution Boxes: Brit. Ins. & Helsby Cables, London, W.C.—Porcelain Grids.

etc.: Chloride Electrical Storage Co., London, S.W.—Printing Machines: Wm. Dawson & Sons (Otley), Ltd., Yorks.—Printing Machines, etc.: Harrild & Sons, London, E.C.—Printing Paper: Olives Paper Mills Co., Bury, Lancs.—Pumping Plane: Ruston, Hornsby & Co., London, E.C.—Putties: T. & J. Tinker, Holmfirth, near Huddersfield.—Rails and Fishplates: Guest, Keen & Nettlefolds, London, E.C.—Repairs, etc., of Lighthouse Gear: Trinity House, London, E.C.—Rivets: Patent Shaft & Axletree Co., Staffs.—Road Rollers, etc.: Wallis & Stevens, Ltd., Basingstoke.—Road Rollers: Agric. & Gen. Engineer, London, W.C.—Serge: T. & J. Tinker, Huddersfield.—Shirts: Johnson & Sons, Ltd., Great Yarmouth.—Spares for Vacuum Brake: G. Spencer Moulton & Co., Ltd., Westminster.—Spindles, etc.: Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—Spiral Springs: Willford & Co., Sheffield.—Spring Seats: Longford Wire Co., Ltd., Warrington.—Stationery: Waterlow & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.—Steamer: Bow, MacLachlan, Paisley.—Steel Angles: P. & W. Maclellan, Ltd., Glasgow.—Steel and Ironwork: Boulton & Paul, Ltd., Norwich.—Steel and Iron: P. & W. Maclellan, Ltd., Glasgow.—Steel Plates: P. & W. Maclellan, Ltd., Glasgow; Consett Iron & Steel Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—Steriliser: Manlove, Alliott & Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—Structural Work: Wm. Bain & Co., Ltd., Coatbridge.—Tablet Instrument Material: Lyster & Co., Ltd., London, E.—Tanks: Walls, Ltd., London, E.C.—Tarpaulins: Edinburgh Roperie & Sailcloth Co., Leith.—Telegraph Ironwork: Bullers, Ltd., London, E.C.—Telegraph Line Material: Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Bullers, Ltd., London, E.C.—Telephone, etc.: British L.M. Ericsson Mfg. Co., London, W.C.—Textiles: Rylands & Sons, Ltd., Manchester.—Tickets: Waterlow & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.—Tramway Track, etc.: R. Hudson, Ltd., Leeds.—Trimming Materials: J. Holdsworth & Co., Halifax.—Tube Plates: R. & W. Hawthorn, Leslie & Co., Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne.—Tunics and Knickers: Hobson & Sons, Ltd., London, W.—Tyres: Baldwin Loco. Works, London, S.W.—Vehicle Plates: Wildman & Meguyer, Birmingham.—Wagons: Wm. Bain & Co., Ltd., Coatbridge.—Wagon Covers: Gourcock Ropework Co., London, E.C.—Water Meters: Manchester Water Meter Company, Manchester.—Weighing Machines: V. & R. Blakemore, London, E.C.—Wheels and Axles: Newlay Wheel Co., Ltd., Leeds.—Wire: Rd. Johnson & Nephew, Ltd., Manchester.—Wire, Bronze and Copper: T. Bolton & Sons, Ltd., London, W.

H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE.

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E.C.; J. Robertson & Co., Ltd., St. Annes-on-Sea; J. Marks, Ltd., London, S.E.; J. Baldwin & Sons, Ltd., King's Norton; North of Ireland Paper Mills Co., Ballyclare, Co. Antrim.—Pencils: Eagle Pencil Co., London, N.—Pens: Hink, Wells & Co., Birmingham.—Plates and Frames: Addressograph, Ltd., London, E.C.—Printing, Ruling, Binding, etc.: Printing Tobacco Labels, Gp. 197 (1921): T. De la Rue & Co., Ltd., London, E.C. Cardiff Prison Calendars: William Lewis (Printers), Ltd., Cardiff. 500,000 Pads of Telegram Forms: Bemrose & Sons, Derby. 250,000 Registry Jackets: J. F. Warren, London, N. 2,500 copies "Excess Profits Duty Instruction" and 2,275 copies "Technical Reports of Committee for Aeronautics," Vol. 1: W. Clowes & Sons, Ltd., London, S.E. 1,500 Stores Demand Books, 650 Loose-leaf Cases, 2,000 Loose-leaf Binders, 150,000 Registry Jackets, 2,000,000 A.F. B.256, and 125,000 File R.133: Waterlow & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C. 2,000,000 Census Postcards: M. Carr & Co., Manchester. 3,000,000 Census Postcards and 350,000 Inspector's Form 174: C. Nicholls & Co., Manchester. Cutting and Creasing Millboards: H. A. Franklin, London, S.E. 2,000 Books T.E.1076 and 473,225 Form 155: McCorquodale & Co., Ltd., Wolverton, Bucks. 20,000 Station Card Cases (Thumb Cases), 15,000 copies "The Ship's Captain's Medical Guide," 1,500 Portfolios for Assessments, 8,500 Portfolios and 1,609 Vols. Telephone Directory (Vol. 4): J. Adams, London, E.C. 3,160 Loose-leaf Metals: British Loose-leaf Manufacturers, Ltd., London, S.E. 1,000,000 Census Forms, 7,000,000 "A" Telegram Forms, 200,000 Pads Labour Form E.D.68 and E.D.68a, and 25,000 Pads Army Form C.348: H.M.S.O. Press, Harrow. 400 Loose-leaf Transfer Binders: C. Cakebread, London, E.C. 10,000 Medical Certificates and 2,000 Books (Cloud Forms): J. E. C. Potter, Stamford. 360 Loose-leaf Binders: Webb, Son & Co., Ltd., London, E.C. 1,300,000 copies Census Schedule (A): Morrison & Gibb, Ltd., Edinburgh. 600 Skeleton Guard Books: Willmott & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C. 600 Registers (C. and E.), No. 80: Swiss & Co., Devonport. 400,000 Inland Revenue Forms: Howard & Jones, Ltd., London, E.C. 25,000 Army Pension Allowance Books: Bank of England Printing Department, London, E.C. 1,000,000 Post Office Forms S.B.5.A. and 4,900,000 Census Forms A.3: J. Truscott & Son, Ltd., London, E.C. 15,000 Portfolios: Clements, Newling & Co., Ltd., London, E.C. 653 Metro. Assessment Books: J. Dickinson & Co., Ltd., Hemel Hempstead. 45,000 sets of Forms E.D.68 and 30,000 sets of Forms E.D.68a: G. Hargreaves, Manchester. 2,500,000 Post Office Form T.23 and 1,094,595 Inland Revenue Forms: Barclay & Fry, Ltd., London, S.E. 260,675 Inland Revenue Forms: W. H. Jones, London, N. 232,310 Inland Revenue Forms: H.M.S.O. Press, London, E. 2,052,685 Inland Revenue Forms: Metcalfe & Cooper, Ltd., London, E.C. 678,795 Inland Revenue Forms: Tee & Whiten & J. Mead, Ltd., London, S.E. 80,000 Posters: Johnson, Riddle & Co., Ltd., London, S.E. 6,000,000 P.O. Forms: J. J. Keliber & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—Scissors: R. Mather & Son, Sheffield.—Strawboards: Waterlow & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.—Tracing Cloth: S. C. & P. Harding, Ltd., London, S.E.—Typewriter Repairs: Houstoun & Buckle, London, W.C.; Thorpe & Martin Typewriter Co., London, E.C.

H.M. OFFICE OF WORKS.

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