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

EMPLOYMENT.

EMPLOYMENT showed a further improvement during February. It was good at coal mines, in steel sheet manufacture, and in the worsted trade; fairly good in the tinplate trade; and fair in the iron and steel, woollen, hosiery, jute, carpet, ready-made clothing and paper trades. In most of the other large industries employment continued slack, but some improvement was reported in the iron mining, pig-iron, engineering, ship-building, building, furniture and pottery industries.

The percentage unemployed among members of Trade Unions from which returns are received was 13·1 at the end of February, as compared with 13·7 at the end of January, and 16·3 at the end of February, 1922. The percentage unemployed among workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was 11·8 at 26th February, as compared with 12·7 at 22nd January, and 15·5 at the end of February, 1922. The total number of workpeople registered at the Employment Exchanges as unemployed at 26th February in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was approximately 1,376,000, of whom 1,073,000 were men and 218,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls. At 29th January the corresponding total was 1,460,000, of whom 1,138,000 were men and 226,000 were women.

WAGES.

In the industries for which statistics are compiled by the Department the changes in rates of wages reported as having taken effect in February resulted in an aggregate reduction of £64,000 in the weekly full-time wages of nearly 480,000 workpeople, and in an increase of £400 in the wages of nearly 8,000 workpeople.

The principal groups of workpeople affected by reductions included iron puddlers and iron and steel millmen in the Midlands, and steel smelters in most districts, who sustained a decrease of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on standard rates in each case, equivalent to from $1\frac{3}{4}$ to 2 per cent. on current rates. In the clothing trades the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts for workpeople employed in the ready-made and wholesale bespoke tailoring trade and the wholesale mantle and costume trade in Great Britain were reduced by amounts varying from 1d. to 2d. per hour. There were also reductions in the Trade Board minimum rates for males and females employed in the ready-made and wholesale bespoke tailoring trade and for female workers in the linen and cotton handkerchief and household goods and linen piece goods trade in Northern Ireland.

Among other large bodies of workpeople whose wages were reduced in February were men employed in non-federated shipyards at Belfast and in ship repairing yards on the Mersey; gold, silver and jewellery workers at Sheffield; coopers; flour millers; and workpeople in the electricity supply industry in various districts.

Under the Trade Boards Acts, in addition to the reductions mentioned above, there were decreases in the minimum rates fixed for workpeople employed in the jute industry and in those fixed for workers in the general waste materials reclamation trade in Great Britain.

The principal group of workpeople whose wages were increased in February were iron ore miners in Cumberland, who received an increase of 3d. per shift.

During the first two months of 1923 the changes in the rates of wages reported to the Department have resulted in a net reduction of over £120,000 in the weekly full-time wages of about 950,000 workpeople and in a net increase of £43,000 in the weekly wages of 670,000 workpeople. Detailed statistics are given on page 101.

COST OF LIVING.

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, light and miscellaneous items) was approximately 76 per cent. above that of July, 1914. The corresponding figure for 1st February was 77 per cent., and that for 1st March, 1922, was 86 per cent. The highest point reached was 176 per cent. above the pre-war level, in November, 1920, and the present figure is the lowest recorded since May, 1917. For food alone the increase at 1st March, as compared with July, 1914, was 71 per cent.

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

For further particulars and details of the statistics reference should be made to the article on page 90.

TRADE DISPUTES.

The number of trade disputes, involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as beginning in February, was 41. In addition, 36 disputes which began before February were still in progress at the beginning of the month.

The total number of workpeople involved in all disputes in February (including those workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, though not themselves parties to the disputes) was approximately 40,000, as compared with 19,000 in the previous month and 30,000 in February, 1922. The estimated aggregate duration of all disputes during February was 337,000 working days, as compared with 117,000 days in January, 1923, and 269,000 days in February, 1922.

The principal disputes in progress during the month involved about 9,000 coal miners near South Shields and about 4,000 workpeople in the bookbinding trade in London.

TRADE UNION PERCENTAGES of UNEMPLOYED.

TRADE UNIONS with a net membership of 1,188,041 in the branches covered by the returns received reported 155,165 (or 13.1 per cent.) of their members as unemployed at the end of February, 1923, compared with 13.7 per cent. at the end of January, 1923, and 16.3 per cent. at the end of February, 1922.

Table with columns: Trade, Membership of Unions reporting at end of February, 1923, Unemployed at end of February, 1923, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage Unemployed as compared with a Month ago, Year ago.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED TRADES.

THE percentage unemployed among workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Act in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was 11.8 per cent. (males, 13.4 per cent., females 7.7 per cent.) at 26th February, as compared with 12.7 (males, 14.4 per cent., females 8.2 per cent.) at 22nd January. A Table showing the estimated number insured and the numbers and percentages unemployed in the principal industries appears on page 99.

SUMMARY OF EMPLOYERS' RETURNS.

INFORMATION as to the state of employment in certain industries in February, derived from returns furnished by employers and employers' associations, is summarised below. Further details are given on pages 93 to 97.

c CERTAIN MINING AND METAL TRADES.

Table with columns: Trade, Workpeople included in the Returns for Feb., 1923, February, 1923, Days Worked per week by Mines, Furnaces in Blast, Mills Working, Shifts Worked (one week), Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago, Year ago.

(b) OTHER TRADES.

Table with columns: Trade, Number of Workpeople Employed, Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople, Week ended 24th Feb., 1923, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago, Per cent., etc.

* 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. Persons on strike or locked-out are also excluded. † The percentage is based on returns relating to woodworkers and plumbers, and as regards woodworkers, who constitute the bulk of the membership reported on the returns, relate to January. ‡ In addition to those totally unemployed, a large number of the members of the unions reporting were "paid off part of each week, or alternate weeks or fortnights" or on "temporary stoppage benefit." § The returns for the tobacco trade are supplied by unions whose members are mainly cigar makers. || Comparison of earnings is affected by reductions in rates of wages.

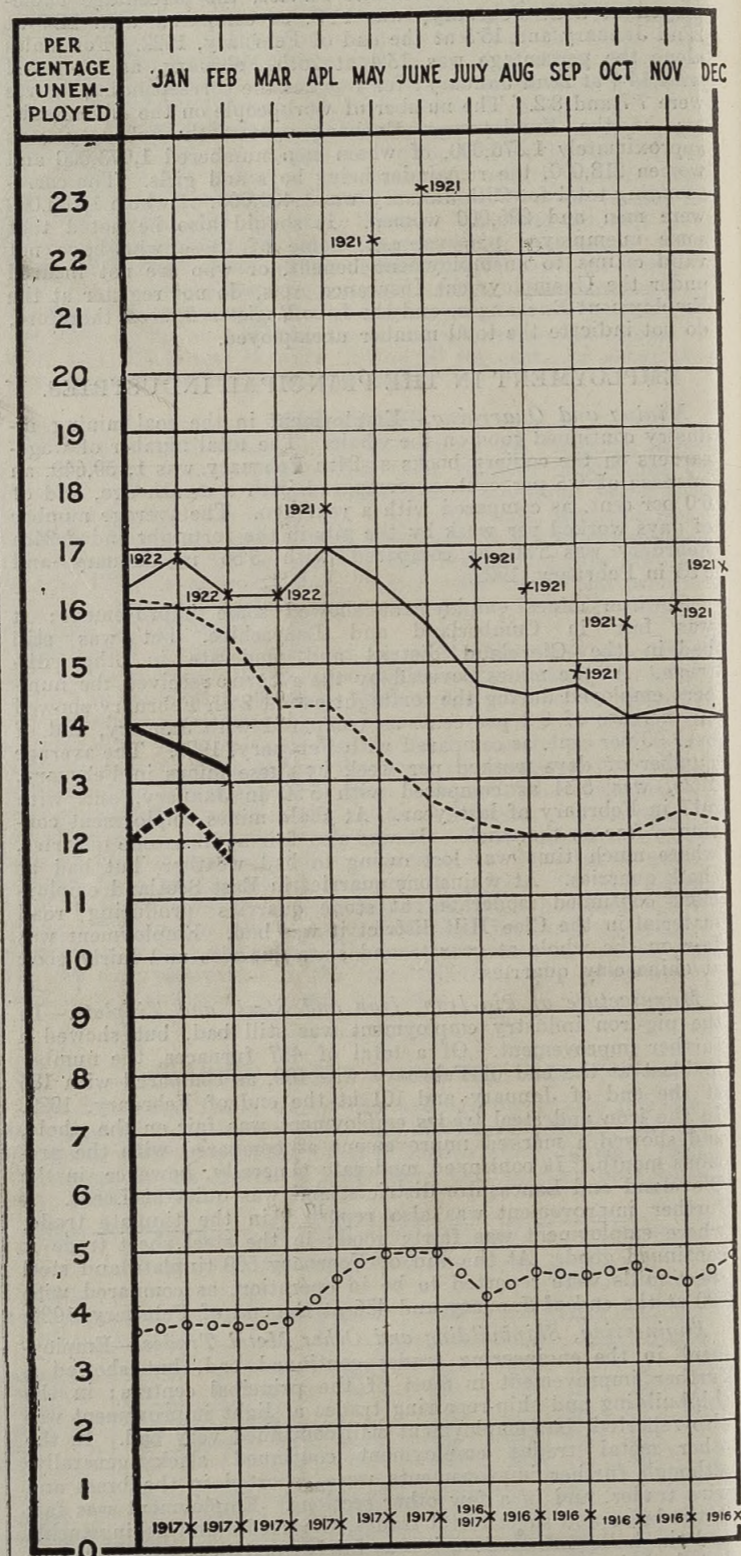
EMPLOYMENT CHART.

(1) PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT THE END OF EACH MONTH AMONG MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS:—

Thick Curve = 1923. Thin Curve = 1922. Chain Curve -o-o-o-o- Mean of 1913-22.

(2) PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AMONG WORK-PEOPLE INSURED AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT UNDER THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT:—

Thick Dotted Curve - - - - - 1923. Thin Dotted Curve - - - - - 1922.



NOTE.

The Trade Union returns are furnished by various Trade Unions which pay unemployment benefit to their members. Persons on strike or locked out, sick or superannuated, are excluded from the figures. Detailed figures are given in the previous column.

The figures for insured workpeople relate to Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and exclude the Irish Free State. Detailed figures are given on page 99.

DETAILED REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN SOME OF THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

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

COAL MINING.

EMPLOYMENT during February continued good on the whole. The average weekly number of days (5.60) worked by the pits in the fortnight ended 24th February, showed a decrease of 0.06 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 27th January, but an increase of 0.15 of a day on a year ago. The total number of wage-earners on the colliery books at 24th February showed an increase of 0.5 per cent. on the number at 27th January, and of 6.0 per cent. on a year ago.

The proportion of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 4.1 per cent. at 26th February, as compared with 4.5 per cent. at 22nd January.

The following Table shows, for the principal districts, the total number of wage-earners on the colliery books, and the average number of days worked by the colliers, as indicated by the returns obtained by the Mines Department. Small numbers of workpeople employed at coal mines in raising or handling minerals other than coal are included in the totals:—

Table with columns: Districts, Total Number of Wage Earners on Colliery Books at 24th Feb., 1923, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago, Year ago, Average Number of Days worked per Week by the Mines, etc.

The average weekly number of coal-winding days lost by the pits in the fortnight ended 24th February, was 0.27 of a day, of which 0.17 of a day was due to transport difficulties and want of trade. In the fortnight ended 27th January the average time lost was 0.21 of a day, of which 0.17 of a day was due to transport difficulties and want of trade. For the fortnight ended 28th February, 1922, the average time lost was 0.41 of a day, nearly all due to the same causes. The non-winding time in each of these periods was about one-quarter of a day.

The output of coal in Great Britain in the four weeks ended 24th February, 1923, was returned to the Mines Department at 22,246,800 tons, compared with 21,219,200 tons in four weeks ended 27th January, and with 19,763,000 tons in the four weeks ended 25th February, 1922.

The exports of coal, including coal shipped for the use of steamers in the foreign trade, and the coal equivalent of coke and manufactured fuel, amounted in February to 7,792,841 tons, or 97,302 tons less than in January.

IRON AND SHALE MINING.

Iron.—In the Cleveland district employment was again bad: as compared with the previous month there was an improvement in the numbers employed, but the average time worked showed

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

a slight decline. In Cumberland and Lancashire employment was fair; in other districts it continued moderate, with a tendency towards improvement.

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

Table with columns: Districts, Number of Workpeople employed at Mines included in the Returns, Average No. of Days* worked per week by the Mines, etc.

Shale.—Employment was fair, on the whole, with little change as compared with January. Returns received from firms employing 4,180 workpeople in the fortnight ended 24th February, 1923, showed a decrease of 0.4 per cent. in the total number employed as compared with the previous month, and an increase of 22.9 per cent. as compared with February of last year. The average number of days* worked per week by the mines was 5.96 in February, 1923, 5.90 in January, 1923, and 5.94 in February, 1922.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during February, though still bad, showed a further improvement. As compared with a year ago there was a marked improvement.

The total number of furnaces in blast at the end of February, as shown by the returns collected by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, was 189, compared with 183 at the end of January, and with 101 at the end of February, 1922.

Returns received by the Federation from 86 firms employing 22,504 workpeople at the end of February showed an increase of 3.5 per cent. compared with the number employed at the end of January, when the number was 21,739. At the end of February, 1922, 16,162 workpeople were employed by these firms.

The following Table shows the total number of furnaces in blast at the end of February, 1923, January, 1923, and February, 1922, according to returns collected by the Federation:—

Table with columns: District, Total Number of Furnaces, Number of Furnaces in Blast at end of Feb., Jan., Feb., Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Feb., on a Month ago, Year ago.

The production of pig iron in February amounted to 543,400 tons, as compared with 567,900 tons in January and with 500,100 tons in February, 1922.

* See * footnote in previous column.

TINPLATE AND STEEL SHEET TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT continued fairly good in the tinplate trade, and showed an improvement as compared with the previous month; it was much better than a year ago. At the end of February 392 mills, about four-fifths of the total number in existence, were reported to be in operation, as compared with 385 at the end of January and with 329 a year ago.

The number of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at the Employment Exchanges, was 2,575 at 26th February, as compared with 2,623 at 22nd January. The following Table shows the number of works reported to be open and the number of mills in operation at the works covered by the returns received at the end of February, 1923 :-

Table with 7 columns: Works, At end of Feb., 1923, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Year ago, At end of Feb., 1923, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Year ago. Rows include Tinplate, Steel Sheet, and TOTAL.

The exports of tinned and galvanised plates and sheets in February, 1923, amounted to 96,235 tons, or 1,820 tons more than in January, 1923, and 23,656 tons more than in February, 1922.

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

EMPLOYMENT at iron and steel works was fair on the whole, and showed a considerable improvement as compared with the previous month. It continued moderate generally, however, in the Cleveland and Lancashire districts, and was very quiet at Leeds. As compared with a year ago employment showed a general improvement.

According to returns received from firms employing 79,257 workpeople, the volume of employment during the week ended 24th February (as indicated by the number of workpeople employed at each works, combined with the number of shifts during which work was carried on in each case) showed an increase of 7.7 per cent. on the previous month and of 35.0 per cent. on a year ago. The average number of shifts during which the works were open in the week was 5.4, as compared with 5.3 in January and 4.9 in February, 1922.

The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished returns for the three dates under comparison :-

Table with 10 columns: DEPARTMENTS, No. of Workpeople employed by firms making returns, Aggregate number of Shifts, Week ended 24th Feb., 1923, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Year ago, Week ended 24th Feb., 1923, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Year ago. Rows include DEPARTMENTS, DISTRICTS, and Total.

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

The production of steel ingots and castings, as returned to the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, amounted to 707,100 tons, compared with 654,100 tons in January and 418,800 tons in February, 1922.

ENGINEERING.

EMPLOYMENT in this industry in February continued bad, but showed a further improvement in most of the principal centres.

On the North-East Coast employment was still bad, but there was a further slow improvement. In Lancashire and Cheshire there was an improvement in general engineering, but in the textile machinery section a decline was reported at some centres. Employment was a little better in Yorkshire, at Nottingham, Derby, and Leicester, and in the Eastern Counties. The improvement in the motor industry at Birmingham was maintained; with pattern-makers employment was reported as fairly good. At Coventry a further improvement was reported, affecting the motor, cycle, aeroplane, and machine tool sections; a considerable amount of overtime was worked. In London there was a further improvement; but in the Southern Counties little change was reported. In South Wales conditions were again rather better.

In the Glasgow district there was a slight improvement, and on the East Coast of Scotland conditions were rather better on the whole. In the Belfast district also there was a decrease in the percentage of unemployment.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of workpeople registered as unemployed in the engineering and iron-founding industry according to the Unemployment Insurance records, at 26th February, as compared with 22nd January :-

Table with 4 columns: Divisions, Number of Unemployment Books remaining lodged at 26th February, 1923, Percentage of Unemployment at 26th February, 1923, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage as compared with 22nd Jan., 1923. Rows include London, South-Eastern, South-Western, Midlands, North-Eastern, North-Western, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND, Males, Females.

SHIPBUILDING.

EMPLOYMENT in the shipbuilding and ship-repairing trades during February continued very bad, though it again showed a slight improvement.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of workpeople whose Unemployment Insurance Books were lodged at Employment Exchanges at 26th February :-

Table with 4 columns: Division, Number of Unemployment Books remaining lodged at 26th February, 1923, Percentage of Unemployment at 26th February, 1923, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage as compared with 22nd Jan., 1923. Rows include London, South-Eastern, South-Western, Midlands, North-Eastern, North-Western, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND, Males, Females.

On the North-East Coast employment continued very bad, though a further slight improvement was reported. On the East and South Coasts it was still bad, but a slight improvement was shown on repair work. At the Bristol Channel Ports, however, repair work declined towards the end of the month. On the Mersey employment was bad, but an improvement was reported by shipwrights on new work. At Barrow it was very bad.

In Scotland employment continued very bad generally, though it improved with shipwrights and joiners on the Clyde; at Dundee employment was rather worse than in the previous month. At Belfast employment remained bad.

COTTON TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT continued good in the section of the trade spinning Egyptian cotton, but it was still very bad in the section spinning American cotton. Organised short time, in this section, as mentioned last month, had ceased at the end of January; but a very large amount of short time continued to be worked during February, as recommended by the Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' Associations, and at the end of the month the General Committee of the Federation passed a resolution recommending the members of the Federation in the American section to curtail production to the extent of 50 per cent. during March. Employment on the manufacturing side of the industry also continued to be very poor, and many looms were again idle; but there was an improvement as compared with February of last year.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the numbers of unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 10.6 on the 26th February, as compared with 11.7 on the 22nd January.

In the Oldham, Ashton, Stockport, and Rochdale districts employment was bad both in the spinning and in the weaving departments, except in the velvet section, where there was a further improvement and employment was fairly good. Spinners were still working short time.

At Bolton, employment remained about the same as in January, both in the spinning and in the weaving departments; with spinners at Leigh it was fairly good; at Bury it was still bad, but slightly better than in January.

In the Blackburn, Burnley, Preston and Darwen districts employment in the weaving department was still very slack, but showed, on the whole, a slight improvement: it was appreciably better than in February of last year. Some firms closed entirely for a week at a time, and short time was worked in various forms; while many weavers were minding less than the normal number of looms: at Blackburn it was estimated that 20,000 looms were stopped each week during the month. Employment was also slack in the spinning department in these districts; except at Accrington, where it was fair, and better than in January.

The following Table summarises the returns received from those employers who furnished returns for the three dates under review :-

Table with 10 columns: DEPARTMENTS, Number of Workpeople, Total Wages paid to all Workpeople, Week ended 24th Feb., 1923, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Year ago, Week ended 24th Feb., 1923, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Year ago. Rows include DEPARTMENTS, DISTRICTS, and Total.

In the week ended the 24th February, about 20 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns were working short time, to the extent of nearly 14 hours a week on the average. In the week ended 27th January about 26 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns then received were on short time, to the extent of about 13 hours a week on the average.

The imports (less re-exports) of raw cotton (including cotton linters) were 119,883,800 lbs. in February, 1923, compared with 119,909,300 lbs. in the previous month, and with 91,454,200 lbs. in February, 1922.

The exports of cotton yarn were 10,881,600 lbs. in February, 1923, compared with 12,814,700 lbs. in January, 1923, and 14,913,200 lbs. in February, 1922.

The exports of cotton piece goods were 342,558,500 square yards, as compared with 399,988,200 square yards in the previous month, and with 251,954,800 square yards in February, 1922.

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

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in these trades in February showed little change on the whole as compared with the previous month, but there was much variation as between one branch of trade and another, and even as between one firm and another. Employment in the wool sorting, wool combing, and worsted spinning branches continued to be better than in other sections, in which, however, employment was considerably better on the whole than in February of last year.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 3.8 per cent. on the 26th February, as compared with 4.4 per cent. on 22nd January.

WOOLLEN TRADE.

In the woollen-spinning branch employment was good with firms spinning for the hosiery trade, but not with those spinning for the woollen weaving trade. There was a decline in employment in the Huddersfield and Colne Valley districts. In the heavy woollen district (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.) it showed a slight improvement, and was considerably better than a year ago. There was a considerable improvement in the low woollen trade of Leeds and Morley. In the blanket and rug trade employment continued fairly good; in the rag and shoddy trade there was a slight improvement. In the tweed trade there was little change; some firms were working overtime during part of the month, but only for a short period. In the flannel trade employment in the Stockport and Rochdale districts was good, full time being generally worked.

In Scotland employment remained fairly good, though employers continued to find difficulty in running all the looms full time.

The following Table summarises the information received from those firms which furnished returns for the three dates under review :-

Table with 10 columns: DEPARTMENTS, Number of Workpeople, Total Wages paid to all Workpeople, Week ended 24th Feb., 1923, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Year ago, Week ended 24th Feb., 1923, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Year ago. Rows include DEPARTMENTS, DISTRICTS, and Total.

In the week ended 24th February about 21 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns received from employers were working short time, to the extent of nearly 8 hours a week on the average.

WORSTED TRADE.

Employment during February continued good in the wool sorting and combing and worsted spinning branches, though not quite so good as in January. In the weaving trade there was, on the whole, a decline, although many firms were working full time, and, in some instances, overtime. In the stuff trade employment at Bradford, Keighley and Silsden was worse than in January, though somewhat better than a year ago. In the Bradford coating trade the decline was not so marked.

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

Table with 10 columns: DEPARTMENTS, Number of Workpeople, Total Wages paid to all Workpeople, Week ended 24th Feb., 1923, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Year ago, Week ended 24th Feb., 1923, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Year ago. Rows include DEPARTMENTS, and Total.

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

MINISTRY OF LABOUR EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES.*

THE number of persons remaining on the "live registers" of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland—i.e., of applications for employment outstanding from workpeople—at 26th February, 1923, was 1,376,409, of whom 1,072,677 were men, 46,516 boys, 218,431 women, and 38,785 girls. Compared with 29th January, there was a decrease of 84,009, which was distributed as follows: Men, 65,170; women, 7,834; juveniles, 11,005.

During the four weeks ended 26th February the number of vacancies filled by Employment Exchanges was 72,842, of which 45,899 were for men, 15,892 for women, and 11,051 for juveniles. Compared with the four weeks ended 29th January, there was an increase of 3,368 in the total number of vacancies filled.

The following Table summarises the work of the Exchanges during the four weeks ended 26th February, 1923:—

Table with columns: Week ended, Applications by Employers, Vacancies Filled, Applications outstanding at end of week (From Live Register, From Employers).

A detailed analysis of the figures in the preceding paragraphs is not yet available, but statistics for the four weeks ended 5th February are dealt with below:—

Applications from Workpeople.—The total number of applications (553,005) from workpeople during the four weeks ended 5th February showed a daily average of 23,042—a decrease of 3,731, or 14.0 per cent., compared with the daily average of the previous month. Of this daily average, men accounted for 14,803, women for 5,508, and juveniles for 2,731—decreases of 15.5 per cent. and 17.9 respectively, in the case of men and women, and an increase of 7.5 per cent. in the case of juveniles.

Vacancies Notified.—During the four weeks ended 5th February there were 75,518 vacancies notified, representing a daily average of 3,146, as compared with 2,773 during the preceding period. Of this daily average 1,718 were for men, 934 for women, and 494 for juveniles. Compared with the previous month the number of vacancies notified for men, women and juveniles increased by 9.8 per cent., 13.1 per cent., and 29.0 per cent., respectively.

Vacancies Filled.—The total number of vacancies filled during the period was 63,031—a daily average of 2,626, as compared with 2,355 during the previous statistical month. Of this daily average, men accounted for 1,538, women for 649, and juveniles for 439. The corresponding figures for the previous month were: Men, 1,449; women, 568; and juveniles, 338.

Juveniles.—During the period, 31,500 applications were received from boys and 34,036 from girls. The number of vacancies notified for boys was 5,307, and 4,852 vacancies were filled. In the case of girls, 6,542 vacancies were notified, and 5,684 were filled. Of the total vacancies filled by juveniles, 21.7 per cent. were filled by applicants who obtained their first situation since leaving school.

Statistics relating to Building Trades (men) and to Domestic Service occupations (women) for the four weeks ended 5th February have been summarised under the principal occupations, and the outstanding features are dealt with below:—

In the building trades 6,770 vacancies were notified for men and 5,955 vacancies were filled. The principal occupations concerned were: Carpenters, 1,570 vacancies notified and 1,390 filled; bricklayers, 1,023 vacancies notified and 864 filled; painters, 1,393 vacancies notified, and 1,120 filled; and builders' labourers, 1,218 vacancies and 1,209 placings.

The number of men on the "live register" in the building trades was 140,602† at 5th February, compared with 151,764† at 8th January.

The number of vacancies notified for women in domestic service during the four weeks ended 5th February was 13,505. Of this number 5,935 were for resident domestic servants, 2,846 for non-resident domestic servants, 3,409 for charwomen, and 576 for waitresses; other domestic occupations accounting for 739.

Of the 8,754 vacancies filled, 2,497 were placings in resident domestic service, 2,144 as non-resident, 3,103 as charwomen, and 461 as waitresses.

The total number of women remaining registered on 5th February for work in domestic services was 34,302, compared with 32,205 on 8th January.

The figures above, except those in the first three paragraphs, are exclusive of dock labourers and coal labourers. The number of casual jobs found for workpeople in these occupations during the period of four weeks ended 5th February was 1,890.

* The figures relate to Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The figures for Great Britain alone, as already published in the Press, show that on 26th February, 1923, there were on the Live Registers 1,042,000 men, 202,000 women and 84,000 juveniles, compared with 1,165,000 men, 235,000 women, and 85,800 juveniles at 1st January, 1923.

† Workmen on short time are not included.

The following Table shows for each of the Employment Exchange administrative areas and for the principal towns therein the number of persons remaining on the "live registers" at the Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 26th February, 1923. In certain cases, e.g., Bristol, Birmingham, Sheffield, Liverpool, Glasgow, etc., the figures cover more than one Exchange Area:—

Table with columns: Area, Number of Persons remaining on the Live Registers at 26th February, 1923 (Men, Women, Juveniles, Total), Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with 29th Jan., 1923.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED INDUSTRIES IN GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.

UNDER the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 and 1921, substantially all persons for whom Health Insurance contributions have been paid, except outworkers and persons employed in agriculture and private domestic service, must be insured against unemployment. Employees of local authorities, railways and certain other public utility undertakings, members of the police forces, and persons with rights under a statutory superannuation scheme, may, in certain circumstances, be excepted. Persons employed otherwise than by way of manual labour at a rate of remuneration exceeding in value £250 per annum are excepted, as are also juveniles under 16 years of age. An applicant for unemployment benefit must, inter alia, prove continuous unemployment, and it is provided that two periods of unemployment of not less than two days each, separated by a period of not

more than two days, during which the insured contributor has not been employed for more than 24 hours, or two periods of unemployment of not less than six days each, separated by an interval of not more than six weeks, shall be treated as continuous unemployment for this purpose. Persons employed in establishments where, owing to trade depression, the number of working days has been reduced on a systematic basis in such a manner as to fall within the above provision are accordingly eligible for benefit. Payment of unemployment benefit is subject to certain statutory conditions and disqualifications. The procedure requires the "lodging" of an unemployed person's unemployment book, and the record of books "lodged" thus affords a measure of the extent to which unemployment is prevalent in the insured industries.

Table with columns: Industry, Estimated number of Insured Workpeople (Males, Females, Total), Number of Unemployment Books remaining lodged at 26th Feb., 1923 (Males, Females, Total), Percentage Unemployed (Males, Females, Total), Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with 22nd Jan., 1923 (Males, Females, Total).

* In addition to the figures given for total unemployment there were 58,964 persons, or 0.5 per cent., working systematic short time in such a manner as to entitle them to Unemployment Insurance benefit.

TRADE DISPUTES.*

Number, Magnitude and Duration.—The number of trade disputes involving a stoppage of work, reported to the Department as beginning in February, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was 41, as compared with 54 in the previous month and 62 in February, 1922.

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

Table with 6 columns: Groups of Industries, Started before 1st Feb., Started in Feb., Total, Number of Workpeople involved in progress in Feb., Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress in Feb.

The principal new dispute was one involving 6,147 coal miners, etc., in the South Shields district, who were idle from 12th to 23rd February in sympathy with workpeople at a neighbouring colliery where a dispute was in progress from 25th January to 23rd February on a question respecting the payment of the minimum wage.

Causes.—Of the 41 disputes beginning in February, 8, directly involving 4,000 workpeople, arose out of proposed reductions in wages; 11, directly involving 1,000 workpeople, on other wages questions; 14, directly involving 9,000 workpeople, on questions of unionism and non-unionism; one, directly involving 6,000 workpeople, in sympathy with workpeople involved in another dispute; and 7, directly involving 3,000 workpeople, from other causes (including one dispute as to the landing of fish from German trawlers).

Results.—Settlements were effected during February in the case of 29 new disputes, directly involving 17,000 workpeople, and 15 old disputes, directly involving 9,000 workpeople. Of these new and old disputes, 19, directly involving 12,000 workpeople, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 8, directly involving 2,000 workpeople, in favour of the employers; and 17, directly involving 12,000 workpeople, were compromised.

PRINCIPAL TRADE DISPUTES IN PROGRESS DURING FEBRUARY, 1923.

Table with 6 columns: Occupations and Locality, Approximate Number of Workpeople Involved, Date when Dispute Began/Ended, Cause or Object, Result.

* 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.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.

[Based on Returns from Employers and Workpeople.]

In the industries covered by the Department's statistics* the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation in February in Great Britain and Northern Ireland resulted in an aggregate reduction of £64,000 in the weekly full-time wages of nearly 480,000 workpeople, and in an increase of £400 in the wages of nearly 8,000 workpeople.

The groups of industries principally affected are shown below :—

Table with 4 columns: Group of Industries, Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by, Amount of Changes in Weekly Wages.

In the iron and steel group the workpeople affected by reductions included iron puddlers and iron and steel millmen in the Midlands, who sustained a decrease of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, equivalent to about 1½ per cent. on current rates.

Men employed in non-federated shipyards at Belfast and in ship-repairing yards on the Mersey had their wages reduced by amounts varying, according to the amount of their wages, from 2d. to 2s. 6d. per week, the full reduction of 2s. 6d. applying to all piece-workers and to time-workers whose wages, previous to 1st January, were 5s. 6d. per week or over.

The principal changes in the clothing trades took effect as the result of Orders under the Trade Boards Acts. In the ready-made and wholesale bespoke tailoring trade the minimum hourly rates for men were reduced by amounts varying from 1½d. to 2d. in Great Britain, and by 1½d. to 2½d. in Northern Ireland, and for women the minimum rates were reduced by 1d. per hour in Great Britain and by 1½d. per hour in Northern Ireland.

In other trades there was an increase in the wages of iron ore miners in Cumberland. There were reductions in the wages of coopers in most of the important centres in Great Britain and

at Belfast, workpeople employed in the flour milling industry, and workpeople employed in the electricity supply industry in a large number of towns.

Under the Trade Boards Acts, in addition to the reductions mentioned above in the clothing group, there were decreases in the minimum rates fixed for workpeople employed in the jute industry, and in those fixed for workers in the general waste materials reclamation trade in Great Britain.

Of the decreases taking effect in February, seven, amounting to nearly £42,000 per week, took effect under Trade Board Orders; nineteen, amounting to £5,000 per week, were arranged by Standing Joint bodies of employers and workers; twenty-eight, amounting to nearly £4,400 per week, took effect under sliding scales based on selling prices; seven, amounting to £200 per week, took effect under cost of living sliding scales; four, amounting to £450 per week, were arranged by arbitration; and the remaining sixty-two cases, amounting to £12,000 per week, were arranged by direct negotiation between the parties.

Summary of Changes in January and February, 1923.

The following Table shows the number of workpeople in Great Britain and Northern Ireland affected by changes in rates of wages reported to the Department during the first two months of 1923 :—

Table with 4 columns: Group of Trades, Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by net, Net Amount of Change in Weekly Wages.

In the corresponding two months of 1922 there was a net reduction of £970,000 in the weekly wages of nearly 5,520,000 workpeople, and a net increase of £3,400 in the wages of 20,000 workpeople.

Hours of Labour.

The principal change reported in February was an increase of one hour per week in the working hours of brewery workers at Sheffield.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING FEBRUARY, 1923.

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. The weekly rates quoted are in respect of a full ordinary working week and do not take into account the effect of short time working.

Table with 4 columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Particulars of change.

* The particulars of numbers affected and amount of change in weekly wages exclude changes affecting Government employees, police, agricultural labourers, domestic servants, shop assistants and clerks, for which classes the information available is not sufficient to provide a basis for statistics.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING FEBRUARY, 1923—(continued).

| Trade. | Locality. | Date from which change took effect. | Classes of Workpeople. | Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics). |
|--|-------------------------------|---|---|--|
| MINING AND QUARRYING. | | | | |
| Iron Mining, etc. | Cumberland | 5 Feb. | Iron ore miners | Increase, under sliding scale,* of 3d. per shift in the bargain price (9s. 4d. to 9s. 7d.), and of 3d. per shift in the minimum wage (6s. 8d. to 6s. 11d.). |
| | | | Winding enginemen | Increase, under sliding scale,* of 2½d. per shift (8s. 2½d. to 8s. 5d.). |
| | | | Other underground and surface workers | Increase, under sliding scale,* of 1½d. per shift for men and of ¾d. for boys under 16. Rates after change for underground 1st class or leading labourers, 6s. 2d. per shift. |
| Quarrying | North Lincolnshire | 4 Feb. | Ironstone miners and quarrymen | Decrease, under sliding scale,* of 1½ per cent. on standard rates of 1909, leaving wages 39½ per cent. above the standard, plus 1s. 1d. per shift. |
| | Northumberland and Durham | 15 Feb. | Freestone quarrymen and labourers | Decrease of 2d. per hour. Rates after change: quarrymen, 1s. 6d.; labourers, 1s. per hour. |
| Coke and By-products | West Cumberland | 12 Feb. | Limestone quarrymen | Increase, under sliding scale,* of 1½d. per shift for men, and of ¾d. per shift for boys under 16. Rates after change: knobblers, 8s. 3d. per shift; day borers (1st class), 7s. 9d.; day labourers (1st class), 7s. 1d.; ruddmen, 6s. 7d. per shift. |
| | Olee Hill District... | 31 Jan. | Roadstone quarrymen, sett-makers, stone breakers, labourers, etc. | Decrease of 7½ per cent. on present earnings. |
| Pig Iron Manufacture | South Wales and Monmouthshire | 1 Feb. | Cokemen and by-product workers | Increase of 5 per cent. on standard base rates of 1916 and 1917, making wages 17½ to 27½ per cent. above standard.† |
| | North Lincolnshire | 4 Feb. | Blastfurnacemen | Decrease, under sliding scale,* of 1½ per cent. on standard rates of 1909, leaving wages 39½ per cent. above the standard, plus 1s. 1d. per shift. Minimum rate for labourers after change: 3s. 8d. per shift plus 39½ per cent. plus 1s. 1d. per shift. |
| Iron and Steel Manufacture | England and West of Scotland | 4 Feb.‡ | Engineers, electricians, apprentices, improvers, etc., employed on maintenance work at blastfurnaces and in iron and steel works | Decrease, under sliding scale,* of 1½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 30½ per cent. above the standard. Rates after change: pattern-makers, 44s.; boiler-smiths, 43s.; fitters, turners, smiths, electricians and armature winders, 42s.; machine men (millers, borers, platers, etc.), 30s. to 38s.; strikers, 30s. (and 32s. 6d. after one year), plus in each case the percentage addition of 30½ per cent. and a tonnage bonus. |
| | | | Steel melters, pitmen, slagmen, ladlemen, furnace helpers, etc., and gas producermen and charge wheelers | Decrease, under sliding scale,* of 2½ per cent. on the standard of 1905, leaving melters' wages 33½ per cent. (basic process) and 8½ per cent. (acid process) above the standard.‡ |
| | England and Scotland | 4 Feb.‡ | Roll turners | Decrease, under sliding scale,* of 1½ of the total amount of advance in wages given between August, 1914, and 30th April, 1921, making a total decrease of about 82 per cent. of that advance since 1st May, 1921.‡ |
| | Tees-side | 4 Feb. | Workpeople employed in steel rolling mills and production departments | Decrease, under sliding scale,* of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 33½ per cent. above the standard. |
| | Workington | 4 Feb. | Steel millmen, engineers' labourers and general labourers | Decrease, under sliding scale,* of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 33½ per cent. above the standard. |
| | | | Engineers employed at steel works | Decrease, under sliding scale,* of 2½ per cent. on standard rate, leaving rate 42s. per week plus 33½ per cent. plus a tonnage bonus. |
| | Barrow-in-Furness | 4 Feb. | Rail millmen | Decrease, under sliding scale,* of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 25 per cent. above the standard. |
| | | | Enginemen, cranemen, etc. | Decrease, under sliding scale,* of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 33½ per cent. above the standard. |
| | Scunthorpe | 4 Feb. | Wire hoop millmen | Decrease, under sliding scale,* of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 40 per cent. above the standard. |
| | | | Steel millmen, wagon builders and repairers, engineers' labourers, general labourers, etc. | Decrease, under sliding scale,* of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 33½ per cent. above the standard. |
| Midlands (including parts of South Yorkshire and South Lancashire) | 5 Feb. | Bricklayers employed at steel works | Decrease, under sliding scale,* to a rate of 1s. 2s. 5d. per hour (plus tonnage bonus). | |
| | | Iron puddlers | Decrease, under sliding scale,* of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 40 per cent. above the standard. | |
| South and West Wales | 3 Feb. | Iron and steel millmen | Decrease, under sliding scale,* of 2½ per cent. on standard of 1908, leaving wages 40 per cent. above the standard. | |
| | | Other classes | War bonuses reduced by 6d. per week for men, 3d. per week for youths 18 to 21 years of age, and 1½d. per week for boys under 18 years. | |
| West of Scotland | 4 Feb.‡ | Workpeople (excluding maintenance men) engaged in Siemens steel manufacture | Decrease, under sliding scale,* of 1½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 18½ per cent. above the standard, plus an additional 20 per cent. for those with base earnings of not more than 30s. per week; an additional 6d. per shift for those with a base rate of 30s. 1d. to 40s. per week, and an additional 4d. per shift for those with a base rate of 40s. 1d. to 50s. per week. | |
| | | Steel millmen, gas producermen, enginemen, cranemen, firemen, etc. | Decrease, under sliding scale,* of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 33½ per cent. above the standard.‡ | |

* The sliding scale referred to in this case is based on selling prices.
 † The above increase was given under the terms of an agreement by which it was decided that two reductions totalling 17½ per cent. which were made in December, 1921, and May, 1922, should be restored to the extent of 5 per cent. on 1st February, 5 per cent. on 1st May, and 2½ per cent. on 1st August. The percentages above standard vary at the different plants.
 ‡ The change applied to firms who are members of the Iron and Steel Trades Employers' Association, those in England being situated principally in the North East Coast district, Cumberland, Lancashire, South and West Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, and the Midlands.
 § In the case of semi-skilled men and labourers, the reduction of 2½ per cent. was to be applied as follows:—1½ per cent. or 1½ of war advances from 11th March, and 1½ per cent. or 1½ of war advances from 8th April.
 ¶ On the North East Coast the reduction took effect in two equal instalments of 1½ of war advances on 11th March and 8th April.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING FEBRUARY, 1923—(continued).

| Trade. | Locality. | Date from which change took effect. | Classes of Workpeople. | Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.) |
|---|--|--|---|---|
| ENGINEERING, SHIPBUILDING, ETC. | | | | |
| Engineering, Shipbuilding, Ship-repairing, etc. | Tees-side (certain non-federated firms) | 12 Feb. | Workpeople employed in engineering, boiler-making, bridge-building, etc., shops | Decrease of 6s. 6d. per week. |
| | Mersey District | 12 Feb. | Men employed in the ship-repairing trade (including engineers) | Decrease of 2s. 6d. per week for timeworkers whose wages (including 10s. war bonus), previous to 1 January, were 52s. 6d. per week or over; and of smaller amounts for timeworkers whose wages (including 10s. war bonus), previous to 1 January, were more than 37s. 6d., but less than 52s. 6d. per week; and no reduction for those whose wages (including 10s. war bonus), previous to 1 January, were 37s. 6d. per week or under. |
| Engineering, Shipbuilding, Ship-repairing, etc. | Mersey District... | 1 Jan. 22 Jan. 12 Feb. | Sailmakers | Decrease of 2s. 6d. per week. Further decrease of 2s. 6d. per week. Further decrease of 2s. 6d. per week. Rate after change for a full week: 52s. 6d. Decrease of 1d. per hour (1s. 4½d. to 1s. 3½d.). |
| | Birmingham, Wolverhampton, West Bromwich, Walsall and District | 1 Jan. | Boatbuilders | Decrease, in war bonus, of 1s. per week.‡ |
| Engineering, Shipbuilding, Ship-repairing, etc. | Barry, Cardiff, Newport, Penarth, Port Talbot, Swansea, Sharpness, Avonmouth and Bristol | 1 Feb. | Men employed in the shipbuilding, engineering, etc., trades† | Residuary war bonus of 3s. 9d. per week withdrawn. |
| | Clyde District | 17 Feb. | Boiler scalers and ship scalers | Decrease of 1½d. per hour. Rates after change: boiler scalers, 1s. 3d.; ship scalers, 1s. per hour. |
| Engineering, Shipbuilding, Ship-repairing, etc. | Belfast (non-federated firms) | 1 Feb. | Men employed in the shipbuilding, engineering, etc., trades | Decrease of 2s. 6d. per week for timeworkers whose wages (including 10s. war bonus), previous to 1 January, were 52s. 6d. per week or over, and for pieceworkers whose wages (including 10s. war bonus), previous to 1 January, were more than 37s. 6d., but less than 52s. 6d. per week; and no reduction for those whose wages (including 10s. war bonus), previous to 1 January, were 37s. 6d. per week or under.‡ |
| | London | 1st full pay preceding week ending 10 Feb. | Adult male wire workers | Decrease of 1d. per hour (1s. 5d. to 1s. 4d.) for timeworkers and of 5 per cent. for pieceworkers, leaving piecework prices in operation previous to November, 1922, subject to a reduction of 10 per cent. |
| Wire Manufacture | Birmingham, Smethwick, Dudley, Bilston, Manchester, Warrington, Sowerby Bridge, Keighley and Glasgow | 12 Feb. | Workpeople employed in the metallic bedstead trade | Decrease of 5 per cent. in the basic time and piecework rates for men, and in the basic piecework rates for women engaged in dipping bedsteads in black. Basis rates after change: men—cupola men, 1s. 3d. per hour (56-hour week); stock-fitter in charge, 85s. per week; stock-fitter (second hand, able to fit all classes of stocks), 70s. per week; stock-fitter (improver, not less than 3 years' experience), 50s. per week; bending, 1s. 3d. per hour; cutting off and other sections, 1s. 1½d. per hour; less 5 per cent. in each case, and subject to a bonus addition of 16s. per week. (See also Decision No. 748 on p. 113). |
| | London | 1st pay day in Feb. | Women employed in the optical instrument making trade | Decrease of 5s. per week for men. Rates after change: skilled men, 52s.; semi-skilled, 45s. 6d.; labourers, 39s. |
| Bedstead Manufacture | Sheffield | 1st pay day in Feb. | Workpeople employed in the gold, silver and allied trades | Bonus of 47½ per cent. for timeworkers, and of 52½ per cent. for pieceworkers, reduced to 40 per cent. and 45 per cent. respectively. Hourly rates after change for men: skilled, 1s. or 11d. (according to occupation); semi-skilled, 10d.; unskilled, 9d.; plus, in each case, bonus of 40 per cent. |
| | Sheffield | 1st pay day in Feb. | Warehouse women and girls employed in the gold, silver and allied trades | Revised scale of weekly basis rates adopted, varying according to age, from 5s. at 14 to 15 years to 15s. at 19 to 20 years; such rates to be subject to an addition of 40 per cent. |
| Bobbin and Shuttle Making | Sootland | 1 Feb. | Workpeople employed in the bobbin and shuttle making industry | Decrease of 3s. per week. Rates after change: firemen, 75s.; doormen, 75s. Decrease of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: firemen, 1s. 7d. per hour or 74s. 5d. per week; doormen, 1s. 6½d. per hour or 72s. 5½d. per week. |
| | London | 1st pay day in Feb. | Women employed in the optical instrument making trade | Decrease of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: firemen, 1s. 6½d. per hour or 72s. 5½d. per week; doormen, 1s. 6d. per hour or 70s. 6d. per week. |
| Optical Instrument Manufacture | Sheffield | 1st pay day in Feb. | Warehouse women and girls employed in the gold, silver and allied trades | Decrease of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: firemen, 1s. 6½d.; doormen at Hull, 1s. 6½d.; doormen at other towns, 1s. 6d. |
| | Sheffield | 1st pay day in Feb. | Warehouse women and girls employed in the gold, silver and allied trades | Decrease of 1½d. per hour. Rates after change at Swansea: firemen, 1s. 6d.; doormen, 1s. 5d. |
| Gold, Silver and Allied Trades | Liverpool and Birkenhead | Feb. | Farriers | Decrease of 1½d. per hour. Rates after change: firemen, 1s. 6d.; doormen or drivers, 1s. 5½d. |
| | Manchester, Hanley, and Stoke-on-Trent | 26 Feb. | Farriers | Decrease of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: firemen, 1s. 6½d. per hour or 72s. 5½d. per week; doormen, 1s. 6d. per hour or 70s. 6d. per week. |
| Farriery | Other large towns in Lancashire and Cheshire | 26 Feb. | Farriers | Decrease of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: firemen, 1s. 6½d. per hour or 72s. 5½d. per week; doormen, 1s. 6d. per hour or 70s. 6d. per week. |
| | Smaller towns in Lancashire and Cheshire** (with Kendal and High Peak District)† | 26 Feb. | Farriers | Decrease of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: firemen, 1s. 6½d.; doormen at Hull, 1s. 6½d.; doormen at other towns, 1s. 6d. |
| Farriery | Various towns in Yorkshire†† | 26 Feb. | Farriers | Decrease of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: firemen, 1s. 6½d.; doormen at Hull, 1s. 6½d.; doormen at other towns, 1s. 6d. |
| | Cardiff, Swansea, Newport and Merthyr | 12 Feb. | Farriers | Decrease of 1½d. per hour. Rates after change: firemen, 1s. 6d.; doormen or drivers, 1s. 5½d. |
| Farriery | Glasgow District... | Feb. | Farriers | Decrease of 1½d. per hour. Rates after change: firemen, 1s. 6d.; doormen or drivers, 1s. 5½d. |

* It was arranged that reductions, each of amounts similar to the above, were to take effect as from 1st January, 22nd January, 12th February and 5th March, making a total reduction after 5th March of 10s. per week in the case of workers whose wages previous to 1st January were 52s. 6d. per week or more (including 10s. war bonus).
 † Except those whose wages are regulated by movements in some other industry and those employed in H.M. Dockyards, etc.
 ‡ It was arranged that reductions, each of 1s. per week, were to be made on 1st December, 1922, 1st January, 1st February, 1st March and 1st April, 1923.
 § It was arranged that reductions, each of amounts similar to the above, were to take effect as from 1st January, 1st February, 1st March and 1st April, making a total reduction after 1st April of 10s. per week in the case of pieceworkers, and of time-workers whose wages, previous to 1st January, were 52s. 6d. per week or more.
 ¶ The reduction took effect under an agreement arrived at by the Optical Instrument Interim Industrial Reconstruction Committee.
 † Including Accrington, Altrincham, Ashton, Blackburn, Blackpool, Bolton, Burnley, Bury, Chorley, Clitheroe, Colne, Lancaster, Leigh, Middleton, Nelson and District, Oldham, Ormskirk, Preston, Rochdale, Rossendale, Southport, Stockport, St. Helens, Warrington, Widnes and Wigan.
 ** Including Alsager, Bentham, Chester, Crewe, Furness District, Garstang, Kirkham, Knutsford, Macclesfield, Middlewich, Nantwich, Northwich, and Tarporley.
 †† Including Barnsley, Bradford, Halifax, Huddersfield, Hull, Keighley, Leeds, Rotherham, Sheffield and Todmorden.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING FEBRUARY, 1923—(continued).

| Trade. | Locality. | Date from which change took effect. | Classes of Workpeople. | Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.) |
|--|---|---|--|--|
| OTHER METAL TRADES—(continued). | | | | |
| Farriery (contd.) | Edinburgh | 19 Feb. | Farriers | Decrease of 1½d. per hour. Rates after change: firemen, 1s. 6d.; doormen, 1s. 5½d. |
| | Paisley and District | Feb. | Farriers | Decrease of 1½d. per hour. Rates after change: firemen, 1s. 6d.; doormen, 1s. 5½d. |
| | Dundee, Arbroath and Montrose | Dec., 1922 | Farriers | Decrease of 1d. per hour. |
| Spring Manufacture | Belfast | 1 Jan. | Farriers | Decrease of 2s. 6d. per week. |
| | Sheffield | 1 Feb. | Laminated spring fitters and vicemen, smiths and strikers | Further decrease of 2s. 6d. per week. Rates after change: firemen, 65s.; doormen, 57s. 6d. |
| Safe Making | Birmingham, Dudley, Sedgley, West Bromwich and Wolverhampton | 1st full pay after 15 Feb. Pay day in week ending 20 Jan. | Iron safe engineers | Decrease, in flat rate bonus, of 1s. per week. |
| | | | | Decrease of 5 per cent. on current rates. |
| TEXTILE TRADES. | | | | |
| Jute Industry | Great Britain | 23 Feb. | Workpeople employed in the preparing, spinning, or weaving of (a) jute, or (b) jute and any other fibre except flax and hemp:— | Decrease in the minimum rates, fixed under the Trade Boards Acts, of the following amounts for the classes named respectively (see also p. 75 of February GAZETTE):— |
| | | | Male workers (except loom tenters 21 years and over with recognised full charge) | Decrease varying from 8½d. to 1s. 6½d. per week. Minimum rates after change: under 16 years, 15s. 3d.; 16 and under 18 years, 20s. 10d.; 18 and under 21 years, 35s. 2d.; 21 years and over, 39s. 1d. |
| | | | Female workers:— Spinners, other than orra (or spare) spinners | Decrease varying according to size of bobbin and number of spindles from 1s. 2d. to 1s. 11d. per week for single spinners, and from 1s. 3d. to 1s. 10d. per week for double spinners. |
| | | | Orra (or spare) spinners 18 years and over | Decrease of 1s. 2d. per week (30s. 10½d. to 29s. 8½d.). |
| | | | Spinning shifting mistresses | Decrease of 1s. 6d. per week (39s. to 37s. 6d.). |
| | | | Other workers | Decrease of 8½d., 10½d., or 1s. per week. Minimum rates after change: under 16 years, 15s. 3d.; 16 and under 18, 20s. 10d.; 18 and over, 25s.* |
| Textile Printing | Lancashire, Cheshire, Derbyshire, Scotland and certain firms in Yorkshire | Pay preceding 1st pay day in Mar. | Machine calico printers | "Cost of living" wage reduced under sliding scale from 68 per cent. to 65.45 per cent. on basis wages, the flat rate bonus of 10s. per week for journeymen and 9s. per week for apprentices remaining unchanged. |
| | | | | |
| CLOTHING TRADES. | | | | |
| Dressmaking and Women's Light Clothing Trade | Scotland | 5 Feb. | Female workers 20 years of age and over with not less than 6 years' experience in the retail branch of the trade who make bodices, coats, skirts, gowns or blouses without supervision | Decreases in the minimum rates, fixed under the Trade Boards Acts, of 1½d. per hour for Area A and 1¼d. per hour for Area B.† Minimum time and piecework basis time rates respectively after change: Area A, 7½d., 8½d.; Area B, 7d., 8d. (See also p. 75 of February GAZETTE). |
| | | | | |
| | | | Female workers employed in the linen and cotton handkerchief and household goods and linen piece goods trade:— Timeworkers:— Other than learners | Decreases in the minimum time and piecework basis time rates, fixed under the Trade Boards Acts, of the following amounts for the classes named respectively:— Decrease of ¼d. or ½d. per hour in time rates and ¼d. per hour in piecework basis time rate (¾d. to 1d.). Minimum time rates after change: 18 years and over, 6½d.; under 18 years—varying from 2d. to 6d. per hour according to age of commencing and length of employment. |
| | | | Learners | Decrease of ¼d. or ½d. per hour in time rates. |
| | | | Pieceworkers | Decrease of 10 per cent. on piece rates fixed from 6 Oct., 1921, making a total reduction of 20 per cent. since that date. |
| Linen and Cotton Handkerchief, etc., Trade | Northern Ireland | 1 Feb. | Workpeople employed in the wholesale mantle and costume trade:— | Decreases in the minimum time and piecework basis time rates, fixed under the Trade Boards Acts, of the following amounts for the classes named respectively:— Decrease of 2d. and 1½d. per hour for special classes, such as cutters, knifemen, fitters-up, tailors, pressers, machinists, passers, with not less than 5 years' experience, and with not less than 3 but less than 5 years' experience after 19 years respectively, and of 1½d. per hour for all other workers (time rate 1s. to 10½d.). Decrease of 1½d. per hour. |
| | | | | |
| Wholesale Mantle and Costume Trade | Great Britain | 1 Feb. | Warehousemen, packers and porters (22 years and over) | Decrease of 1d. to 1½d. per hour in time rates and 1½d. per hour in piecework basis time rate. |
| | | | Male workers under 22 years | Decrease of 1d. per hour. General minimum time rate after change for women other than cutters, trimmers and fitters-up, 6½d. |
| | | | Female workers, other than learners | Decrease of ¾d. to 1d. per hour in minimum time rates. |
| | | | Female learners | Decrease of ¾d. to 1d. per hour in minimum time rates. |
| Ready-made and Wholesale Bespoke Tailoring Trade | Great Britain | 1 Feb. | Workpeople employed in the ready-made and wholesale bespoke tailoring trade:— Male workers:— Cutters, fitters up, tailors, pressers, machinists, passers, etc. | Decreases in the minimum time and piecework basis time rates, fixed under the Trade Boards Acts, of the following amounts for the classes named respectively:— Decrease of 1½d. or 2d. per hour. |
| | | | Under pressers and plain machinists | Decrease of 1½d. per hour. |
| | | | Warehousemen, packers and porters | Decrease of 1½d. or 1¼d. per hour. |
| | | | Other male workers | Decrease of 1d. to 1½d. per hour in time rates and 1½d. per hour in piecework basis time rate (1s. 1½d. to 1s. 0½d.). Minimum time rates after change: under 15 years, 2d., increasing to 5½d. at 18 and under 19, and to 10½d. at 22 years and over. |

* Female weaving learners are to receive lower rates for one period only of learnership not exceeding two months.
† The above decreases resulted from the abolition of the special rates previously paid to the workers specified, the new minimum rates being the same as paid to other classes of workers in the retail branch.
‡ Area A.—(a) All Parliamentary and Police Burghs which had, according to the most recent census, a population over 12,000; and (b) the following Special Lighting Districts, viz., Bellshill and Mossend, Blantyre, Cambuslang, Larkhall and Vale of Leven.
§ Area B.—The whole of Scotland other than Area A.
¶ See also p. 35 of January GAZETTE.
|| See also p. 75 of February GAZETTE.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING FEBRUARY, 1923—(continued).

| Trade. | Locality. | Date from which change took effect. | Classes of Workpeople. | Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.) |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| CLOTHING TRADES—(continued). | | | | |
| Ready-made and Wholesale Bespoke Tailoring Trade (contd.) | Great Britain (contd.) | 1 Feb. | Workpeople employed in the ready-made and wholesale bespoke tailoring trade (contd.):— Female workers (other than learners):— Cutters, trimmers and fitters-up | Decrease of 1d. per hour in time rates, and piecework basis time rates fixed at 7½d., 8d., and 8½d. per hour for those under 19 years, 19 and under 20, and 20 years and over respectively. Minimum time rates after change: under 19, 6½d.; 19 and under 20, 7d.; 20 and over, 7½d. |
| | | | Other workers (including homeworkers) | Decrease of 1d. per hour. Minimum time and piecework basis time rate respectively after change: 6½d., 7½d. |
| | | | Learners | Decrease of ¼d. to ½d. per hour in time rates. |
| | | | Workpeople employed in the ready-made and wholesale bespoke tailoring trade:— Male workers (other than learners):— 22 years and over | Decreases in the minimum rates, fixed under the Trade Boards Acts, of the following amounts for the classes named respectively:— Decrease of 1½d. to 2½d. per hour. Minimum time and piecework basis time rates respectively after change: Measure cutters, 1s. 4½d., 1s. 5½d.; stock or knife cutters, fitters-up, tailors, pressers-off, machinists, passers, 1s. 2½d., 1s. 3½d.; under-pressers and plain machinists, 1½d., 1s. 0½d.; warehousemen—24 years, 1s. 0½d., 1s. 2d.; 25 years, 1½d., 1s. 0½d.; 22 years, 10½d., 11½d.; packers—24 years, 1s., 1s. 1½d.; 25 years, 1½d., 1s. 0½d.; 22 years, 10½d., 11½d.; porters and all other male workers, 10½d., 11½d. |
| | | | Under 22 years of age | Decreases varying from ¼d. to 2d. per hour. Minimum time rates after change: under 15 years, 2d., increasing to 5½d. at 18 and under 19, and to 8½d. at 21 and under 22 years. |
| | | | Male learners | Decreases varying from ¼d. to 2d. per hour. |
| | | | Other than learners | Decrease of 1½d. per hour. Minimum time and piecework basis time rates respectively after change, 5½d., 6½d. |
| | | | Learners | New scales of minimum weekly time rates fixed, starting at rates varying from 6s. to 10s. per week, according to commencing age, and increasing by varying amounts to 20s. per week. |
| TRANSPORT TRADES. | | | | |
| Dock, Riverside, etc., Labour | The Wear | 3 Feb. | Skippers, engineers, firemen and mates employed on tug-boats | Decrease of 7s. 6d. per week. Rates after change: skippers, 75s. 9d.; engineers, 64s. 6d.; firemen and mates, 53s. 3d. per week. |
| | Hull | 3 Jan. | Riggers employed by fishing vessel owners | Decrease of 2s. 6d. per week. |
| Road Transport | Newcastle-on-Tyne | 8 Feb. | One-horse drivers, 52s.; two-horse drivers, 55s.; petrol wagon drivers (heavy) and steam wagon drivers, 62s.; steers, 56s. per week. | Decrease of 2s. 6d. per week.* |
| | Birmingham | 1st pay in Jan. 1st pay in Feb. | Workpeople employed in the road transport industry | Further decrease of 2s. 6d. per week. Rates after change: one-horse drivers and stablemen, 45s.; two-horse drivers, 50s.; drivers of mechanical vehicles (2 tons and over), 55s.; (15 cut. to 2 tons), 50s.; (under 15 cut.), 45s. per week.* |
| | Swansea | 12 Feb. | One-horse drivers, 57s. per week. | Decrease of 3s. per week. Rate after change for one-horse drivers, 57s. per week. |
| AGRICULTURE. | | | | |
| Agriculture | Lancashire— Northern Area | 1 Feb. | Adult male labourers | Rates adopted up to 30 April of 37s. 6d. per week for skilled teammen and stockmen, and of 35s. per week for other workers.† |
| | Southern Area Ashby, Bosworth, Hinckley and Atherstone District | 13 Feb. 23 Feb. | Adult male labourers | Rate of 35s. per week adopted.‡ |
| | Shropshire | 23 Feb. | Adult male labourers | Rate of 31s. adopted for a week of 54 hours.† |
| PAPER, PRINTING AND ALLIED TRADES. | | | | |
| Book Publishing | London | 1st pay day in Feb. | Packers, porters, etc., employed by book publishers | Decrease of 2s. per week for men and of proportionate amounts for women and boys. Rates after change: packers, 66s. 6d.; porters, lookers-out, messengers and liftmen, 63s. 6d. |
| | Great Britain | Pay day in week ending 3 Mar. | Press telegraphists employed by certain provincial newspaper proprietors leasing private wires from the Post Office | Decrease of 2s. 6d. per week. Minimum rates after change: operators employed in offices fitted with high speed machines—London, 105s.; provinces, 95s.; Morse operators—London, 95s.; provinces, 90s. |
| FURNITURE AND WOODWORKING TRADES. | | | | |
| Furniture Manufacture | Liverpool and District | 1 Feb. | Upholsterers employed in the wholesale trade | Decrease of 1d. per hour (1s. 10d. to 1s. 9d.). |
| | North East Lancashire and Todmorden | 1 Feb. | Cabinet makers, carvers, chairmakers, upholsterers, polishers and machinists | Decrease of 1d. per hour for journeymen (1s. 9d. to 1s. 8½d.), and a proportionate decrease for apprentices and improvers. (See award on p. 74 of February GAZETTE.) |
| | Newry | 5 Feb. | Cabinet makers, french polishers and upholsterers | Decrease of 1d. per hour (1s. 6d. to 1s. 5d.). |
| Mill Sawing | Belfast | 6 Jan. | Sawyers and machinists | Decrease of 3s. 11d. per week. Rate after change for sawyers, 64s. 4d. |

* These decreases took effect under an arrangement which was made by the Birmingham Horse and Vehicle Owners' Association and the Birmingham and Midland Counties Coal Merchants' Association without agreement by the Trade Union concerned.
† The rate was agreed upon by the local Conciliation Committee set up under the Corn Production Acts (Repeal) Act, 1921.
‡ The rate was not agreed to by the workers' side of the local Conciliation Committee, but formed the subject of a recommendation by the Employers' Executive.
§ The rate was agreed upon between the Employers' representatives on the local Conciliation Committee and the Workers' Union, but it is understood that the agreement is not recognised by the National Union of Agricultural Workers.
¶ Including Accrington, Blackburn, Blackpool, Burnley, Chorley, Clitheroe, Colne, Darwen, Haslingden, Nelson, Padiham, and Preston.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING FEBRUARY, 1923—(continued).

| Trade. | Locality. | Date from which change took effect. | Classes of Workpeople. | Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.) |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| FURNITURE AND WOODWORKING TRADES—(continued). | | | | |
| Packing Case Making | London | 1st full pay in Jan. | Nailing machinists, dovetailing machinists, lock-cornermen, overhand jointers, tonguers and groovers, hand holers, branders, printers and borers | Decrease of 1½d. per hour. Rates after change: nailing machinists—6 nails and under, 1s. 4½d.; 7 nails and over, 1s. 5d.; dovetailing machinists and lock cornermen, 1s. 4½d.; tonguers and groovers, 1s. 4½d.; overhand jointers, 1s. 5d.; hand holers, branders, printers and borers, 1s. 3½d. |
| | | | Other fully qualified male adult workers | Decrease of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: saw doctors, 1s. 7d.; saw sharpeners (hand filing), 1s. 6½d.; panel planners, 1s. 4½d.; others, 1s. 5½d. |
| | | | Labourers | Decrease of 1d. per hour (1s. 2½d. to 1s. 1½d.). |
| | | | Apprentices and improvers | Decrease of 3d. per hour. Rates after change: 16 to 17 years, 5½d., increasing to 9½d. at 18 to 19, and to 1s. 1½d. at 20½ to 21 years. |
| | | | Female workers | Decreases of 3d. to 1d. per hour. Rate after change: at 21 and over, 10d. |
| Coopering | Great Britain, also Belfast* | Pay after 1st full pay in Feb. | Coopers | Decrease of 1d. per hour for timeworkers and of 6½ per cent. for pieceworkers (leaving piece rates generally 82½ per cent. above pre-war rates). Rates after change: London, 1s. 8d.; Birmingham, Liverpool, Northwich, Derby, Nottingham, Stoke-on-Trent, Leicester, Manchester, Swansea, Wolverhampton, Dundee, Edinburgh, Falkirk, Glasgow, Greenock, Leith, Paisley, Stirling, Livingston and Belfast, 1s. 7d.; other districts, 1s. 6d. |
| | North Staffordshire† | 26 Feb. | Dry coopers employed in the manufacture of hogsheads for pottery manufacture | Decrease of 1d. per hour (1s. 6d. to 1s. 5d.). |
| Picture Frame Making | Belfast | 1st pay in Feb. | Picture frame makers | Decrease of 5s. per week (75s. to 70s.). |
| CHEMICAL, GLASS, BRICK, POTTERY, ETC., TRADES. | | | | |
| Glass Working | Birmingham, Glasgow, London, Manchester, Scurbridge, Warrington, and Tutbury | 2nd pay day in Feb. | Flint glass cutters, intaglio workers and engravers | Decrease of 4s. per week. |
| Brick Manufacture | Peterborough | 1st pay day in Feb. | Pressed brickmakers | Decrease of 10 per cent. on present earnings. Rates after change: burners, 59s. per week; oilers, 11½d. per hour; fitters, 1s. 1½d. per hour; labourers, 10d. per hour. |
| Pottery Manufacture | Glasgow, Musselburgh, Portobello and Rutherglen | 2nd pay day after 14 Feb. | Workpeople employed in stone-ware pottery manufacture (pieceworkers only) | Percentage addition to basis piece rates reduced: from 25 to 22½. |
| FOOD, DRINK, AND TOBACCO TRADES. | | | | |
| Flour Milling. | Great Britain‡ | 1st pay day in Feb. | Workpeople employed in the flour milling industry (including motor lorry drivers, carriers, and horse carmen where previously included with mill employees):— Men and boys ... Women, 18 years and over... | Decreases for those 21 years and over of 2s. 6d. per week for those in Class A, AA, and B mills, and of 2s. per week for those in Class BB and C mills, with proportionate reductions for those under 21 years. Rates after change: Men 21 years and over:—First roller men, Grade I, Class A, 70s. 6d.; Class AA, 68s.; Class B, 65s. 6d.; Class BB, 61s. 6d.; Class C, 58s. Grade II, Class A, 68s. 6d.; Class AA, 66s.; Class B, 63s. 6d.; Class BB, 59s. 6d.; Class C, 56s. Grade III, Class BB, 57s. 6d.; Class C, 54s. General labourers, etc.: All grades, Class A, 54s. 6d.; Class AA, 52s.; Class B, 49s. 6d.; Class BB, 45s. 6d.; Class C, 42s. 6d. |
| | Certain towns in Yorkshire | Pay day in week ending 10 Feb. | Adult male workers employed in the baking and confectionery trades by private traders | Decrease of 3s. 6d. per week. Minimum rates after change: forehands, 70s.; doughmixers and ovenmen, 65s.; tablehands, 60s. |
| | Chorley | 17 Feb. | Bakers and confectioners | Decrease of 6s. per week for adults (66s. to 60s.¶) and of 3s. per week for juveniles. |
| | | | Adult workers (except labourers) | Decrease of 5s. per week for dayworkers (71s. to 66s.¶), and for nightworkers, of 7s. per week for tablehands (83s. to 76s.), and of 8s. per week for other classes. |
| | Preston and District | 12 Nov., 1922 | Labourers | Decrease of 4s. per week for dayworkers (59s. to 55s.) and of 6s. per week for nightworkers (69s. to 63s.). |
| | | | Juniors and male apprentices | Decreases varying from 2s. 6d. to 3s. 6d. per week for dayworkers, and of 3s. 6d. or 4s. per week for nightworkers. |
| | | | Bakers and confectioners | Decrease of 4s. per week. Rates after change: bakers—day, 76s., night, 82s.; doughmen, night, 87s.; ovenmen, day, 81s., night, 87s. |
| | Belfast | Pay week in which 12 Feb. falls | Semi-skilled and unskilled workers | Decreases varying from 1s. to 3s. per week. Rates after change for labourers: day, 57s.; night, 63s. |
| | | Pay week in which 26 Feb. falls | | |
| | Newry | 1 Feb. | Adult male workers | Decrease of 3s. per week (69s. to 66s.¶). |
| | Douglas and Ramsey (Isle of Man) | 1st week in Jan. | Adult male workers | Decrease of 2s. 6d. per week (62s. 6d. to 60s.¶). |

* The change took effect under an agreement arrived at by the Joint Industrial Council for the Cooperage Industry. At Burton-on-Trent the rate for those at block and on unions and pressure work is 1s. 7d. per hour, and for vat-makers 1s. 8d.
† The change took effect under an agreement made between the North Staffordshire Master Coopers' Association and the National Union of General Workers.
‡ The change took effect under an arrangement made whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices, etc.
§ The decrease took effect under an agreement arrived at by the National Joint Industrial Council for the Flour Milling Industry. In the case of men and boys, further decreases similar in amount to those shown above operate from the middle of March. A list of the districts comprised by each class was given on p. 555 of the GAZETTE for October, 1921.
|| Including Bradford, Barnsley, Bridlington, Doncaster, Dewsbury, Hull, Halifax, Huddersfield, Harrogate, Leeds, Sheffield, Wakefield, and York.
¶ The rate quoted refers to tablehands.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING FEBRUARY, 1923—(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 | Yorkshire (excluding Sheffield) | Pay day in week ending 17 Feb. | Brewery workers (including transport workers) | Decrease of 4s. per week for male and female workers 18 years and over, of 3s. per week for female workers 17 and under 18, and of 2s. per week for those under 17 years. Rates after change: male workers (except transport workers), 37s. 6d. at 18 years, increasing to 56s. at 21 and over; female workers—employed in brewing department—under 17 years, 15s. 6d., increasing to 36s. at 20 and over; employed in bottling departments—under 17 years, 15s. 6d., increasing to 31s. 6d. at 19 and over. |
| | Sheffield | Pay day in week ending 3 Feb. | Brewery workers (except coopers) | Decrease of 4s. per week.* Minimum rates after change: men (inside), 60s.; carters and lorrymen, 62s.; assistants and stablemen, 60s.; women employed in the bottling department, 31s. |
| Wholesale Provision Trade | Lancashire and parts of Cheshire and Yorkshire | 1st pay day in Feb. | Warehousemen and porters employed in the wholesale grocery and provision trade | Decrease of 5 per cent. for those 20 years of age and over and of 7½ per cent. for those under 20 years. Rates after change: warehousemen—16 years, 19s., increasing to 28s. 3d. at 18, 50s. 4d. at 21, and to 57s. 11d. at 25 years and over; porters—16 years, 18s. 6d., increasing to 27s. 9d. at 18, 46s. 1d. at 21, and to 52s. 3d. at 24 and over. |
| MISCELLANEOUS TRADES. | | | | |
| | Great Britain | 1 Feb. | Workpeople employed in the general waste materials reclamation trade— Female workers in the woollen rag and/or woollen and worsted waste materials section | Decreases in the minimum rates, fixed under the Trade Boards Acts, of the following amounts for the classes named respectively: Decrease of 3d. per hour in minimum time rates (except for those under 14 years, for whom there was no change), and 1½d. per hour in piecework basis time rate (8½d. to 8d.). Minimum time rates after change: under 14½ years, 3½d., increasing to 4½d. at 16 and under 16½ years and to 7d. at 18 years and over. |
| | | | All other female workers | Decrease of 3d. or 4d. in minimum time rates and 3d. per hour in piecework basis time rate (7½d. to 7d.). Minimum time rates after change: under 14½ years 3d., increasing to 4½d. at 16 and under 16½ years and to 6½d. at 18 and over. |
| | | | Male workers 21 years and over:— Employed in the scrap iron and scrap metal section | Decrease of 3d. per hour in minimum time rate (1s. to 1½d.). |
| | | | Other male workers | Decrease of 1d. per hour in minimum time rate (1½d. to 1d.). |
| | Manchester | 1 Jan., 1923 | Workpeople employed in wholesale textile, etc., warehouses | Decrease of from 3d. to 1s. 3d. per week for male workers and of from 3d. to 9d. per week for female workers. |
| | | | Workpeople employed by retail butchers (private traders):— Managers | Increase of from 3d. to 1s. 3d. per week for male workers. Minimum rates after change: male workers—14 years, 10s. 6d., increasing to 22s. 6d. at 18, 38s. 6d. at 21 and to 51s. 6d. at 23 years; female workers—14 years 10s., increasing to 20s. 6d. at 18, and to 29s. at 21 years. |
| | | | Assistants | Rate of 80s. per week adopted for trade up to £50 per week, with an additional 1s. 6d. per week for each additional takings of £10 up to £200. |
| | | | Slaughtermen | New scale of minimum rates adopted as follows:—16 to 17 years, 19s., increasing to 25s. at 18 to 19 and to 60s. at 21 and over (if skilled). |
| | | | Pork butchers | Minimum rate of 80s. per week adopted. |
| | | | Butchers employed by co-operative societies:— Managers | Minimum rates adopted of 80s. per week for foremen and of 75s. per week for pork butchers. |
| | | | Assistants | Decrease of 5s. per week in minimum rate (81s. to 76s.). |
| | | | Slaughtermen | Decrease of 3s. per week. Minimum rates after change: 16 years, 18s., increasing to 24s. 3d. at 18 and to 63s. at 21 and over.† |
| | | | Pork section (machine-men and pork butchers) | Decrease of 3s. per week (80s. to 77s.). |
| | | | Managers, etc., employed by co-operative societies | Decrease of 3s. per week. Minimum rates after change: first hands, 77s.; second hands, 74s. |
| | | | Fishery coopers:— Journymen (time workers only) | Decrease of 5s. per week. Minimum rate after change, 60s. |
| | | | Apprentices | Scale of minimum weekly rates adopted, starting at 8s. during 1st year, and increasing to 20s. and 24s. during 1st and 2nd six months respectively in fourth year. |
| PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES. | | | | |
| Electricity Supply Undertakings | Various districts in England‡ | Pay preceding 1st pay day after 7 Jul. | Electrical fitters and wiremen employed by Electricity Supply Undertakings | Decreases of amounts corresponding with those sustained by men employed by electrical contractors (varying from 1d. to 1½d. per hour). Rate after change in London: 1s. 8d. per hour. |
| | North East Coast** | 1st full pay after 1 Feb. | Workpeople employed by Electricity Supply Undertakings | Bonus of 12½ per cent. previously paid on total earnings reduced to 8½ per cent. Minimum hourly rates after change for general indoor and outdoor labourers respectively: Zone A, 7-25d., 7-75d.; Zone B, 6-56d., 7-05d.; Zone C, 6-28d., 6-75d., plus in each case 2½s. 9d. per week, plus 8½ per cent.** |
| | Lancashire, Cheshire and North Wales** | 1 Feb. | Workpeople employed by Electricity Supply Undertakings (except electrical fitters and wiremen and engineers) | Decrease of 5 per cent. on total wages. Minimum hourly rates after change for general indoor and outdoor labourers, respectively: Zone A, 1s. 1-87d., 1s. 2-42d.; Zone B, 1s. 1-2d., 1s. 1-80d.; Zone C, 1s. 0-91d., 1s. 1-52d.** |

* See also under "Changes in Hours of Labour."
† See also p. 75 of February GAZETTE.
‡ The change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices, etc.
§ First assistants where three, including manager, are employed, 3s. extra; and 5s. extra where five or more, including manager, are employed.
¶ The decrease applied to undertakings which pay the rates of wages recognised by the District Joint Industrial Councils in the following areas:—London, Yorkshire, East Midlands (Grade 2 Undertakings only), and West of England.
** The undertakings at which this decrease in wages was put into operation were those which follow the decisions of the District Joint Industrial Council for the Electric Supply Industry. At some of the undertakings the rates actually paid to labourers are higher than the minimum rates quoted, which are those recognised by the District Joint Council. At the majority of undertakings which do not follow the arrangements made by the District Joint Council, no reduction in wages was made in February, and different rates are paid.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING FEBRUARY, 1923—(continued).

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Includes sections for Electricity Supply Undertakings, Waterworks Undertakings, Gas Undertakings, Tramways Undertakings, and Local Authority Services.

CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED DURING FEBRUARY, 1923.

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Includes example for Food, Drink, etc. in Sheffield.

* The undertakings at which this decrease in wages was put into operation were those which follow the decisions of the District Joint Industrial Council for the Electricity Supply Industry. † It was agreed that reductions, where made, should apply proportionately to the following classes...

CHANGES TAKING EFFECT IN MARCH, 1923.

The following groups of workpeople are affected by reductions already reported as having been arranged to take effect in March: Coal miners in Northumberland, Durham, Yorkshire and the East Midland area...

POOR LAW RELIEF IN GREAT BRITAIN.

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

The number of persons relieved on one day in February, 1923, in the 31 selected areas named below, corresponded to a rate of 553 per 10,000 of population, showing a decrease of 7 per 10,000 on the previous month...

As compared with January, 1923, the total number relieved showed a decrease of 12,277 (or 1.3 per cent.). The number of indoor recipients of relief was higher by 1,082 (or 0.9 per cent.)...

As compared with February, 1922, the total number relieved showed an increase of 32,888 (or 3.5 per cent.). The number of indoor recipients increased by 726 (or 0.6 per cent.)...

Four districts showed increases ranging from 69 to 165, and seven districts showed increases ranging from 9 to 55.

Table: Selected Urban Areas. Columns: Indoor, Outdoor, Total, Rate per 10,000, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of population.

Table: ENGLAND & WALES.† Metropolitan. Columns: District, Indoor, Outdoor, Total, Rate per 10,000, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of population.

Table: Other Districts. Columns: District, Indoor, Outdoor, Total, Rate per 10,000, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of population.

Table: SCOTLAND.† Columns: District, Indoor, Outdoor, Total, Rate per 10,000, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of population.

Table: TOTAL "Other Districts". Columns: Indoor, Outdoor, Total, Rate per 10,000, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of population.

Table: TOTAL for the above Scottish Districts. Columns: Indoor, Outdoor, Total, Rate per 10,000, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of population.

Table: TOTAL for above 31 Districts in Feb., 1923. Columns: Indoor, Outdoor, Total, Rate per 10,000, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of population.

* These urban areas include in the case of England and Wales more than one poor-law union, except in the Leicester, Birmingham, and West Ham districts...

† Exclusive of Casuals: of Patients in the Fever and Small-pox Hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Boards; of Lunatics in Asylums, Registered Hospitals and Licensed Houses...

* Based on Returns from the Home Office and from the Ministry of Labour for Northern Ireland.

† Cases include all attacks reported to the Home Office during the month and not previously reported, so far as is known, during the preceding 12 months.

‡ Of the 8 persons affected in the pottery industry 5 were females.

§ Based on Returns from the Home Office, the Mines Department, the Ministry of Transport, and the Ministry of Labour for Northern Ireland.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.*

THE total number of cases† of poisoning and of anthrax in Great Britain and Northern Ireland reported under the Factory and Workshop Act during February, 1923, was 20. Two deaths due to lead poisoning in the pottery industry were reported during the month...

(a) CASES OF LEAD POISONING. (b) CASES OF OTHER FORMS OF POISONING. (c) CASES OF ANTHRAX—

Table listing cases of poisoning and anthrax by industry. Columns: Industry, Number of Cases.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS,§

THE number of workpeople, other than seamen, reported as killed in the course of their employment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland during February, 1923, was 224, as compared with 196 in the previous month and 175 a year ago...

Table: RAILWAY SERVICE. Columns: Category, Number of Accidents.

Table: MINES. Columns: Category, Number of Accidents.

Table: QUARRIES over 20 feet deep. Columns: Category, Number of Accidents.

Table: FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS. Columns: Category, Number of Accidents.

Table: Accidents reported under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894. Columns: Category, Number of Accidents.

* Based on Returns from the Home Office and from the Ministry of Labour for Northern Ireland. † Cases include all attacks reported to the Home Office during the month and not previously reported, so far as is known, during the preceding 12 months.

RETAIL PRICES OVERSEAS.

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

I.—FOOD.

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

Table showing percentage increase in retail food prices for various countries from July 1914 to March 1923. Columns include Country, July 1914, July 1920, July 1921, July 1922, and Latest figures available (Rise, Date).

* Exceptions to this are: Belgium, in which comparison is with April, 1914; France (other towns), 3rd quarter of 1914; Germany, average, 1913-14; The Hague, January to July, 1914; Rome, Milan, Florence, January to June, 1914; Switzerland, June, 1914; Poland, January, 1914; Amsterdam, average, 1913; South Africa, average, 1914. † Figure for June. ‡ The increases shown are for families of the lowest income class; in February the increase for all working-class families ranged from 339 to 347 per cent. § Fuel and lighting are also included in these figures. ¶ Figure for August.

II.—ALL ITEMS.

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

Table showing percentage increase in the cost of food, house-rent, clothing, fuel and light, and other household requirements for various countries from July 1914 to March 1923. Columns include Country, Items on which computation is based, July 1914, July 1920, July 1921, July 1922, and Latest figures available (Rise, Date).

* A=Food; B=House-Rent; C=Clothing; D=Fuel and Light; E=Other or Miscellaneous Items. † Exceptions to this are: France, Spain, Australia and South Africa, in which comparison is with the average for 1914; Belgium, April, 1914; Rome, Milan, Luxembourg and New Zealand, January to June, 1914; Egypt and Germany, average, 1913-1914; Poland, January, 1914; Switzerland, June, 1914; United States, 1913; Bulgaria, average, 1901-1910. ‡ Figure for 3rd quarter. § Figure for June. ¶ Figure for May.

EMPLOYMENT OVERSEAS.

[N.B.—The following paragraphs include an abstract of such official information as is available with regard to the state of employment abroad, in order to indicate, as far as possible, the fluctuations in employment in each country from period to period. The bases of the official statistics published in the various countries, are, however, not the same as those of the United Kingdom statistics, and therefore the figures quoted below cannot properly be used with those on pp. 91-92 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 Report issued in 1922 by the International Labour Office under the title "Methods of Compiling Statistics of Unemployment" (Studies and Reports, Series C., No. 7).]

FRANCE.*

Unemployment in February.—The total number of unemployed remaining on the "live register" at the Employment Exchanges in the week ended 24th February was 11,922 (8,671 men and 3,251 women). The total number of vacancies remaining unfilled was 8,109 (3,900 for men and 4,209 for women). During the week under review the exchanges succeeded in placing 26,496 persons (21,358 men and 5,138 women) in situations, and, in addition, found employment for 2,093 foreign immigrants.

Out-of-work Benefit in February.—According to the latest returns six departmental and thirty-six municipal unemployment funds were in operation throughout France on 1st March, the total number of persons in receipt of out-of-work benefit through their agency being 2,813 (2,541 men and 272 women). This total shows an increase of fifty-five when compared with the corresponding figure (2,758) for the preceding week. It is to be noted that these figures do not fully indicate the number of persons out of employment, since some localities are without unemployment funds, and where they do exist their record of unemployed persons is not complete.

The total number of unemployment funds established is 264, of which thirty-one are departmental and 233 municipal. The maximum number of persons in receipt of donations (91,225) was reached in March, 1921.

BELGIUM.†

Unemployment in December and January.—The most recent figures available are provisional in character and relate to January. Returns received by the Belgian Ministry of Industry and Labour from 1,697 approved unemployment funds, with a total membership of 647,754, show that 25,514 of these were either wholly or partially unemployed at the end of the month. The aggregate days of unemployment in January numbered 390,590, as against 367,386 in December.

Revised and final figures are given for December, in which month 1,745 funds, with an aggregate membership of 666,429, reported 11,745 (or 1.7 per cent.) wholly unemployed and 14,312 partially so on the last working day of the month.

During January 15,950 applications for employment were received at Employment Exchanges, as compared with 14,646 in December. Vacancies notified by employers numbered 13,153 (11,773 in December). For every 100 situations registered as vacant there were thus 121 applications, as compared with 124 in December.

SWITZERLAND.‡

Unemployment in January.—According to figures compiled by the Central Employment Department of Switzerland, on the basis of returns from Employment Exchanges, the number of applicants for work remaining on the "live register" on the 31st January, 1923, was 56,275 (as compared with 53,463 at the end of the preceding month, and 79,091 at the end of January, 1922). Of these, 12,264 were employed on relief works, leaving 44,011 entirely without work. Among the applicants for employment were 10,981 normally engaged in the building trades, 6,795 in the metal, engineering and electrical trades, 6,332 in the watch, clock and jewellery trades, and 4,816 in the textile trades. In addition to the foregoing persons entirely without work, 19,868 were reported as only partially employed, including 8,584 in the textile trades, 4,851 in the metal, engineering and electrical trades, and 2,007 in the watch, clock and jewellery trades. The vacancies offered by employers remaining unfilled at the end of January numbered 1,492.

During the month of January, on an average, 624 applications were made for each 100 vacancies for men and 196 for each 100 for women. In December the figures were 587 and 263 respectively.

HOLLAND.

Unemployment in February.—H.M. Commercial Secretary at The Hague reports that, according to figures supplied by the State Department of Unemployment Insurance, in the week ended 10th February, out of 327,563 members of unemployment funds making returns 12.0 per cent. were totally unemployed and 2.9 per cent. partially so. In the first week of the preceding month (ended 6th January) the corresponding percentages were 14.0 and 3.5 respectively.

* Bulletin du Marché du Travail, 2nd March, 1923. Paris. † Revue du Travail, February, 1923. Brussels. ‡ Der Schweizerische Arbeitsmarkt, 15th February, 1923. Berne.

GERMANY.

Employment in January.—The issue of Reichs-Arbeitsblatt for 1st March, reporting on employment in January, states that, so far as can be gathered from the various statistical data, employment underwent a decline during that month, but hardly to the extent believed in some quarters. Certain industries, such as the Rhenish-Westphalian metal and engineering, the chemical and the electrical industries, even reported a slight increase in the membership of their factory sickness insurance funds (or, in other words, in the numbers employed). The events which disturbed the Western industrial area during January and the frequent and sudden fluctuations which occurred from time to time in the exchange value of the currency (which rendered the importation of raw materials from abroad extremely difficult), led in some instances to restricted working time and to discharges of staff. In agriculture alone was there an increased demand for workers.

The figures as to the number of totally unemployed persons in receipt of out-of-work donation in January are incomplete, returns from several important areas not being received. So far as can be ascertained, the total for 1st February is 144,312, as compared with 85,301 for 1st January.

Returns from trade unions show an increased number of organised workers out of employment. Out of 5,800,000 included in the returns 252,873, or 4.4 per cent. of the total, were out of work on 31st January, as compared with 2.8 per cent. in the preceding month and 3.3 per cent. at the end of January, 1922.

Table for Germany showing Unemployment statistics by Unions and Principal Unions. Columns include Unions, Membership reported at end of Jan. 1923, and Percentage Unemployed at end of Month (Jan. 1923, Dec. 1922, Jan. 1922).

The above totals do not include persons only partially employed, of whom in January there were 13 per cent. among the 5,000,000 trade union members covered by the returns—a considerable increase when compared with the figure (8.7 per cent.) for the preceding month. The returns from public Employment Exchanges, which show the position on 16th February, indicate a considerably larger number of applications for employment, as against a slight increase in the number of vacancies notified. At 715 of the larger Exchanges the applications numbered 426,967, as against 59,439 offers of situations. In the preceding month the totals were 396,037 and 55,793 respectively.

Statistics of membership of sickness insurance societies show that in 4,826 societies making returns the membership (i.e., the number of persons under obligation to insure, and hence assumed to be in work) fell from 10,835,422 on 1st January to 10,748,363 on 1st February, or by 0.8 per cent.

NORWAY.

Unemployment in January.—According to information supplied through the courtesy of the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics the percentage of members reported as unemployed at the end of January in certain trade unions making returns to the Bureau was as shown below, where comparative figures are also given for the preceding month and for January, 1922:—

Table for Norway showing Unemployment statistics by Unions. Columns include Unions, Membership (Jan. 31 1923, Dec. 31 1922, Jan. 31 1922), and Percentage Unemployed (Jan. 31 1923, Dec. 31 1922, Jan. 31 1922).

SWEDEN.*

Unemployment in December.—The percentage of unemployed members of trade unions on 31st December was 21.7, as compared with 17.2 at the end of the preceding month and 33.2 on 31st December, 1921. The following Table gives corresponding particulars for the principal unions covered by the returns:—

Table for Sweden showing Unemployment statistics by Unions. Columns include Unions, Membership reporting on 31st Dec. 1922, and Percentage Unemployed (31st Dec. 1922, 30th Nov. 1922, 31st Dec. 1921).

DENMARK.†

Unemployment in January.—Out of a total of 257,417 work-people covered by returns supplied to the Danish Statistical Department by the trade unions and by the Central Employment Exchange, 21.5 per cent. were unemployed on 26th January, as compared with 20.3 per cent. on 29th December and 28.9 per cent. at the end of January, 1922.

Table for Denmark showing Unemployment statistics by Groups of Trades. Columns include Groups of Trades, Number of Workpeople included in Returns for 26th Jan. 1923, and Percentage Unemployed (26th Jan. 1923, 29th Dec. 1922, 27th Jan. 1922).

CANADA.‡

Employment in February.—For 1st February, 1923, returns were received by the Employment Service of Canada from 6,253 firms with an aggregate pay-roll of 733,063 workers. On the 1st January the same firms reported 707,859 workers. If the number 100 be assigned to the week ended 17th January, 1920, the index number of employment for 1st February is 89.5, as compared with 86.3 for 1st January, and 78.9 for 1st February, 1922.

UNITED STATES.§

Employment in January.—According to a statement issued by the United States Department of Labour, industrial employment was accelerated owing to the adjustment of the coal mine and railway shop controversies, and labour shortages were apparent in every section of the country.

The Federal Department of Labour Statistics at Washington presents reports concerning the volume of employment in January, 1923, from 4,153 representative establishments, covering 1,339,678 workers in forty-three manufacturing industries.

A comparison of the figures with those for identical establishments in December, 1922, shows that, on the whole, there was an increase of 1.4 per cent. in the number of persons employed

* Sociala Meddelanden, No. 2, 1923. Stockholm. † Statistiske Efterretninger, 26th February, 1923. Copenhagen. ‡ Information supplied through the courtesy of the Employment Statistics Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa. § Mainly from information supplied through the courtesy of the Federal Commissioner of Labour Statistics, Washington.

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