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

EMPLOYMENT.

THERE was a further slight improvement in employment, on the whole, during November.

Among the 11,892,000 workpeople insured against unemployment under the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the percentage unemployed at 23rd November, 1925, was 11·0, as compared with 11·4 at 26th October, 1925, and with 10·8 at the end of November, 1924. Among the members of those trade unions from which returns were received, the percentage unemployed was 11·0 at the end of November, 1925, compared with 11·3 at the end of October, 1925, and with 8·6 at the end of November, 1924. The total number of persons registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland as unemployed at 30th November, 1925, was approximately 1,227,000, of whom 974,000 were men and 196,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls; at 26th October, 1925, it was 1,295,000, of whom 1,032,000 were men and 196,000 were women; and at 1st December, 1924, it was 1,233,000, of whom 942,000 were men and 231,000 women.

The reduction, during November, in the numbers unemployed was due principally to a further improvement in employment in the coal mining industry. Employment was good, on the whole, with brickmakers and with skilled operatives in the building trades; it was fairly good in the furnishing and printing trades, in certain branches of the metal trades, and with coach-builders and millsawyers. In the coal mining industry it was still slack, and in the iron mining, iron and steel, shipbuilding and marine engineering industries it remained bad.

WAGES.

In the industries for which statistics are regularly compiled by the Department, the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation in November resulted in an aggregate net reduction of about £11,000 in the weekly full-time wages of 115,000 workpeople, and in an increase of nearly £6,500 in the weekly wages of 78,000 workpeople.

The principal group of workpeople affected by reductions consisted of over 30,000 steel smelters and millmen in various districts in England and Scotland, whose wages were reduced by amounts equivalent to about 4 per cent. on current rates; the wages of a large number of subsidiary classes of workers were also reduced by varying amounts. At iron puddling furnaces and at iron and steel rolling mills in the Midlands there was a reduction of 3 per cent. on the current rates of the great majority of the higher-paid workers, but the lower-paid men received a net increase in wages during the month owing to the grant of special bonuses. Other bodies of workpeople whose wages were reduced included

iron-ore miners in Cumberland, blastfurnace workers in Scotland, and iron puddlers and millmen in the North of England.

The principal groups of workpeople whose wages were increased, apart from iron and steel workers in the Midlands, were electric cable makers, coal miners in the Radstock district, blastfurnace men in South Staffordshire, and iron puddlers and millmen in Scotland.

During the eleven completed months of 1925 the changes reported to the Department, in the industries for which statistics are compiled, have resulted in net reductions amounting to £157,000 in the weekly full-time wages of 850,000 workpeople, while a similar number of workpeople have received net increases of £79,000. In the corresponding period of 1924 there were net increases of over £580,000 in the weekly full-time wages of 2,850,000 workpeople, and net reductions of nearly £64,000 in those of 500,000 workpeople.

COST OF LIVING.

At 1st December the average level of retail prices of all the commodities taken into account in the statistics compiled by the Ministry of Labour (including food, rent, clothing, fuel, light and miscellaneous items) was approximately 77 per cent. above that of July, 1914; for food alone the percentage was 74. These figures are slightly higher than those for a month earlier, which were 76 per cent. and 72 per cent., respectively, the rise being mainly due to increases in the prices of eggs, bread and flour. They are, however, appreciably lower than the corresponding figures for a year ago, which were 81 and 80 respectively.

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

TRADE DISPUTES.

The number of trade disputes involving stoppages of work reported to the Department as beginning in November was 43. In addition, 29 disputes which began before November were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The number of workpeople involved in all disputes in November (involving workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes) was about 50,000; the estimated aggregate duration of all disputes during November was about 575,000 working days. These figures compare with totals of approximately 43,000 workpeople involved and 440,000 days lost in the previous month.

The aggregate duration of all disputes in progress in the first eleven months of 1925 was about 7,088,000 working days, and the total number of workpeople involved in these disputes was 425,000. The figures for the corresponding period of 1924 were 8,223,000 days and 597,000 workpeople respectively.

ANALYSIS OF THE COURSE OF UNEMPLOYMENT FROM JULY, 1923, TO OCTOBER, 1925.

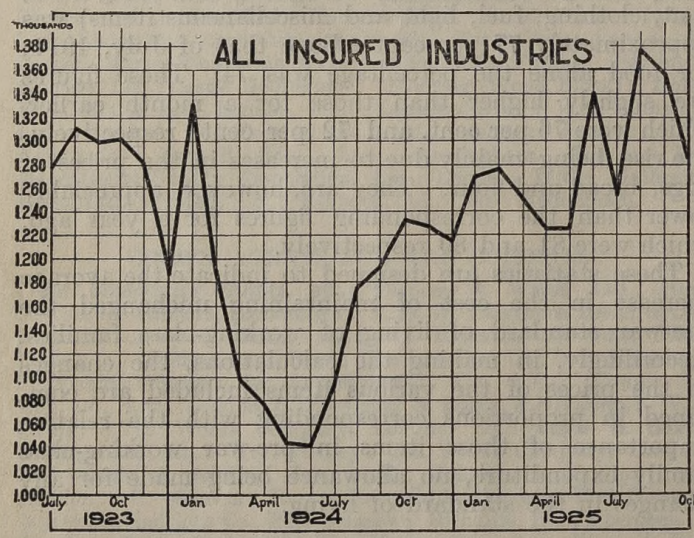
The gross figures of unemployment in all insured industries, as indicated by the record of unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, are important and significant, but they do not of themselves disclose the widely varying courses which the several great sections of British industry have taken in the immediate past. A wide extension of unemployment in Coal Mining, for example, turned what would have been a rapid decrease in the gross figures between January and June, 1925, into an eventual increase; a tendency towards a decline in unemployment in several of the main export trades in the last two years is apt to pass unnoticed under cover of the all-over figures; and the part played by certain industries in which employment ebbs and flows according to the season of the year also tends to be obscured in the course of the gross figures. The unemployment figures are shown industry by industry in each issue of the MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE (see pages 436 and 437 of the present issue), but these figures require considerable special analysis before they can be made to reveal the sectional movements which, in combination, cause the movement of the figures as a whole. Such an analysis has now been made and the results are presented below.

The analysis begins at July, 1923, mainly for the reason that in the previous month an improved system of industrial classification was introduced. This change involved, among other things, an increase in the number of industrial groups to 100, and consequently in certain groups the statistics since June, 1923, are not comparable with those relating to earlier dates.

It may be well to sketch briefly the course of unemployment between 1921 and July, 1923. It will be remembered that the national stoppage in the coalfields in 1921 lasted from the beginning of April until the first week in July. During the remainder of 1921 and the first half of 1922 the numbers of insured persons recorded as unemployed in Great Britain were very high—the mean for these twelve months being 1,750,822. An improvement was experienced in the latter half of 1922 and the first half of 1923, the average for the twelve months decreasing to 1,362,613.

At the end of July, 1923, the total number of insured persons recorded as unemployed in Great Britain was 1,279,144. The following diagram shows the course of unemployment in all insured trades taken together from that date until October, 1925, the numbers recorded as unemployed being plotted at monthly intervals.

DIAGRAM I.



The following Table shows the numbers recorded as unemployed at quarterly intervals:—

Month (end of)	Numbers unemployed.	Month (end of)	Numbers unemployed.	Month (end of)	Numbers unemployed.
1923.		1924.		1925.	
July ...	1,279,144	July ...	1,091,293	July ...	1,258,657
October ...	1,302,662	October ...	1,232,555	October ...	1,287,733
1924.		1925.			
January ...	1,331,153*	January ...	1,270,708		
April ...	1,076,605	April ...	1,225,094		

The diagram shows clearly the general improvement in employment which occurred in the first half of 1924 and the subsequent decline.

As already indicated, however, these gross figures obscure movements which were taking place over the period in the different industries, and in certain groups of industries showing similar characteristics.

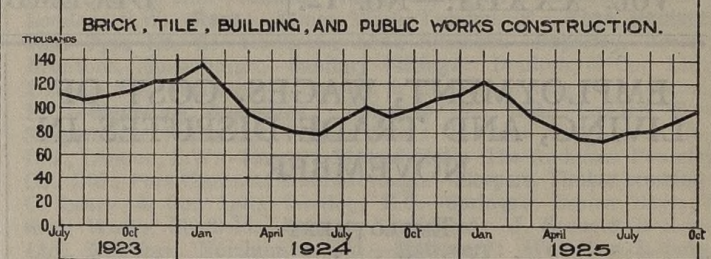
* The numbers recorded at the end of January, 1924, were temporarily inflated as the result of the railway dispute, which lasted from the 21st to the 29th of that month. The increase over 21st December, 1923, was 145,621, and the figures fell by 143,635 in the following month. Some part of this increase and decrease was no doubt due to seasonal causes.

SEASONAL INDUSTRIES.

THE BUILDING INDUSTRIES.

There is a group of about eight important industries which are found to be liable to more or less regular seasonal fluctuations, and the following series of diagrams depict these variations. The outstanding example of this phenomenon is, of course, the building trade; but brick and tile making and public works contracting both exhibit in some degree the same characteristics, and for the purposes of our examination these three industries have in the first place been grouped together. In the building trade the seasonal fluctuation is felt most severely by painters, whose mean percentage rate of unemployment during the past two years has been two to three times as great in the autumn and winter as in the spring and summer. The following diagram shows the course of unemployment in these industries.

DIAGRAM II.



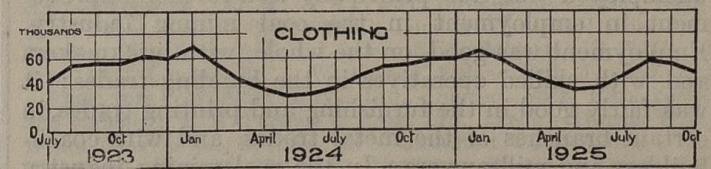
The range of variation between summer and winter in the numbers recorded as unemployed in this group is indicated by the following figures, which also show the estimated number of insured persons at July of each year:—

End of	Numbers unemployed.	Estimated numbers insured.	End of	Numbers unemployed.	Estimated numbers insured.	End of	Numbers unemployed.	Estimated numbers insured.
July, 1923	112,825	888,610	June, 1924	78,930	909,600	June, 1925	74,990	963,100
Jan., 1924	136,353		Jan., 1925	122,880		Oct., 1925	98,748	
Increase	23,528			43,950			23,758	

THE CLOTHING INDUSTRIES.

Next in order of degree of seasonal variation are the clothing and furniture industries, and for our purpose the figures for the following industries have been grouped together as all showing somewhat similar characteristics:—hosiery; tailoring; dress and mantle making and millinery; hat and cap (including straw plait) manufacture; blouse, shirt, collar, underclothing, etc., making; other dress industries; and furniture. Each of these industries is subject to seasonal fluctuations and the cumulative effect is shown in the following diagram, which follows closely the outline of that relating to the building trade group.

DIAGRAM III.



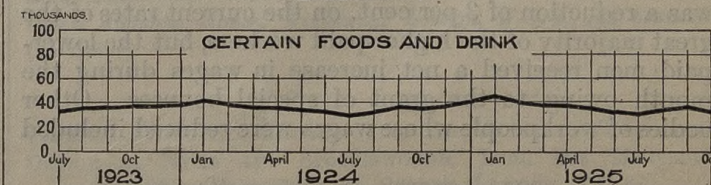
The range of variation between summer and winter in the numbers recorded as unemployed in this group, and the estimated numbers insured at July of each year, are indicated by the following figures:—

End of	Numbers unemployed.	Estimated numbers insured.	End of	Numbers unemployed.	Estimated numbers insured.	End of	Numbers unemployed.	Estimated numbers insured.
July, 1923	42,843	595,720	June, 1924	31,132	593,540	June, 1925	37,326	609,580
Jan., 1924	68,108		Jan., 1925	66,693		Oct., 1925	48,482	
Increase	25,265			35,561			11,156	

THE FOOD INDUSTRIES.

The next group in this class is concerned mainly with the manufacture of certain foods and drink, and with these have been associated the glass bottle making industry. The food industries included are bread, biscuit, cake, etc., making, and those classified as "other foods," which include such seasonal occupations as jam making, fruit preserving, cheese making, sausage making, fish curing and preserving, etc.

DIAGRAM IV.



The following figures show the range of variation between summer and winter in the numbers recorded as unemployed in this group, together with the estimated numbers insured at July of each year:—

End of	Numbers unemployed.	Estimated numbers insured.	End of	Numbers unemployed.	Estimated numbers insured.	End of	Numbers unemployed.	Estimated numbers insured.
July, 1923	33,755	367,500	June, 1924	32,509	370,960	June, 1925	31,025	379,120
Jan., 1924	41,257		Jan., 1925	44,612		Oct., 1925	31,252*	
Increase	7,502			12,103			227	

ENTERTAINMENTS, SERVICES, TRANSPORT, DISTRIBUTION.

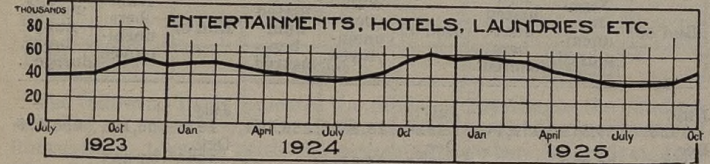
There are three other important groups which show marked seasonal variations, although in a less degree than those already named. These are:—

- (1) A group including (a) entertainments and sports; (b) hotel, boarding house, etc., services; and (c) laundries, dyeing and dry-cleaning;
- (2) A group including certain of the industries concerned with transport and communication, viz.: (a) railway service; (b) tramway and omnibus service; (c) other road transport; and (d) shipping service; and
- (3) Distributive trades.

These all experience on the whole a greater degree of unemployment in the winter than in the other seasons, although there is generally a temporary improvement during December owing to the Christmas trade and traffic.

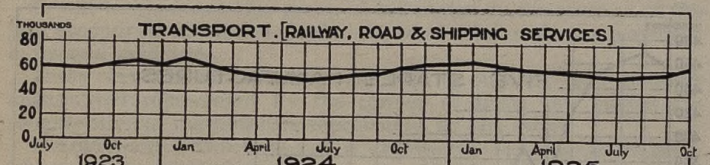
The following diagrams and Tables indicate these fluctuations.

DIAGRAM V.



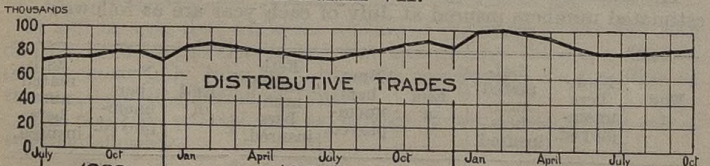
End of	Numbers unemployed.	Estimated numbers insured.	End of	Numbers unemployed.	Estimated numbers insured.	End of	Numbers unemployed.	Estimated numbers insured.
July, 1923	38,311	416,350	June, 1924	37,208	463,320	June, 1925	37,562	469,990
Jan., 1924	50,825		Jan., 1925	58,060		Oct., 1925	46,350	
Increase	12,514			20,852			8,788	

DIAGRAM VI.



End of	Numbers unemployed.	Estimated numbers insured.	End of	Numbers unemployed.	Estimated numbers insured.	End of	Numbers unemployed.	Estimated numbers insured.
July, 1923	60,652	558,010	June, 1924	51,824	551,280	June, 1925	55,156	564,000
Jan., 1924	66,576		Jan., 1925	66,482		Oct., 1925	62,074	
Increase	5,924			14,658			6,918	

DIAGRAM VII.



End of	Numbers unemployed.	Estimated numbers insured.	End of	Numbers unemployed.	Estimated numbers insured.	End of	Numbers unemployed.	Estimated numbers insured.
July, 1923	71,780	1,242,350	July, 1924	74,172	1,329,380	July, 1925	80,170	1,433,450
Feb., 1924	86,796		Jan., 1925	100,430		Oct., 1925	86,627	
Increase	15,016			26,258			6,457	

* The glass bottle and "other food" industries showed a marked improvement at the end of October as compared with the end of September, the reduction in the numbers unemployed amounting to 40 per cent. of the September figures in glass bottles, and 27 per cent. in "other foods."

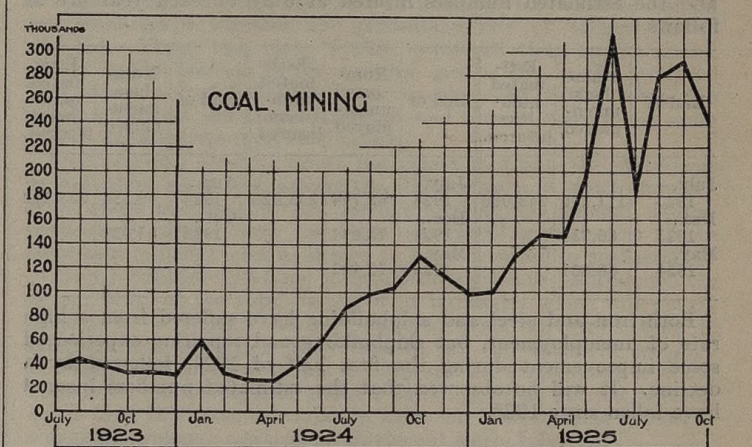
More or less regular variations are also to be observed in the printing and publishing industries and in the gas, water and electricity supply industries.

CERTAIN STAPLE INDUSTRIES.

THE COAL INDUSTRY.

If the more important of the staple industries are examined, the outstanding feature is seen at once to be the great increase of unemployment in the coal mining industry since April, 1924. That increase is shown in the following diagram.

DIAGRAM VIII.



The numbers recorded as unemployed at the salient points on this diagram are as follows:—

End of	Numbers unemployed.	End of	Numbers unemployed.
April, 1924 ...	25,639	June, 1925 ...	314,639
October, 1924 ...	129,994	July, 1925 ...	184,333
December, 1924 ...	99,144	September, 1925 ...	232,612
April, 1925 ...	146,024	October, 1925 ...	246,872

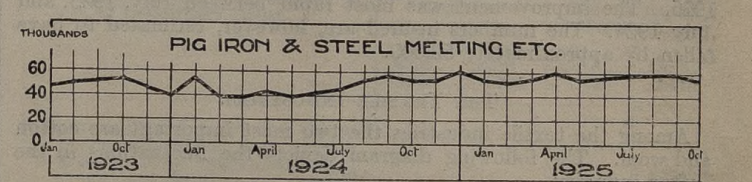
It will be remembered that during July, 1925, there was a prospect of a national stoppage of work in the coal-mining industry and this is reflected in the reduced unemployment at the end of that month. The provisional agreement for a continuation of work was made on 31st July. The unemployment figures rose again during August and September and fell in October. This improvement may have been due in some measure to seasonal causes and in other measure to the effect of the subsidy and to the increased demand for coal for export owing to the strike of anthracite miners in the United States.

The increase of 116,878 between October, 1924, and October, 1925, in the numbers recorded as unemployed in this industry alone, compares with the increase of 55,178 in the same period in all insured trades including coal-mining. Excluding coal-mining there was a decrease of 61,700 in all other insured trades taken together: so that, apart from the crisis in the coal industry, the figures would appear to indicate that the general improvement in employment experienced in 1924 has continued during the current year.

THE IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRY.

Unemployment in the iron and steel industry is indicated by the following diagram:—

DIAGRAM IX.



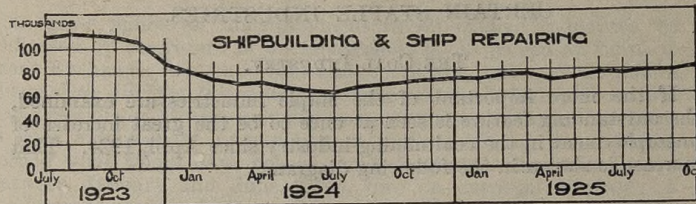
The numbers unemployed at various points on the above curve and the estimated numbers insured at July of each year are as follows:—

End of	Numbers unemployed.	Estimated numbers insured.	End of	Numbers unemployed.	Estimated numbers insured.	End of	Numbers unemployed.	Estimated numbers insured.
July, 1923	47,582	243,900	Sept., 1924	57,976	237,310	Aug., 1925	59,961	225,790
Dec., 1923	39,881		Dec., 1924	62,562		Oct., 1925	54,058	
May, 1924	39,977		May, 1925	54,229				

THE SHIPBUILDING INDUSTRY.

The curve for shipbuilding and repairing is somewhat similar in outline from July 1924.

DIAGRAM X.



The numbers unemployed at various points on the above curve and the estimated numbers insured at July of each year are as follows:—

End of	Numbers unemployed.	Estimated numbers insured.	End of	Numbers unemployed.	Estimated numbers insured.	End of	Numbers unemployed.	Estimated numbers insured.
July, 1923	111,170	248,090	July, 1924	62,794	233,620	Aug., 1925	79,154	223,110
Dec., 1923	86,735		Dec., 1924	73,694		Oct., 1925	83,029	
May, 1924	66,001		May, 1925	73,493				

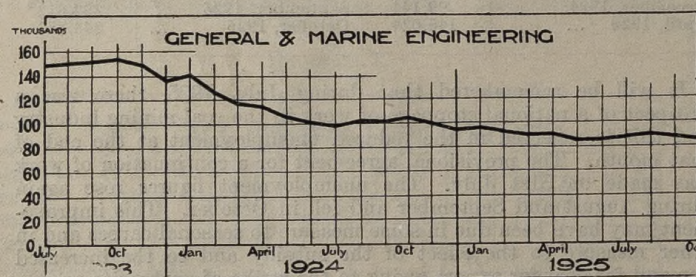
Both iron and steel and shipbuilding have suffered from a high rate of unemployment, but shipbuilding and repairing experienced some improvement during the first half of 1924, followed by a decline. It will be observed that the estimated numbers insured have fallen since 1923.

THE ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES.

In the following diagram engineering, including engineers' iron and steel founding and marine engineering (but excluding electrical and constructional engineering) have been taken together.

This group as a whole shows a distinct improvement during the past two years, but this has occurred mainly in general engineering.

DIAGRAM XI.



The figures for this group at various points on the above curve and the estimated numbers insured at July of each year are as follows:—

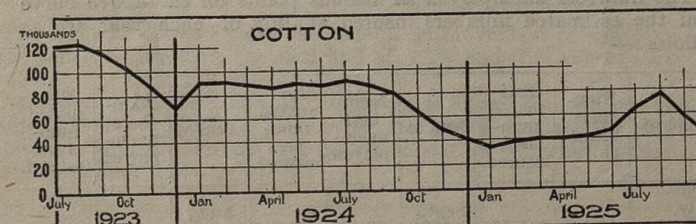
End of	Numbers unemployed.	Estimated numbers insured.	End of	Numbers unemployed.	Estimated numbers insured.	End of	Numbers unemployed.	Estimated numbers insured.
July, 1923	149,635	727,700	July, 1924	98,320	679,940	July, 1925	88,136	675,860
Dec., 1923	136,263		Dec., 1924	94,600		Oct., 1925	87,858	
April, 1924	114,618		April, 1925	91,094				

There has accordingly been a reduction of about 62,000 in the numbers recorded as unemployed between July, 1923, and October, 1925. The improvement was most rapid between July, 1923, and July 1924. The numbers insured are, however, estimated to have fallen by approximately 52,000.

THE TEXTILE INDUSTRIES.

Among the textile industries the two most important are cotton and wool. The following diagram depicts the fluctuations in the cotton industry.

DIAGRAM XII.

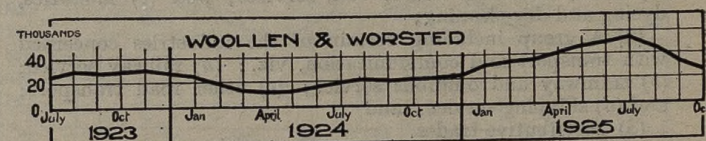


The numbers unemployed at salient points on the above curve and the estimated numbers insured at July of each year are as follows:—

End of	Numbers unemployed.	Estimated numbers insured.	End of	Numbers unemployed.	Estimated numbers insured.	End of	Numbers unemployed.	Estimated numbers insured.
July, 1923	122,842	576,080	July, 1924	91,025	562,240	July, 1925	65,091	576,540
Dec., 1923	69,001		Jan., 1925	34,805		Aug., 1925	76,336	
April, 1924	85,381		April, 1925	40,121		Oct., 1925	40,198	

In the woollen and worsted industry there was an improvement between July, 1923, and July, 1924, followed by a marked decline up till July, 1925, with a distinct improvement in later months. (There was a stoppage of work in this industry in the West Riding of Yorkshire due to a trade dispute from 23rd July until 15th August.) This movement is indicated by the following diagram.

DIAGRAM XIII.



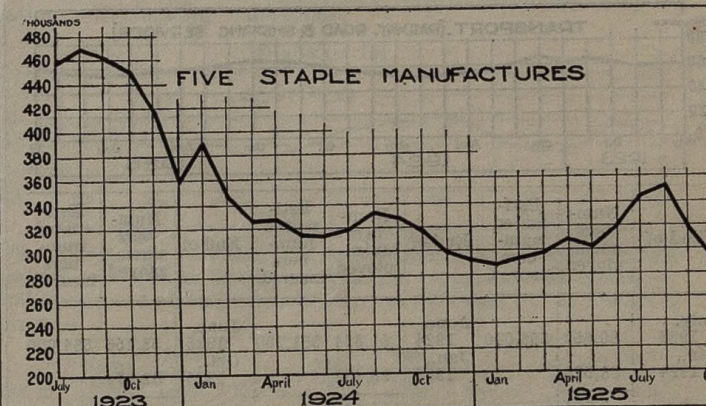
The numbers unemployed at various points in the above curve and the estimated numbers insured at July of each year are as follows:—

End of	Numbers unemployed.	Estimated numbers insured.	End of	Numbers unemployed.	Estimated numbers insured.	End of	Numbers unemployed.	Estimated numbers insured.
July, 1923	25,379	272,140	July, 1924	18,989	259,740	July, 1925	55,106	256,470
Dec., 1923	26,982		Dec., 1924	23,631		Oct., 1925	27,453	
April, 1924	12,671		April, 1925	42,841				

FIVE STAPLE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES.

The following diagram indicates the variations in the numbers recorded as unemployed in five of the staple manufacturing industries (iron and steel, engineering, shipbuilding, cotton, and wool) taken together.

DIAGRAM XIV.



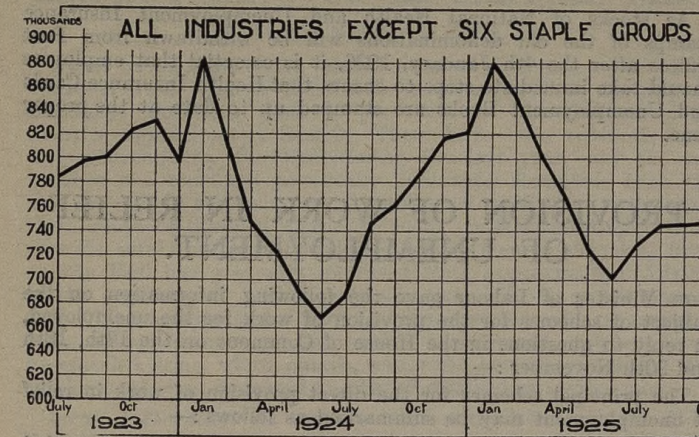
The numbers unemployed at various points in this curve and the estimated numbers insured at July of each year are as follows:—

End of	Numbers unemployed.	Estimated numbers insured.	End of	Numbers unemployed.	Estimated numbers insured.	End of	Numbers unemployed.	Estimated numbers insured.
July, 1923	456,608	2,067,910	July, 1924	317,482	1,972,850	July, 1925	344,534	1,957,770
Dec., 1923	358,862		Jan., 1925	289,841		Oct., 1925	292,596	
April, 1924	327,124		April, 1925	308,086				

COMPARISON OF THREE PRINCIPAL GROUPS.

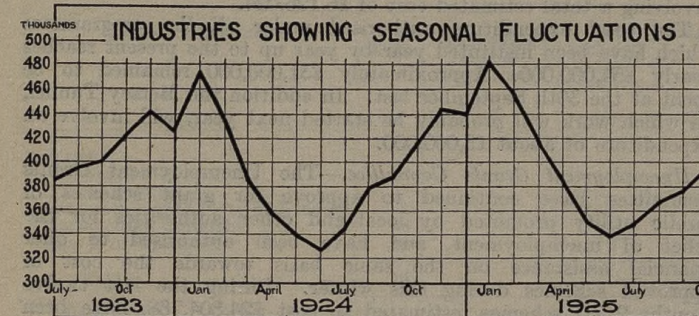
The unemployment curve for all industries other than the six preceding groups (viz., coal mining; iron and steel; shipbuilding and repairing; general and marine engineering; cotton; woollen and worsted) may now be compared with the curve for all the industries which show seasonal fluctuations. These are as follows:—

DIAGRAM XV.



The total number of insured workers in the above group at July, 1925, was 8,428,110.

DIAGRAM XVI.



The following Table indicates the range of variation in the numbers recorded as unemployed in all the industries which show seasonal fluctuations, together with the estimated numbers insured at July of each year:—

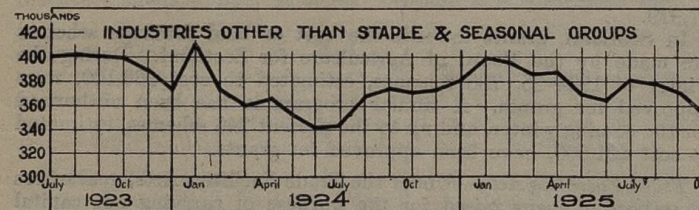
End of	Numbers unemployed.	Estimated numbers insured.	End of	Numbers unemployed.	Estimated numbers insured.	End of	Numbers unemployed.	Estimated numbers insured.
July, 1923	384,783	4,468,300	June, 1924	327,645	4,622,180	June, 1925	338,763	4,835,880
Jan., 1924	473,268		Jan., 1925	482,111		Oct., 1925	393,152	
Increase	88,485			154,466			54,389	

It will be seen that this group of industries on the average of the year account for about one-third of the total volume of unemployment in insured industries.

These curves show a striking similarity of outline. The numbers unemployed represented by the former of these two curves are roughly double the numbers represented by the latter.

The difference between the two is depicted in the following diagram which represents the movement in recorded unemployment among approximately 3,592,000 insured workers engaged mainly in miscellaneous mining and manufacturing industries.

DIAGRAM XVII.



It will be seen that while the outline of the curve in the first half of 1925 is similar to that in the first half of 1924 there is a distinct improvement from July, 1925, onwards, compared with a decline in the corresponding period of 1924.

The numbers unemployed at various points in the above curve were as follows:—

End of	Numbers unemployed.	End of	Numbers unemployed.	End of	Numbers unemployed.
July, 1923	400,104	July, 1924	342,647	July, 1925	381,265
Dec., 1923	371,037	Jan., 1925	398,695	Oct., 1925	355,113
April, 1924	365,454	April, 1925	387,864		

Apart from the temporary decline in January, 1924, due to the railway dispute, there was continuous improvement from July, 1923, until June, 1924. This was followed by a decline from July, 1924, to January 1925, with an improvement during the rest of the current year broken by a temporary decline in July.

The following Table shows the estimated numbers of insured persons in Great Britain at July, 1925, in each of the three main groups dealt with above, together with the numbers and percentages recorded as unemployed at 26th October, 1925.

Group.	Estimated numbers insured at July, 1925.	Numbers recorded as unemployed at 26th October, 1925.	Percentage unemployed.
Coal-mining ...	1,240,120	246,872	19.9
Five staple manufacturing groups	1,957,770	292,596	14.9
Group showing seasonal fluctuations	4,835,880	393,152	8.1
All other insured industries ...	3,592,230	355,113	9.9
All insured industries	11,626,000	1,287,733	11.1

In the group which includes the five staple manufactures the highest rates of unemployment are in the metal industries and shipbuilding. At 26th October, 20 per cent. of insured workers in these industries were recorded as unemployed, while in cotton and wool taken together the percentage rate of unemployment was 8.1. These two main textile industries thus approximated closely to the position in the seasonal groups and in the group of "all other insured industries" in the foregoing Table; while the metal industries and shipbuilding showed almost exactly the same rate of unemployment as coal-mining.

The foregoing analysis shows the extent to which the movement in individual industries, among the 100 groups into which industry as a whole is classified, can be obscured in the general figures, particularly when there has been an exceptional decline in an important industry such as is seen to have occurred in coal-mining.

There is found to be a large body of insured persons—approximately 42 per cent. of the total—engaged in industries which are clearly subject to a higher rate of unemployment in winter than in summer, and in which the variation in the numbers recorded as unemployed at these points in 1923 and 1924 amounted to about 120,000 on the average, or about 1 per cent. of all insured persons. Apart from this seasonal variation there has been in these industries a general tendency towards improvement since July, 1923.

In five of the staple manufacturing industries, employing approximately 17 per cent. of all insured workpeople, and in those concerned with miscellaneous mining and manufacturing, employing approximately 31 per cent. of all insured workpeople, it is seen that there are no important seasonal variations. In the former group there has been distinct improvement during the past two years, in spite of the acute depression in iron and steel, shipbuilding, and marine engineering. In the other group the improvement during the first half of 1924, which was reversed in the second half of that year, has been repeated during the current year, but without any corresponding set-back in the latter half.

It will be observed that the diagrams given above are based on numbers and not percentages unemployed, and that consequently it is not possible to deduce from them any conclusions as to the relative degree of unemployment obtaining at any given point as between one industry and another.

UNEMPLOYED PERSONS RECEIVING POOR LAW RELIEF.

A STATEMENT* has been issued by the Ministry of Health showing the number of persons in receipt of Poor Law relief in England and Wales in the quarter ending in September, 1925 (excluding lunatics in county and borough asylums, persons in receipt of domiciliary medical relief only, and casuals), and giving some particulars as to the number of "unemployed" persons in receipt of relief. Of an average of 987,000 such persons in receipt of domiciliary relief in September, 1925, 474,000 (comprising 119,000 men, 113,000 women and 242,000 children) were persons ordinarily engaged in some regular occupation, or wives and dependent children of such persons.

The following Table gives comparative figures for England and Wales for the months of September, 1925, and September, 1924:—

Classes of Persons in receipt of Domiciliary Relief.	England and Wales.			
	Average Numbers.		Average Numbers per 10,000 of the Estimated Population.	
	Sept., 1925.	Sept., 1924.	Sept., 1925.	Sept., 1924.
1. Persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts (whether in receipt of unemployment benefit or not), and the wives and dependent children of those persons ...	438,000	328,000	113	85
2. Persons ordinarily engaged in some regular occupation, but not so insured, and the wives and dependent children of those persons ...	36,000	38,000	9	10
Totals of 1 and 2 ...	474,000	366,000	122	95
3. All other persons in receipt of domiciliary relief ...	513,000	466,000	133	122
4. Total number of persons in receipt of domiciliary relief ...	987,000	832,000	255	217

Statistics relating to the numbers of persons receiving Poor Law relief in certain districts in November are given on page 444 of this GAZETTE.

* H.M. Stationery Office; price 3d. net.

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND INDUSTRY: SCOTLAND.

THE Secretary for Scotland, in consultation with the Minister of Labour, has appointed a Committee "to inquire into and advise upon the public system of education in Scotland in relation to the requirements of trade and industry, with particular reference to the adequacy of the arrangements for enabling young persons to enter into and retain suitable employment."

The Committee will be composed of the Right Hon. Lord Salvessen, P.C., K.C. (Chairman); Mr. R. S. Allan, LL.D.; Professor T. Hudson Beare; Mrs. Charles Douglas, of Auchlochan; Mr. James Elder, of Athelstaneford Mains; Mr. William Lorimer, J.P.; and Mr. D. J. Macdonald, of Dundee. Mr. James Clark, H.M. Inspector of Schools, and Mr. W. H. Lowe Watson, D.S.O., D.C.M., of the Ministry of Labour, will be Joint Secretaries.

All communications should be addressed to the Joint Secretaries at the Divisional Office, Ministry of Labour, 44, Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh.

NATIONAL HEALTH, PENSIONS AND UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE: NEW RATES OF CONTRIBUTION.

As from the 4th January next the contributions payable for health and pensions insurance and for unemployment insurance will be modified, in consequence of the passing of the Widows', Orphans', and Old Age Contributory Pensions Act and the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1925. (Particulars of the principal provisions of the former Act were given in the May and August issues of this GAZETTE, pages 152 and 273.) The following statement shows the nature and extent of these changes.

NATIONAL HEALTH AND PENSIONS INSURANCE.

From 4th January, 1926, all persons who are insurable under the National Health Insurance Act will be insurable also under the Widows', Orphans' and Old Age Contributory Pensions Act. The contributions payable under both Acts will be paid on the same card by means of combined health and pensions stamps. Cards will, as heretofore, be issued to insured persons by their Approved Societies or may be obtained from any Post Office. The new weekly rates of contributions will be:—

For male contributors	1s. 6d.
For female contributors	1s. 1d.
For exempt persons (that is, persons holding current exemption certificates):—	
Male	11½d.
Female	7d.

Employers must stamp the workers' cards at these rates for weeks of employment from the above date, which is the commencement of the first half-yearly period of 1926. (For weeks of employment before that date, contributions are at the existing rates for health insurance, viz., men, 7d.; women, 9d.; exempt persons, 5d.) Combined health and pensions insurance stamps of the required values may be purchased at any Post Office.

In the case of employed contributors, the portion of the new contribution that the employer may deduct from wages will normally be 9d. for a man and 6d. for a woman; but when a worker aged 18 or upwards is not in receipt of board and lodging from the employer and the rate of remuneration does not exceed 4s. a working day, the amount that will be recoverable will be less, i.e.:—

Rate of remuneration over 3s., but not over 4s., a working day	Amount recoverable from Wages.	
	Man.	Woman.
Rate of remuneration over 3s., a working day	8d.	5d.
Rate of remuneration not over 3s. a working day	4½d.	2d.

In the case of exempt men, 2½d. may be deducted from their wages, irrespective of their rates of remuneration; but no part of the contribution is recoverable from the wages of an exempt woman.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

As from 4th January, 1926, a reduction will be made in the ordinary weekly rates of contribution payable under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1925. The following Table sets out the new and the old rates:—

	Old Rate.		New Rate.		Employer's Share, New Rates.	Employee's Share, New Rates.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.		
Men	1	7	1	3	8	7
Women	1	3	1	1	7	6
Boys (16 to 18 years of age)	9	1	7	1	4	3½
Girls	8	1	6	1	3	3

The new weekly rates for exempt persons will be:—

Men	8d. (old rate 10d.)
Women	7d. (" 8d.)
Boys (16 to 18 years of age)	4d. (" 5d.)
Girls	3½d. (" 4½d.)

GENERAL.

As stocks of National Health and Unemployment Insurance stamps of the old denominations will be withdrawn from Post Offices after the 4th January, 1926, it is essential that employers should take immediate steps to ensure that Health Insurance Cards and Unemployment Books are stamped up to date at the proper time.

PROVISION OF WORK IN RELIEF OF UNEMPLOYMENT.

THE Minister of Labour gave the following information on the subject of schemes for the provision of work for the unemployed, in reply to questions in the House of Commons on the 17th, 18th and 20th November:—

The principal schemes for the direct provision of work in relief of unemployment may be summarised as follows:—

Ministry of Transport.—The Ministry of Transport have proceeded to make grants under the various programmes of road and bridge construction and improvement authorised. During the last twelve months grants have been indicated towards the cost of 388 schemes involving a total estimated cost of £6,126,024.

The total expenditure authorised under all the programmes which have been instituted year by year up to the present reaches nearly £54,000,000. Approximately £31,000,000 remained to be spent at the 30th September last. In addition the Mersey Tunnel, on which work will probably be started next year, will involve an expenditure of about £5,000,000.

Unemployment Grants Committee.—The Unemployment Grants Committee have continued to approve for grant schemes of public utility promoted by local and other authorities for the relief of unemployment, and have been authorised to offer financial assistance on the same basis towards the cost of approved schemes during this winter. During the last twelve months 2,303 schemes, estimated to cost £24,804,788, have been approved for grant.

The following is the estimated total cost of schemes approved under the 1925-26 programme:—

Loan schemes (outstanding applications amount to about £5,000,000)	7,500,000
Wages bill schemes	575,000

In addition, increased expenditure on previous schemes, and on schemes under the 1924-25 programme, have been approved to the extent of £3,571,000. The work involved will largely be executed during the winter of 1925-26.

The number of men directly employed on schemes assisted by the Unemployment Grants Committee was 33,542 on the 31st October, 1925, as compared with 29,383 at a similar date last year. The estimated cost of schemes approved by the Committee from the 25th June to the 31st October this year was £10,200,000, as compared with £7,867,000 last year.

Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.—During the winter of 1924-25 grants were made by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries towards the cost of schemes of land drainage, sea defence, and water supply to groups of farms. Altogether 462 such schemes were carried out at a total cost of £235,000. Work on these schemes generally terminated on the 31st May, 1925. Similar grants are being made for schemes of land drainage and water supply to be carried out during the winter months of 1925-26. Up to the 7th November, 70 such schemes have been approved, at a total estimated cost of £28,000, viz., 53 land drainage schemes, estimated to cost £20,217, and 17 water supply schemes, estimated to cost £7,783.

In Scotland, grants towards the cost of land drainage schemes are made by the Board of Agriculture for Scotland. During the winter of 1924-25, 726 schemes, estimated to cost £88,100, were approved for grants. A similar programme has been authorised for the coming winter, and up to the present 246 schemes, estimated to cost £21,500, have been approved for grants.

Trade Facilities Acts.—Under the Trade Facilities Acts, guarantees in respect of loans raised for the purpose of carrying out capital undertakings calculated to promote employment in this country may be given up to a limit which was raised in April of this year to £70,000,000. During the last twelve months 60 schemes, estimated to cost £17,574,600, have been approved for guarantees under the Acts.

The total amount in respect of which the Treasury have stated their willingness to give guarantees is, approximately, £60,000,000. (This compares with £54,452,936 at 30th June.) Approximately £33,000,000 of this has been spent, and it is estimated that about £17,000,000 will be spent during the next twelve months.

Export Credits Scheme.—The total amount sanctioned up to 7th November, 1925, under this scheme was £31,808,971. The amount then in use or earmarked was £5,538,352. The amount of credit still available was £20,461,648.

Total Number Employed on Relief Work.—According to the returns received, the number of men directly employed on the above classes of relief work on the 31st October, 1925, is provisionally calculated at 95,373, as compared with 91,351 on the 25th October, 1924. These figures take no account of the employment provided indirectly, e.g., in the preparation and transport of materials, etc.; nor do they include any estimate for the additional employment given under the Export Credits Scheme.

EMPLOYMENT OF EX-SERVICE MEN.

KING'S NATIONAL ROLL.

Firms on the Roll.—The present number of firms on the King's National Roll (i.e., of firms who have undertaken to employ, normally, not less than 5 per cent. of disabled ex-service men) is approximately 28,000. There have been removals from, and additions to, the Roll during the last year, but the net number has remained practically constant. Removals from the Roll are due, in the main, to the inability of small firms to maintain their quota of disabled ex-service men. It is interesting to note that the total number of disabled ex-service men employed by firms on the Roll has gradually increased from approximately 350,000 at the beginning of 1925 to approximately 365,000 at the present date. This increase is due partly to the enrolment of large concerns (e.g., railway companies) and partly to increased staff employed by enrolled firms, which entails, under the percentage scheme, the employment of an increased number of disabled ex-service men.

Local Authorities.—As regards local authorities and the Roll, there have also been fluctuations during the last year. The following Table gives the present position:—

Local Authorities.	On the Roll.	Not on the Roll.		Total.
		Employing only a small staff.	Not included in Cols. (2) and (3).	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
England:				
*London:				
County Council	1	...	...	1
Corporation of the City of London	1	...	...	1
Metropolitan Boroughs	28	...	...	28
Boards of Guardians	24	...	1	25
Totals	54	...	1	55
Provinces:				
County Councils	47	...	3	50
County Boroughs	79	...	...	79
Town Councils	182	28	15	225
Urban District Councils	434	214	71	719
Rural District Councils	179	148	252	579
Boards of Guardians	173	156	225	554
Totals	1,094	546	566	2,206
Wales:				
County Councils	7	...	5	12
County Boroughs	3	...	...	3
Town Councils	20	6	1	27
Urban District Councils	29	29	3	61
Rural District Councils	14	35	18	67
Boards of Guardians	12	22	13	47
Totals	85	92	40	217
Scotland:				
County Councils	14	15	4	33
County District Committees	42	22	35	99
Town Councils	78	94	30	202
Parish Councils	14	930	16	960
Education Authorities	8	...	29	37
Totals	156	1,061	114	1,331
GRAND TOTALS	1,389	1,699	721	3,809

It will be seen that the number of local authorities who might reasonably be expected to enrol and who are not, in fact, on the Roll has now been reduced to 721. This balance includes only the smaller authorities throughout the country, with the exception of a relatively small number of county councils and town councils.

Royal Warrant Holders.—Out of 1,154 firms holding the Royal Warrant, 616 were on the Roll at the beginning of 1925. This number has now been increased to 632; 365 of the remainder, however, either employ too small a staff, or are engaged in too specialised an industry, to be reasonably expected to enrol. The balance of non-enrolled holders of the Royal Warrant is, therefore, 137.

Public Utility Companies.—An appeal has recently been addressed by the King's Roll National Council to a number of companies engaged in the provision of public services (e.g., electricity, gas, water, etc.). The present position is that, out of 418 important concerns of this nature throughout the country, 228 are on the Roll, and negotiations are proceeding with regard to enrolment in a number of the remaining companies.

Local Committees.—The local administration of the King's National Roll is carried out by local King's Roll Committees set up on the recommendation of the Select Committee on the training and employment of disabled ex-service men. There are 254 committees carrying out this work throughout the country. The Minister of Labour has recently invited newly-appointed heads of municipalities to preside over the local King's Roll Committee in their area for their year of office. These invitations have met with a ready response.

King's Roll National Council.—The work of these local committees is co-ordinated by the King's Roll National Council under the chairmanship of Field-Marshal Earl Haig, and the Council have supplemented the work of local committees by direct appeal in the case of local authorities, Royal Warrant Holders, public utility companies, and in other directions have taken whatever steps possible to keep this problem before those most able to assist.

* The Metropolitan Asylums Board are also on the Roll.

Restriction of Contracts to Firms on the Roll.—The restriction of Government contracts to firms on the King's National Roll has had a considerable effect in maintaining the number of enrolled firms at its present figure. The Minister of Labour has recently announced that the Government propose to ask Parliament to pass a resolution definitely laying down the existing practice of restricting Government contracts to firms on the Roll.

At the present date 543 local authorities, as against 513 at the beginning of the year, follow the Government practice in this matter, and it is hoped that a larger number will do so in the future.

KING'S ROLL NATIONAL COUNCIL.

The King's Roll National Council held their thirteenth meeting at the House of Commons on 10th December. In the unavoidable absence of the Chairman, Field-Marshal Earl Haig, Major-General Sir John Davidson, K.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O., M.P., was in the chair. It was reported to the Council that the number of Local Authorities who might reasonably be expected to enrol, but who had not yet done so, was 721, as against 814 at the date of the last meeting (July, 1925); and that the number of non-enrolled Royal Warrant Holders had been reduced from 153 to 137.

The Council have given considerable attention to the possibility of employment of disabled ex-Service men in large retail shops. The Minister of Labour and the Honorary Secretary of the Council have attended meetings of responsible organisations of employers at which the possibility was explored, and the Minister has also addressed letters on the subject for publication in the organisations' periodicals.

The figures of unemployed disabled ex-Service men submitted to the Council showed that there are now approximately 32,500 unemployed, and that in the opinion of local King's Roll Committees 13,500 of this number are handicapped from finding employment by reason of their war disability. The Council gave further consideration to the question of finding employment for the severely disabled men not yet in employment.

Reports were also given on other sections of the Council's work; but these are not repeated, as they are given in fuller detail above.

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING.

At 24th November, 1925, the number of men in training was 3,292, and the number awaiting training, 391. Since 1st August, 1919, 95,459 men have terminated training.

COAL MINING INDUSTRY SUBVENTION.

THE Mines Department announces that the following amounts have been paid up to 30th November, 1925, in respect of the months of August, September and October, as a subvention to the coal mining industry, in accordance with the arrangements described on page 307 of the September issue of this GAZETTE:—

District.	Amount paid in respect of			Total.
	August.	September.	October.	
	£	£	£	£
Scotland	300,895	335,385	410,071	1,046,351
Northumberland	115,544	122,448	171,421	409,413
Durham	277,010	311,616	415,361	1,003,987
South Wales and Monmouthshire	349,689	409,789	675,806	1,435,284
Eastern Division*	296,243	312,581	518,974	1,127,798
Lancs, North Staffs, and Cheshire	180,735	202,459	304,163	687,357
North Wales	28,122	30,146	44,022	102,290
South Staffs and Salop	19,641	18,455	26,179	64,275
Cumberland	25,101	34,447	41,119	100,667
Bristol	1,893	1,864	2,892	6,649
Forest of Dean	11,419	11,344	16,359	39,122
Somerset	1,970	1,892	2,333	6,197
Kent	1,902	2,954	3,207	8,061
Total	1,610,164	1,795,380	2,631,907	6,037,451

The cost of the subvention, in proportion to the tonnage raised, varied greatly as between one district and another. According to figures given by the Secretary for Mines in answer to a question in the House of Commons on the 24th November, the cost in the six principal districts for the three months, August to October, was 2s. 6½d. per ton in Scotland, 2s. 9½d. in Northumberland, 2s. 8½d. in Durham, 2s. 11½d. in South Wales and Monmouthshire, 1s. 1d. in the Eastern Area,* and 2s. 8½d. in Lancashire, Cheshire, and North Staffordshire. In the smaller districts it ranged from 3s. 10d. in Cumberland to 6½d. in Somerset. For Great Britain as a whole it was 2s. 1½d.

In connection with the Supplementary Estimate introduced in the House of Commons on the 10th December, an explanatory memorandum has been issued, from which it appears that the estimated cost of the subvention up to the end of the calendar year is, in round figures, £11,900,000. The cost in January is estimated, upon such data as are available, at about £2,600,000; and it is believed that £4,500,000 will be sufficient to cover the cost for February and March, though the actual amount must, of course, be conjectural. The Government have therefore decided to ask for a further £9,000,000, making £19,000,000 in all so far as the present financial year is concerned.

* Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Cannock Chase and Warwickshire.

† Cmd. 2548. H.M. Stationery Office; price 1d. net.

MINING INDUSTRY (WELFARE FUND) BILL, 1925.

SECTION 20 of the Mining Industry Act, 1920, provided for the setting up of a welfare fund, to be devoted to purposes connected with the social well-being, recreation, and conditions of living of workers in and about coal mines, and with mining education and research.* The fund was to be provided by a levy of a penny a ton on the output of each mine.

The Mining Industry Act, 1920, provided for this levy to be collected for a period of five years only; but the Mining Industry (Welfare Fund) Bill, 1925, which has passed both Houses of Parliament, extends the period during which these payments are to be made for a further five years.

The Bill also increases the representation of the Mining Association of Great Britain and of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain on the Committee having the management of the fund. The Committee, which is appointed by the Board of Trade, will be increased from five to seven members, of whom four (instead of two, as heretofore) will be appointed to represent the owners and the workmen respectively, two after consultation with the Mining Association, and two after consultation with the Miners' Federation.

WOOL TEXTILE INDUSTRY DISPUTE. REPORT OF COURT OF INVESTIGATION.

THE Court of Investigation appointed by the Minister of Labour in connection with matters arising out of the recent applications by the operatives for an increase and by the employers for a reduction respectively in the rates of wages in the wool textile industry† issued a unanimous report on 11th November.

After dealing with the events leading up to the appointment of the Court, the organisation of the industry, and the method of wages regulation therein, the Court proceed as follows:—

"We have carefully considered the detailed evidence and contentions of the parties. That the industry is depressed at the present time is not really in dispute. It is, however, a matter of contention between the parties as to whether that depression is only a passing phase or is likely to persist, but further experience is necessary before any definite conclusions can be arrived at as to the developments of foreign competition in Europe and the Far East. In our view the evidence before us is insufficient to justify a general reduction in wages; on the other hand a case has not been established for a general increase in wages, which are at present above, and in some cases considerably above, their pre-war level after allowing for the increase in the cost of living."

As regards the cost-of-living wage, the Court observe that a frequent variation in wages militates against stability in the industry and gives rise to uncertainty as to the cost of the product, which makes it difficult for firms to look ahead. They therefore consider that an adjustment every three months, as suggested by the operatives, is undesirable, and are of opinion that the best practicable method is an automatic variation of the cost-of-living wage every six months, in proportion to an appreciable rise or fall in the average cost-of-living index figure taken over the preceding six months.

The principal other conclusions of the Court may be summarised as follows:—

That piecework should be encouraged in the industry.

That steps should be taken to prevent, or reduce the extent of, blind alley employment for juveniles in the woollen spinning section.

That the Joint Industrial Council should consider the possibility of simplifying the system on which wages are at present paid.

The Court accordingly make the following recommendations to the Northern Counties District Council for the Wool (and Allied) Textile Industry:—

(1) That until after 1st January, 1927—

(a) basis time rates should be maintained at their present level;

(b) piecework prices should not be subject to any general advance or reduction. Any modification of piecework prices consequent upon our recommendations as to the principles which should determine them should in no case be such as to effect a reduction in the earnings of the operatives concerned; neither should the recommendations of the Court prevent any necessary readjustments for reasons other than those contained in the Report;

(c) the cost-of-living wage should continue to be paid at the varying percentages laid down in the agreement of 29th August, 1924; and no change should be made in the method of determining the maximum cost-of-living wage for time workers.

(2) That piecework prices should be such as will enable an operative of average ability to earn at least 25 per cent. over

* Three Reports on the working of this Fund have been published. The third, covering the year 1924, was reviewed in the April, 1925 issue of this GAZETTE (page 118).

† See the September, 1925, issue of this GAZETTE (p. 311).

net basis time rates, i.e., excluding the existing 10 per cent. addition and the cost-of-living wage.

(3) That the Council should, on the basis of the scale submitted by the operatives, agree a scale of rates for juveniles not covered by existing scales, such adjustments being made as both sides may consider necessary.

(4) That the position of operatives in the Saddleworth district should be referred to a joint conference of representatives of the Saddleworth employers and operatives together with representatives of the Council, and that an effort should be made to remove anomalies between the wages and conditions of employment of operatives in this district and those of other operatives represented on the Council.

(5) That the Council should consider the possibility of simplifying the present method of making up wages.

(6) That the agreement to be made by the Council on the basis of these recommendations should come into operation on 7th December, 1925, and should not be terminable until after 1st January, 1927, and then only by notice of not less than one month by either side.

Pieceworkers.—For the purpose of determining piecework prices the Court further recommend the following procedure for the consideration of the Council:—

(a) Where there is an appropriate basis time rate for full employment in a normal working week, that should be the basis time rate for the purpose, and in proportion, having regard to any abnormality such as short time or under-employment.

(b) Where there is no appropriate basis time rate the Council should make one, having due regard to the rates, earnings and conditions of employment of persons of a corresponding degree, of skill in the same or other branches of the industry.

(c) If it is claimed that piecework prices require adjustment and if the operatives or their representative and the management of the firm or firms fail to agree, the case should be brought before a Joint Appeals Committee to be appointed by the Industrial Council for the purpose of adjudicating on these matters.

(d) The decision of the Appeals Committee should be binding on all concerned.

(e) When under this procedure a piecework price has been fixed, either by mutual agreement or by the Appeals Committee, it should not be altered unless (i) a mistake has been made by either side in the calculation; or (ii) the method of production or other conditions are changed; or (iii) the management and the operatives mutually agree to adjust the price.

(f) Pending an arrangement regarding a piecework price the operative or operatives should continue at work, and the price ultimately settled either with the management or by the Committee should be retrospective to such date as may be mutually agreed, or in default of agreement to the date on which the application was made, or such earlier date as the Appeals Committee may determine.

Enginemmen and Firemen.—With reference to these classes the applications were not accepted, and the Court recommend that wages should be continued at their present level both as regards basis rates and cost-of-living wage as provided for in the agreement of 7th November, 1924, and should not be changed until after 1st January, 1927, and then only by notice of not less than one month by either side.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE.

TEXT OF CERTAIN DRAFT CONVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

THE July issue of this GAZETTE contained (pp. 235-6) an account of the proceedings at the seventh session of the Annual Conference of the International Labour Organisation of the League of Nations, held at Geneva between the 19th May and the 10th June, 1925.

The text has now been published* of the following draft Conventions and Recommendations adopted at this session:—

Draft Convention concerning workmen's compensation for accidents.

Recommendation concerning the minimum scale of workmen's compensation.

Recommendation concerning jurisdiction in disputes on workmen's compensation.

Draft Convention concerning workmen's compensation for industrial diseases.

Recommendation concerning workmen's compensation for industrial diseases.

Draft Convention concerning equality of treatment for national and foreign workers as regards workmen's compensation for accidents.

Recommendation concerning equality of treatment for national and foreign workers as regards workmen's compensation for accidents.

Draft Convention concerning night work in bakeries.

* Cmd. 2536. H.M. Stationery Office; price 9d. net.

WAGES IN THE RAILWAY SERVICE. NATIONAL WAGES BOARD FINDING.

ON 9th December, the National Wages Board issued their Finding in respect of claims referred to them on 11th November, 1925, by the Railway Companies, the National Union of Railwaymen and the Railway Clerks' Association respectively.

The Railway Companies' proposals were two-fold. In the case of the wages grades covered by the National Agreements scheduled to the Railways Act, 1921, they asked for immediate flat-rate reductions in base and current rates of 6s. per week in rural areas and 4s. per week in London and industrial areas for adults and 3s. and 2s. per week respectively for juniors; the existing cost-of-living sliding scale to be retained. In the case of the clerical staff (male and female) covered by the National Agreements scheduled to the Railways Act, 1921, they proposed that the adult age be raised from 18 to 20 years and certain adjustments made in the pay and conditions of service of junior clerks. The National Union of Railwaymen opposed the Companies' application and on their part put forward a programme for improved salary scales, rates of pay and conditions of service for salaried staff and for the Conciliation, Docks and other Wages Grades. The Railway Clerks' Association likewise resisted the Companies' proposals in so far as these affected the members of the Association, and put forward an application for an improvement in the salary scales and certain of the conditions of service of their members. The claim of the Railway Clerks' Association, and the claim of the National Union of Railwaymen in so far as it related to salaried staff, were identical. The Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen opposed the Companies' proposals.

In their Finding, the Board state that they feel that it is desirable to make clear that there is no finding by them that the standard or base rates ("B" rates) constitute an irreducible minimum, and their finding is not based on that contention. The Board, however, are not satisfied that in the present circumstances a sufficient case has been made out by the Railway Companies for a reduction in the base and current rates; on the other hand, they are unable to entertain any of the applications made on behalf of the Trade Unions.

The Board, however, reach the conclusion that a differential might properly be made in respect of new entrants, and that—

On and after the 1st February, 1926, new entrants appointed to adult grades in the permanent service or employed temporarily for a probationary period prior to appointment, whether recruited from outside the Railway service or from the casual or temporary staff, or from junior grades in the Railway service, are to be paid at "B" rates for the adult grades in which they are employed, and on subsequent promotion to any higher grade in the service are to be paid the "B" rate for such higher grade. Regular employees whose services have been dispensed with owing to shortage of work, if re-employed, shall be paid at the current rates for the grades in which they are employed.

Three of the Companies' representatives on the Board intimate that, whilst accepting this Decision, they are unable to join in signing the Report.

The Board unanimously add that they are of opinion that the rapid growth of road motor transport constitutes a serious menace to the Railway Industry, and that the Railway Companies are placed in an unfair position to meet this competition.

INCREASES IN RENTS, 1914-1925.

As a result of the Increase of Rent and Mortgage Interest (War Restrictions) Act, 1915, rents of working-class dwellings were at the same level as immediately before the war, apart from increases on account of increased rates and water charges, from the end of 1915 up to the entry into operation of the Increase of Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Act, 1920. The operation of this Act is continued, subject to certain provisions, by the Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Act, 1923, and by the Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions Continuation) Act, 1925.*

In general and subject to certain conditions, pre-war working-class rents may be increased under these Acts† by an amount equal to the excess of the current rates and water charges over the rates and water charges of August, 1914, and by a further amount equal to 40 per cent. of the net rent‡ of August, 1914. Of this permitted addition of 40 per cent., five-eighths is on account of the landlord's responsibility for repairs, and increases on account of the higher level of mortgage interest permitted by the Acts fall within the remainder. A further increase is permitted in the net rents of lawfully sublet parts of dwelling-houses, but, taking the country as a whole, it does not appear that this provision has had any marked effect on the average level of rents.

In order to ascertain the extent of the increases in rents which have taken effect under the provisions of these Acts, special inquiries have been made, from time to time, of Property Owners' Associations, Trades Councils and Tenants' Associations and Municipal Authorities; and the Department is indebted to them for the valuable assistance which they have rendered.

* The principal provisions of these Acts were summarised on page 354 of the LABOUR GAZETTE for July, 1920, page 278 of the GAZETTE for August, 1923, and page 195 of the GAZETTE for June, 1925, respectively.

† Rents of new houses and of houses or parts of houses in actual possession of the landlord on 31st July, 1923, or subsequently, are, except in certain circumstances, not subject to the control of these Acts and are not included in the statistics given in this Article.

‡ In the great majority of cases, rates and water charges on working-class properties are paid by the landlord and the tenant pays an inclusive sum, known to him as the "rent," which covers rent plus rates and water charges. In this article this inclusive sum is described as the gross rent, and the rent exclusive of rates and water charges is described as the net rent.

The following Table gives a summary of the general position in towns in England and Wales as regards increases in inclusive working-class rents (where, as is usually the case, the landlord is responsible for repairs). The figures for rates include water charges, and relate to the first half of the financial year 1914-15, and to the second half of the financial year 1925-26.

Average for Towns in England and Wales (except London area).

	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Examples of Gross Rent (i.e., Rent plus Rates) at August, 1914	4 0	5 0	6 0	7 0
Net Rent (i.e., Gross Rent less Rates) at August, 1914	3 0½	3 9½	4 5	5 0
Permitted increase for Rates, 1914 to 1925-26	0 9½	1 0	1 3½	1 6½
Permitted increase of 40 per cent. on Net Rent of 1914	1 2½	1 6½	1 9½	2 0
Total permitted increase in Gross Rent, 1914 to 1925-26	2 0½	2 6½	3 0½	3 6½
Permitted increase expressed as percentage of Gross Rent of 1914	51%	50%	51%	50%

The figures given here show that the net rent was, on the average, nearly three-quarters of the gross rent in 1914, and the permitted increase of 40 per cent. on net rent is thus equivalent to nearly 30 per cent. of the gross rent of 1914. The average increase on account of higher rates and water charges is nearly 21 per cent. of the pre-war gross rent. The total permitted increases thus average a little over 50 per cent. of the gross rent of 1914.

London.—The rentals given in the illustrative Table above are, of course, too low to represent London, but the increases permitted in London on account of the 40 per cent. addition to net rents average about 30 per cent. of the pre-war gross rents, and increases in respect of increased rates and water charges in London average about 15 per cent. of the gross rents of 1914; the total permitted increase in London is thus about 45 per cent.

Scotland.—In Scotland the permitted increases average about 57 per cent. of the pre-war gross rents, about 19 per cent. being due to increases in occupiers' rates, about 5 per cent. to increases in owners' rates, and about 33 per cent. to the addition of 40 per cent. to the pre-war net rents.

Average for Great Britain.

On the basis of the foregoing figures it is calculated that the average permissible increase in urban working-class rents in Great Britain is a little over 49 per cent. of the gross rents of 1914. The permissible increases have not been put into force in all cases, but special inquiries in regard to the extent to which the permissible increases are actually being collected indicate that at the beginning of December, 1925, they were operative to the extent of about 97 per cent., and that the actual increase in the gross rents of urban working-class dwellings in Great Britain since July, 1914, averages about 48 per cent. This percentage has been utilised in compiling the statistics relating to the cost of living given on page 426.

CO-OPERATIVE HOUSING SOCIETIES IN 1924.

THE following statistics as to the activities in 1924 and previous years of Co-operative Housing Societies* in Great Britain, registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, have been compiled by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies from the Annual Returns furnished to his office.

The returns obtained for 1924 show that there were 238 Housing Societies registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, or 6 more than in 1923. At the end of 1924 the Societies had 14,704 members (of whom nearly 5,000 were returned as tenants), and share, loan, and reserve capital amounting to £7,974,207. The aggregate amount received in rents was £477,545. A net profit of £65,586 was earned during the year. Of this amount, £30,524 was allocated as interest on shares, or 4 per cent. on the share capital. Frequently some part of the profits is applied to a fund out of which is defrayed the cost of tenants' repairs.

The aggregate cost value of the land and buildings at the end of 1924 was returned at £7,697,146.

The following Table shows the position of Housing Societies in Great Britain for the years 1919-1924:—

	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Number of Societies	144	246	264	245	232	238
Number of Members	9,044	11,021	12,573	12,746	12,795	14,704
Capital:—						
Shares	£ 528,457	£ 615,369	£ 705,887	£ 727,649	£ 719,689	£ 713,027
Loans	3,372,883	5,580,331	6,861,666	7,387,703	7,096,735	7,066,474
Reserves†	46,823	29,085	64,421	76,315	129,164	194,706
Total	3,948,163	6,224,785	7,631,974	8,191,667	7,945,588	7,974,207
Rents receivable	263,723	336,715	434,469	469,804	500,985	477,545
Profit (+) or loss (-) on year before deduction of interest on shares	+10,583	-5,710	+11,467½	+59,273	+55,792	+65,586

* The Housing societies referred to in this article, which actually undertake the building of houses, must be distinguished from the building societies, established under the Building Societies Acts, which help their members to buy houses, but do not erect any houses. Particulars of Building Societies will be found in Part 5 of the Annual Report of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.

† Includes aggregate of profit and loss balances.

‡ Excludes a credit of £34,000 occasioned by a guarantor relieving a society of its liability on bank overdraft.

The reduction in share and loan capital is attributable in part to the completion of schemes by societies, and in part to one society at Welwyn which went into liquidation.

Rents receivable, and the value of land and buildings, decreased generally throughout the country, probably as a result of the sale of properties.

The comparison of profit earned in 1924 with that of 1923 is rendered difficult by reason of the fact that one society went into liquidation in 1923 and wrote off a sum of £30,000 as depreciation.

WAGES IN THE NETHERLANDS MINING AND METAL AND ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES.

THE October issue of the *Maandschrift*, the journal of the Netherlands Central Bureau of Statistics, contains particulars of the earnings of miners and of metal, engineering and shipbuilding workers in the Netherlands.

MINING.

As regards the mining industry the following Table shows the average earnings of underground and surface workers, and of all mineworkers together, in August, 1925:—

Category and Occupation.	Average earnings per shift.
Underground workers:—	Dutch guildens.*
Foremen hewers	7.91
Shotfirers and foremen	6.93
Hewers	6.12
Hewer-timbermen	5.83
Timbermen	5.18
Assistant hewers	5.29

All underground workers 5.33†

Surface Workers:—

Skilled men	5.26
Semi-skilled men	4.71
Unskilled	4.16

All surface workers 3.94†

Underground and surface workers together 4.95†

METAL, ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING INDUSTRIES.

The information with regard to the earnings of metal, engineering and shipbuilding workers was supplied to the Bureau of Statistics by the Bureau for the Standardisation of Working Conditions in the Metal and Engineering Industries, an office established by the Metaalbond, which is an association of employers in the metal, engineering and shipbuilding industries. It is stated that the data relate to 106 undertakings employing 33,265 workpeople, of whom 26,332 are adults. Of the latter number, 12,257 are skilled (or qualified) workmen, 8,163 are semi-skilled (or experienced) and 5,912 are unskilled (or labourers).

The following Table affords a comparison of the actual hourly earnings of adult workmen of the above-mentioned categories during the first half of 1925, compared with the average of the hourly rates actually paid at 1st July, 1925, and the average minimum hourly wage recognised by the Metaalbond.

For the purpose of regulating wages, the various centres of the metal, engineering and shipbuilding industries in the Netherlands have been divided by the Metaalbond into four classes, Class I including Amsterdam, Rotterdam and Schiedam; Class II, Utrecht, Haarlem, Dordrecht Hengelo, Flushing, etc.; Class III, Breda, Winschoten, Deventer, Kinderdijk, etc.; while Class IV comprises less important towns.

Class of Town.	Skilled.			Semi-skilled.			Unskilled.		
	Actual Earnings per Hour during 1st Half of 1925.†	Average of the Hourly Rates Actually Paid at 1st July, 1925.	Average Minimum Hourly Rates Recognised by the Metaalbond.	Actual Earnings per Hour during 1st Half of 1925.†	Average of the Hourly Rates Actually Paid at 1st July, 1925.	Average Minimum Hourly Rates Recognised by the Metaalbond.	Actual Earnings per Hour during 1st Half of 1925.†	Average of the Hourly Rates Actually Paid at 1st July, 1925.	Average Minimum Hourly Rates Recognised by the Metaalbond.
	Dutch Cents.*								
I	64	55	54	59	50	47	47	43	40
II	61	53	50	54	47	43	48	43	36
III	56	50	47	48	43	40	41	36	33
IV	58	49	45	53	46	38	41	37	31

The next Table contains particulars of the average hourly earnings of adult workmen in the metal, engineering and shipbuilding industries in six towns during the first half of 1925, distinguishing skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled. The number of workpeople in each class who earned the average wages shown is also indicated, as also the class in which each town is graded. The towns are arranged in the order of the hourly earnings of the skilled workmen.

* 100 cents = 1 guilder (or florin) = 1s. 8d. approximately.
† These averages include the earnings of other mining workers not shown in the Table.
‡ These are the rates shown in the middle column under each category increased by payments for piecework, contract work, premiums, etc., but excluding payments for overtime.

Name of Town.	Class of Town.	Skilled.		Semi-skilled.		Unskilled.	
		Number of Work-people.	Average Hourly Earn-ings.	Number of Work-people.	Average Hourly Earn-ings.	Number of Work-people.	Average Hourly Earn-ings.
Amsterdam	I	2,213	72	1,257	65	671	55
Haarlem	II	568	64	345	57	246	46
Rotterdam	I	4,023	60	2,361	56	2,654	45
Schiedam	I	240	60	133	51	101	45
Flushing	II	889	56	403	49	272	41
Kinderdijk	III	209	52	119	46	37	42

The following Table shows the course of money wages, taking the year 1910 as a base, in the metal, engineering and shipbuilding industries in the Netherlands for the years 1920, 1921 (a peak period), 1923 (a period of depression), 1924 and 1925:—

Year.	Number of Workers.	Average Hourly Wage.		Average Weekly Wage.	
		Cents.	Index No.	Guldens.	Index No.
1910	...	27,435	21	100	100
First half-year, 1920	...	28,301	66	314	239
Second " 1920	...	31,521	74	352	267
First " 1921	...	30,948	77	367	278
Second " 1921	...	27,187	77	367	277
First " 1923	...	20,095	62	295	224
Second " 1923	...	20,760	60	285	215
First " 1924	...	23,029	57	271	205
Second " 1924	...	23,271	56	267	204
First " 1925	...	26,332	57	271	205

During the first half of 1925, the average earnings of 12,257 skilled men employed in the metal, engineering and shipbuilding industries in the Netherlands were 62 cents per hour and 29.83 guildens per week; of 8,163 semi-skilled men, 56 cents per hour and 26.75 guildens per week; and of 5,912 unskilled men, 47 cents per hour and 22.46 guildens per week.

LABOUR DISPUTES AND THEIR SETTLEMENT IN SWEDEN IN 1924.

THE Swedish Department of Social Affairs has recently published a Report* on (1) labour disputes, (2) the number of collective agreements concluded, and (3) the work of the State Conciliators in 1924.

(1) According to these official statistics, the year 1924 was less affected by labour disputes, if the number of working days lost be taken as the criterion, than any year since 1918. In 1924 there were 261 disputes, which affected 23,976 workers and involved the loss of 1,204,500 working days. The corresponding figures for the previous year were 206 disputes, 102,896 workers and 6,907,390 days respectively. The industry most seriously affected in 1924 was building, in which one-third of the total number of working days lost occurred. Of the total number of disputes, 68.2 per cent. were due to wage questions. The results of the disputes may be tabulated as follows:—

	Percentage of Workers affected.
In favour of the employers	11.4
In favour of the workers	6.3
Compromised	74.6
Unknown or indecisive	7.7
Total	100.0

(2) The total number of collective agreements concluded in 1924 was 775, covering 4,502 employers and 120,477 workers. At the end of 1924 there were 2,214 collective agreements in force, affecting 413,181 workers, as compared with 1,975, affecting 391,197 workers, at the end of 1923. The scope of the 775 agreements concluded in 1924 was as follows:—

Scope of Agreement.	No. of such Agreements.	No. of Workers Covered.
One firm	464	54,731
One industry in one locality	292	53,014
Provincial	10	2,771
National	9	9,961
Total	775	120,477

Of the 775 agreements, 499 were concluded for one year or less, 275 for a period of from one to two years, and one for a period of from two to three years. Some method of negotiation (either between the parties or their organisations, or by means of conciliation committees) previous to a stoppage of work was provided for in 644 agreements, affecting 98,779 workers.

(3) The number of disputes (including those in which there was no stoppage of work) in 1924 in which some measure of conciliation was employed was 243, as compared with 194 in the preceding year and an average of 200 for the years 1915 to 1923. Of these 243 cases, 205 were actually brought to negotiation, with the result

* *Arbetsinsättelser och Kollektivavtal samt Förläkningsmännens Verksamhet år 1924.* Published by the Department of Social Affairs, Stockholm, 1925.

that a settlement was reached in 171 cases; of the remainder, 18 cases were settled by the parties themselves, and 16 received no solution. In the other 38 cases, the parties either refused the offer of conciliation or had settled the dispute themselves before the offer was made. In 118 cases there was a stoppage of work. Disputes brought before conciliators affected in all 2,591 employers and 187,829 workers; the disputes in which a stoppage of work occurred affected 629 employers and 16,608 workers. The conciliators and conciliation committees exercised their mediatory action in 47 per cent. of the total number of strikes and lock-outs in 1924 covering 70 per cent. of the workers affected. In 105 out of the 118 cases referred to above work had ceased before negotiations began. The initiative for starting conciliation procedure in the 205 cases brought to negotiation was taken by the conciliators themselves in 158 cases, by the employers in 12 cases, by the workers in 8, and by both parties in 27 cases.

WAGES IN GERMANY IN OCTOBER, 1925.

THE journal of the Federal Statistical Office of Germany for the second half of November* presents further statistics of wages† in certain large industrial groups based on collective agreements in force in September and October. The figures given in the Table below are extracted from the statistics in question; they are weighted averages of the full-time rates for adult workers in the principal centres of the respective industries. Those given for skilled workers in mining and in the metal and textile industries are averages either of piece-rates for an average output of work or of time-rates with a piece-work adjustment.

Industry.	Skilled Workers.				Unskilled Workers.			
	Rate per Hour.		Rate per Full Week.‡		Rate per Hour.		Rate per Full Week.‡	
	Sept.	Oct.	Sept.	Oct.	Sept.	Oct.	Sept.	Oct.
Mining§	Rpf. 96	Rpf. 96	Rmk. 46.02	Rmk. 46.02	Rpf. 55	Rpf. 55	Rmk. 32.92	Rmk. 32.82
Metal§	92	92	45.70	45.99	61	61	30.34	30.47
Chemical§	82	84	39.55	40.51	70	71	33.46	34.22
Building	115	116	55.14	55.28	94	95	45.14	45.19
Woodworking	98	98	46.63	46.65	85	85	40.58	40.59
Papermaking &c.§	67	68	32.30	32.54	61	61	29.09	29.28
Textile (males)§	62	62	29.62	29.81	52	52	24.72	25.01
Textile (females)§	49	50	23.62	23.95	38	39	18.38	18.58
Brewing§	96	100	46.12	47.76	85	87	40.62	41.93
Sugar confectionery &c.	82	85	39.36	40.99	71	74	34.08	35.38
Printing	96	96	46.05	46.05	84	84	40.16	40.16
Cardboard (males)	76	80	36.24	38.40	64	68	30.82	32.59
Cardboard (females)	50	53	24.05	25.34	41	44	19.87	20.93
State railways§	80	80	43.09	43.09	62	62	33.26	33.26
Average (weighted)	92	92	44.84	45.04	64	65	33.12	33.24

When all industries are taken together it will be seen that there is practically no change between the general level of wages, whether hourly or weekly, in September and October.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE IN QUEENSLAND.

A REPORT on Operations under the Employed Workers' Insurance Act of 1922 (Queensland) || states that the balance to the credit of the Unemployment Fund at the beginning of the financial year (1st July, 1924) was £124,394 17s. 2d. The receipts during the year were £249,106 11s. 8d. and the expenditure £204,538 18s. 3d., so that the total sum to the credit of the Fund at 30th June, 1925, was £168,962 10s. 7d.

The Unemployment Council has, during the year under review, given serious consideration to the question of intermittent and casual employment, and a special committee was appointed to inquire into the causes and extent of, and remedies for, unemployment among waterside workers in the port of Brisbane. Special schemes are in operation for (a) waterside workers; (b) workers in the coal mining industry; (c) storemen and packers, Brisbane; (d) Roma Street railway goods sheds workers. Under these schemes the workers concerned are paid "sustenance" (benefit) according to the number of days unemployed in each month. The amount of earnings plus "sustenance" (benefit) must not exceed the basic wage equivalent for the month (as fixed by the Queensland Court of Industrial Arbitration). During the year, the Council also considered the position of casual workers who were not provided for under any of the special schemes.

* *Wirtschaft und Statistik*, No. 22, Berlin. The rates are expressed in Reichspfennigs and Reichsmarks. (100 Rpf. = 1 Rmk. = 11.8d. approximately at the present rate of exchange.)

† See this GAZETTE for October, 1925, p. 350.

‡ The rates for a full week are, for the most part, based on a week of 48 hours. In the building trades, however, the full-time week for Hamburg, Dresden and Chemnitz is 47½ hours and for Leipzig 46½ hours; in the wood-working trades it is 46 for Berlin; in the metal industry 54 at Hamburg and Cologne and 56 in each of the five towns forming the north-western group; for State railways it is 54 hours; and for surface workers at coal mines 60 hours.

§ Inclusive of "social allowances" on the scale laid down for a wife and two children, so far as these are paid in the locality from which returns were received.

|| *Second Annual Report on Operations under the Unemployed Workers' Insurance Act of 1922.* A. 33. Department of Labour, Brisbane, 1925. For a notice of first annual report, see this GAZETTE for February, 1925, page 41.

It was decided that a casual worker whose period of employment in any particular instance did not exceed two weeks could revive his original application, and would not, therefore, have to wait during the prescribed period of two weeks before claiming benefit. This provided much-needed relief for many workers, especially shipwrights, ship painters and dockers, and obviated the necessity for the extension of the special schemes to casuals.

GENERAL PROBLEMS OF SOCIAL INSURANCE: REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE.

THE International Labour Office has recently published a study of the General Problems of Social Insurance,* the object of which is "to present in a bare and schematic form a synopsis, as clear and to the point as possible, of the different conceptions which underlie legislation and of the different modes in which those conceptions have been realised. The aim of the Office was to put before the International Labour Conference the main principles on the one hand, and on the other hand the most characteristic features of present-day legislation, so as to enable it to express an opinion on the studies which the Office might undertake in the future and on the social insurance questions which might properly be included in the agenda of subsequent sessions of the Conference."

The Report contains 136 pages. It is divided into six parts, with an introductory note on the historical development of social insurance and a table showing the principal laws on workmen's compensation, compulsory social insurance and social assistance, at present in force. Part I. deals with the scope of social insurance, covering the different conceptions of its scope and the scope of the legislation actually in force in the several countries on insurance against accident, sickness, old age, invalidity and death, and unemployment. Part II. deals with benefits, the economic consequences of the risks, conceptions of the amount of cash benefits, and the benefits provided under the legislation of the several countries. Parts III. and IV. deal with the question of financing social insurance, the incidence of the cost and its distribution over insured persons, employers and public authorities, the method of calculating contributions, the best financial systems, etc. Part V. deals with insurance institutions, and covers the functions of insurance institutions in general, the principal types of institution and the existing institutions for the various kinds of social insurance. Finally, Part VI. deals with the possibility of the co-ordination of social insurance and the extent to which it would tend to both economy and greater efficiency if the laws on accident, sickness, invalidity and old age insurance were combined in one measure and administered by one department.

GUIDE TO OFFICIAL STATISTICS.

THE Permanent Consultative Committee on Official Statistics has issued the third annual volume of its *Guide to Current Official Statistics of the United Kingdom*,† being a systematic survey of the statistics appearing in all official publications issued in 1924 and in certain selected publications issued in 1925.

The object of the Guide is to direct the inquirer to the reports, returns, etc., which contain statistics bearing on his subject, and at the same time to inform him precisely how the available statistics are analysed.

The statistical material published in the year under review is exhibited in the form of a "Subject Index," which shows against each entry the statistical treatment, as indicated above, of the various subjects. The publications to which reference is made are given separately, under the Departments responsible, in a "List of Publications." A novel feature of the "Subject Index" is the grouping of all published statistical data under twenty-five broad references (e.g., Agriculture, Industry and Labour, Social Services, etc.), by means of a system of successive cross-references, thus rendering it possible, with a minimum of effort, to ascertain with certainty what (if any) statistics are available on any given subject.

The scope of the publications reviewed in the "Subject Index" is wide. Not only are volumes of a research character, involving the use of statistical methods, included, but also volumes containing accounts, as well as the more familiar returns in tabular form. While this issue of the Guide primarily relates to the publications of 1924, an indication is given in all cases where later issues of annual reports have become available in the present year, up to the end of August. The Guide itself also includes, as stated, a selection of important publications which have appeared in the present year.

Many of the volumes to which reference is made are of special importance to those interested in labour and industrial problems.

The survey of important publications issued before 1923, which appeared as an appendix to last year's Guide, is not reprinted in the present issue, but the Guide for 1923 is still on sale.‡

* *International Labour Office. Studies and Reports, Series M (Social Insurance)*, No. 1. Geneva, 1925; price 2s. 6d.

† *Guide to Current Official Statistics: Volume Three (1924)*. H.M. Stationery Office; price 1s. net (1s. 3d., post free).

‡ *Guide to Current Official Statistics: Volume Two*. H.M. Stationery Office; price 1s. net (1s. 4d., post free). The appendix contains a broad survey of publications of permanent statistical interest issued mainly since the year 1900.

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

Summary: Average Increases since July, 1914.

All Items included ... 77%
Food only ... 74%

FOOD.

At 1st December the average level of the retail prices of the principal articles of food showed a slight rise as compared with 31st October.* This upward movement was mainly due to a further seasonal advance of about 1d. each in the average price of eggs, and there were also slight increases in the average prices of bread and flour. For the remaining articles the changes in prices were relatively unimportant.

As a net result of all the changes recorded, the average increase over the level of July, 1914, in the retail prices (in Great Britain and Northern Ireland) of the articles of food included in these statistics was about 74 per cent. at 1st December, as compared with about 72 per cent. at 31st October,* and 80 per cent. at the corresponding date in 1924.

In the following Table is given a comparison of retail prices of these articles of food in July, 1914, and at 31st October* and 1st December, 1925:—

Article.	Average Price (per lb. unless otherwise indicated to the nearest 1/2d.)			Average Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) at 1st Dec., 1925, as compared with	
	July, 1914.	31st Oct., 1925.	1st Dec., 1925.	July, 1914.	31st Oct., 1925.
Beef, British—	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Ribs ...	0 10	1 5 1/2	1 5 1/2	+0 7 1/2	...
Thin Flank ...	0 6 1/2	0 10	0 10	+0 3 1/2	...
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—					
Ribs ...	0 7 1/2	0 10 1/2	0 10 1/2	+0 3 1/2	...
Thin Flank ...	0 4 1/2	0 5 1/2	0 5 1/2	+0 1	...
Mutton, British—					
Legs ...	0 10 1/2	1 7 1/2	1 7 1/2	+0 9	-0 0 1/2
Breast ...	0 6 1/2	0 11 1/2	0 11	+0 4 1/2	-0 0 1/2
Mutton, Frozen—					
Legs ...	0 6 1/2	1 0 1/2	1 0 1/2	+0 6	...
Breast ...	0 4	0 5 1/2	0 5 1/2	+0 1 1/2	...
Bacon (streaky)†	0 11 1/2	1 8 1/2	1 8 1/2	+0 9 1/2	...
Flour ... per 7 lb.	0 10 1/2	1 5	1 5 1/2	+0 6 1/2	+0 0 1/2
Bread ... per 4 lb.	0 5 1/2	0 9 1/2	0 9 1/2	+0 3 1/2	+0 0 1/2
Tea ...	1 6 1/2	2 5	2 4 1/2	+0 10 1/2	+0 0 1/2
Sugar (granulated) ...	0 2	0 3 1/2	0 3 1/2	+0 1 1/2	...
Milk ... per quart	0 3 1/2	0 6 1/2	0 6 1/2	+0 3 1/2	...
Butter—					
Fresh ...	1 2 1/2	2 3	2 2 1/2	+1 0 1/2	-0 0 1/2
Salt ...	1 2 1/2	2 1 1/2	2 1 1/2	+0 11 1/2	-0 0 1/2
Cheese† ...	0 8 1/2	1 3 1/2	1 3 1/2	+0 6 1/2	...
Margarine ...	0 7	0 8	0 8	+0 1	...
Eggs (fresh) ... each	0 1 1/2	0 3 1/2	0 3 1/2	+0 2 1/2	+0 0 1/2
Potatoes ... per 7 lb.	0 4 1/2	0 7 1/2	0 7	+0 2 1/2	-0 0 1/2

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

Article.	Average Percentage Increase at 1st December, 1925, as compared with July, 1914.			Corresponding General Average for 31st Oct.,* 1925.
	Large Towns (Populations over 50,000).	Small Towns and Villages.	General Average.	
Beef, British—	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Ribs ...	80	78	78	78
Thin Flank ...	49	49	49	50
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—				
Ribs ...	44	43	44	46
Thin Flank ...	17	18	18	18
Mutton, British—				
Legs ...	85	88	86	89
Breast ...	72	65	68	72
Mutton, Frozen—				
Legs ...	89	79	84	86
Breast ...	36	35	36	36
Bacon (streaky)†	86	80	83	83
Fish ...	133	110	121	126
Flour ...	62	65	63	61
Bread ...	64	60	62	60
Tea ...	82	61	57	58
Sugar (granulated) ...	63	54	59	61
Milk ...	88	95	92	89
Butter—				
Fresh ...	81	88	84	86
Salt ...	78	79	79	81
Cheese† ...	76	77	77	75
Margarine ...	20	11	15	15
Eggs (fresh) ...	207	207	207	169
Potatoes ...	59	31	45	48
All above articles of Food (Weighted Percentage Increase) ...	75	72	74	72

* As 1st November fell on Sunday, the statistics related to the previous day, in accordance with the usual practice in such cases.
† If this kind is seldom dealt with in a locality, the returns quote the price of another kind locally representative.
‡ The description of cheese specified for quotation is Canadian or American, but where such cheese is seldom sold in a locality the returns quote the price of another kind locally representative.

RENT, CLOTHING, FUEL AND LIGHT.

As regards rents, inquiries which have been made into the changes which have taken effect under the Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Acts indicate that the average increase in the rents of working-class dwellings between July, 1914, and 1st December, 1925, was approximately 48 per cent. Of the total increase, about two-fifths is accounted for by increases on account of rates and water charges and about two-fifths is on account of the landlord's responsibility for repairs, increases on account of the higher level of mortgage interest permitted by the Acts falling within the remaining one-fifth. A special article on increases in rents since 1914 appears on page 423 of this issue.

As regards clothing, owing to the wide range of quotations, both now and before the war, to changes in qualities and in stocks held by retailers, and to variations in the extent to which different articles and qualities have been affected by price changes, it is impossible to make an exact calculation of the increase in prices; but information as to the movements of prices of men's suits and overcoats, underclothing and hosiery, textile materials and boots, received from retailers in the principal towns, indicates that at 1st December the level of retail prices of articles in this group, taking goods of the kinds purchased by the working classes and so far as possible the same qualities of goods at each date, averaged over 125 per cent. higher than in July, 1914.

In the fuel and light group the average prices of coal and gas at 1st December were about the same as at 31st October and were nearly 90 and 55 per cent., respectively, higher than in July, 1914. The prices of lamp oil, candles and matches also showed no appreciable change during the month. Taking the fuel and light group as a whole, the average increase at 1st December as compared with July, 1914, was about 80 per cent.

ALL ITEMS.

If the average increases in the cost of all the foregoing items are combined in accordance with their relative importance in pre-war working-class family expenditure, allowance being also made for the increase in the prices of soap, soda, domestic ironmongery, brushware and pottery, tobacco, fares and newspapers (averaging about 80 per cent.), the resultant general average increase for 1st December is, approximately, 77 per cent.* over the level of July, 1914, as compared with 76 per cent. at 31st October and 81 per cent. at the corresponding date in 1924.

The result of this calculation (in which the same quantities and, as far as possible, the same qualities of each item are taken in 1925 as in 1914) is to show the average increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the pre-war standard of living of working-class families (i.e., the standard actually prevailing in working-class families before the war, irrespective of whether such standard was adequate or not). Owing to the variations in the amounts of increase in the prices of different commodities it is probable that economies or re-adjustments in expenditure have been effected in many families, especially in those cases where incomes have not increased so much as prices. On the other hand, it is probable that the standard of living has been raised in some families in which wages have been increased in greater proportion than prices. No allowance is made in the figures for any such alterations in the standard of living, as to which trustworthy statistics are not available.

SUMMARY TABLE: 1915 TO 1925.

The following Table shows the average percentage increase as compared with July, 1914, for all items included in the statistics, at the beginning of each month since January, 1915:—

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

Month (beginning of)	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
January ...	10-15	35	65	85-90	120	125	165	92	78	77	80
February ...	15	35	65-70	90	120	130	151	88	77	79	79
March ...	15-20	35-40	70	90	115	130	141	86	76	78	79
April ...	15-20	35-40	70-75	90-95	110	132	133	82	74	73	75
May ...	20	40-45	75	95-100	105	141	128	81	70	71	73
June ...	25	45	75-80	100	105	150	119	80	69	69	72
July ...	25	45-50	80	100-105	105-110	152	119	84	69	70	73
August ...	25	45-50	80	110	115	155	122	81	71	71	73
September ...	25	50	80-85	110	115	161	120	79	73	72	74
October ...	30	50-55	75-80	115-120	120	164	110	78	75	76	76
November ...	30-35	60	85	120-125	125	176	103	80	75	80	76
December ...	35	65	85	120	125	169	99	80	77	81	77

NOTE.

A brief Statement of the method of compiling these statistics was given on page 236 of the July, 1925, issue of this GAZETTE. A more detailed account was given in the issue of February, 1921.

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

EMPLOYMENT IN NOVEMBER.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

There was a further reduction in unemployment during November, due principally to an improvement in employment in the coal mining industry. Employment was good, on the whole, with brickmakers, and with skilled operatives in the building trades, and fairly good in the furnishing and printing trades, in certain branches of the metal trades, and with coachbuilders and mill-sawyers. In the coal mining industry, however, it was still slack, and in the iron mining, iron and steel, shipbuilding and marine engineering industries it remained bad.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

Among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts, numbering approximately 11,892,000, and working in practically every industry except agriculture and private domestic service, the percentage unemployed at 23rd November, 1925, was 11.0, as compared with 11.4 at 26th October, 1925, and with 10.8 at 24th November, 1924. For males alone the percentage at 23rd November was 12.2, as compared with 12.7 at 26th October; for females the figures at 23rd November was 7.8, as compared with 7.7 at 26th October. Among members of Trade Unions from which returns were received the percentage unemployed was 11.0 at the end of November, 1925, as compared with 11.3 at the end of October, 1925, and with 8.6 at the end of November, 1924. The total number of persons (insured and uninsured) registered* at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, at 30th November, 1925, was approximately 1,227,000, of whom 974,000 were men and 196,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls; at 26th October, 1925, it was 1,295,000, of whom 1,032,000 were men, and 196,000 were women; and at 1st December, 1924, it was 1,233,000, of whom men numbered 942,000 and women 231,000.

The following Table shows, month by month since November, 1924, (a) the percentages unemployed among members of those Trade Unions from which returns are obtained, (b) the percentages unemployed among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and (c) the approximate number (to the nearest 1,000) registered as unemployed at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Date. (End of Month.)	Percentage Unemployed among			Numbers Registered at Exchanges.*
	Trade Unions making Returns.	Insured Workpeople.†		
		Males.	Females.	Total.
1924.				
November ...	8.6	11.6	8.7	10.8
December ...	9.2	11.5	8.7	10.7
1925.				
January ...	9.0	11.9	9.3	11.2
February ...	9.4	12.1	9.2	11.3
March ...	9.0	11.9	8.9	11.1
April ...	9.4	11.7	8.8	10.9
May ...	10.1	11.8	8.5	10.9
June ...	12.3	13.0	8.6	11.9
July ...	11.2	11.8	9.5	11.2
August ...	11.4	13.1	9.5	12.1
September ...	11.4	13.3	8.5	12.0
October ...	11.3	12.7	7.7	11.4
November ...	11.0	12.2	7.8	11.0

EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

Mining and Quarrying.—Employment at coal mines showed a further improvement but was still slack on the whole. The total number of wage-earners on the colliery books at 28th November, 1925, was 1,069,383, an increase of 0.8 per cent. as compared with 24th October, but a decrease of 6.0 per cent. as compared with November, 1924. In the fortnight ended 28th November, 1925, the average number of days worked per week was 5.15, as compared with 4.88 days in October, 1925, and with 5.26 days in November, 1924.

At iron mines employment continued bad generally, although there was an improvement in all districts other than Cleveland. At the mines covered by the returns received there was an increase of 5.1 per cent. in the numbers employed as compared with the previous month, but a decrease of 16.2 per cent. as compared with November, 1924. The average number of days worked per week by the mines that were working was 5.46 in November, 1925, as compared with 5.62 in October, 1925, and 5.28 in November, 1924. Shale mining in West Lothian was at a standstill from 11th November to 10th December owing to a dispute. In limestone quarries employment was reported as fair in the Buxton and Clitheroe districts and moderate in the Wearside district. At granite quarries in the Aberdeen district it was good; at slate quarries in North Wales it continued fairly good. At whinstone quarries in the East of Scotland employment was slack; at tin mines it remained good and at china clay quarries fairly good.

* It should be noted that some unemployed persons, e.g., some of those who have not valid claims to unemployment benefit, or who are not insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, do not register at the Employment Exchanges.

† The percentages relating to insured workpeople for the period November, 1924, to June, 1925, have been revised, since their publication in the November issue of this GAZETTE, on the basis of the new estimates now available as to the total number of insured workers.

‡ The figures for insured workers relate to 22nd December.

Manufacture of Pig Iron, Iron and Steel, and Tinplate.—In the pig-iron industry employment was still bad but showed a slight improvement as compared with the previous month; of a total of 482 furnaces, the number in blast at the end of November was 141, as compared with 136 in October, 1925, and with 173 in November, 1924. In the iron and steel trades employment showed a slight improvement, but was still bad. Employment in the tinplate and steel-sheet trades showed a further improvement. The number of tinplate and steel-sheet mills in operation at the end of November, when a number were idle owing to breakdowns, was 525, as compared with 524 at the end of October, and with 513 in November, 1924.

Engineering, Shipbuilding, and Metal Trades.—Employment in the engineering trades continued bad on the whole and showed little change as compared with the previous month. In the marine engineering section it was still very bad; in the motor and cycle section it was again fair; in the electrical section it remained fairly good. In the textile machinery section it continued slack; in the railway engineering section it was still moderate, works remaining closed on Saturdays.

In the shipbuilding and ship-repairing trades employment showed a further slight decline and was very bad. In the other metal trades it was fair on the whole and better than in the previous month. It was fairly good in the hollow-ware, stove and grate and brasswork trades; fair in the needle and fishing tackle, sheet metal, nut and bolt, file, tube, and lock and latch trades; moderate in the metallic bedstead, wire, and jewellery and plated-ware trades; and bad in the copper, chain and anchor, and anvil and vice trades.

Textile Trades.—In the cotton trade employment showed little change either in the spinning or in the weaving department. In the section of the spinning department spinning American cotton 39½ hours continued to be the recognised working week. In the wool textile industry employment was still only moderate, on the whole, but showed a slight improvement as compared with the previous month; compared with a year ago there was a decline in the majority of districts.

In the hosiery trade employment continued slack on the whole; the improvement reported in the previous month was maintained. In the silk trade employment showed a decline; in the lace trade it continued bad. Employment in the carpet trade was fair; in the jute trade it showed an improvement but was still slack; in the linen trade in Scotland it was also slack; in the Irish linen trade it continued bad. In the textile bleaching, printing, dyeing, etc. trades employment remained slack generally.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the tailoring trade continued moderate to slack generally; in the dressmaking and millinery trades the seasonal depression continued and employment was slack in most districts. In the London blouse and light under-clothing trade employment was fair on the whole and showed a slight improvement as compared with the previous month; in the corset and shirt and collar trades it was generally fair; in the felt-hat trade there was a marked decline and employment was slack. In the boot and shoe trade employment showed a distinct improvement in most districts, but was still only moderate.

Leather Trades.—Employment in the tanning and currying section, and in the portmanteau, trunk and fancy leather sections was fair on the whole; with saddlery and harness makers it was bad.

Building, Woodworking, etc.—Employment in the building trades showed a slight seasonal decline in most districts, but remained good with skilled operatives (other than painters) and generally moderate with unskilled workers; the decline affected all occupations, but was most pronounced in the painting and decorating section. In the brick trade employment continued good.

In the furnishing trades employment was fairly good and showed a slight improvement in the upholstery section; with coachbuilders and mill-sawyers it showed a decline, but was still fairly good; with coopers it also declined but was still fair; with packing-case makers and basket makers it continued slack.

Paper Manufacture, Printing and Bookbinding.—In the paper trade employment was fair generally and showed a further slight improvement. In the letterpress printing trade it also showed an improvement and was fairly good; with electrotypers and stereotypers in London, Manchester and Edinburgh employment was reported as very good; in the lithographic section it continued fairly good. With bookbinders employment improved and was fair in London; in Edinburgh a decline was reported and employment was slack.

Pottery and Glass.—In the pottery trade employment continued slack; it showed some improvement in the earlier part of the month, but declined again towards the end; in the sanitary ware section, and in the first-class chinaware trade at Stoke-on-Trent it was reported to be good. In the glass trades employment remained fair on the whole except in the glass-bottle making section, where it continued bad.

Agriculture and Fishing.—In agriculture in England and Wales the supply of labour was equal to the demand except in some of the eastern counties, where the casual workers required for sugar beet and other root lifting were not all obtainable. In some districts, too, skilled labour was in demand. In Scotland the supply of regular and casual labour was generally sufficient, though some scarcity of skilled drainers, dairy workers and women was reported in some districts. With fishermen employment was fair.

Dock Labour and Seamen.—Employment with dock labourers was moderate on the whole; with seamen it continued slack.

TRADE UNION PERCENTAGES OF UNEMPLOYED.

TRADE Unions with a net membership of 976,548 in branches covered by the returns received, reported 107,434 (or 11.0 per cent.) of their members as unemployed at the end of November, 1925, compared with 11.3 per cent. at the end of October, 1925, and 8.6 per cent. at the end of November, 1924.

Trade.	Membership of Unions reporting at end of Nov., 1925.	Unemployed at end of November 1925.*		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		Num-ber.	Per-cent-age.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Coal Mining...	144,631	33,804	23.4	- 2.1	+ 12.0
Engineering and Ship-building ...	341,002	52,799	15.5	+ 0.2	+ 1.6
Miscellaneous Metal ...	48,797	2,798	5.7	- 0.4	- 0.8
Textiles :-					
Cotton ...	58,804	3,032†	5.2	+ 0.1	- 0.8
Other ...	68,091	2,422	3.6	- 0.1	+ 1.6
Printing, Bookbinding and Paper ...	105,032	2,701	2.6	- 0.5	- 0.6
Furnishing ...	29,624	1,266	4.3	+ 0.5	+ 0.6
Woodworking ...	37,755	2,022	5.4	+ 0.2	+ 1.3
Clothing :-					
Boot and Shoe ...	80,447	3,441	4.3	- 0.7	- 0.1
Other Clothing ...	48,759	1,997	4.1	+ 1.9	+ 2.2
Leather ...	5,529	606	10.8	+ 1.5	+ 4.2
Glass... ..	1,191	18	1.5	+ 0.4	- 1.3
Tobacco‡ ...	6,786	528	7.8	- 3.1	+ 0.8
Total	976,548	107,434	11.0	- 0.3	+ 2.4

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED TRADES.

THE percentage unemployed among workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was 11.0 per cent. (males 12.2 per cent., females 7.8 per cent.) at 23rd November, 1925, as compared with 11.4 per cent. (males 12.7 per cent., females 7.7 per cent.) at 26th October, 1925, and 10.8 per cent. (males 11.6 per cent., females 8.7 per cent.) at 24th November, 1924. Tables showing the numbers unemployed in the principal industries appear on pages 436 and 437.

SUMMARY OF EMPLOYERS' RETURNS.

INFORMATION as to the state of employment in certain industries in November, derived from returns furnished by employers and employers' associations, is summarised below. Further details are given on pages 429 to 434.

(a) CERTAIN MINING AND METAL TRADES.

Trade.	Workpeople included in the Returns for November, 1925.	November, 1925.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.
		Days Worked per week by Mines.	Days.	Days.	
Coal Mining ...	1,069,383	5.15	+ 0.27	- 0.11	
Iron " ...	5,904	5.46	- 0.16	+ 0.18	
Shale " ...	Figures not available owing to a dispute in the industry.				
		Furnaces in Blast	Number.	Number.	
Pig Iron ...	...	141	+ 5	- 32	
		Mills Working	+ 1	+ 12	
Tinplate and Steel Sheet ...	...	525			
		Shifts Worked (one week).	Per cent.	Per cent.	
Iron and Steel ...	72,061	383,723	+ 2.3	- 3.1	

(b) OTHER TRADES.

Trade.	Number of Workpeople Employed.		Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople.	
	Week ended 28th Nov., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended 28th Nov., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.
Textiles :-			£	Per cent.
Cotton ...	84,234	+ 0.6	153,583	- 0.7
Woolen... ..	16,513	+ 0.8	33,788	+ 0.1
Worsted... ..	27,642	+ 1.2	52,114	+ 1.9
Other... ..	51,009	+ 1.0	115,765	+ 5.9
Total ...	12,108	+ 0.6	23,073	+ 0.3
Pottery ...	9,126	+ 0.8	24,500	+ 4.6
Brick ...				+ 14.6
Total ...	200,632	+ 0.8	402,823	+ 1.9

* 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.
† In addition to those shown, who were 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 changes in rates of wages.

EMPLOYMENT CHART.

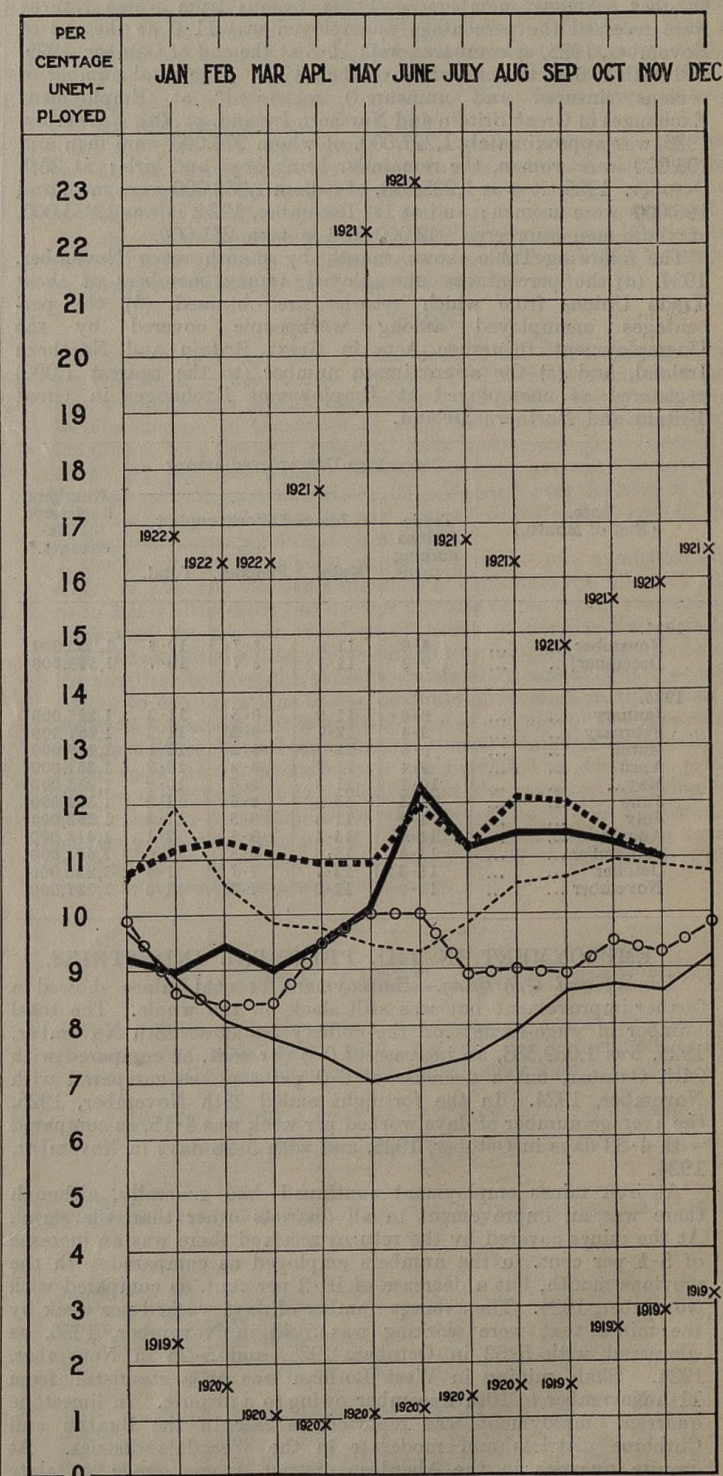
(1) PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT THE END OF EACH MONTH AMONG MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS :-

Thick Curve ————— = 1925.
Thin Curve ————— = 1924.
Chain Curve ○-○-○-○-○-○ = Mean of 1919-24.

× The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages of Trade Union members unemployed, in the months named, during the years 1919-1924.

(2) PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AMONG WORKPEOPLE INSURED AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT UNDER THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTS :-

Thick Dotted Curve - - - - - = 1925.
Thin Dotted Curve - - - - - = 1924.



NOTE.

The figures relate to Great Britain and Northern Ireland. 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 are briefly explained, and are analysed in detail, on pages 436 and 437.

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 to females, of adults to juveniles, and of skilled to unskilled workers in the respective industries.

COAL MINING.

EMPLOYMENT during November showed a further improvement, but was still slack on the whole, and worse than a year ago. In Warwickshire, Derbyshire and South Yorkshire employment was reported to be good. In Wales and Monmouth employment, though still bad, showed a marked improvement. In Durham it was still affected by stoppages of work owing to disputes.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 15.3 at 23rd November, 1925, as compared with 19.9 at 26th October, 1925, and 9.0 at 24th November, 1924.

The total number of wage-earners on the colliery books at 28th November, 1925, showed an increase of 0.8 per cent. as compared with 24th October, 1925, but a decrease of 6.0 per cent. as compared with 29th November, 1924.

The average number of days worked per week in the fortnight ended 28th November, 1925, was 5.15, an increase of 0.27 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 24th October, 1925, but a decrease of 0.11 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 29th November, 1924.

The following Table shows, for the principal coal-mining districts, the total number of wage-earners on the colliery books and the average number of days worked per week* during the fortnight ended 28th November, 1925, as shown by 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 :-

Districts.	Total Number of Wage Earners on Colliery Books at		Average Number of Days worked per Week by the Mines.*			
	28th Nov., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Year ago.	Fort-night ended 28th Nov., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	
					Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND AND WALES :						
Northumberland ...	53,816	+ 4.2	- 7.8	5.42	+ 0.04	+ 0.20
Durham ...	146,505	+ 3.6	- 7.8	4.78	+ 0.07	- 0.24
Cumberland and West-morland ...	10,875	+ 0.8	+ 1.2	5.34	+ 0.69	- 0.22
South Yorkshire ...	121,169	+ 1.0	+ 3.9	5.14	- 0.17	- 0.36
West Yorkshire ...	65,192	+ 1.4	- 7.1	5.07	+ 0.42	- 0.16
Lancs and Cheshire ...	95,520	- 0.8	- 9.1	4.69	+ 0.50	- 0.18
Derbyshire ...	62,759	+ 0.4	- 5.6	5.12	+ 0.23	- 0.12
Notts and Leicester ...	67,382	+ 0.2	+ 0.4	4.94	+ 0.06	+ 0.10
Warwick ...	19,913	+ 0.7	- 5.9	5.72	+ 0.18	+ 0.35
North Staffordshire ...	34,960	+ 0.2	- 2.2	4.86	+ 0.12	- 0.43
South Staffst. Wores. and Salop ...	35,366	+ 0.5	- 2.0	5.49	+ 0.14	- 0.12
Glos and Somerset ...	13,530	- 1.8	- 7.5	5.14	+ 0.63	- 0.40
Kent ...	1,751	+ 2.2	+ 18.6	4.67	- 0.04	+ 3.87
North Wales ...	17,149	+ 10.3	- 7.3	5.18	- 0.17	+ 0.11
South Wales and Mon.	200,675	- 2.0	- 8.9	5.63	+ 0.86	- 0.02
England and Wales	946,562	+ 0.7	- 5.5	5.16	+ 0.31	- 0.11
SCOTLAND :						
Mid & East Lothians	15,132	+ 1.3	- 3.5	5.14	- 0.16	- 0.26
Fife and Clackmannan	27,947	+ 1.5	- 9.4	5.20	+ 0.04	+ 0.08
Rest of Scotland ...	79,742	+ 2.0	- 10.8	5.01	...	- 0.17
Scotland ...	122,821	+ 1.8	- 9.6	5.07	- 0.01	- 0.12
GREAT BRITAIN ...	1,069,383	+ 0.8	- 6.0	5.15	+ 0.27	- 0.11

The average number of coal-winding days lost in Great Britain during the fortnight ended 28th November, 1925, was 0.61 of a day per week, of which 0.52 was due to want of trade and transport difficulties and 0.07 of a day to disputes. The figures for the fortnight ended 24th October, 1925, were 0.88 of a day, of which 0.77 was due to want of trade and transport difficulties, and 0.08 of a day to disputes; for the fortnight ended 29th November, 1924, the average time lost was 0.50 of a day per week, of which 0.46 was due to want of trade and transport difficulties. The average non-winding time for each of the three periods under review was about one quarter of a day per week.

The output of coal for Great Britain for the four weeks ended 28th November, 1925, was returned to the Mines Department at 19,717,700 tons, as compared with 18,845,100 tons in the four weeks ended 24th October, 1925, and with 20,980,900 tons in the four weeks ended 29th November, 1924.

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

The exports of coal, including coal shipped for the use of steamers engaged in foreign trade, and the coal-equivalent of coke and manufactured fuel, amounted to 6,170,719 tons in November, compared with 6,222,255 tons in October. The percentages unemployed among insured workpeople in different areas are shown in the following Table :-

Area.	Percentage Unemployed at 23rd Nov., 1925.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND AND WALES :			
Northumberland ...	14.6	- 0.9	+ 1.3
Durham ...	23.0	- 4.1	+ 10.2
Cumberland and West-morland ...	15.4	- 12.4	+ 1.6
Yorkshire... ..	4.9	- 1.2	+ 2.3
Lancs and Cheshire ...	17.4	- 7.0	+ 9.9
Derbyshire ...	4.2	- 1.9	+ 1.4
Notts and Leicester ...	5.8	- 3.5	+ 2.4
Warwick ...	2.0	- 0.1	+ 0.2
Staffs, Worcester and Salop ...	8.2	- 0.7	+ 3.3
Glos and Somerset ...	21.2	- 0.7	+ 12.1
Kent ...	4.8	+ 1.4	- 56.7†
Wales and Monmouth ...	22.8	- 11.5	+ 8.6
England and Wales ...	14.9	- 5.1	+ 5.9
SCOTLAND ...	18.2	- 1.1	+ 9.2
GREAT BRITAIN ...	15.3	- 4.6	+ 6.3

IRON AND SHALE MINING.

Iron Mining.

ALTHOUGH employment showed some improvement in all districts other than Cleveland compared with the previous month, it continued bad on the whole. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed in iron-ore and ironstone mining and quarrying, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 22.8 at 23rd November, 1925, as compared with 26.7 at 26th October, 1925, and 18.6 at 24th November, 1924.

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

Districts.	Number of Work-people employed at Mines included in the Returns.		Average No. of Days worked per week by the Mines.†		
	Fort-night ended 28th Nov., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago.	Fort-night ended 26th Nov., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
			Per cent.	Per cent.	Days.
Cleveland ...	2,286	- 6.9	- 5.9	4.83	- 0.58
Cumberland and Lancashire ...	2,290	+ 21.2	- 27.0	5.97	- 0.03
Other Districts ...	1,328	+ 4.4	- 10.3	5.63	+ 0.18
ALL DISTRICTS	5,904	+ 5.1	- 16.2	5.46	- 0.18

Shale Mining.

Owing to a dispute the shale mining industry in West Lothian was at a standstill from 11th November to 10th December.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during November was still bad, but showed a further slight improvement. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 20.4 on 23rd November, 1925, as compared with 21.4 on 26th October, 1925, and with 17.4 on 24th November, 1924. According to returns received by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers from 83 firms employing at the end of November 17,276 workpeople, an increase of 2.0 per cent. is shown compared with October, but a decrease of 16.7 per cent. compared with November, 1924.

The total number of furnaces in blast at the end of the month as shown by the returns collected by the Federation was 141, a net

* In November, 1924, employment was affected by stoppages of work owing to disputes.
† See note * in previous column.

increase of 5 compared with the number in blast at the end of October, but a decrease of 32 compared with November, 1924. The following Table shows the number of furnaces in blast at the end of November, 1925, October, 1925, and November, 1924.

District.	Total Number of Furnaces.	Number of Furnaces in blast at end of			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Nov., on a	
		Nov. 1925.	Oct. 1925.	Nov. 1924.	Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
Durham and Cleveland	111	33	34	40	- 1	- 7
Cumberland and West Lancs.	47	11	11	13	...	- 2
Other parts of Lancs and Yorks (including Sheffield)	35	11	10	17	+ 1	- 6
Derby, Leicester, Nottingham and Northants	73	33	32	42	+ 1	- 9
Lincolnshire	23	12	12	10	...	+ 2
Staffs, Shropshire, Worcester and Warwick	60	11	11	11	...	...
South Wales	32	8	8	8	...	...
Total, England and Wales	381	119	118	141	+ 1	- 22
Scotland	101	22	18	32	+ 4	- 10
Total	482	141	136	173	+ 5	- 32

The production of pig iron in November amounted to 494,100 tons, as compared with 473,700 tons in October, and 583,500 tons in November, 1924.

IRON AND STEEL TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT continued bad during November, but there was a further slight improvement on the whole. Workpeople were again reported to be on short time in many districts.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the number of unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 23.6 on 23rd November, 1925, as compared with 24.3 on 26th October, 1925, and 23.4 on 24th November, 1924.

According to returns received from firms employing 72,061 workpeople, the volume of employment during the week ended 28th November, 1925 (as indicated by the number of workpeople employed, combined with the number of shifts during which work was carried on in each department), increased by 2.3 per cent. as compared with October, but showed a decrease of 3.1 per cent. as compared with a year ago. The average number of shifts during which the works were open was 5.3 in each of the three periods under review.

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

DEPARTMENTS.	No. of Workpeople employed by firms making returns.		Aggregate number of Shifts.*		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a		Per cent.	
	Week ended 28th Nov., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	Week ended 28th Nov., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Open Hearth Melting Furnaces	8,587	+ 2.9	48,247	+ 2.6				
Puddling Forges	2,800	+ 9.1	11,709	+ 8.1				
Rolling Mills	26,695	+ 2.6	133,146	+ 3.1				
Forging and Pressing	3,153	+ 5.6	16,314	+ 4.5				
Founding	8,128	+ 1.1	46,301	+ 1.2				
Other Departments	7,100	+ 1.3	39,022	+ 0.6				
Mechanics, Labourers, etc.	15,598	+ 2.5	88,984	+ 3.0				
TOTAL	72,061	+ 1.9	383,723	+ 2.3				

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

The production of steel ingots and castings, as returned by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, amounted to 653,800 tons in November, 1925, as compared with 652,400 tons in October, 1925, and 674,300 tons in November, 1924.

TINPLATE AND STEEL SHEET TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT during November continued fair and showed a further improvement, but several mills were idle at the end of the month owing to breakdowns; employment was much better than a year ago. At the end of the month 525 tinplate and steel sheet mills were in operation at the works for which information is available, compared with 524 in the previous month and with 513 a year ago.

The following Table shows the number of mills in operation at the end of November, 1925, at the works covered by the returns received, as compared with October, 1925, and with November, 1924:—

Works.	Number of Works Open		Number of Mills in Operation		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
	At end of Nov., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	At end of Nov., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Tinplate	73	+ 2	400	- 1	+ 13	
Steel Sheet	12	- 1	125	+ 2	- 1	
TOTAL	85	+ 1	525	+ 1	+ 12	

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed on 23rd November, 1925, as indicated by the books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 8.1, as compared with 8.9 on 26th October, 1925, and with 16.6 on 24th November, 1924.

The exports of tinned and galvanised plates and sheets in November, 1925, amounted to 97,586 tons, or 24,753 tons less than in October, 1925, but 1,474 tons more than in November, 1924.

ENGINEERING.

EMPLOYMENT during November remained bad on the whole and showed little variation as compared with the previous month. In the marine engineering section it was still very bad; in the motor and cycle section it was again fair, with a further slight improvement in the Midlands; and in the electrical section it remained fairly good. In the textile machinery section it continued slack, the previous month's improvement not being quite maintained. In the railway engineering section it was still moderate, works remaining closed on Saturdays.

Compared with a year ago employment again showed an improvement on the whole, the improvement being most marked in Lancashire and Cheshire; on the other hand, there was a marked decline in the North-Eastern division.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed at 23rd November, 1925, and the increase or decrease as compared with October and with a year ago:—

Divisions.	Number of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 23rd November, 1925.						Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	
	Engineering, Iron and Steel	Founding	Electrical Engineering	Marine Engineering, etc.	Constructional Engineering	Construction and Repair of Motor Vehicles, Cycles, and Aircraft.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London	5,975	348	110	100	2,090	8,623	+ 55	- 3,279
South-Eastern	1,977	189	141	44	1,054	3,405	- 71	- 1,537
South-Western	1,873	88	479	70	1,065	3,575	+ 135	- 197
Midlands	7,416	1,300	63	603	6,579	15,966	- 1,026	- 5,127
North-Eastern	21,256	702	9,234	932	844	32,971	+ 59	+ 4,773
North-Western	17,731	1,267	292	173	1,998	21,461	- 372	- 10,626
Scotland	15,674	376	4,161	923	953	22,087	+ 696	- 431
Wales...	1,142	26	34	25	164	1,391	- 97	+ 299
Northern Ireland	2,165	24	1,470	13	216	3,888	+ 191	+ 951
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND	75,212	4,320	15,989	2,883	14,963	113,367	- 430	- 15,174

Percentages Unemployed at 23rd November, 1925.

Divisions.	Engineering, Iron and Steel	Founding	Electrical Engineering	Marine Engineering, etc.	Constructional Engineering	Construction and Repair of Motor Vehicles, Cycles, and Aircraft.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London	6.8	3.7	16.9	4.0	6.1	6.4	+ 0.1	- 2.5
South-Eastern	4.7	2.1	4.0	8.6	4.3	4.3	- 0.1	- 2.1
South-Western	5.2	3.1	7.5	10.1	5.2	5.4	+ 0.2	- 0.5
Midlands	7.9	5.4	4.3	9.5	7.2	7.3	- 0.5	- 3.0
North-Eastern	16.8	8.9	38.7	13.4	7.7	18.7	- 0.2	+ 3.0
North-Western	12.7	6.5	23.7	7.7	10.2	11.8	+ 0.2	- 5.7
Scotland	18.4	11.2	22.4	15.2	9.4	17.9	+ 0.6	- 0.2
Wales...	15.7	8.1	12.1	3.2	8.9	13.3	+ 0.9	+ 3.3
Northern Ireland	29.0	11.4	25.9	43.3	13.3	25.9	+ 1.3	+ 6.6
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND	12.0	5.6	25.9	11.0	7.0	11.3	...	- 1.7

On the North-East Coast employment remained bad on the whole and very bad in marine engineering. In Yorkshire employment continued very moderate. At Lincoln it was slack, though in some branches overtime was worked; at other centres in the Lincolnshire district conditions remained fairly good.

In Lancashire and Cheshire employment was still slack. In the textile machinery section it was better at some centres but declined at others. Employment was fairly good with private firms engaged on locomotive work, but short time continued in operation at railway centres. Employment in the electrical section was fair, and there was some improvement in the motor section at certain centres.

In the Birmingham and Wolverhampton district employment remained moderate on the whole. It continued to improve a little in the motor and cycle section, and was fair in the electrical section; in the heavy engineering section it was still unsatisfactory. At Coventry employment was generally good. At Nottingham it was still good in the motor and cycle section and bad in the textile machinery section. At Derby it remained good in the motor section but short time was still in operation at railway works. At Leicester it continued fair.

In London and in the Eastern and Southern Counties employment was still fair generally, and good in the electrical section. In South Wales it was still bad but showed a slight improvement.

In Scotland employment remained bad generally and very bad in marine engineering, though sewing machine works in the Glasgow district continued busy.

At Belfast employment was again very bad.

SHIPBUILDING AND SHIP-REPAIRING.

EMPLOYMENT continued very bad during November and again showed a slight decline compared with the previous month. Compared with a year ago it showed a decline in most districts, especially marked on the North-East Coast and in Scotland.

On the North-East Coast employment continued very bad, more than half of the insured workpeople being recorded as unemployed. On the East Coast and the Thames it continued bad and showed a further decline. On the South Coast it was still slack, but there was a slight improvement on the whole. At the Bristol Channel Ports it continued bad, and was interrupted by a dispute; at the end of the month, however, an improvement was shown compared with the end of October. On the Mersey employment continued bad.

In Scotland employment was still very bad and showed a further decline on the whole, though a slight improvement on repair work was reported from a number of yards. In Northern Ireland employment continued bad.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed at 23rd November, 1925, and the increase or decrease as compared with 26th October, and with a year ago:—

Divisions.	Total Number of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 23rd Nov., 1925.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Percentage of Unemployed at 23rd Nov., 1925.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage as compared with	
		A Month ago.	A Year ago.		A Month ago.	A Year ago.
London	3,589	+ 161	+ 40	28.9	+ 1.3	+ 4.1
South-Eastern	866	+ 193	- 306	8.7	+ 1.9	- 3.6
South-Western	3,499	- 452	- 1,339	13.9	- 1.8	- 3.3
Midlands	58	- 8	- 42	20.7	- 2.9	+ 1.1
North-Eastern	34,453	+ 107	+ 6,288	51.4	+ 0.1	+ 11.3
North-Western	11,790	+ 878	- 144	36.0	+ 2.7	+ 0.9
Scotland	26,437	+ 1,326	+ 7,110	40.9	+ 2.1	+ 11.4
Wales	4,068	+ 474	+ 298	37.3	- 4.4	+ 3.9
Northern Ireland	6,188	- 212	- 1,481	33.3	- 1.1	- 2.4
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND	90,948	+ 1,519	+ 10,424	37.6	+ 0.6	+ 6.0

COTTON TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT showed little change in any section of the cotton trade during November. During the month a ballot of firms engaged in spinning American cotton was taken on a proposal further to restrict production in that section to 35 hours weekly; but the majority required to make such a proposal effective was not obtained, and 39½ hours continued to be the recognised working week in this section. It was reported that upwards of 90 per cent. of cotton-spinning firms using American cotton were curtailing production to that extent, as recommended by the Master Cotton Spinners' Federation.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 6.7 on the 23rd November, as compared with 7.0 on the 26th October, and with 8.6 on the 24th November, 1924.

In the Oldham, Ashton, Stalybridge and Stockport districts, employment with spinners showed little change as compared with the previous month; it was slightly better than a year ago. In the

weaving section in the Oldham district a further improvement was reported with velvet weavers, but employment on the whole was slack in the manufacturing departments; many weavers were working with a reduced number of looms, and employment with ball warpers was very quiet. In the Bolton district employment continued to be fairly good with spinners, but poor with weavers, many looms being stopped. At Leigh employment was reported as good; at Chorley and Bury it was fair. At Rochdale employment in the spinning department was better than in October, but it was still described as bad.

In the principal weaving districts employment showed little change. At Burnley there was still much under-employment, and employment generally was reported as bad, and worse than a month earlier, though slightly better than a year ago. At Blackburn and Great Harwood there was an improvement, which was shown in a reduction in the numbers unemployed; at Great Harwood a shortage of weavers was reported, and workers were being imported from adjacent districts. At Colne employment was described as depressed, but as slightly better than in October. At Todmorden most of the mills were on full time, but a number of weavers were not fully employed. At Preston the improvement of the last few months was maintained.

There was a slight improvement in Yorkshire, and employment was described as fair.

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

DEPARTMENTS.	Number of Workpeople.		Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
	Week ended 28th Nov., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended 28th Nov., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Preparing	11,685	+ 1.4	19,682	+ 0.4	+ 1.6	
Spinning	20,764	+ 0.8	35,973	- 0.3	- 2.8	
Weaving	35,163	- 0.1	61,854	- 2.1	- 0.4	
Other	7,511	+ 0.8	18,278	- 0.2	+ 4.6	
Not Specified	9,111	+ 1.7	17,796	+ 1.8	+ 1.0	
TOTAL	84,234	+ 0.6	153,583	- 0.7	+ 0.0	

Returns from firms employing 82,161 workpeople in the week ended 28th November showed that about 21 per cent. of these workpeople were on short time in that week, to the extent of about 10 hours on the average.

The following Table shows the numbers of men and of women registered as applicants for employment at Employment Exchanges at 9th November, 1925, in the principal centres, at which approximately 83 per cent. of the total number of applicants for employment in the cotton trade were registered:—

Department.	Number of Applicants for Employment at 9th November, 1925.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with 5th October, 1925.		
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.
Card and Blowing	698	3,239	3,937	- 188	- 1,682	- 1,870
Room	4,686	2,860	7,546	- 785	- 2,083	- 2,868
Spinning	1,115	6,011	7,126	- 386	- 2,063	- 2,449
Beaming, Winding and Winding	2,003	3,699	5,702	- 680	- 3,445	- 4,125
Weaving	498	290	788	- 249	- 72	- 321
Other Processes	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTAL	9,000	16,099	25,099	- 2,288	- 9,345	- 11,633

The imports (less re-exports) of raw cotton (including cotton linters) were 230,945,900 lbs. in November, 1925, compared with 178,051,800 lbs. in October, 1925, and with 197,067,500 lbs. in November, 1924.

The exports of cotton yarn were 13,908,400 lbs. in November, 1925, compared with 17,855,100 lbs. in October, 1925, and with 12,792,400 lbs. in November, 1924.

The exports of cotton piece goods were 325,912,100 square yards as compared with 366,606,600 square yards in the previous month, and with 329,455,300 square yards in November, 1924.

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in these trades in November was still only moderate on the whole, but showed a slight improvement as compared with the previous month. It was worse than a year ago in nearly all the principal districts.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 9.6 on the 23rd November, 1925, as compared with 10.8 on the 26th October, 1925, and 8.7 on the 24th November, 1924.

In the wool sorting and combing sections employment remained bad; it was reported that less than 50 per cent. of the woolcombing machinery in the Bradford district was running. In the case of worsted spinners, employment was maintained with spinners of the lower qualities of yarn but declined with spinners of fine yarn.

With worsted manufacturers in the dress goods and coating trade employment was slightly better than in October. In the chief woollen manufacturing districts there was little change in employment; in the low woollen trade of Leeds there was a slight improvement. In the heavy woollen district of Dewsbury and Batley employment was bad and worse than in the previous month owing to the decline in the export trade. In the Rochdale district employment was described as poor; in the Stockport district it was fairly good, and better than in October. At Stroud there was an improvement with weavers, but at Witney reduced hours were reported in the blanket-making industry. Full time continued to be worked at Newtown and Llanidloes, but in the Aberystwyth district the depression continued.

In Scotland there was a further slight improvement on the whole.

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

Department.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 28th Nov., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 28th Nov., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*

WOOLLEN INDUSTRY.

Departments.	Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.	
Wool Sorting ...	494	+ 3.3	- 7.3	981	- 0.6	- 11.9
Spinning ...	3,844	- 0.3	- 6.9	7,681	+ 0.3	- 6.4
Weaving ...	6,265	+ 1.1	- 0.4	11,852	+ 1.1	- 1.3
Other Departments ...	4,851	+ 1.4	- 1.5	10,929	- 0.3	- 2.5
Not Specified ...	1,059	- 0.2	- 2.1	2,345	- 4.2	- 5.3
TOTAL ...	16,513	+ 0.8	- 2.6	33,788	+ 0.1	- 3.5

Districts.	Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.	
Huddersfield District ...	1,777	+ 1.7	- 1.7	4,253	+ 1.3	- 5.0
Leeds District ...	1,581	+ 0.6	- 4.1	3,628	- 1.4	- 7.4
Dewsbury and Batley District ...	1,191	- 2.1	- 7.7	2,241	- 6.6	- 16.4
Other Parts of West Biding ...	2,031	- 0.3	- 0.4	4,694	- 1.2	+ 0.5
Total, West Biding	6,580	+ 0.1	- 3.0	14,816	- 1.4	- 5.9
Scotland ...	4,816	+ 1.3	- 1.7	9,571	+ 1.1	- 1.4
Other Districts ...	5,117	+ 1.4	- 3.0	9,401	+ 1.4	- 1.6
TOTAL ...	16,513	+ 0.8	- 2.6	33,788	+ 0.1	- 3.5

WORSTED INDUSTRY.

Departments.	Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.	
Wool Sorting and Combing ...	3,846	+ 5.2	- 7.3	9,406	+ 8.4	- 4.4
Spinning ...	14,742	+ 1.1	- 0.7	29,750	+ 2.4	+ 1.8
Weaving ...	4,829	+ 0.6	- 2.2	9,797	- 1.4	- 1.5
Other Departments ...	2,817	- 1.1	- 2.1	7,202	- 0.9	- 1.8
Not specified ...	1,608	- 1.3	- 12.0	2,959	- 2.1	- 5.9
TOTAL ...	27,642	+ 1.2	- 2.8	52,114	+ 1.9	- 1.0

Districts.	Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.	
Bradford District ...	13,446	+ 1.3	- 2.8	26,588	+ 2.3	- 2.2
Keighley District ...	4,590	+ 2.2	- 3.2	8,480	+ 5.9	- 1.1
Halifax District ...	2,725	+ 3.6	+ 0.4	4,713	+ 2.6	+ 4.1
Huddersfield District ...	2,829	+ 2.0	- 0.7	5,582	+ 1.9	+ 2.7
Other Parts of West Biding ...	3,071	- 4.4	- 7.7	5,432	- 5.9	- 2.4
Total West Biding	26,661	+ 1.1	- 2.9	50,795	+ 1.9	- 1.0
Other Districts ...	981	+ 4.5	- 0.3	1,319	+ 3.4	- 0.5
TOTAL ...	27,642	+ 1.2	- 2.8	52,114	+ 1.9	- 1.0

Returns from firms in the woollen section, employing 16,456 workpeople, showed that 29 per cent. of these workpeople were on short time in the week ended 28th November, to the extent on the average of about 9 hours. In the worsted section returns from firms employing 26,714 workpeople showed that in the same week about 22 per cent. of these workpeople were on short time, to the extent of about 10 hours on the average.

The following Table shows the number of men and of women registered as applicants for employment at Employment Exchanges at 9th November, 1925, in the principal centres, at which approximately 69 per cent. of the total number of applicants

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

for employment in the woollen and worsted industries were registered:—

Department.	Number of Applicants for Employment at 9th November, 1925.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with 5th October, 1925.		
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.
Wool Sorting ...	602	14	616	- 161	- 2	- 163
Wool Washing and Preparing ...	728	251	979	- 105	- 79	- 184
Wool Combing ...	734	656	1,390	- 345	- 63	- 408
Wool Carding ...	945	174	1,119	- 32	+ 28	- 4
Wool Spinning ...	589	204	793	+ 141	+ 51	+ 192
Worsteds Drawing and Spinning ...	451	1,279	1,730	- 143	- 760	- 903
Wool Winding and Warping ...	214	157	371	+ 36	+ 27	+ 63
Worsteds Winding and Warping ...	78	354	432	+ 10	- 250	- 240
Woolen Weaving ...	254	1,974	2,228	- 24	+ 161	+ 137
Worsteds Weaving ...	102	830	932	- 21	924	945
Other Processes ...	1,324	174	1,498	- 147	- 65	- 212
TOTAL ...	6,021	6,067	12,088	- 851	- 1,876	- 2,727

The imports of raw wool (sheep's or lambs') were 46,976,300 lbs., while re-exports amounted to 31,321,900 lbs. in November, 1925, compared with 31,815,800 lbs. and 35,394,200 lbs., respectively, in October, 1925, and with 36,589,200 lbs. and 18,228,400 lbs. in November, 1924.

The exports of woollen and worsted yarns were 3,908,700 lbs., compared with 4,786,500 lbs. in October, 1925, and with 4,698,500 lbs. in November, 1924.

The exports of woollen and worsted tissues were 11,862,500 square yards, compared with 12,421,100 square yards in October, 1925, and 17,881,800 square yards in November, 1924.

The exports of blankets were 92,248 pairs, 79,988 and 173,902 pairs in November, 1925, October, 1925, and November, 1924.

BOOT AND SHOE INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT in this industry was only moderate, on the whole, but there was a distinct improvement in most districts as compared with October, and less short time was worked. Firms engaged in making Russian boots were busy. Employment in general was about the same as a year ago.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 9.4 on the 23rd November, as compared with 10.5 on the 26th October, and with 9.7 on the 24th November, 1924.

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

Department.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 28th Nov., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 28th Nov., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
England and Wales:—						
London ...	2,002	+ 4.2	- 5.2	4,739	+ 8.9	- 1.1
Leicester ...	8,443	+ 3.8	+ 2.1	22,209	+ 17.6	+ 9.3
Leicester Country District ...	2,021	+ 0.1	- 5.1	4,695	+ 11.8	- 5.6
Northampton ...	6,840	- 0.6	- 6.1	15,683	+ 5.5	- 9.8
Northampton Country District ...	8,045	+ 1.4	+ 1.3	17,993	+ 1.8	- 0.6
Kettering ...	3,190	- 0.1	- 0.7	7,901	+ 2.4	- 0.9
Stafford and District ...	2,601	+ 5.1	- 1.6	5,402	+ 18.0	+ 10.2
Norwich and District ...	4,018	- 1.1	- 2.0	8,172	+ 0.7	- 2.8
Bristol, Kingswood and District ...	1,877	- 3.5	- 10.3	3,518	- 5.9	- 11.2
Leeds and District ...	1,837	- 0.5	+ 0.5	4,207	+ 6.4	+ 4.7
Lancashire (mainly Rossendale Valley) ...	5,009	+ 0.0	+ 5.3	10,555	- 2.4	+ 6.7
Birmingham and District ...	1,025	- 1.1	- 4.4	1,958	+ 0.3	- 2.9
Other parts of England and Wales ...	1,618	+ 2.3	+ 3.5	3,366	+ 1.4	+ 5.6
England and Wales	48,526	+ 1.0	- 1.0	110,398	+ 6.0	+ 0.3
Scotland ...	2,483	- 0.2	- 2.6	5,367	+ 3.4	+ 0.0
Great Britain	51,009	+ 1.0	- 1.1	115,765	+ 5.9	+ 0.3

Returns from firms employing about 42,000 operatives in the week ended 28th November, 1925, showed that about 42 per cent. of these operatives worked short time in that week, to the extent of about 10½ hours each, on an average.

Employment in London was fair, and slightly better than in October. At Leicester there was a marked improvement, largely due to the increased demand for Russian boots; employment was fairly good and better than a year ago; and, although short time was still worked in some factories, overtime was worked at others. Nearly all firms in the Hinckley district were on full time. At Northampton there was still much short time; and employment, although a little better than in October, was still quiet, and not so good as a year ago. At Wellingborough there was less short time and less total unemployment among skilled operatives; employment was generally quiet. It was fair, and somewhat improved, in

BUILDING TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT during November showed a slight seasonal decline in most districts, but remained good with skilled operatives (other than painters), and generally moderate with unskilled workers; the decline affected all occupations, but was most pronounced in the painting and decorating section. Employment was not so good as a year ago in the northern counties of England and in Wales and Scotland; but in the southern and midland counties there was an improvement.

As regards individual occupations, employment was very good at most centres with plasterers and bricklayers; it was good generally with masons and with carpenters and joiners, but showed some decline, on the whole, with the former; in a number of districts a demand for one or more of the foregoing classes of skilled operatives, principally bricklayers and plasterers, was again reported. Employment declined with slaters and tilers but, as with plumbers, was very fair on the whole; it continued to decline with painters, with whom it was slack. Employment remained generally moderate in all other occupations.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts who were unemployed at 23rd November, 1925, and the increase or decrease in the percentages as compared with October, 1925, and November, 1924:—

Occupations.	Estimated Number of Insured Workpeople at July, 1925.	Total Number of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 23rd Nov., 1925.	Percentage Unemployed.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage as compared with	
				A Month ago.	A Year ago.*
Carpenters ...	114,030	3,779	3.3	+ 0.6	+ 1.0
Bricklayers ...	65,120	1,602	2.5	+ 0.9	+ 1.1
Masons ...	23,840	1,216	5.1	+ 1.7	+ 2.2
Slaters ...	5,310	318	6.0	+ 2.2	+ 2.0
Plasterers ...	17,880	249	1.4	+ 0.3	- 0.3
Painters ...	108,590	23,304	21.5	+ 4.4	+ 0.7
Plumbers ...	28,610	1,633	5.7	+ 0.1	+ 1.2
Labourers above	229,210	29,353	12.8	+ 1.4	+ 2.3
All other occupations	161,530	23,120	14.3	+ 1.0	- 12.0
Total ...	754,120	84,574	11.2	+ 1.5	- 0.1

DIVISIONS.

Districts.	Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
London ...	157,290	20,477	13.0	+ 1.4	- 1.6
South-Eastern ...	116,280	6,774	5.8	+ 0.6	- 2.3
South-Western ...	92,610	7,345	7.9	+ 0.9	- 0.9
Midlands ...	84,350	7,025	8.3	+ 0.7	- 1.6
North-Eastern ...	86,650	12,342	12.8	+ 1.9	+ 2.4
North-Western ...	97,120	12,959	13.4	+ 2.5	+ 1.0
Scotland ...	69,440	9,942	14.3	+ 3.2	+ 5.5
Wales ...	26,900	3,753	14.0	+ 1.4	+ 1.9
Northern Ireland ...	13,480	3,947	29.3	+ 2.5	+ 4.3
Great Britain and Northern Ireland	754,120	84,574	11.2	+ 1.5	- 0.1

BUILDING PLANS APPROVED.

Returns from Local Authorities in 139 of the principal urban areas in Great Britain (except the London County Council area), with a total population of 15,235,000, show that in November, 1925, plans were passed for buildings of an estimated cost of £4,747,100, as compared with £5,701,000 in October, 1925, and £3,770,100 in November, 1924. Of the total for November, 1925, dwelling-houses accounted for £3,343,600; factories and workshops for £238,000; shops, offices, warehouses and other business premises for £291,400; and other buildings, and additions and alterations to existing buildings, for £874,100.

BRICK TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT during November continued good generally and showed little change as compared with the previous month.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed in the brick, pipe, tile, etc., trades, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, at 23rd November, 1925, was 7.6, as compared with 7.4 at 26th October, 1925, and with 8.0 at 24th November, 1924.

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

Districts.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 28th Nov., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 28th Nov., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.†
Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire.	2,004	+ 0.3	- 12.3	£ 5,091	+ 1.9	+ 14.8
Midlands and Eastern Counties.	5,263	+ 1.0	+ 10.4	14,323	+ 6.0	+ 14.5
South and South-West Counties and Wales.	1,666	+ 0.8	+ 6.4	4,569	+ 3.4	+ 15.8
Scotland ...	193	+ 1.0	+ 1.6	517	+ 3.6	+ 4.7
TOTAL ...	9,126	+ 0.8	+ 9.8	24,500	+ 4.6	+ 14.6

* From July, 1923 to September, 1925, the only available occupational figures for the numbers insured were derived from estimates framed in 1922, but except in the case of carpenters and plumbers among skilled operatives, the present ratios in the main differ only slightly from those used in the past two years.

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

the Higham and Rushden area; a few factories were on overtime. At Kettering most firms remained on short time, and employment was still slack and irregular.

Employment continued moderate, with a good deal of short-time working, at Leeds; there was a slight improvement in the heavy boot section, and firms producing Russian boots were busy. At Stafford there was a marked improvement on the very slack conditions which prevailed in October, but the majority of operatives were still on short time. Employment at Norwich showed no general change; in the turnshoe section it declined and was very depressed, with much short time or total unemployment; but in other sections it improved, and was fairly good. Employment further declined in the Bristol and Kingswood district and was generally poor, with much short-time working. At Street it was still bad. In the Rossendale Valley it was fair, on the whole, and about the same as in the previous month.

At Kilmarnock, Ayr, and Maybole employment remained fairly good. At Edinburgh it declined, and short time was general. Employment in Glasgow was only moderate on the whole.

The following Table shows the number of men and of women registered as applicants for employment at Employment Exchanges at 9th November 1925, in the principal centres, at which approximately 81 per cent. of the total number of applicants for employment in the boot and shoe industry were registered:—

Department.	Number of Applicants for Employment at 9th November 1925.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with 5th October, 1925.		
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.
Boot and Shoe Manufacture:						
Preparing Department ...	164	35	199	- 45	+ 2	- 43
Rough Stuff Department ...	497	19	516	- 70	- 14	- 84
Clothing Department ...	896	138	1,034	- 4		

POTTERY TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in North Staffordshire continued slack on the whole; it showed some improvement in the earlier part of the month, but declined again towards the end. In the sanitary ware section, and in the first-class chinaware trade at Stoke-on-Trent, it was good.

Employment at Derby and Worcester was reported as good; in the stoneware section in Scotland it was slack.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 14.0 at 23rd November, 1925, as compared with 13.9 at 26th October, 1925, and with 11.1 at 24th November, 1924.

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

BRANCHES.	Number of Workpeople.		Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		Per cent. on a Month ago.	Per cent. on a Year ago.
	Week ended 28th Nov. 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended 28th Nov. 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.		
China Manufacture	1,468	- 0.5	2,621	- 2.5	- 8.6	
Earthenware Manufacture	8,751	+ 0.8	16,856	+ 0.6	+ 4.2	
Other Branches (including unspecified)	1,889	+ 0.6	3,596	- 2.7	+ 2.2	
TOTAL	12,108	+ 0.6	23,073	- 0.3	+ 2.3	

DISTRICTS.	Number of Workpeople.		Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		Per cent. on a Month ago.	Per cent. on a Year ago.
	Week ended 28th Nov. 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended 28th Nov. 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.		
North Staffordshire	9,291	+ 0.5	16,379	- 1.2	+ 4.1	
Other Districts	2,817	+ 1.0	6,694	+ 2.0	- 1.9	
TOTAL	12,108	+ 0.6	23,073	- 0.3	+ 2.3	

Returns from employers relative to short-time working showed that of 11,760 workpeople employed by firms furnishing information, 2,902, or 25 per cent., were working on an average about 13 hours less than full time in the week ended 28th November, 1925.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

EMPLOYMENT during November was moderate, and, on the whole, showed a slight improvement as compared with the previous month.

Among insured workpeople in the canal, river, harbour and dock service, 29.6 per cent. were unemployed at 23rd November, 1925, as compared with 30.0 per cent. at 26th October, 1925, and with 26.7 per cent. at 24th November, 1924.

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

Period.	Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London.			
	In Docks.		At Wharves making Returns.	Total.
	By the Port of London Authority or through Contractors.	By Ship-owners, etc.		
Week ended—				
7th Nov. 1925	4,917	1,808	6,725	8,084
14th " "	5,130	1,795	6,925	8,121
21st " "	5,441	2,197	7,638	8,361
28th " "	5,551	2,080	7,731	8,131
Average for 4 weeks ended 28th Nov. 1925	5,285	1,970	7,255	8,174
Average for Oct., 1925	5,123	2,020	7,143	8,102
Average for Nov., 1924	5,247	2,004	7,251	8,446

Tilbury.—The mean daily number of dock labourers employed in November was 1,168, as compared with 1,103 in the previous month, and with 971 in November, 1924.

East Coast.—Employment on the North-East Coast with coal trimmers and teamers was still slack. With other classes of workers on the Tyne and Wear it was, on the whole, moderate. At Middlesbrough employment remained fairly good. It continued to decline at Hartlepool. At Hull and Grimsby it was moderate.

Liverpool.—At Liverpool employment continued fair. The average weekly number of dock labourers registered at the clearing houses under the Liverpool Docks Scheme as employed in the five weeks ended 30th November was 17,040, compared with 16,749 in the four weeks ended 26th October and with 15,917 in the four weeks ended 24th November, 1924. The average weekly amount of wages paid to these men through the clearing-houses was £50,164 in the five weeks ended 30th November, compared with £48,724 in the four weeks ended 26th October and with £47,592 in the four weeks ended 24th November, 1924.

Other Ports in England and Wales.—At Manchester employment was fairly active. At the South Wales ports employment improved and was good, coal shipments and imports of pitwood and iron ore

both being larger. At Bristol employment was fair, and at Avonmouth and Southampton it was good. At Plymouth and other South-Western ports it continued slack generally.

Scottish and Irish Ports.—Employment remained moderate at Glasgow. It was very good at Dundee, where some overtime was worked. A further improvement was reported from Aberdeen. At Greenock and Leith it continued good, and at Belfast it was moderate.

SEAMEN.

DURING November employment continued slack on the whole. Among insured workpeople in the shipping service the percentage unemployed at 23rd November was 20.9, compared with 20.5 at 26th October, and 22.0 at 24th November, 1924.

The demand for men on the Thames was quiet at the beginning of November, and showed a little improvement subsequently, being described as very moderate at the end of the month. On the Tyne it improved up to the end of the third week of November, and declined later, being reported to be quiet at the end of the month. The demand on the Wear was quiet on the whole, but improved in the last week of November. It was moderate on the Tees, and fluctuated at Hull, being described as moderate at the end of the month. At Southampton the demand was generally quiet throughout November, and at Bristol it continued quiet to moderate. It improved during November at Avonmouth, and was reported to be fair at the end of the month; at Newport it was fair on the whole. The demand at Cardiff was rather quiet, but became more active towards the close of the month; at Swansea it was very fair, and a shortage of able seamen was experienced. In the foreign-going trade on the Mersey the demand was fair in the first week of November, and moderate afterwards. At Manchester it varied, and was described as fair at the end of the month. The demand on the Clyde was fair in the first week of the month, and quiet subsequently; at Leith it was fair in the first half of November, and quiet afterwards. The demand was very poor on the whole at Belfast.

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

Principal Ports.	Number of Seamen* shipped in			
	Nov., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Eleven months ended
		Month ago.	Year ago.	
ENGLAND & WALES:				
Liverpool	10,466	- 1,917	- 209	137,002
Manchester	1,053	+ 93	+ 324	9,620
London	6,465	- 2,133	- 1,216	87,383
Southampton	8,828	- 1,956	- 344	108,126
Tyne Ports	1,889	- 506	+ 117	22,497
Sunderland	225	- 277	- 50	3,297
Middlesbrough	277	+ 83	- 137	4,154
Hull	1,312	+ 175	- 250	15,889
Grimsby	...	...	...	98
Bristol	868	- 315	+ 115	11,859
Newport, Mon.	675	- 101	- 236	8,552
Cardiff	2,745	+ 452	+ 46	27,203
Swansea	813	- 306	+ 351	7,837
SCOTLAND:				
Leith	311	- 103	+ 74	3,972
Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth	231	- 61	- 31	3,714
Glasgow	2,272	- 1,560	- 363	33,851
NORTHERN IRELAND:				
Belfast	137	- 116	+ 3	1,970
TOTAL for above Ports	38,567	- 8,717	- 1,809	487,024

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE STATISTICS: GREAT BRITAIN.

NUMBER OF CLAIMS TO BENEFIT.

DURING the five weeks ended 30th November, 1925, 919,050 fresh claims were added to the register, while 981,504 claims were removed from the register. At 30th November the number of claims current was 1,099,706, as compared with 1,162,160 at 26th October.

CLAIMS TO EXTENDED BENEFIT.

Claims to "extended" benefit—i.e., benefit beyond that to which the claimant is entitled in respect of contributions paid—are submitted for decision to the Local Employment Committees, composed, in the main, of representatives of employers and workpeople. The following Table gives an analysis of the recommendations of these Committees in Great Britain during the period 13th October to 16th November, 1925:—

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

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Applications considered by Committees during period	310,425	44,394	354,819
Applications admitted by Committees during period:—			
(a) For 12 weeks	79,674	3,889	83,563
(b) For less than 12 weeks	180,481	23,413	203,894
Applications definitely recommended for disallowance:—			
General Conditions:			
Not normally insurable and not seeking to obtain a livelihood by means of insurable employment	2,858	2,094	4,952
Insurable employment not likely to be available	2,137	448	2,585
Not a reasonable period of insurable employment during preceding two years	20,661	2,951	23,612
Not making every reasonable effort to obtain suitable employment or not willing to accept suitable employment	9,003	3,516	12,519
Special Conditions:			
Single persons residing with relatives	8,407	2,993	11,400
Married women who could look for support from their husbands	...	3,537	3,537
Married men who could look for support from their wives	303	...	303
Working short time but earning sufficient for maintenance	3,844	818	4,662
Aliens	45	3	48
Total definitely recommended for disallowance	47,258	16,360	63,618
Applications recommended for postponement for a definite period	3,012	732	3,744

UNEMPLOYMENT FUND.

During the four weeks ended 28th November, 1925, the receipts and payments of the Unemployment Fund were approximately as shown in the following Table; figures for the five weeks ended 31st October, 1925, and for the four weeks ended 29th November, 1924, are also given for purposes of comparison:—

	Four weeks ended 28th Nov., 1925.	Five weeks ended 31st Oct., 1925.	Four weeks ended 29th Nov., 1924.
Contributions (Receipts):—			
By Employers	£ 1,480,000	£ 1,870,000	£ 1,510,000
By Employed Persons	1,330,000	1,680,000	1,370,000
Service Departments (Admiralty, War Office, Air Ministry)	40,000	20,000	30,000
Exchequer	1,020,000	1,250,000	930,000
Total	3,870,000	4,820,000	3,840,000
Payments:—			
Benefit	3,300,000	4,290,000	3,680,000
Other payments*	360,000	490,000	360,000
Total	3,660,000	4,780,000	4,040,000
Treasury Advances outstanding at end of period	7,755,000	7,875,000	5,180,000

MINISTRY OF LABOUR EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES.†

THE number of persons registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland as unemployed on 30th November, 1925, was 1,227,002. Of this number, 973,681 were men, 30,192 boys, 195,702 women, and 27,427 girls. Compared with 26th October, there was a decrease of 67,601, which was distributed as follows: men, 57,921; women, 5; juveniles, 9,675.

During the five weeks ended 30th November, the number of vacancies filled by Employment Exchanges was 123,213, of which 69,627 were for men, 31,113 for women, and 22,473 for juveniles.

Week ended	Applications from Employers.		Vacancies Filled.‡	Number of Workpeople Registered as Unemployed.
	During Week.	Outstanding at end of Week.		
26th October, 1925	27,709	20,958	23,847	1,294,603
2nd November, 1925	30,759	20,695	26,276	1,270,222
9th " "	29,608	19,235	26,701	1,261,876
16th " "	26,951	18,748	25,815	1,258,218
23rd " "	26,872	18,839	23,345	1,238,818
30th " "	26,942	19,116	23,076	1,227,002
Total (5 weeks)	141,132	...	123,213	...

* Includes refunds at age 60 and compensation for the abolition thereof, cost of administration, etc.

† The figures relate to the Registers of Exchanges, including persons "suspended" or "stood off," and those who, although employed on a basis of systematic short time, were not actually at work on the date in question. For Great Britain alone, the corresponding figures, as published in the Press, show that on 30th November, 1925, the numbers on the registers were 937,400 men, 172,400 women, and 55,300 juveniles.

‡ "Vacancies filled" include certain types of cases (described as Class B placements) in which the work of the Exchanges was limited; for instance, obtaining for an employer former employees or placing the same men on relief works in alternate weeks. During the five weeks ended 9th November, 1925, the average number of such placements was 4,729 per week, and those of casual workers, such as dock labourers and coal porters, 750 per week.

The following Table shows for each of the Employment Exchange administrative areas, and for the principal towns therein, the number of persons registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland on 30th November, 1925. In certain cases, e.g., Bristol, Birmingham, Sheffield, Liverpool, Glasgow, etc., the figures cover more than one Exchange area:—

Area.	Number of Persons registered as Unemployed on 30th November, 1925.				Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with 26th Oct., 1925.
	Men.	Women.	Juveniles.	Total.	
London Division	104,666	22,334	6,053	133,053	- 1,220
South-Eastern Division	32,645	7,035	3,403	43,083	+ 2,521
Brighton	2,156	555	240	2,951	+ 126
Chatham	1,290	272	551	2,113	- 81
Portsmouth	1,646	143	51	1,840	+ 334
Norwich	2,604	503	76	3,183	+ 67
Rest of South-Eastern	24,949	5,562	2,485	32,996	+ 2,209
South-Western Division	53,134	8,739	3,973	65,846	+ 556
Bristol	10,818	1,981	816	13,615	+ 131
Portsmouth	4,320	606	488	5,414	+ 19
Reading	1,284	54	101	1,439	+ 72
Southampton	5,083	485	482	6,050	+ 936
Swindon	437	62	87	586	+ 30
Rest of South-Western	26,405	4,957	1,632	32,994	+ 1,418
Midlands Division	93,056	28,750	4,103	125,909	- 9,331
Birmingham	15,891	5,600	120	21,611	- 2,827
Coventry	1,152	286	25	1,463	- 555
Cradley Heath	3,311	370	67	3,748	+ 2
Derby	1,565	773	234	2,572	+ 973
Leicester	2,394	940	11	3,345	+ 2,060
Northampton	1,466	843	109	2,418	+ 104
Nottingham	6,957	1,974	285	9,216	+ 697
Portsmouth	1,972	677	26	2,675	+ 366
Smetthwick	9,538	4,640	579	14,757	+ 874
Stoke-on-Trent	3,303	832	249	4,384	+ 122
Walsall	2,036	322	40	2,398	+ 450
West Bromwich	3,836	686	120	4,642	+ 73
Wolverhampton	39,635	10,807	2,238	52,680	+ 4,280
North-Eastern Division	238,873	26,921	12,252	278,046	- 13,239
Barnsley	1,745	282	71	2,098	+ 162
Bradford	6,841	2,573	224	9,638	+ 1,528
Darlington	2,594	186	142	2,922	+ 201
Doncaster	1,395	954	89	2,438	+ 474
Doncaster	605	221	289	1,115	+ 108
Gateshead	10,439	709	812	11,960	...
Grimsby	2,207	159	392	2,758	+ 510
Hull	4,225	435	44	4,704	+ 10
Hull	8,425	171	443	9,039	+ 834
Hartlepool	3,000	1,281	130	4,411	+ 352
Huddersfield	9,215	608	697	10,520	+ 5
Hull	12,350	4,655	187	17,192	+ 753
Leeds	1,852	235	90	2,177	+ 24
Lincoln	9,791	505	393	10,689	+ 824
Middlesbrough	14,438	1,438	685	16,561	+ 204
Newcastle-on-Tyne	2,195	144	181	2,520	+ 56
Rotherham	19,994	1,860	1,079	22,933	+ 347
Sheffield	9,350	484	631	10,465	+ 1,879
South Shields	7,442				

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED INDUSTRIES.

The statistics here presented show, industry by industry, the estimated number of persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, the number and percentage of such persons who were unemployed on the 23rd November, 1925, and the increase or decrease at that date in the percentages unemployed compared with a month earlier, a year ago, and two years ago, respectively.

The Unemployment Insurance Acts provide, subject to certain exceptions, for the compulsory insurance against unemployment of substantially all employed persons. The principal classes of persons who are excepted from such compulsory insurance are juveniles under 16 years of age, persons employed otherwise than by way of manual labour at a rate of remuneration exceeding in value £250 per annum, persons employed in agriculture and private domestic service, and outworkers. Persons employed by local public authorities, railways and certain other public utility undertakings, members of the police forces, and persons with rights under a statutory superannuation scheme may, in certain circumstances, also be excepted.

An unemployment book, on which is recorded, *inter alia*, the industry in which he is employed is issued to every insured person, and this book must be lodged at an Employment Exchange whenever the insured person to whom it relates makes a claim for unemployment benefit, or, without claiming benefit, ceases to be employed in an insured trade. The book must be removed and deposited with the employer for stamping as soon as employment in an insured trade is resumed.

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

The files of "lodged" books at the Employment Exchanges thus furnish for each industrial group a record of the unemployment

of insured persons. In arriving at this figure the books of those persons who are known to be working in an uninsured trade, or to be sick or deceased, or who are known to have emigrated or gone abroad, are of course excluded. In cases where information on these points is lacking the books remain in the "lodged" files, and are included in the statistics of unemployment, for a period of two months from the date on which the insured person was last in touch with the Employment Exchange.

This last item determines in the main the difference between the total number of unemployed persons given in the following Table and the figure given on page 435 showing the total number of persons registered at Employment Exchanges. The difference would be greater were it not that this latter figure includes uninsured persons who are maintaining registration. These do not appear in the figures of "books lodged," which relate solely to insured persons.

The term "unemployed" as used in these statistics does not necessarily mean that the person is definitely without a job. Persons who on 23rd November, 1925, were not at work because they were suspended, "stood off," "furloughed," or on short time, and whose unemployment books were lodged at Exchanges, are counted in the statistics as "unemployed."

The number of persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland is estimated to have been approximately 11,892,000 at July, 1925.

This number includes approximately 126,000 persons insured under the Special Schemes for the Banking and Insurance industries, approved under Section 18 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920.

A brief outline of the method by which the estimate has been computed was given in last month's issue of this GAZETTE (page 380).

INDUSTRY.	NUMBERS AND PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED.												
	ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AT JULY, 1925. (GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.)			NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYMENT BOOKS REMAINING LODGED AT 23RD NOVEMBER, 1925. (GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.)			PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 23RD NOVEMBER, 1925.			(GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.) INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN TOTAL PERCENTAGES AS COMPARED WITH			
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Great Britain and Northern Ireland.			Great Britain only.	26TH OCT., 1925.	24TH NOV., 1924.	26TH NOV., 1923.
							Males.	Females.	Total.				
Fishing	25,710	880	26,590	2,674	65	2,739	10.4	7.4	10.3	10.3	+ 1.0	- 0.5	- 2.0
Mining—													
Coal Mining	1,231,900	8,550	1,240,450	188,191	1,357	189,548	15.3	15.9	15.3	15.3	- 4.6	+ 6.3	+ 12.7
Iron Ore and Ironstone Mining and Quarrying	16,150	40	16,190	3,694	1	3,695	22.9	2.5	22.8	22.4	- 3.9	+ 4.2	+ 1.7
Lead, Tin and Copper Mining	5,350	40	5,390	619	3	622	11.6	7.5	11.5	11.5	+ 0.7	- 6.1	- 6.0
Stone Quarrying and Mining	38,650	280	38,930	2,652	16	2,668	6.9	5.7	6.9	6.4	- 0.4	+ 0.7	+ 0.8
Slate Quarrying and Mining	10,730	10	10,740	254	1	255	2.4	10.0	2.4	2.4	+ 0.4	+ 1.2	+ 0.1
Other Mining and Quarrying	19,330	1,580	20,910	1,506	82	1,588	7.8	5.2	7.6	7.3	+ 0.9	+ 1.1	+ 0.8
Clay, Sand, Gravel and Chalk Pit Digging	14,220	180	14,400	579	18	597	4.1	10.0	4.1	3.9	+ 0.5	- 0.6	- 2.4
Non-Metalliferous Mining Products—													
Coke Ovens and By-Product Works	11,600	120	11,720	1,789	12	1,801	15.4	10.0	15.4	15.4	- 1.8	+ 2.2	+ 9.4
Artificial Stone and Concrete Manufacture	12,810	910	13,720	1,974	58	2,032	15.4	6.4	14.8	14.8	- 0.4	- 3.4	- 1.5
Cement, Limekilns and Whiting Works	17,570	780	18,350	693	34	727	3.9	4.4	4.0	3.9	+ 0.5	- 2.9	- 5.1
Brick, Tile, etc., Making	70,710	7,800	78,510	5,020	908	5,928	7.1	11.6	7.6	7.3	+ 0.2	- 0.4	- 1.1
Pottery, Earthenware, etc.	34,320	39,050	73,370	4,251	5,995	10,246	12.4	15.4	14.0	14.0	+ 0.1	+ 2.9	+ 2.6
Glass Trades—													
Glass (excluding Bottles, Optical and Scientific Glass) Manufacture	20,880	5,300	26,180	2,301	278	2,579	11.0	5.2	9.9	9.8	- 0.5	- 2.6	- 1.6
Glass Bottle Making	16,700	2,320	19,020	3,728	222	3,950	22.3	9.6	20.8	20.7	- 4.4	- 1.2	+ 0.8
Ammunition, Explosives, Chemicals, etc.													
Chemicals Manufacture	75,320	21,580	96,900	8,104	886	8,990	10.8	4.1	9.3	9.1	- 0.5	+ 0.1	- 1.4
Explosives Manufacture	15,020	5,500	20,520	944	640	1,584	7.3	11.6	8.6	8.5	+ 0.9	- 0.1	- 3.4
Paint, Varnish, Japan, Red and White Lead Manufacture	12,900	3,810	16,710	653	165	818	5.1	4.3	4.9	4.9	- 0.1	- 0.4	- 0.2
Oil, Grease, Glue, Soap, Ink, Match, etc., Manufacture	58,940	21,590	80,530	4,075	1,052	5,127	6.9	4.9	6.4	6.3	- 0.3	- 1.1	- 1.3
Metal Manufacture—													
Pig Iron Manufacture (Blast Furnaces)	25,500	280	25,780	5,253	18	5,271	20.6	6.4	20.4	20.4	- 1.0	+ 3.0	+ 8.6
Steel Melting and Iron Puddling Furnaces, Iron and Steel Rolling Mills and Forges	195,110	5,020	200,130	47,024	282	47,306	24.1	5.6	23.6	23.6	- 0.7	+ 0.2	+ 3.6
Manufacture of Brass, Copper, Zinc, Tin, Lead, etc.	38,680	3,530	42,210	4,070	236	4,306	10.5	6.7	10.2	10.3	- 0.9	- 1.4	- 4.2
Manufacture of Tin Plates	23,850	4,320	28,170	2,026	247	2,273	8.5	5.7	8.1	8.1	- 0.8	- 8.5	+ 4.3
Iron and Steel Tube Making	26,340	1,550	27,890	4,404	117	4,521	16.7	7.5	16.2	16.2	- 1.5	- 2.5	+ 0.6
Wire, Wire Netting, Wire Rope Manufacture	20,640	4,260	24,900	3,033	383	3,416	14.7	9.0	13.7	13.7	- 0.6	+ 1.4	+ 3.3
Engineering, etc.—													
Engineering: Engineers' Iron and Steel Founding	583,590	43,690	627,280	73,559	1,653	75,212	12.6	3.8	12.0	11.8	...	- 2.7	- 8.0
Electrical Engineering	61,320	15,400	76,720	646	4,320	6.0	4.2	5.6	5.6	+ 0.1	+ 0.1	- 0.8	
Marine Engineering, etc.	60,670	1,050	61,720	15,911	78	15,989	26.2	7.4	28.9	28.9	+ 0.4	+ 8.8	+ 0.8
Constructional Engineering	25,110	1,020	26,130	2,845	38	2,883	11.3	3.7	11.0	11.0	+ 0.2	- 3.2	- 0.4
Construction and Repair of Vehicles—													
Construction and Repair of Motor Vehicles, Cycles and Aircraft	193,300	21,540	214,840	13,847	1,116	14,963	7.2	5.2	7.0	6.9	- 0.2	- 1.7	- 4.1
Construction and Repair of Carriages, Carts, etc.	21,700	2,930	24,630	2,593	189	2,782	12.0	6.5	11.3	11.0	- 0.3	- 0.9	- 3.4
Railway Carriage, Wagon and Tram-car Building	54,810	1,440	56,250	4,431	32	4,463	8.1	2.2	7.9	8.0	+ 0.4	- 0.4	+ 2.9

INDUSTRY.	NUMBERS AND PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED.												
	ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AT JULY 1925. (GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.)			NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYMENT BOOKS REMAINING LODGED AT 23RD NOVEMBER 1925. (GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.)			PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 23RD NOVEMBER, 1925.			(GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.) INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN TOTAL PERCENTAGES AS COMPARED WITH			
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Great Britain and Northern Ireland.			Great Britain only.	26TH OCT., 1925.	24TH NOV., 1924.	26TH NOV., 1923.
							Males.	Females.	Total.				
Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing	238,360	3,340	241,700	90,570	378	90,948	38.0	11.3	37.6	38.0	+ 0.6	+ 6.0	- 3.4
Metal Trades—													
Stove, Grate, Pipe, etc., and General Iron Founding	77,590	7,970	85,560	7,958	514	8,472	10.3	6.4	9.9	9.7	- 0.5	- 1.9	- 6.7
Electrical Wiring and Contracting	11,670	990	12,660	812	22	834	7.0	2.2	6.6	6.5	+ 0.5	...	- 3.4
Electrical Cable, Wire and Electric Lamp Manufacture	50,940	30,410	81,350	3,061	1,448	4,509	6.0	4.8	5.5	5.5	...	- 1.0	- 2.9
Hand Tool, Cutlery, Saw, File Making	24,380	9,460	33,840	3,524	697	4,221	14.5	7.4	12.5	12.5	- 0.3	- 2.0	- 3.5
Bolts, Nuts, Screws, Rivets, Nails, etc., Manufacture	15,130	11,920	27,050	1,959	1,043	3,002	12.9	8.8	11.1	11.1	+ 0.1	- 4.7	- 3.8
Brass and Allied Metal Wares Manufacture	18,680	11,690	30,370	1,790	984	2,774	9.6	8.4	9.1	9.1	- 1.0	- 5.3	- 10.1
Heating and Ventilating Apparatus	7,080	520	7,600	299	13	312	4.2	2.5	4.1	4.0	- 0.7	- 2.4	- 0.7
Watches, Clocks, Plate, Jewellery, etc., Manufacture	25,680	19,530	45,210	2,235	1,053	3,288	8.7	5.4	7.3	7.2	- 0.7	- 2.5	- 2.4
Other Metal Industries	114,800	66,020	180,820	10,652	5,363	16,015	9.3	8.1	8.9	8.8	- 0.3	- 2.7	- 2.4
Textile Trades—													
Cotton	208,770	367,950	576,720	13,951	24,745	38,696	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	- 0.3	- 1.9	- 8.5
Woolen and Worsted	107,340	150,360	257,700	11,703	12,961	24,664	10.9	8.6	9.6	9.5	- 1.2	+ 0.9	- 1.5
Silk	18,470	28,420	46,890	2,036	3,461	5,497	11.0	12.2	11.7	11.7	+ 4.6	+ 4.8	+ 2.9
Linen	27,110	59,510	86,620	8,186	22,359	30,545	30.2	37.6	35.3	35.3	+ 3.1	+ 25.3	+ 18.5
Jute	13,750	28,430	42,180	1,922	3,308	5,230	14.0	11.6	12.4	12.4	- 0.2	+ 1.9	+ 2.3
Hemp Spinning and Weaving, Rope, Cord, Twine, etc., Making	7,370	13,450	20,820	792	1,953	2,745	10.7	14.5	13.2	10.1	- 1.8	- 1.7	- 1.4
Hosiery	22,200	75,500	97,700	987	5,018	6,005	4.4	6.6	6.1	6.0	- 0.6	- 1.6	- 2.7
Lace	7,980	11,480	19,460	2,217	1,786	4,003	27.8	15.6	20.6	20.6	+ 0.6	+ 0.5	+ 0.6
Carpet Manufacture	10,790	15,460	26,250	800	1,604	2,404	7.4	10.4	9.2	9.2	+ 0.3	+ 2.0	+ 3.8
Other Textile Industries	13,970	31,280	45,250	1,232	3,202	4,434	8.8	10.2	9.8	9.4	+ 0.1	- 2.4	- 4.6
Textile Bleaching, Printing, Dyeing, etc.	85,120	34,070	119,190	9,847	4,493	14,340	11.6	13.2	12.0	11.5	...	- 0.4	- 3.1
Leather and Leather Goods—													
Tanning, Currying and Dressing	34,060	8,650	42,710	3,658	687	4,345	10.7	7.9	10.2	10.2	...	+ 0.9	- 1.1
Saddlery, Harness and other Leather Goods Manufacture	13,830	12,750	26,580	1,366	687	2,053	9.9	5.4	7.7	7.6	- 0.2	- 2.1	- 2.1
Clothing Trades—													
Tailoring	67,800	128,140	195,940	8,620	15,963	24,583	12.7	12.5	12.5	12.1	+ 0.7	- 0.7	- 0.6
Dress and Mantle Making and Millinery	11,820	93,640	105,460	879	7,084	7,963	7.4	7.6	7.6	7.3	+ 1.6	- 1.7	- 1.6
Hat and Cap (including Straw Plait) Manufacture	13,340	20,860	34,200	1,294	2,551	3,845	9.7	12.2	11.2	11.2	+ 2.4	- 3.6	- 3.4
Blouses, Shirts, Collars, Underclothing, etc., Making	8,100	66,110	74,210	506	5,233	5,739	6.2	7.9	7.7	6.4	...	- 1.9	- 1.5
Other Dress Industries													

TRADE DISPUTES.*

Number, Magnitude and Duration.—The number of trade disputes involving a stoppage of work, reported to the Department as beginning in November in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was 43, as compared with 49 in the previous month and 40 in November, 1924. The total number of workpeople involved in these disputes (including those thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, though not themselves parties to the disputes) was approximately 23,000. In addition, about 27,000 workpeople were involved, either directly or indirectly, in 29 disputes which began before November and were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The number of new and old disputes was thus 72, involving about 50,000 workpeople, and resulting in a loss during November of about 575,000 working days.

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

Groups of Industries.	Number of Disputes in progress in November.			Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress in November.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress in November.
	Started before 1st Nov.	Started in Nov.	Total.		
Mining and Quarrying...	9	3	12	21,000	368,000
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding.	4	9	13	8,000	28,000
Food, Drink and Tobacco	1	3	4	2,000	13,000
Woodworking and Furnishing.	5	1	6	1,000	25,000
Paper, Printing, etc. ...	...	5	5	2,000	37,000
Other ...	10	22	32	16,000	104,000
Total, Nov., 1925 ...	29	43	72	50,000	575,000
Total, Oct., 1925 ...	31	49	80	43,000	440,000
Total, Nov., 1924 ...	32	40	72	15,000	134,000

Causes.—Of the 43 disputes beginning in November, 5, directly involving 11,000 workpeople, arose out of proposed reductions in wages; 12, directly involving 2,000 workpeople, on other wages questions; 17, directly involving 6,000 workpeople, on questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons; and 9, directly involving 1,000 workpeople, on other questions.

PRINCIPAL DISPUTES INVOLVING STOPPAGES OF WORK DURING NOVEMBER, 1925.

Occupations and Locality.†	Approximate Number of Workpeople Involved.		Date when Dispute Began.		Cause or Object.‡	Result.‡
	Directly.	Indirectly.‡	Began.	Ended.		
MINING AND QUARRYING:— Coal miners etc.—Consett, Co. Durham.	7,000		1925. 22 June–6 July.	1925. ...	Against proposed increase in working hours, revision of piece-work rates, etc.	No settlement reported.
Coal miners, mechanics, enginemen, etc.—South Shields (near).	2,577	252	5 Aug.	...	Against proposed reduction in piece-work rates and increase in working hours of certain workpeople, and against concessions as to payment of minimum wage.	No settlement reported.
			14 Aug.	...	Objection of men to day-to-day contracts, and dissatisfaction as to amount of wages paid to certain sets of machine coal-getters.	No settlement reported.
Shale miners, oil workers, etc.—West Lothian.	6,883	134‡	11 Nov.	10 Dec.	Against proposed reduction in wages of 10 per cent.	An inquiry to be held by a Committee consisting of two members nominated by each party and a neutral chairman appointed by the Ministry of Labour.
OTHER INDUSTRIES:— Flour and provender mill workers, etc.—Cardiff and Barry.	1,000	...	24 Sept.‡	14 Nov.	Against dismissal of certain workers	Workpeople agreed to observe the agreements and decisions of the National Joint Industrial Council for the Flour Milling Industry which had upheld the employers' right of dismissal.
Organ builders—London and other centres.	800	...	28 Aug.‡	3 Dec.	Strike in London for advance in wages, reduction in working hours and other concessions followed by lock-out at other centres.	Modified advance granted in London and other centres, a further advance to be contingent upon adoption of a new working agreement.
Porters, packers, bookbinders, etc., employed by book publishers—London.	1,200	...	2 Nov.	...	For advance in wages ...	No settlement reported.
Rubber workers—Birmingham (near).	6,810	...	27 Oct.	4 Nov.	Dispute arising from the speeding-up of certain machines.	Increased speed of machines to be maintained but assistance allowed to workpeople.
Waterproof garment workers—Manchester, Salford and Warrington.	5,000	...	16 Nov.	...	Against proposed reduction in piece-work rates of wages.	No settlement reported.

* Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople, and those which lasted less than one day, have, as usual, been omitted from the statistics, except where the aggregate duration (i.e., number of workpeople multiplied by number of working days, allowing for workpeople replaced by others, etc.) exceeded 100 days.
† In making up the totals for the several months of the year the figures have been amended in accordance with the most recent information. Workpeople involved in more than one dispute are counted more than once in the totals; the amount of such duplication is, however, very slight.
‡ The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople "indirectly involved," i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes. The statements of cause and result do not apply to these persons.
§ In addition, about 500 colliery workers were rendered idle owing to the dispute.
|| Most of the workpeople involved ceased work on 1st October.
¶ The lock-out took effect on 10th September and subsequent dates.

Results.—Settlements were effected in the case of 20 new disputes, directly involving 5,000 workpeople, and 12 old disputes, directly involving 9,000 workpeople. Of these new and old disputes, 8, directly involving 2,000 workpeople, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 12, directly involving 2,000 workpeople, were settled in favour of the employers; and 12, directly involving 10,000 workpeople, were compromised. In the case of 6 disputes, directly involving 6,000 workpeople, work was resumed pending negotiations.

TOTALS FOR FIRST ELEVEN MONTHS OF 1924 AND 1925.†

The following Table summarises the figures for Great Britain and Northern Ireland for the first eleven months of 1925, as compared with the corresponding period of 1924 :—

Groups of Industries.	January to Nov., 1924.			January to Nov., 1925.		
	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.
Coal Mining ...	163	123,000	1,410,000	145	119,000	2,903,000
Other Mining and Quarrying.	14	4,000	65,000	11	8,000	138,000
Brick, Pottery, Glass, etc.	23	4,000	102,000	13	1,000	5,000
Chemical ...	9	1,000	22,000	11	1,000	25,000
Engineering ...	27	11,000	96,000	18	6,000	38,000
Shipbuilding ...	34	34,000	594,000	25	7,000	48,000
Other Metal ...	59	25,000	681,000	45	11,000	95,000
Textile ...	44	10,000	190,000	53	172,000	3,171,000
Clothing ...	29	4,000	38,000	29	5,000	35,000
Food, Drink, and Tobacco.	19	9,000	74,000	25	5,000	54,000
Woodworking and Furnishing.	27	3,000	92,000	26	4,000	109,000
Paper, Printing, etc.	10	3,000	17,000	16	19,000	107,000
Building, Decorating, Contracting, etc.	50	112,000	3,127,000	48	5,000	77,000
Transport ...	76	244,000	1,537,000	44	23,000	49,000
Public Administration Services.	21	4,000	102,000	23	3,000	19,000
Other ...	31	6,000	76,000	22	36,000	215,000
Total ...	636	597,000	8,223,000	554	425,000	7,088,000

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.

Rates of Wages.

In the industries covered by the Department's statistics* the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation in November in Great Britain and Northern Ireland resulted in an aggregate net reduction of about £11,000 in the weekly full-time wages of 115,000 workpeople and in an increase of nearly £6,500 in the weekly wages of 78,000 workpeople.

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

Group of Industries.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by		Amount of Changes in Weekly Wages.	
	Increases.	Decreases.	Increases.	Decreases.
Mining and Quarrying ...	6,500	4,500	£ 100	£ 100
Iron and Steel ...	31,000	111,000	3,400	10,900
Other Metal ...	16,500	...	1,250	...
Other Industries ...	24,000	...	1,700	...
Total ...	78,000	115,500	6,450	11,000

In the mining group there was a small increase (under ½ per cent. on current rates) in the percentage addition payable on the basis rates of about 5,000 coal miners in the Radstock district. Over 3,000 iron ore miners in Cumberland sustained a reduction in wages, varying in the case of adult workers from ½d. to 1d. per shift.

The principal change in the iron and steel group was a reduction of about 4 per cent. on the current rates of over 30,000 steel smelters and millmen in various districts in England and Scotland, with corresponding reductions in the wages of a large number of subsidiary classes of workers whose wages are regulated in accordance with changes under the smelters' sliding scale. About 4,000 iron puddlers and millmen in the North of England had their wages reduced by over 6 per cent. on current rates, and similar classes in Scotland, numbering about 5,000, received an increase of nearly 2 per cent. on current rates. At puddling furnaces and rolling mills and forges in the Midlands there was a reduction, under the sliding scale agreement, in the wages of over 40,000 workpeople, equivalent to over 3 per cent. on current rates, but arrangements made for bringing non-scale workers under the sliding scale for the first time and the grant of special bonuses to lower-paid men, including those on the sliding scale, resulted in a net increase in wages during the month for a large number of workpeople. Other workpeople in this group whose wages were changed in November included blastfurnace workers in Cumberland, Lincolnshire, South Staffordshire and Scotland.

The principal change in the other metal trades was an increase in the wages of 15,000 workpeople employed in electric cable making, amounting to 1s. 6d. or 1s. 11½d. per week in the case of men and 1s. per week in the case of women.

In trades other than the above there were increases in the wages of hosiery workers at Hawick, machine calico printers, leather belt makers, and also in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts for certain classes of workpeople employed in the brush and broom trade and the coffin furniture and cement making trade.

Of the total net reduction of £11,000 per week, £8,400 took effect under sliding scales based on selling prices, and the remainder took effect as the result of direct negotiations between employers and workpeople.

Of the increases, totalling £6,450 per week, nearly £3,000 took effect under cost-of-living sliding scales, including £1,200 under scales arranged by joint standing bodies of employers and workpeople, and £750 under scales fixed by Trade Boards; £350 took effect under sliding scales based on selling prices or the proceeds of the industry; and nearly the whole of the remainder took effect after direct negotiations between employers and workpeople.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES REPORTED IN JANUARY–NOVEMBER, 1925.

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 eleven completed months of 1925, and the net aggregate amounts of such changes :—

Group of Industries.	Approximate Number of Workpeople† affected by net		Net Amount of Change in Weekly Wages.	
	Increases.	Decreases.	Increases.	Decreases.
Mining and Quarrying ...	9,000	397,000	£ 1,500	£ 67,100
Brick, Pottery, Glass, Chemical, etc. ...	29,500	1,200	4,700	100
Iron and Steel ...	19,000	171,000	1,600	35,800
Engineering and Shipbuilding ...	6,500	600	1,000	50
Other Metal ...	31,000	34,000	4,500	5,700
Textile ...	60,000	59,000	4,300	4,200
Clothing ...	218,000	6,200	21,900	750
Food, Drink and Tobacco	21,500	10,000	1,400	850
Woodworking, etc. ...	3,500	7,000	400	650
Paper, Printing, etc. ...	10,000	...	1,400	...
Building and Allied Trades ...	44,000	...	5,100	...
Transport ...	210,000	151,000	13,000	40,400
Public Utility Services ...	158,000	12,500	15,200	1,350
Other ...	30,000	3,500	2,900	50
Total ...	850,000	853,000	79,000	157,000

In the corresponding eleven months of 1924 there were net increases of over £580,000 in the weekly full-time wages of 2,850,000 workpeople, and net reductions of nearly £64,000 in those of 500,000 workpeople.

Hours of Labour.

No important changes were reported during November.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING NOVEMBER, 1925.

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics.)
AGRICULTURE.				
Agriculture	Yorkshire (East Riding).	24 Nov.	Male workers 21 years and over not boarded and lodged by employer.	Increase of 1s. per week‡. Minimum rate after change for a week of 48 hours in winter and 52½ hours in summer, 35s.‡
	Bedfordshire and Huntingdonshire.	1 Nov.	Male workers 21 years and over ...	Decrease of 6d. per week. Minimum rate after change for a week of 48 hours, 30s.‡
	Buckinghamshire ...	1 Nov.	Male workers 21 years and over ...	Increase of 1s. per week. Minimum rate after change for a week of 48 hours (up to 28th February, 1926), 31s.‡
	Cambridgeshire and Isle of Ely.	1 Nov.	Male workers other than those employed wholly or mainly as horsemen, cowmen or shepherds.	Decrease of 1s. per week for those 17 and under 19 years of age, the rates for other ages remaining unchanged. Minimum rates after change for a week of 51 hours in summer and 48 hours in winter, vary from 12s. at under 15 years to 23s. at 18 and under 19 and to 30s. at 21 and over.‡
	Hampshire and Isle of Wight.	29 Nov.	Female workers ...	Decrease of 1d. per hour for those under 16 years, the rates for those 16 and over remaining unchanged. Minimum rates after change: 14 and under 16, 3d. per hour, increasing to 5d. per hour at 18 and over.‡
	Holland District ...	1 Nov.	Male workers ...	Decrease of 1s. per week for those 21 years and over and 6d. per week for those under 21 years. Minimum rates after change for a week of 50 hours in summer and 48 hours in winter (in lieu of 52 hours in summer and 48 hours in winter previously worked), vary from 9s. 6d. at under 14 years to 24s. 6d. at 18 and under 19, and to 35s. at 21 years and over; cattlemen and shepherds to receive 6s. per week extra and horsemen amounts varying from 3s. 4d. per week at 14 and under 15 to 10s. at 21 and over.‡
Warwickshire; also the parishes of Alderminster, Shipston-on-Stour, Tidmington and Tredington (Worcestershire).	1 Nov.	Female workers ...	Decreases of from ½d. to 2d. per hour. Minimum rates after change vary from 3d. per hour at 14 and under 16 to 5d. at 18 and over.‡	
Carmarthenshire ...	15 Nov.	Male workers 21 years and over ...	Increase of 1s. per week. Minimum rate after change for a 7-day week of 54 hours, 31s.‡	

* The particulars of numbers affected and amount of change in weekly wages exclude changes affecting Government employees, police, agricultural labourers, shop assistants and clerks, for which classes the information available is not sufficient to form a basis for statistics. Where information is available, however, details of changes in the current rates of wages of agricultural labourers, shop assistants and clerks are included in the list of principal changes recorded. The statistics are based on normal conditions of employment and do not take into account the effect of short-time working, etc.
† In addition to the numbers quoted, wages stand at the same level as at the beginning of the year in the case of over 300,000 workpeople, whose wages have been increased and reduced by equal amounts during the year.
‡ The minimum rates of wages referred to took effect under Orders of the Agricultural Wages Board, in accordance with the provisions of the Agricultural Wages (Regulation) Act, 1924.
§ This rate is subject to an increase of 1s. per week for every rise of 10 points in the cost-of-living index number.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING NOVEMBER, 1925 (continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics.)	
MINING AND QUARRYING.					
Coal Mining	Radstock ...	29 Oct.	Workpeople employed in or about coal mines.	Increase of 0.44 per cent. on standard base rates of 1918, making wages 42.55 per cent. above the standard of 1918.	
Iron Mining	Cumberland...	9 Nov.	Workpeople employed at iron-ore mines.	<i>Decrease* of 1d. per shift in the bargain price, of 1d. per shift for winding enginemen, of 1d. per shift for other underground and surface workers, and of 1d. per shift for boys under 16 years. Rates after change: miners' bargain price, 3s. 1d. per shift; winding enginemen, 7s. 3d.; underground 1st class or leading labourers, 5s. 5d. per shift; plus temporary increase varying from 1s. 6d. to 3d. per shift.</i>	
	North Lincolnshire...	1 Nov.	Ironstone miners and quarrymen...	<i>Decrease of 4 per cent. on standard rates of 1909, leaving wages 32 per cent. above the standard of 1909.† Also bonuses granted to lower paid workers as follows, such bonuses to be net and paid for time worked only—6d. per shift for those on base earnings of 3s. 8d. to 4s. 0d.; 4d. per shift for those on base earnings of 4s. 1d. to 4s. 3d.; and 2d. per shift for those on base earnings of 4s. 3d. to 4s. 6d. Minimum rate after change for labourers, 3s. 8d. per shift, plus 32 per cent., plus 1s. 1d. per shift, plus 6d. per shift.</i>	
BRICK, POTTERY, GLASS, CHEMICAL, ETC., TRADES.					
Chemical	Plymouth ...	1st pay day in Nov.	Workpeople employed in the manufacture of chemical fertilisers.	Increase of 6½ per cent. for time, piece and shift workers. Rate after change for general labourers (timeworkers), 1s. per hour, plus 6½ per cent.	
IRON AND STEEL SMELTING AND MANUFACTURE.					
Pig Iron Manufacture	West Cumberland and North Lancashire.	2nd full pay in Nov.	Workpeople (excluding skilled craftsmen and bricklayers on maintenance work and labourers) employed at blastfurnaces.	Increase† in bonuses, of amounts varying, according to base rates, from 2s. 6d. to 7d. per week, making total amount of bonus from 2s. 11.5d. to 7s. 6.5d. per week. (Minimum rate for labourers remains at 41s. per week—see page 400 of November GAZETTE.)	
			Keepers, slaggens, fillers, enginemen, etc., employed at blastfurnaces.	<i>Decrease* of 3½ per cent. on output bonus earnings, leaving the percentage 46½ in the Workington Area and 41½ in the Furness Area.‡</i>	
			Blastfurnacemen ...	<i>Decrease of 4 per cent. on datal basis rates, leaving wages 32 per cent. above the standard of 1909, and the percentage payable on output bonus earnings reduced from 36 to 27.† Also bonuses granted to lower paid workers as follows, such bonuses to be net and paid for time worked only—6d. per shift to those on base earnings of 3s. 8d. to 4s. 0d.; 4d. per shift to those on base earnings of 4s. 1d. to 4s. 3d.; and 2d. per shift to those on base earnings of 4s. 3d. to 4s. 6d. Minimum rate after change for labourers, 3s. 8d. per shift, plus 32 per cent., plus 1s. 1d. per shift, plus 6d. per shift.</i>	
			North Lincolnshire and certain firms in the Leeds District.	<i>Decrease* of 4½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 25½ per cent. above the standard, plus a tonnage bonus. Rates after change: pattern-makers, 44s.; boiler-smiths, 43s.; fitters, turners, smiths, electricians and armature winders, 42s.; machinemen (millers, borers, planers, etc.), 30s. to 38s.; strikers (after 1 year's service), 32s. 6d.; plus, in each case, 25½ per cent. and a tonnage bonus.</i>	
			South Staffordshire	Increase, in base rates, of amounts varying from 3d. to 7d. per shift.‡ Rate after change for general and by-turn labourers, 5s. 6d. per shift, plus 10 per cent.	
			West of Scotland ...	<i>Decrease* of 4 per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 17 per cent. above the standard.</i>	
			Men employed in steel melting shops:— Melters, pitmen, slagmen, ladle-men, furnace helpers, etc., and gas producermen and charge wheelers.	<i>Decrease* of 5 per cent. on standard of 1905, leaving wages 32½ per cent. (basic process) and 7½ per cent. (acid process) above the standard.</i>	
			England and West of Scotland.¶	Semi-skilled workers and labourers— Men on 8-hour shifts** ... Men whose wages are based on a 47-hour week.**	<i>Decrease* of 5 per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 32½ per cent. above the standard.†† Decrease* of 1½ of the total advance in wages given between August, 1914, and 30 April, 1921, making a total net decrease since 1 May, 1921, of 1½ of such advance.††</i>
			Certain districts in England; also West of Scotland.‡‡	Bricklayers and masons employed at blastfurnaces and iron and steel works in England and steel works in West of Scotland.	<i>Decrease* of 5 per cent. on basis rate, leaving wages 1s. per hour, plus 32½ per cent., plus a tonnage bonus.</i>
	Iron and Steel Manufacture	North of England ...	1 Nov.	Engineers, electricians, strikers, motor attendants, arc-lamp trimmers, boiler-makers and pattern-makers employed at blastfurnaces and in iron and steel works.	<i>Decrease* of 1½ of the total advance in wages given between August, 1914, and 30 April, 1921, making a total net decrease since 1 May, 1921, of 1½ of such advance.</i>
			Bricklayers' labourers employed at blastfurnaces and in iron and steel works.	<i>Decrease* of 0.4d. per hour (11.23d. to 10.83d.).</i>	
			England and Scotland.	Roll turners ...	<i>Decrease* of 1½ of the total advance in wages given between August, 1914, and 30 April, 1921, making a total net decrease since 1 May, 1921, of 1½ of such advance.</i>
			North of England ...	Iron puddlers ... Iron millmen ... Semi-skilled workers, labourers, etc., in puddling forges and rolling mills, whose wages are based on a 47-hour week.	<i>Decrease* of 10 per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 50 per cent. above the standard. Decrease* of 10 per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 47½ per cent. above the standard. Decrease* of 1½ of the total advance in wages given between August, 1914, and 30 April, 1921, making a total net decrease since 1 May, 1921, of 1½ of such advance.††</i>

* This change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with selling prices.
 † The reduction due under the sliding scale amounted to 9 per cent., but under an arrangement made between the Lincolnshire Ironmasters' Association and the National Union of Blastfurnacemen, etc., it was agreed that all non-bonus men were to be paid 32 per cent. on base rates instead of the 27 per cent. due under the sliding scale. Tonnage bonus men and pieceworkers were also to receive 32 per cent. in respect of the datal portion of their basis rates, which, in the case of pieceworkers, was limited to 5s. per shift; the remainder of their earnings (excluding the war bonus of 1s. 1d. per shift) were to be subject to the sliding scale percentage of 27.
 ‡ This change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour cost-of-living index number.
 § The percentage addition to the day and tonnage basis rates remained at 16, in accordance with the arrangement made in October, 1925.
 ¶ These increases were the result of an agreement to restore the basis rates which were in operation previous to July, 1922, when the rates previously fixed under an award dated June, 1920, were reduced by 7½ per cent.
 † 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.
 ** The men on 8-hour shifts referred to are those who do not receive allowance hours and/or extra payment for night shift during the normal week. The men whose wages are based on a 47-hour week are mainly men employed in engineering shops or working with craftsmen who receive the allowances or extra payments mentioned.
 †† Men on base earnings of not more than 7s. per shift have, since August, 1924, been in receipt of bonuses varying according to earnings from 2d. to 1s. 2d. per shift.
 ‡‡ This change took effect under an arrangement made by the Iron and Steel Trades Employers' Association, the Cleveland Ironmasters' Association, the West Coast Ironmasters' Association and the Lincolnshire Ironmasters' Association, with the Amalgamated Union of Building Trade Workers; the ironworks concerned are those in the North of England, and the steel works in England are those situated as described in note †.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING NOVEMBER, 1925 (continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics.)
IRON AND STEEL SMELTING AND MANUFACTURE (continued).				
Iron and Steel Manufacture (contd.)	Midlands and part of South Yorkshire and South Lancashire.	2 Nov.	Men employed at iron puddling furnaces and iron and steel rolling mills and forges:— Non-scale workers ...	Transferred to sliding scale under an arrangement by which the current basis earnings plus non-scale bonuses multiplied by a factor of 1.33 are to be reckoned as the new basis rates for a normal working week and made subject to the percentage addition payable under the sliding scale.* <i>Special reduction of 5 per cent. on basis rates, leaving wages 55 per cent. above standard.</i>
			All workers (including above)	Bonuses granted, to be paid net on all shifts worked, as follows: on base rates up to 4s. 6d., a bonus of 10d. per shift; above 4s. and up to 4s. 6d., 8d. bonus; above 4s. 6d. and up to 4s. 10d., 6d. bonus; above 4s. 10d. and up to 5s., 5d. bonus; above 5s. and up to 5s. 6d., 3d. bonus; above 5s. 6d. and up to 5s. 10d., 2d. bonus; for shift workers the above bonuses to be increased by 1d. per shift on base rates up to 4s. 6d., and by ½d. per shift on base rates above 4s. 6d. Minimum rate after change for labourers, 3s. 10d. per day or shift, plus 55 per cent., plus 10d. for day workers and 11d. for shift workers.
	North-East Coast Area.†	1 Nov.	Men employed on direct production in steel rolling mills.	<i>Decrease† of 5 per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 32½ per cent. above the standard.</i>
	Workington...	1 Nov.	Steel millmen, engineers' labourers and general labourers.	<i>Decrease† of 5 per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 32½ per cent. above the standard.</i>
			Engineers employed in steel works	<i>Decrease† of 5 per cent., leaving wages 42s. per week, plus 32½ per cent., plus a tonnage bonus.</i>
			Workpeople employed at steel works:— Rail millmen ...	<i>Decrease† of 5 per cent., leaving wages 23½ per cent. above the standard of 1909.</i>
	Barrow-in-Furness	1 Nov.	Enginemen, cranemen, etc. ...	<i>Decrease† of 5 per cent., leaving wages 32½ per cent. above the standard of 1909.</i>
			Merchant millmen ...	<i>Decrease† of 10 per cent. on standard rates of 1919, leaving wages 47½ per cent. above the standard.</i>
	Scunthorpe ...	1 Nov.	Bricklayers' and joiners' labourers employed at blastfurnaces and iron and steel works.	<i>Decrease† of 0.48d. per hour. Rate after change: 9.74d. or 9.75d. per hour.</i>
			Steel millmen, wagon builders and repairers, engineers' labourers and general labourers.	<i>Decrease† of 5 per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 32½ per cent. above the standard.</i>
		Iron puddlers and millmen ...	Increase† of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 55 per cent. above the standard.	
		Iron and steel sheet millmen ...	Increase† of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 62½ per cent. above the standard.	
		Men employed in steel rolling mills:— Millmen, gas-producermen, enginemen, cranemen and firemen and mill labourers.	<i>Decrease† of 5 per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 32½ per cent. above the standard. Rate after change for mill labourers, 5s. per shift, plus 32½ per cent., plus 10d. per shift.</i>	
		Semi-skilled workers and general labourers.	<i>Decrease† of 1½ of the total advance in wages given between August, 1914, and 30 April, 1921, making a total net decrease since 1 May, 1921, of 1½ of such advance. Rate after change for general labourers, 38s. 6d. per week.††</i>	
		Bricklayers' labourers in steel works	<i>Decrease† of 0.35d. per hour. Rate after change for day shift men, 9.03d. per hour, plus 1s. per shift.</i>	
OTHER METAL TRADES.				
Electrical Cable Making	Middlesex, Kent, Surrey, Essex, Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire, and Berkshire.	3rd pay day in Nov.	Workpeople employed in the electrical cable-making industry (except plumber-jointers, etc.).	Increase‡ of 1s. 11½d. per week for men 21 years of age and over, of 1s. 5½d. per week for youths 18 to 20 years, of 6d. per week for boys 15 years, of 5½d. per week for boys 14, 16 and 17 years, of 1s. per week for women 18 years and over, and of 6d. per week for girls 14 to 17 years; piece workers' wages correspondingly increased.
	Great Britain, other than the above counties.			Increase‡ of 1s. 6d. per week for men 18 years and over, of 1s. per week for women 18 years and over, and of 6d. per week for boys and girls 14 to 17 years; pieceworkers' wages correspondingly increased.
Metallic Bedstead Making	Birmingham, Smethwick, Dudley, Bilston, Manchester, Warrington, Sowerby Bridge, Kelghley and Glasgow.	1 Nov.	Workpeople employed in the metallic bedstead trade.	Increase‡ in flat-rate bonus of 2s. per week for men 18 years of age and over, of 1s. per week for women 18 years and over, and of 6d. per week for boys under 18 years, and girls under 18 but over 16 years.
TEXTILE TRADES.				
Cotton	Lancashire, Cheshire, Derbyshire, and West Riding of Yorkshire.	Pay day in week ending 5 Dec.	Cotton weavers employed in weaving artificial silk.	New scale of extras adopted to the standard prices fixed by the Uniform List (a) of 20 per cent. for weft and (b) varying according to class of goods from 5 per cent. to 25 per cent. for twist; in the case of goods composed of a mixture of artificial silk and cotton, additions made (a) of 5 per cent. for weft and (b) varying from 5 per cent. to 12½ per cent. for twist.†
	West Riding of Yorkshire.	1st pay day in Nov.	Cotton twiners ...	Uniform lists of prices adopted for making pin cops on twiners and for labouring, repairing, etc., on twiners.
Hosiery	Hawick ...	1st full pay in Nov.	Men and women ...	Flat rate bonus of 6s. 6d. per week for men and 5s. per week for women increased‡ to 9s. 9d. and 7s. 6d. per week respectively, the bonus of 30 per cent. on base rates previously paid remaining unchanged.
			Apprentices ...	Flat rate bonus of 2s. 3d. per week increased‡ to 3s. 4½d. per week, the bonus of 22½ per cent. on base rates previously paid remaining unchanged.
Rope, Twine and Net.	Great Britain ...	23 Nov.	Certain classes of workpeople employed in the rope, twine, and net trade.	General minimum piece rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts in respect of netting of a size greater or less than 55 yards, such rates to be the general minimum piece rates previously fixed for lengths of 55 yards, subject to a proportionate increase or reduction according to whether the size of the netting is more or less than 55 yards. Scale of general minimum piece rates also fixed for female workers (including homeworkers) employed on hand braiding of trawl, seine, or other nets from hard fibres, namely, manilla, sisal, maugue fibre or New Zealand hemp or a mixture thereof (see also p. 448).
Calico Printing	Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	Pay preceding 1st pay day in Dec.	Machine calico printers ...	Supplementary cost-of-living wage increased‡ from 51.10 per cent. to 53.20 per cent. on basis wages, the flat rate bonus of 20s. per week for journeymen and 14s. per week for apprentices remaining unchanged.

* The net effect of this change, with the reduction on basis rates, and the addition of the net bonuses which took place at the same time, was an all-round increase in wages for the non-scale workers amounting to about 1s. per shift for men on a base rate of 23s. per week, and smaller sums for those with higher base rates, those on a base rate of 40s. per week receiving an increase of 3½d. per shift.
 † Except certain men employed at Newburn, West Hartlepool and Gateshead.
 ‡ The change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with selling prices.
 § Men on base earnings of not more than 7s. per shift have, since August, 1924, been in receipt of bonuses varying according to earnings from 2d. to 1s. 2d. per shift.
 ¶ This change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour cost-of-living index number.
 † The extras previously paid, irrespective of the percentage of artificial silk used, were 30 or 35 per cent. for weft and 10 per cent. for twist.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING NOVEMBER, 1925 (continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics.)
TEXTILE TRADES (continued).				
Silk Dyeing and Finishing.	Macclesfield...	Pay day in week ending 7 Nov.	Male workers	Increase* of 9d. per week for those 22½ years and over, 6d. per week for those 17 and under 22½ years, and 3d. per week for those 15½ and under 17 years, the rates for those 14 and under 15½ years remaining unchanged. Rates after change: under 14 years, 16s. increasing to 31s. 6d. at 18, to 44s. 9d. at 21, and to 51s. 3d. at 22½ years, plus special advance of 2s. for those 21 and over.
			Female workers	Increase* of 4d. per week for those 18 years and over. Rate after change, 21s. 11d., plus 1s. 3d.
FOOD, DRINK, AND TOBACCO TRADES.				
Baking	South Yorkshire and North Derbyshire.†	Pay day in week beginning 16 Nov.	Workpeople employed by Co-operative Societies.	Increase* of 1s. 6d. per week for male workers and of 9d. per week for female workers and juniors. Rates after change for adult male workers: foremen, chargemen and single hands, 72s. 6d.; doughmixers, ovenmen and second hands, 67s. 6d.; tablehands, 62s. 6d.; allied workers, 54s. 6d.
	Ayrshire‡	1 Nov.	Bakers and confectioners	Increase* of 1s. per week. Minimum rate after change, 73s. per week.
WOODWORKING AND FURNITURE TRADES.				
Furniture	London	1 Nov.	Female french polishers	Increase* of ¼d. per hour (1s. 0½d. to 1s. 1d.).
	Glasgow	1st full pay in Nov.	Rocking- and baby-chairmakers ...	Increase* of ¼d. per hour for timeworkers and of 2½ per cent. for pieceworkers.
BUILDING AND ALLIED TRADES.				
Building	Buckfastleigh	23 Nov.	Building trade operatives	Increase of ¼d. per hour for craftsmen (1s. 4d. to 1s. 4½d.) and ¼d. per hour for labourers (1s. 0½d. to 1s. 0¾d.).
	Pwlheli	1 Nov.	Building trade operatives	Increase of ¼d. per hour for craftsmen (1s. 5d. to 1s. 5½d.) and of ¼d. per hour for labourers (1s. 1d. to 1s. 1½d.).
TRANSPORT TRADES.				
Road Transport	Hartlepoons and District.	11 Nov.	Road transport workers	Minimum weekly rates adopted as follows: one-horse drivers, 53s.; two-horse drivers, 58s.; mechanical vehicle drivers—under 1 ton (youths), 45s., (adults), 53s.; 1 ton and under 2 tons, 58s.; 2 tons and over, 63s.; steam-wagon drivers, 66s.; steers, 57s.; mates (steam and petrol), 53s.; van boys and cob drivers, rates varying from 22s. 6d. at 14 to 16 years of age to 45s. at 20 to 21 years.
PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES.				
Tramways Undertaking	Bexley	5 Nov.	Inspectors, motormen, conductors, car cleaners, etc.	Increase of 2s. per week for inspectors, of ¼d. per hour for other grades over 18 years of age, and of ¼d. per hour for those under 18. Rate after change for motormen and conductors, 1s. 5½d. per hour.
Non-Trading Services of Local Authorities.	Hartlepool	1 Nov.	Manual workers	Increase* of ¼d. per hour. Rates after change: general labourers, 1s. 2½d. per hour; roadmen, 1s. 4½d.; refuse collectors, 1s. 3½d.; street sweepers, 1s. 1½d.
	York... ..	5 Nov.	Manual workers	Increase* of ¼d. per hour. Rates after change: labourers, carters, refuse collectors, 1s. 3½d. per hour; day scavengers, 1s. 2½d.; night scavengers and carters, 1s. 4½d.; wagon and road-roller drivers, 1s. 4½d.; paviors, 1s. 8½d.
MISCELLANEOUS TRADES.				
Leather Belt Manufacture.	Great Britain	1st pay day in Nov.	Timeworkers	Increase* of ¼d. per hour. Rates after change: skilled—London, 4s. 4½d., provinces, 1s. 3½d.; semi-skilled—London, 1s. 0½d., provinces, 1s. 0½d.
			Pieceworkers and cutters on day-work.	Percentage payable on base rates embodied in agreement of November, 1922, increased* from 73 to 76.
Brush and Broom Manufacture.	Great Britain	1 Nov.	Workpeople employed in the brush and broom trade:—	Increase* in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of the following amounts for the classes named respectively (see also p. 409 of November GAZETTE):—
			Experienced male timeworkers	Increase* of ¼d. per hour (1s. 2½d. to 1s. 2¾d.).
Basket Making	Lancashire and Cheshire.	2 Nov.	Other male timeworkers under 21 years of age.¶	Increase* of ¼d. per hour.
			Male and female pieceworkers	Increase* of 5 per cent. on Lancashire price list, making wages 100 per cent. and 90 per cent. above list for timeworkers and pieceworkers respectively.
Coffin Furniture and Cerement Making.	Great Britain	1 Nov.	Female pan hands||	Increase* of ¼d. per hour.
			Other female timeworkers, under 18, and learners.¶	Increase* of ¼d. per hour.
Entertainments	Glasgow Area (including Rutherglen and Clydebank)¶	16 Nov.	Apprentices	Increase* proportionate to the above.
			Male workers employed in the coffin furniture trade:—	Increase* of 5 per cent. on Lancashire price list, making wages 100 per cent. and 90 per cent. above list for timeworkers and pieceworkers respectively.
MISCELLANEOUS TRADES.				
Entertainments	Glasgow Area (including Rutherglen and Clydebank)¶	16 Nov.	Timeworkers:—	Increase* of 3s. 11d. per week for those 21 and over, and of 1s. 1s. 6d., or 2s. per week (according to age and experience) for those under 21.
			Dressers, stampers, polishers or planishers (including wheelers).	Increase* of 1s. 1s. 6d., or 2s. per week. Minimum rates after change for those 21 and over, 49s. to 58s.
Entertainments	Glasgow Area (including Rutherglen and Clydebank)¶	16 Nov.	Packers, rough warehousemen and despatchers.	Increase* of 2½ per cent., leaving piecework basis time rates 12½ per cent. above the appropriate minimum time rates.
			Pieceworkers	Increase* of ¼d. per hour for those 16 years of age and over, the rates for those under 16 remaining unchanged. Minimum rates after change: time rates—2d. at under 14½ years, increasing to 6d., 6½d., 7d., or 7½d. (according to experience) at 21 and over; pinkers and choppers to receive 1d. and ¼d. per hour more respectively.
Entertainments	Glasgow Area (including Rutherglen and Clydebank)¶	16 Nov.	Female workers employed in the cerement making section of the coffin furniture and cerement making trade (including folders, packers, warehouse workers, and despatchers).	Increase* in the minimum rates of 3s. 6d. per week in first-class halls and of 6d. per week in second-class halls. Minimum rates after change: 1st class halls, 80s.; 2nd class halls, 68s.
			Musicians employed in cinemas ...	Increase* in the minimum rates of 3s. 6d. per week in first-class halls and of 6d. per week in second-class halls. Minimum rates after change: 1st class halls, 80s.; 2nd class halls, 68s.

* The change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour cost-of-living index number.
 † Including Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham, Sheffield, Chesterfield, Pontefract; also Grimsby and Goole.
 ‡ Auchinleck, Dalmellington, Irvine, Kilbirnie, Kilmarnock, Kilwinning, Maybole, Stevenston, Troon, Largs, Fairlie, West Kilbride, Old Cumnock, New Cumnock, Mauchin, Catrine, Dunlop, Stewarton, Beith, Dalry, Glangarnock, Crosshouse, Hurlford, Darvel, Galston, Newmilns, Kilmarnock, Ardrossan, Saltcoats, etc.
 § i.e., Men 21 years and over with 3 years' experience in certain operations and workers of all ages who have served at least 5 years' apprenticeship in one or more of such operations.
 ¶ Excluding males aged under 16½, 17-17½, and 18-19, and females under 16½, and 17-17½, for whom there was no change. In the case of female learners the increase was confined to those starting at 16 and under 21 in their 3rd and 4th six months, and those at 21 and over in their 1st, 2nd, and 4th three months. In the case of female pan hands the rates previously paid remain unchanged for those employed on all cocoa and all other fibre brooms and banisters of any length (except whisk and Pisava brooms and banisters) and bass heads up to 12 in. stock, 30 knots round.
 ¶ The change took effect as the result of an award to which the Cinematograph Exhibitor's Association and the Scottish Branches of the Musicians' Union were parties.

PRICES AND WAGES IN THE IRON AND STEEL TRADE.

IN continuation of the particulars published in previous issues of this GAZETTE, the following Table shows the results of recent ascertainment of selling prices of pig iron and manufactured iron and steel in certain districts:—

Product and District.	Price according to last Audit.*		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) of last Audit* on	
	Period covered by last Audit.	Average selling price per ton.	Previous Audit.	A year ago.
Pig Iron:—	1925.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Cleveland (No. 3) ...	July-Sept.	71 4	- 5 1½	- 14 11½
Cumberland... ..	Sept.-Oct.	77 6½	- 3 0½	- 15 10½
(Hematite mixed numbers).	Sept.	78 1	- 1 8	- 16 11½
Oct.	77 1½	- 0 11½	- 15 1½	
North Staffordshire	July-Sept.	75 9½	- 5 10	- 12 8½
Nottinghamshire ...	July-Sept.	71 8	- 5 7½	- 17 5
Northamptonshire ...	July-Sept.	63 11½	- 5 6½	- 18 9½
Lincolnshire	July-Sept.	66 7½	- 7 3½	- 18 11½
West of Scotland ...	July-Sept.	83 10	- 4 6	- 12 10
Manufactured Iron:—				
North of England ...	Sept.-Oct.	235 9	- 17 9½	- 9 1
(Bars and angles).				
West of Scotland ...	Sept.-Oct.	239 1½	+ 2 4½	- 12 8½
(Rounds, flats, tees, angles, hoops and rods).				
Steel:—				
South-West Wales ...	July-Sept.	129 1	- 12 4	- 38 11
(Steel tin bars).				
South Wales and Monmouthshire... ..	June-Aug.	144 4½	- 2 5½	- 20 2½
(Steel rails and steel tin bars).				

The variations in prices indicated in the above Table resulted, as regards the price of Cumberland pig iron, in reductions varying from 1d. to 2d. per shift in October in the wages of iron-ore miners in Cumberland, followed by further reductions of ½d. to 1d. per shift in November. The wages of limestone quarrymen in West Cumberland were also reduced in October as a result of the September ascertainment, by 1d. or 1½d. per shift; but the reductions warranted by the October ascertainment were not enforced. A reduction was also due under the sliding scale in the case of Furness iron-ore miners, but it was agreed between the employers and workpeople that it should not operate. The ascertainment for September-October for Cumberland also warranted a reduction of 3½ per cent. on standard rates of blastfurnacemen in West Cumberland, but the reduction was only applied to the output bonus earnings of certain classes of men. In the case of blastfurnacemen in Cleveland, ironstone miners in Leicestershire, blastfurnacemen in Nottinghamshire, and ironstone miners and blastfurnacemen in Northamptonshire, reductions which were due under the operation of the sliding scales were not enforced. The Lincolnshire ascertainment warranted a reduction of 9 per cent. in the standard wages of blastfurnacemen and ironstone miners in that county, but it was agreed that only 4 per cent. should operate in the case of daymen (for further particulars, see page 440). Blastfurnacemen sustained a reduction of 7½ per cent. on standard rates in North Staffordshire and of 4 per cent. in West Scotland. The ascertainment for manufactured iron resulted in a reduction of 10 per cent. in standard rates for iron puddlers and millmen in the North of England, while in the West of Scotland the ascertainment resulted in an increase of 2½ per cent. The steel ascertainment resulted in a decrease of 1½ per cent. in the standard rates of workpeople in steel melting shops and iron and steel rolling mills in South Wales and Monmouthshire. In the case of Siemens steel works in South-West Wales, the ascertainment warranted a reduction, but it was agreed that wages should not be reduced during the quarter beginning November.

ASSISTED PASSAGES UNDER THE EMPIRE SETTLEMENT ACT, 1922.

THE number of assisted passages granted during November, 1925, in connection with agreed schemes under the Empire Settlement Act, and the total number of such passages granted from the inception of these schemes, together with the number of departures during the same periods, are shown in the following Table:—

Assisted Passage Schemes.	Assisted Passages Granted in Nov., 1925.	Total Assisted Passages Granted.		Departures in Nov., 1925.	Total Departures.	
		1922.	Jan.-Nov., 1925.		1922.	Jan.-Nov., 1925.
To Australia	2,580	56,066	24,083	1,151	55,281	22,367
" New Zealand	928	16,446†	8,582	265	14,575	7,366
" Canada	492	12,168†	8,744	273	11,623	9,672
Dominion of Ontario ...	21	1,367	...	...	1,356	...
Province of Canada ...	...	...	165	...	...	79
" South Africa	185	3,314	2,213	237	3,105	1,750
Minor Schemes ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	4,206	89,361†	43,787	1,926	85,940	41,234

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

* Stated to the nearest farthing.
 † Revised figures.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS *

THE total number of cases† of poisoning, anthrax and epitheliomatous and chrome ulceration in Great Britain and Northern Ireland reported under the Factory and Workshop Act during November, 1925, was 46. Eight deaths‡ were reported during the month, seven due to epitheliomatous ulceration, and one due to lead poisoning. In addition, ten cases of lead poisoning (including two deaths) among house painters and plumbers came to the knowledge of the Home Office during November, but notification of these cases is not obligatory.

(a) CASES OF LEAD POISONING.	(b) CASES OF OTHER FORMS OF POISONING.
Smelting of Metals ... 1	Arsenical Poisoning ... 1
Plumbing and Soldering ...	Carbon Bisulphide ...
Shipbreaking 2	Poisoning 1
Printing 2	TOTAL, OTHER FORMS OF POISONING 2
Tinning of Metals 1	(c) CASES OF ANTHRAX.
Other Contact with Molten Lead 3	Wool 1
White and Red Lead Works 1	Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins ... 2
Pottery 1	TOTAL, ANTHRAX 3
Vitreous Enamelling	(d) CASES OF EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCERATION.
Electric Accumulator Works 6	Pitch 2
Paint and Colour Works ... 1	Tar 4
Indiarubber Works	Oil 13
Coach and Car Painting ... 2	TOTAL, EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCERATION 19
Shipbuilding 2	(e) CASES OF CHROME ULCERATION.
Paint used in Other Industries 1	Manufacture of Bichromates 1
Other Industries 1	Dyeing and Finishing ... 1
TOTAL OF ABOVE 19	Chrome Tanning
HOUSE PAINTING AND PLUMBING... .. 10	Other Industries 2
	TOTAL, CHROME ULCERATION ... 3

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 November, 1925, was 201, as compared with 207 in the previous month and with 182 in November, 1924. Fatal accidents to seamen numbered 52 in November, 1925, as compared with 44 in the previous month; comparable figures for November, 1924, are not available.

RAILWAY SERVICE.	FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS (continued):
Brakemen and Goods Guards 2	Locomotives, Railway and Tramway Carriages, Motors, Aircraft ... 2
Engine Drivers 1	Other Metal Trades ... 3
Firemen 1	Shipbuilding 7
Guards (Passenger)	Wood 3
Permanent-Way Men ... 2	Gas 5
Porters 1	Electric Generating Stations 1
Shunters 1	Clay, Stone, Glass, etc. ... 5
Mechanics 1	Chemicals, etc. 4
Labourers 7	Food and Drink 6
Miscellaneous 1	Tanning, currying, etc. ... 1
Contractors' Servants ...	
TOTAL, RAILWAY SERVICE ... 15	PLACES UNDER SS. 104-106, FACTORY ACT, 1901.
	Docks, Wharves, etc. ... 8
	Buildings 8
	Warehouses and Railway Sidings 2
	TOTAL, FACTORY ACTS ... 74
	Use or Working of:
	Canals 1
	Tramways 1
	TOTAL (excluding Seamen) 201
	SEAMEN.
	Trading Vessels, Sailing ... 1
	" " Steam 43
	Fishing Vessels, Sailing ... 1
	" " Steam 7
	TOTAL, SEAMEN 52
	TOTAL (including Seamen) 253

* Based on Returns from the Home Office and from the Ministry of Labour for Northern Ireland.
 † Cases include all attacks reported during the month and not previously reported, so far as is known, during the preceding 12 months. Deaths include all fatal cases reported during the month, whether included (as cases) in previous returns or not.
 ‡ Based on Returns from the Home Office, the Board of Trade, the Mines Department, the Ministry of Transport, and the Ministry of Labour for Northern Ireland.

POOR LAW RELIEF IN GREAT BRITAIN.

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

THE number of persons* relieved on one day† in November, 1925, in the thirty-one selected areas named below, was 801,292, or 2.9 per cent. more than in the previous month, and 16.2 per cent. more than in November, 1924. The numbers relieved at these three dates were equivalent, respectively, to rates of 448, 436 and 387 per 10,000 of the estimated population.

In the twenty-five selected areas in England and Wales the number of persons relieved in November, 1925, was 669,368, or 424 per 10,000 of the estimated population. In the six areas in Scotland the number relieved was 131,924, or 634 per 10,000 of the estimated population.

Recipients of indoor relief in the thirty-one districts in November numbered 127,787, or 2.0 per cent. more than in the previous month, and 3.3 per cent. more than in November, 1924. Recipients of outdoor relief numbered 673,505, or 3.1 per cent. more than in the previous month, and 19.1 per cent. more than a year ago.

In practically every one of the thirty-one districts there was an increase in the number per 10,000 relieved compared with both a month and a year earlier; the only noticeable exceptions were in the Coatbridge and Airdrie district, where the rate per 10,000 decreased by 21 as compared with the previous month, and Birmingham, where the rate decreased by 47 as compared with November, 1924. The increases compared with a year ago were in some cases considerable, the most noteworthy being East London (233 per 10,000), Newcastle (223 per 10,000), Stockton and Tees (155 per 10,000), and Paisley and Greenock (131 per 10,000).

Selected Urban Areas.	Number of persons* in receipt of Poor Law Relief on one day† in November, 1925.			Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with a	
	Indoor.	Out-door.	Total.		Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
<i>Metropolis.</i>						
West District ...	9,199	8,630	17,829	215	+ 12	+ 23
North District ...	10,755	20,324	31,079	303	+ 9	+ 18
Central District ...	2,408	3,357	5,765	431	+ 6	+ 60
East District ...	10,411	60,506	70,917	1,096	+ 8	+ 233
South District ...	19,775	81,322	101,097	518	+ 15	+ 83
TOTAL, Metropolis ...	52,548	174,149	226,697	494	+ 12	+ 78
<i>Other Districts.</i>						
Newcastle District	2,617	33,899	36,516	724	+ 39	+ 223
Stockton and Tees District ...	1,240	16,151	17,391	628	+ 44	+ 155
Bolton, Oldham, etc.	4,234	8,547	12,781	161	+ 9	+ 19
Wigan District ...	1,832	11,351	13,183	290	+ 7	+ 46
Manchester District	8,998	29,811	38,809	371	+ 12	+ 63
Liverpool District...	10,006	51,641	61,647	494	- 1	+ 58
Bradford District ...	1,857	5,234	7,091	191	+ 10	+ 54
Halifax and Huddersfield ...	1,359	3,225	4,584	121	+ 3	+ 16
Leeds† ...	2,658	10,875	13,533	285	+ 9	+ 69†
Barnsley District ...	902	9,371	10,273	312	+ 10	+ 45
Sheffield ...	2,567	26,733	29,300	568	+ 38	+ 27
Hull District ...	1,786	13,333	15,119	472	+ 40	+ 107
North Staffordshire	2,333	6,679	9,012	215	+ 11	+ 39
Nottingham District	2,196	11,544	13,740	291	+ 6	+ 40
Leicester ...	1,220	2,993	4,213	174	+ 6	+ 12
Wolverhampton District	3,364	17,102	20,466	275	+ 7	+ 26
Birmingham ...	7,240	18,625	25,865	273	+ 4	- 47
Bristol District ...	2,424	13,568	15,992	385	+ 14	+ 48
Cardiff and Swansea	2,511	17,067	19,578	409	+ 7	+ 108
TOTAL, "Other Districts" ...	61,344	307,749	369,093	354	+ 13	+ 52
TOTAL, Districts in England and Wales ...	118,366	551,002	669,368	424	+ 12	+ 59
SCOTLAND.						
Glasgow District ...	5,392	80,366	85,758	878	+ 28	+ 111
Paisley and Greenock District ...	873	13,494	14,367	742	+ 33	+ 131
Edinburgh ...	1,451	15,050	16,501	386	+ 6	- 4
Dundee and Dunfermline ...	804	4,321	5,125	231	+ 28	+ 78
Aberdeen ...	446	3,057	3,503	220	+ 13	+ 6
Coatbridge and Airdrie	455	6,215	6,670	652	- 21	+ 89
TOTAL for the above Scottish Districts ...	9,421	122,503	131,924	634	+ 21	+ 77
TOTAL for above 31 Districts in Nov., 1925	127,787	673,505	801,292	448	+ 12	+ 61

* The figures include dependants, but exclude casuals, lunatics in Asylums, Registered Hospitals and Licensed Houses, and persons receiving out-door medical relief only.
† The figures for England and Wales relate to 28th November, and those for Scotland to 15th November.
‡ Owing to alteration of area, comparison with a year ago is approximate only.

RETAIL PRICES OVERSEAS.

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

I.—FOOD.

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

Country.	Percentage Increase as compared with July, 1914.*				Latest figures available.	
	July, 1922.	July, 1923.	July, 1924.	July, 1925.	Rise.	Date.
UNITED KINGDOM ...	80	62	62	67	74	1925. 1 Dec.
FOREIGN COUNTRIES.						
Czechoslovakia ...	...	...	...	794	784	Sept.
Denmark ...	84	88	100	110	110	July
Egypt (Cairo)†	72	52	48	58	60	Sept.
Finland ...	1,005	868	916	1,007	1,029	Oct.
France (Paris)‡	197	221	260	321	344	Nov.
(other towns)‡	212§	249§	300§	351§	351	Aug.
Holland (The Hague)¶	...	...	...	67	72	Sept.
(Amsterdam)¶	40	36	38	48	48	Sept.
Italy (Milan) ...	392	396	408	502	549	Nov.
Norway ...	133	118	148	160	123	Nov.
Spain (Madrid)‡	79	72	82	90	89	Oct.
(Barcelona)‡	73	65	72	82	71	Oct.
Sweden†	79	60	59	69	65	Nov.
Switzerland ...	57	64	68	67	63	Oct.
United States ...	39	44	40	59	58	Oct.
BRITISH DOMINIONS, & C.						
Australia ...	48	64	49†	56	56	Sept.
Canada ...	38	37	34	41	51	Nov.
India (Bombay) ...	60	48	51	52	51	Dec.
Irish Free State ...	85†	82	85	88	88	Oct.
New Zealand ...	44	42	48	51	56	Nov.
South Africa ...	16	16	17	20	18	Oct.

II.—ALL ITEMS.

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

Country.	Items on which Computation is based.‡	Percentage Increase as compared with July, 1914.†				Latest figures available.	
		July, 1922.	July, 1923.	July, 1924.	July, 1925.	Rise.	Date.
UNITED KINGDOM	A,B,C,D,E	84	69	70	73	77	1925. 1 Dec.
FOREIGN COUNTRIES.							
Belgium ...	A,C,D,E	266	329	393	...	433	Oct.
Chile ...	A,C,D,E	...	...	90	...	111	Aug.
Denmark ...	A,B,C,D,E	99	104	114	...	119	July
Finland ...	A,B,C,D,E	1,018	990	1,032	1,094	1,106	Oct.
France (Paris) ...	A,B,C,D,E	189**	231**	267**	301**	301	3rd Qr.
Germany ...	A,B,C,D,E	...	...	43	41	41	Nov.
Greece (Athens) ...	A,B,C,D,E	516	933	1,225	1,372	1,403	Sept.
Hungary ...	A,B,C,D	...	...	...	190,060	190,060	July
Italy (Milan) ...	A,B,C,D,E	388	387	412	438	543	Nov.
Luxemburg ...	A,C,D	259	340	381	415	430	Nov.
Norway ...	A,B,C,D,E	155†	139†	151†	161†	148	Sept.
Poland (Warsaw) ...	A,B,C,D,E	...	...	27	52	58	Nov.
Sweden ...	A,B,C,D,E	90	74	71	76	75	Sept.
Switzerland ...	A,C,D	63	67	70	69	65	Oct.
United States ...	A,B,C,D,E	67†	70†	69†	74†	74	June
BRITISH DOMINIONS, & C.							
Australia ...	A,B	43**	56**	48**	...	53	2nd Qr.
Canada ...	A,B,D	46	46	44	...	46	Nov.
India (Bombay) ...	A,B,C,D	65	53	57	...	57	Dec.
Irish Free State ...	A,B,C,D,E	85**	80	83	...	88	Oct.
South Africa ...	A,B,D,E	35	30	32	...	32	Oct.

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

EMPLOYMENT OVERSEAS.

[N.B.—The following paragraphs include an abstract of such official information as is available with regard to the state of employment abroad, in order to indicate, as far as possible, the fluctuations in employment in each country from period to period. The bases of the official statistics published in the various countries are, however, not the same as those of the United Kingdom statistics, and therefore the figures quoted below cannot properly be used with those on pp. 427-428 to compare the actual level of employment in the United Kingdom with that of other countries. For details of the bases of the unemployment statistics of the various countries reference should be made to the Report issued by the International Labour Office under the title "Methods of Statistics of Unemployment." (Studies and Reports, Series C. (Statistics) No. 7.)]

FRANCE.*

Unemployment in November.—The total number of unemployed persons remaining on the "live register" of the Exchanges on 28th November was 11,243 (7,264 men and 3,979 women). At the end of October the corresponding total was 11,099 and in November, 1924, 11,863. The total number of vacancies remaining unfilled on the same date was 8,408 (4,874 for men and 3,534 for women), as compared with 8,974 at the end of October and 7,295 in November, 1924. During the last week of November the Exchanges succeeded in placing 26,211 persons in situations, including 9,739 dock workers at seaports, and in addition found employment for 3,092 foreign immigrants.

GERMANY.†

Employment in October.—During the month under consideration employment showed a definite falling-off, attributable in great measure to the seasonal stoppage of outdoor work. This decline set in somewhat earlier than usual, but its effect upon the situation in general was not much more marked than last year. Returns relating to unemployment among their members were received from 40 trade unions. The returns relate to 3,682,841 (out of an aggregate membership of 3,944,246) of whom 214,054, or 5.8 per cent., were unemployed on the last day of October, as compared with 4.5 per cent. at the end of September and 8.4 per cent. at the end of October, 1924.

The following Table gives corresponding percentages for the principal Unions comprised in the above totals:—

UNIONS.	Membership reported on at end of October, 1925.	Percentage Unemployed at end of Month.		
		Oct., 1925.	Sept., 1925.	Oct., 1924.
S.D. = Social-Democratic.				
H.D. = Hirsch - Duncker (neutral).				
C. = Christian.				
All Unions making Returns ...	3,682,841	5.8	4.5	8.4
Porcelain (S.D.) ...	50,061	3.9	3.9	7.4
Glass (S.D.) ...	49,827	2.9	2.1	...
Metal (S.D.) ...	782,966	7.3	5.1	13.5
(H.D.) ...	80,213	5.5	5.6	7.2
Textile (S.D.) ...	320,579	2.7	2.8	6.4
(C.) ...	83,112	1.6	1.3	3.3
Clothing (S.D.) ...	85,306	7.1	5.4	4.6
Boot and shoe (S.D.) ...	87,854	6.9	4.5	6.9
Food, tobacco, etc. (S.D.) ...	54,925	7.0	6.8	7.0
Food and drink (S.D.) ...	68,441	3.0	2.6	2.7
Tobacco (S.D.) ...	61,651	13.0	7.5	7.9
Woodworking (S.D.) ...	307,219	6.5	4.2	9.1
Printing (S.D.) ...	78,000	1.8	1.7	1.1
Bookbinding (S.D.) ...	54,868	3.9	3.8	5.8
Building (S.D.) ...	360,132	6.4	4.6	6.5
Carpenters (S.D.) ...	84,980	8.4	5.2	...
Transport (S.D.) ...	297,571	5.3	4.8	6.9
Factory workers (trades not distinguished) (S.D.) ...	349,051	6.2	5.6	9.6
Engine drivers and firemen (S.D.) ...	51,207	7.2	6.4	14.1
Factory and transport (C.) ...	60,452	7.3	5.8	18.4
Municipal and State workers (S.D.) ...	200,554	0.9	0.8	1.5

The foregoing figures relate to persons entirely without work Statistics are also available concerning the prevalence of short time among organised workers. Returns were received from 36 trade unions with 3,210,000 members, of whom 12.4 per cent. were working reduced time at the end of October, as compared with 8.5 per cent. at the end of September and 12.2 per cent. at the end of October, 1924.

The number of totally unemployed persons in receipt of out-of-work benefit from public funds was 471,333 on 15th November, as compared with 298,872 on 15th October. These figures (it is stated) are not to be taken as representing the total number of unemployed throughout Germany, since a claim to such benefit is dependent upon compliance with certain statutory requirements.

AUSTRIA.

Unemployment in October.—According to figures given in the journal of the Austrian Department of Statistics‡ the number of persons in receipt of unemployment benefit in Austria was 131,096 at the end of October, as compared with 119,005 at the end of the preceding month and 89,017 at the end of October, 1924. In Vienna alone there were 76,237 persons in receipt of benefit at the middle of November and 72,666 at the end of October; these figures do not include persons in receipt of "extraordinary" relief.

* Bulletin du Marché du Travail, 4th December, 1925. Paris.
† Reichs-Arbeitsblatt, 1st December, 1925. Berlin.
‡ Statistische Nachrichten, 25th November, 1925. Vienna.

HOLLAND.

Unemployment in September.—The issue of the journal of the Dutch Statistical Office* for 31st October contains preliminary figures compiled by the State Department of Unemployment Insurance and Employment Exchanges, which show that out of 248,229 members of subsidised unemployment funds making returns for the week ended 26th September, 15,615 (6.3 per cent.) were unemployed during the whole week, and 4,495 (1.8 per cent.) for less than six days. In the corresponding week of the preceding month (ended 29th August) the percentages were respectively 6.8 and 2.0, and in the week ended 27th September, 1924, 6.8 and 2.0.

ITALY.

Unemployment in September.—According to a report issued by the Italian Social Insurance Department,† 82,764 workpeople were totally unemployed on 30th September as compared with 72,211 at the end of August and 115,590 at the end of September, 1924. In addition 7,223 were partially unemployed at the latest date, 5,763 on 31st August and 21,849 on 30th September, 1924. On 30th September last the number of totally unemployed persons in receipt of benefit, under the statutory unemployment insurance scheme, was 15,550, as compared with 15,657 on 31st August and 21,009 on 30th September, 1924.

SWITZERLAND.‡

Unemployment in October.—On 31st October the number of applications remaining on the "live register" of Employment Exchanges making returns to the Federal Labour Department was 12,219, as compared with 10,356 at the end of September and 9,451 at the

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

Shops Acts, 1912-1913.

WAITERS AS SHOP ASSISTANTS.

SECTION 1 of the Shops Act, 1912, lays down the conditions of employment for shop assistants. It specifies the hours of employment and meal times, and imposes penalties for any contravention of, or failure to comply with, the Section. By Section 1 of the Act of 1913, it is provided that Section 1 of the Shops Act, 1912, shall not apply to shop assistants employed in any premises for the sale of refreshments, whether licensed for the sale of intoxicating liquor or not, if their employment is wholly or mainly in connection with the sale of intoxicating liquors or refreshments for consumption on the premises; provided the occupier of the premises, by notice signifies that he elects that, instead of those provisions, the provisions contained in the 1913 Act shall apply.

The Divisional Court recently held, on a case stated by the Stipendiary Magistrate at Leeds, that waiters employed in the restaurant of licensed premises were shop assistants, when the proprietor of the premises had given the above notice. The appellant, an Inspector under the Shops Acts, laid an information against the respondents, who were the occupiers of the Victory Hotel, licensed premises and restaurant, Leeds, charging them that they, having elected that, instead of Section 1 of the Shops Act, 1912, the provisions of the Shops Act, 1913, should apply to shop assistants employed on the premises mainly in connection with the sale of refreshments for consumption on the premises, were guilty of an offence under the Shops Act, 1912, in that they had failed to make provision to secure to one of the assistants, a waiter, 26 whole holidays on Sundays in every year, so distributed that at least one of every three consecutive Sundays would be a whole holiday. Similar informations were laid, alleging further infringements, because provision had not been made for securing to other waiters 32 whole holidays on weekdays. The waiters concerned were employed in a restaurant in which meals were supplied, both to residents in the hotel and to members of the public. The Leeds Stipendiary had held that the residential part of the hotel was not a shop within the meaning of the Shops Act, 1912, and dismissed the informations.

The Lord Chief Justice, in delivering judgment, said that the occupiers of the licensed premises had, by giving the notice specified in Section 1 (subsection 1) of the Shops Act, 1913, signified that, instead of the provisions of the Shops Act, 1912, they elected that the provisions of the Shops Act, 1913, should apply to the assistants employed on their premises. As the respondents had the benefit of the Act of 1913, so also must they have the burden. Under the 1912 Act, not only was the expression "shop" defined as "any premises where any retail trade or business is carried on," but "shop assistant" was also limited to "any person wholly or mainly employed in a shop in connection with the serving of customers or the receipt of orders or the dispatch of goods." The respondents having made their election, the definition of "shop assistant" in Section 1 (subsection 5) of the 1913 Act became operative, namely, that "shop assistant" included "all persons wholly or mainly employed in any capacity at the premises in connection with the business there carried on." His Lordship held that if a person had made his election, he could not afterwards be heard to say that there were persons employed at the premises who were not shop assistants, and that the contention of the appellant in this case appeared to be correct. The definition of "shop assistant" in the Act of 1912 had been, by the Act of 1913, specifically enlarged; and it was not now in the power of the respondents to argue on the true meaning of the definition in the Act of 1912. The appeal was allowed.—*Rutherford v. Trust Houses, Ltd.—High Court of Justice, King's Bench Division. 19th November, 1925.*

Workmen's Compensation Acts, 1906-1923.

The question before the Court, in many cases under the above Acts, is whether the accident is one "arising out of and in the course of the employment." From the reported decisions, it would appear that sometimes only a very thin line divides those cases held to be within the Acts from those held to be outside; and particularly is this so where the workman met with an accident while travelling to his work, and is using, or is about to use, some means of transport provided by the employer.

Two cases heard this year before the Court of Appeal illustrate the above remarks. In the case of *Newton v. Guest, Keen & Nettlefold, Ltd.*, heard on the 9th and 10th February last, a colliery labourer was employed by the appellants at their colliery. He lived about 3 miles from the colliery, which was on a high hill, the road from his home to the colliery being an open mountain road, with ponds and bogs along the route. To enable them to form a shift at 7 o'clock in the morning, the colliery proprietors had, for 30 years, provided trains by which the miners could travel to the colliery. The trains were run by the Great Western Railway Co. under an agreement between them and the appellants, and the colliery manager stated in his evidence that the men were expected to travel by these trains. The platforms and coaches were owned by the appellants. In October, 1923, the workman, whilst crossing the line at about 5.30 a.m. to join one of these trains proceeding to the colliery, was knocked down by an engine, and, as a result of the injury, his leg had to be amputated. The County Court found that the only practicable and reasonable means of access to the colliery for the workman was the train provided by the appellants, and held that the accident arose out of and in the course of the employment. The Court of Appeal decided there was no duty or proved necessity for the workman to travel to his work by the train provided, and the accident therefore did not arise out of and in the course of the employment.

The second case was also an appeal from the decision of a County Court Judge. The applicant was a boy of 15 living at Aberdare, and was employed by the respondents at their colliery situate on the side of a mountain. The boy lived about 2 miles from the colliery, and in company with others who lived at Aberdare, he would take the omnibus which took them to the foot of the incline leading up to the colliery, and there he entered a coach, the property of the respondents, which was hauled by a rope up the incline of the colliery, a distance of about 1,000 yards. From the platform from which the coach started the land belonged to the respondents, and an old parish road ran parallel with the track on which the coach was drawn up. In August, 1924, the applicant caught the second coach starting at 6.30; but, as it was full, he sat on the footboard at the side, as was the practice generally amongst the men when the coach was full. On the way up, his leg was caught in a roller and was severely injured. No point was made by the respondents of the fact that the applicant sat on the footboard, and the matter was treated as if the accident had happened to him while inside the coach. The County Court Judge found that the coach and the track on which it ran up to the colliery were the property of the respondents, and, as there was no obligation on the men to use the coach, held that he must follow the decision in the case of *Guest, Keen & Nettlefold, Ltd.* (quoted above) that the accident did not arise out of and in the course of the employment.

The Court of Appeal held that, as the applicant at the time of the accident was in the coach only because of his employment by the respondents, and was on their premises, his employment by them had begun, and therefore the accident arose out of and in the course of his employment, and that the cases in which the applicant met with an accident while travelling to his work, but before he had come on to his employer's premises, such as *Newton v. Guest, Keen & Nettlefold, Ltd.*, were not applicable to this case.—*Hovells v. Powell Duffryn Steam Coal Co., Ltd.—Court of Appeal. 10th November, 1925.*

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTS, 1920-25.

DECISIONS GIVEN BY THE UMPIRE.

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

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

The following are recent decisions of general interest:—

Case No. 1764/25. Section 8 (1) of the Principal Act, and 4 (1) No. 2 Act, 1924.—Whether Applicant was participating or directly interested in Trade Dispute.

MINERS' STRIKE—BLACKSMITH PREVENTED BY STRIKERS FROM GOING TO WORK—DID NOT THEREFORE BECOME A PARTICIPANT OR DIRECTLY INTERESTED IN DISPUTE.

The applicant, a blacksmith, lost his employment on the 14th July, 1925, owing to a stoppage of work due to a strike of miners at the colliery where he was employed. His claim for benefit was disallowed under the provisions of Section 8 (1).

He stated that he was not involved in the dispute which had taken place at the colliery. He was not a miner or a member of the Miners' Federation. On his way to work he was attacked by strikers and forced to return. He had worked two days after the strike had commenced.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim for benefit should be allowed. The Court were satisfied that the applicant was not participating, financing, or directly interested in the dispute, and did not belong to a grade or class of workers interested in the dispute.

The Insurance Officer declined to agree with the Court's recommendation. He pointed out that the miners on strike in the anthracite coal fields had forcibly prevented other workmen from continuing their employment. In his opinion the applicant must be regarded as directly interested in the dispute, and the disqualification imposed under Section 8 (1) should therefore stand.

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

"I agree with the Court of Referees."

"The applicant did not become a participant or directly interested in the dispute by his having been prevented from going to work by force or intimidation on the part of the men on strike."

Case No. 1790/25. Section 7 (1) (iv) (as amended) and 8 (2) of Principal Act—Genuinely seeking work, and Employment left voluntarily.

JEWESS LEFT JOB WHEN REQUIRED TO WORK ON JEWISH SABBATH—WORK ON SATURDAY CONTRARY TO HER RELIGIOUS BELIEF—JUST CAUSE.

The applicant, a Jewess, who had been employed for two years as a typist, left her employment on the 26th May, 1925, rather than work on Saturday when required to do so by her employers; and

* Volumes containing the collected decisions of the Umpire are published by His Majesty's Stationery Office. Decisions given after March, 1922, are not published in volume form, but summaries of the cases are printed in pamphlets issued at approximately fortnightly intervals. The pamphlets will be supplied post free, as and when issued, on payment of an annual subscription. All applications should be made to His Majesty's Stationery Office at any of the addresses shown on the front cover of this GAZETTE.

her claim for benefit lodged on the 25th June was disallowed under the provisions of Section 7 (1) (iv) (as amended).

She stated that work on Saturday, which is the Jewish Sabbath, was contrary to her religious belief. Her father was a Jewish minister, and no member of the family had worked on Saturday. She had registered for work at several Registry Offices, and had attended classes to ensure the upkeep of her typing speed.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim for benefit should be allowed. The Court were of the opinion that the applicant was genuinely seeking work.

The Insurance Officer accepted the Court's recommendation that the applicant was genuinely seeking work. He pointed out, however, that the applicant left her employment on the 26th May because she was required to work on Saturday, and lodged a claim for benefit on the 25th June. He was of the opinion that benefit should be disallowed for six weeks, from the 26th May, and that benefit should not be paid in respect of any Saturday.

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

"The applicant is a Jewess who left her employment because she was required to work on the Jewish Sabbath, which was contrary to her religious belief, and the question is whether she had just cause for leaving."

"Questions with regard to unsuitability of employment because it is objected to on religious or conscientious grounds have arisen in a number of cases, in some of which the objection has been considered sufficient reason for refusing or leaving employment, in others it has not."

"Objections on religious grounds to working on Sundays (2905 (O.W.D.)), and in the case of a Seventh Day Adventist to working on Saturdays (2921 (O.W.D.)), have been held not to render unsuitable employment involving work on those days, and an objection on the ground of the employment making it impossible to attend Mass on Sundays was not sustained in the case of *Roman Catholics* (2783 (O.W.D.) 209 and 2364 (1920)). On the other hand, religious scruples have been recognised as rendering employment unsuitable in the cases of a shop assistant objecting to Sunday work (7925 (1920)), and of a Jewess objecting to working at a non-kosher restaurant (2014 (1920)), and similarly with regard to objections on conscientious grounds to working at munitions of war (6686 (1920)), or on licensed premises (1913 (O.W.D.) and 251 (1920)); and an objection to vaccination on conscientious grounds was upheld in 4386 (1920).

"It is at first sight difficult to see why some religious scruples have been regarded and others disregarded; but it appears to me that in the cases in which they have been disregarded there were special circumstances. In the cases in which the objection was to working on Saturday or Sunday the nature of the applicant's occupation rendered it almost impossible for him to get work in his usual employment except on the terms of working on the day objected to; and in the two cases of the Roman Catholic servants the Umpire was influenced by the fact that the applicants had been long out of work and appeared to have made no effort to find employment in accordance with their requirements. Under the present practice there would, I think, have been ample reason for disallowance on the ground of not genuinely seeking work."

"Those considerations do not apply in this case, and I think it is in accordance with the general trend of recent decisions to have regard as far as possible to religious and conscientious convictions, provided they are honestly held."

"In No. 5225, which at first sight seems to be inconsistent with this principle, the Court of Referees was not, nor was I, satisfied that the applicant really had a conscientious objection to working in a respectable club like the one in question."

Case No. 1837/25. Section 7 (1) (iv) of the Principal Act (as amended)—Unable to obtain suitable employment.

GRAIN WORKERS FAILED TO ATTEND CALL FOR WORK ON GENERAL CARGO BOATS—PREFERRED TO WAIT UNTIL GRAIN BOATS AVAILABLE—GENERAL CARGO WORK HELD SUITABLE EMPLOYMENT FOR GRAIN WORKERS.

The claims for benefit of a number of dock labourers were disallowed for one week as from the 23rd June, 1925, on the ground that, suitable employment being available, they did not satisfy the statutory conditions within the meaning of Section 7 (1) (iv) (as amended).

It appeared that on the morning of the 23rd June two vessels laden with frozen meat and general cargo were in readiness to commence discharging, but at the "call off" of dockers at 8 a.m. there was a shortage of approximately 200 men. It was reported however that men were available at the port but had evaded employment on these particular vessels. Another steamship, laden with a cargo of beans, which would have been unloaded on a piece-work basis, was expected to be at the quayside in time to commence unloading at 9 a.m. It appeared that the men had preferred to wait for the latter vessel as, immediately the call off had been completed, the situation with regard to the other two vessels had become easier. In the meantime, however, it had been found necessary to engage 35 non-registered men at 9.30 a.m. for work on the two vessels, and there was still a shortage of 36 men, which was eventually made up by men who had completed their engagements on another boat. After 9.30 a.m., when all morning calls had been completed, 92 dock workers attended at the local Exchange Office in order to prove unemployment, in spite of the shortage which had existed since 8 a.m.

The applicants contended that they were corn porters, and had never worked on frozen meat cargoes. At the hearing of the case before the Court of Referees, the representative of the applicants' Association stated that the men were mainly grain porters, and had only done general cargo work when there was a shortage of men for that class of work. On the morning of the 23rd June two grain boats were at the docks, having arrived the previous day. One vessel commenced unloading operations on the morning of the 23rd June, and the men had reasonable grounds for believing that the other would follow suit, as such boats usually unloaded on the day following their arrival in the port.

If they had taken the general cargo work, no men would have been available for the grain boat. They could have taken general cargo work if grain work had not been available. Grain work was paid at piece rates, but general cargo work at time rates. He submitted that the men being corn porters were justified in waiting for work on the grain boat.

On the other hand, it was stated that it was the considered opinion of the Port Labour Committee, who were intimately acquainted with the different grades of dock workers, that grain workers should be expected to take other classes of work when their own work was not available.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claims for benefit should be disallowed.

The Court were of the opinion that grain porters should accept general cargo work, if grain work was not available. They held that general cargo work was suitable employment for grain porters and, as such work was available on the 23rd June, the applicants had not proved that they were unable to obtain suitable employment on that day.

The applicants' Association appealed to the Umpire. It was stated on appeal that, whilst the applicants were registered as dockers, they were in fact members of the section known as Grain Workers, and registered as such under the Port Labour Scheme. There was a limited number of men registered for this work, and the number was gradually being reduced as the machinery utilised in connection with the work had increased in quantity. It sometimes happened that grain workers were unemployed, and should such men present themselves to a general cargo foreman they were reminded of the fact that they were grain workers.

On the morning in question practically the whole of the grain workers were informed by the Port Labour Officer that a certain number of grain gangs were wanted, and they went to the usual place of calling on. It happened that the employers did not start the whole of the ships available, and when the balance of men went to register as unemployed they were not allowed to do so owing to the fact that a meat boat was not fully manned. This was due to the fact that the employers had not taken advantage at the first call in the morning of the opportunity there provided for obtaining all the men they required on the meat boat. Had the grain porters accepted work on the meat boat they would have prejudiced their position as grain porters, for there is a port rule that men must finish a job they have started. It was considered in the circumstances that the grain porters were entitled to wait until they were required for the further work which they knew was shortly to become available.

It was subsequently ascertained that the Port Labour Committee had expressed a very definite opinion that grain workers who were physically capable of undertaking general cargo work should do so if grain work was not available.

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

"I agree with the decision of the Insurance Officer and the recommendation of the Court of Referees."

Case No. 1962/25. Section 8 (2) of the Principal Act—Misconduct.

MOULDER DISCHARGED FOR REFUSAL TO DISCLOSE PARTICULARS OF MOULDING MIXTURE—NATURE OF MIXTURE A TRADE SECRET, AND REFUSAL TO DISCLOSE IT NOT MISCONDUCT.

The applicant, a moulder who lost his employment on the 13th July, 1925, was stated by his employers to have been discharged for insubordination, and his claim for benefit was disallowed under the provisions of Section 8 (2).

The applicant's Association stated on behalf of the applicant that there was no question of insubordination. The employer had asked the applicant for particulars of a sand mixture he had prepared for a certain job, and on his refusing to divulge what was considered a trade secret, he was dismissed. The employer, however, stated that the applicant was given instructions for the preparation of a certain sand mixture. He was then told to add some more black sand to the mixture, but no definite quantity was stated. Later, when asked the quantity of black sand added, he refused to state the exact amount. He was given two opportunities to withdraw an insulting remark he had made, but refused, and was dismissed.

The applicant informed the Court of Referees that although the firm had previously been unsuccessful in obtaining a "good" mould, he had been successful by mixing the sand to his own specifications. He refused, however, to divulge the particulars to the firm.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim for benefit should be disallowed for six weeks as from the 13th July. They were of the opinion that the applicant had lost his employment owing to unsatisfactory conduct.

The applicant's Association appealed to the Umpire. They stated on appeal that the applicant had been engaged by a motor engineering firm on the 29th June, and gave every satisfaction. The firm had experienced great difficulties in the making of motor cylinders, and had been unsuccessful in the manufacture of good cylinder castings. The applicant was asked if he could solve the difficulty, and on replying in the affirmative, was given a mould to make as a test. The result proved successful, and the casting obtained was a good one. The foreman then asked the applicant for information as to how the mould had been made, and the particular sand mixtures employed. This the applicant refused to divulge. It was stated that there were many moulders, who, apart from their every-day work, attended special classes in order to perfect themselves in the art of metal mixing and sand mixing. It was, therefore, contended that the employer had no right to request the information, and that the applicant's refusal to impart his knowledge of his trade did not amount to misconduct on his part, and that in the circumstances the disallowance imposed on his claim should be removed.

Decision.—"On the facts before me my decision is that, if the above-named employed person had made a claim for unemployment benefit, the claim would have been allowed.

"Generally speaking (unless otherwise expressly agreed or implied from the nature of his service) a servant is under no duty to disclose to his master his discoveries or inventions. They are his own property as much as the master's trade secrets are his own.

"The making of this mixture seems to have been in the nature of a trade secret discovered by the applicant by the use of his own skill and experience, and if that be so there was no misconduct in refusing to disclose it."

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

Recent Proceedings.

(A.)—INDUSTRIAL COURT DECISIONS.

ROYAL CORPS OF NAVAL CONSTRUCTORS, ADMIRALTY.—Institution of Professional Civil Servants *v.* Admiralty. *Difference.*—Salary Scales—Claim for increase. *Decision.*—The Court re-adjusted the basic salaries of the officers concerned as follows:—

Assistant Constructors:		
Second class	...	£220-15-250 per annum.
First class	...	£310-20-550 "
Constructors	...	£550-25-700 "
Senior Constructors	...	£625-25-775 "

Operative on 1st October, 1925. Issued 4th November, 1925. (1136.)

ADMIRALTY ESTABLISHMENTS—SKILLED LABOURERS.—The Trade Union Side *v.* The Official Side of the Shipbuilding Trade Joint Council for Government Departments. *Difference.*—Base rate—Claim for increase. *Decision.*—The Court find that the relativity, established in February, 1924, when the base rate of the labourers was raised for the specific purpose of remedying the lagging of the labourers' base rate behind that of the skilled labourers and others should not be disturbed by raising the present minimum rate of the skilled labourers. Issued 13th November, 1925. (1139.)

BET SUGAR INDUSTRY.—The National Union of General and Municipal Workers *v.* The English Beet Sugar Corporation, Ltd. *Difference.*—Under British Sugar (Subsidy) Act, 1925.—Rates of wages, Canteen Factory.—General Labourers and Charge Hands.—Fair Wages Resolution. *Decision.*—The Court adjudged and declared that: (a) The appropriate minimum rate for general labourers on shift work shall be 46s. per week of 48 hours. (b) The practice of paying one uniform or flat rate for day work and night work to be continued. (c) The rate determined is a basis time rate and does not interfere with the existing bonus on output, or any other system of payment by result which the parties may agree upon. (d) The existing differentials for charge hands shall be paid on the weekly rate of 46s. Issued 13th November, 1925. (1140.)

DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENTS, MERCANTILE MARINE OFFICES—BOARD OF TRADE.—Civil Service Clerical Association, Association of Executive Officers and other Civil Servants *v.* Board of Trade. *Difference.*—Claim for new Salary Scales. *Decision.*—The Court adjudged and declared that during the period the officers concerned hold the appointment of Deputy Superintendent, they shall be paid an annual allowance or sum in addition to their basic salaries as Clerical Officers as follows:—first year of appointment £10 per annum, second year £20 per annum, third year £30 per annum, fourth year £40 per annum, such allowance to carry bonus on the Civil Service Scale. Operative on 1st November, 1925. (1141.)

FOREMEN OF TRADES—ADMIRALTY.—Staff Side *v.* Official Side of the Admiralty Administrative Whitley Council. *Difference.*—Salary Scales—Claim for increase. *Decision.*—The Court adjudged that: (1) Foremen of Shipfitters, Smiths and Boilermakers—the salary scale should be £250-10-380 per annum. (2) Foremen of Ropery—the salary scale should be £250-10-360 per annum. (3) Foremen of Joiners—the salary scale should be £220-10-320 per annum. (4) Foremen of Painters and Sailmakers—the salary scale should be £190-10-250 per annum. Operative on 1st November, 1925. Issued 20th November, 1925. (1142.)

STOKERS, WATERLOO STATION.—Electrical Trades Union *v.* Southern Railway. *Difference.*—Wages—Whether determined under

Committee on Production Award No. 2773. *Decision.*—The work upon which the men concerned are engaged would not appear to bring them within the definition (paragraph 6) of Committee on Production Award No. 2773, accordingly the Court ruled that the claim was not one that could be sustained. Issued 19th November, 1925. (1143.)

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

MUSICIANS: SCOTLAND.—Cinematograph Exhibitors' Association (Scottish Branch) *v.* Musicians' Union (Scottish Branches).—*Difference.*—Terms and conditions of employment and rates of pay for musicians employed in cinemas in the Glasgow and West of Scotland Area. Mr. James Macdonald, K.C., appointed under Section 2 (1) (b) of the Conciliation Act, 1896, to act as Chairman of a Special Board of Arbitration set up to determine the matter. The parties each had one representative on the Board. *Award.*—Fixed rates of pay in the Glasgow Area and terms and conditions of employment in the Glasgow and West of Scotland Area. Rates of pay in the West of Scotland Area to be adjusted by the parties. Issued 21st November, 1925.

IRON AND STEEL TRADE: SOUTH WALES.—South Wales and Monmouthshire Iron and Steel Manufacturers' Association *v.* South Wales and Monmouthshire Allied Engineering Trades Association. *Difference.*—As to the Hours of Work for the Mechanics employed at the Ebbw Vale Engineering Department. *Board of Arbitration*, consisting of Mr. J. A. Compston, K.C. (Chairman), Mr. G. Pate, O.B.E. (Employers' Representative), and the Rt. Hon. Tom Richards (Workpeople's Representative) appointed under Section 2 (2) (c) of the Industrial Courts Act, 1919. *Award.*—Hours of work to be: Monday to Friday 6.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m., with a break of half an hour between 10.30 a.m. and 11.0 a.m., and on Saturdays from 7.0 a.m. to 12.0 noon, with a break of half an hour from 8.30 a.m. to 9.0 a.m. Issued 14th November, 1925.

(C.)—OTHER SETTLEMENTS.

CABINET MAKING: LONDON.—Various Woodworking Unions *v.* Messrs. Burkle and Company, Euston Road, London, N.W. *Difference.*—Ratio of improvers to skilled men employed by the firm. *Settlement.*—Firm to comply with recognised rule. Signed 16th November, 1925.

RAILWAYS ACT, 1921.

NATIONAL WAGES BOARD.

For a summary of the Findings, dated 9th December, of the National Wages Board in respect of claims referred to them by the Railway Companies, the National Union of Railwaymen, and the Railway Clerks' Association, see article on page 423.

TRADE BOARDS ACTS.

Orders, Notices, etc., Recently Issued.

I.—CONFIRMING ORDERS.

Rope, Twine and Net Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order R (42), dated 12th November, 1925, confirming general minimum piece rates and overtime rates and confirming the variation of general minimum time rates, piecework basis time rates, general minimum piece rates and overtime rates for certain classes of male and female workers and specifying the 23rd November, 1925, as the date from which such rates as fixed and as varied should become effective.

Copies of the Order R (42) which contains all the rates at present effective in the trade (including the rates mentioned above) may be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office or through any bookseller price 3d.

II.—NOTICES OF PROPOSAL

Boot and Shoe Repairing Trade Board (Great Britain).

Proposals D (30) and (31), dated 20th November, 1925, to fix and to vary general minimum piece rates and overtime rates, and to fix general minimum time rates and overtime for certain classes of male and female workers for periods dependent upon the cost-of-living figure.

Objection period expires 20th January, 1926.

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

Proposal V (13), dated 21st November, 1925, to vary minimum rates of wages for female workers in the Cerement Making Section of the Trade for specified periods not dependent upon the cost-of-living figure.

Objection period expires 13th January, 1926.

Rope, Twine and Net Trade Board (Great Britain).

Proposal R (43), dated 3rd December, 1925, to vary general minimum time rates, piecework basis time rates and overtime rates for all female workers, and the general minimum piece rates for female workers for Hand Braiding, Hand Knotting or Hand Baiting of Nets made from fibre other than hard fibre, and the overtime rates

for female workers (other than homeworkers) employed on Hand Machine Braiding to whom the general minimum piece rates fixed by the Trade Board for Hand Machine Braiding are applicable. Objection period expires 1st February, 1926.

Dressmaking and Women's Light Clothing Trade Board (Northern Ireland).

Notice, N.I.W.D. (N.15), dated 12th November, 1925, of proposal to vary minimum rates of wages for male and female workers engaged in the Factory Branch of the trade and to cancel minimum rates of wages for male workers in the Retail Bespoke Dressmaking Branch of the trade.

III.—APPOINTMENT OF TRADE BOARD.

Drift Nets Mending Trade Board (Great Britain).

In pursuance of the Special Order dated 27th July, 1925, amending the Trade Boards (Rope, Twine and Net) Order, 1919, to include for the purposes of the Trade Boards Acts the work, wherever carried on, of mending, refitting, and re-conditioning of drift, seine and similar nets, and all processes incidental thereto, the Minister of Labour has now appointed a Trade Board to be known as the Drift Nets Mending Trade Board (Great Britain) covering the work of women workers engaged in the mending (except where done in association with making of the mesh) of drift, seine or similar nets. Mr. P. B. de Clegg Mellor, one of the Appointed Members, has been appointed to be Chairman of the Board and Mr. F. Popplewell, Office of Trade Boards (1, Whitehall Gardens, London, S.W. 1) to be Secretary.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.

Regulations for the Grinding of Cutlery and Edge Tools.

THE Home Secretary has made Regulations,* dated 26th October, 1925, under Section 79 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, for the grinding or glazing, or processes incidental to grinding, in, or incidental to, the manufacture of cutlery, edge tools, swords, bayonets, files, saws, ploughs, or other cutting or piercing implements of iron or steel.

The Regulations, which may be cited as the Grinding of Cutlery and Edge Tools Regulations, 1925, come into force on 1st January, 1926, except that the operation of certain of the regulations is postponed for three years.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED:

DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION.—Fifteenth Report of the Development Commissioners for the year ended the 31st March, 1925. (H.C. 147; price 3s. 6d.)

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.—(1) Statistical summary showing the operations of (a) Building societies for the year 1915-1924, (b) Co-

* Statutory Rules and Orders, 1925, No. 1089. H.M. Stationery Office; price 2d. net.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.

LIST OF NEW CONTRACTS, NOVEMBER, 1925.

ADMIRALTY.

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

Chatham: Timber: J. B. Lee & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Locomotive:** Motor Rail & Tramcar Co., Bedford. **Devonport:** Portland Cement: The Cement Marketing Co., Ltd., London, S.W. **Portsmouth:** Portland Cement: The Cement Marketing Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Granite Pitchers and Crushed Granite:** A. & F. Manuelle, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Steelwork:** Hill & Smith, Ltd., Brierley Hill, Staffs. **H.M. Naval Establishments Abroad:** Portland Cement: The Cement Marketing Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Constructional Steel and Iron Work:** The Tees Side Bridge and Engineering Works, Ltd., Middlesbrough.

(Contract and Purchase Department.)

Air Bottles: Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth & Co., Ltd., Elswick.—**Bacon in Tins:** C. & T. Harris (Calne), Ltd., Calne, Wiltshire.—**Batteries, Dry:** Edison Swan Electric Co., Ltd., Ponders End.—**Boiler, Cylindrical:** Central Marine Engine Works, West Hartlepool.—**Boots, Half:** Adams Bros. (Raunds), Ltd., Raunds.—**Boltstaves, Brass:** Bull's Metal & Melloid Co., Ltd., Yoker.—**Brassfoundry:** J. & E. Bates & Sons, Ltd., Wolverhampton; T. Pemberton & Sons, Ltd., West Bromwich; Tonks (Birmingham), Ltd., Birmingham; Winfields Rolling Mills, Ltd., Birmingham; W. Rowley, Ltd., Birmingham; Worcester Brass Co., Ltd., Birmingham; J. Collins (Birmingham), Ltd., Birmingham; E. Showell & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham; Gabriel & Co., Birmingham.—**Calico:** G. I. Sidebottom & Co., Manchester; J. H. Greenhow & Co., Ltd., Manchester; R. Haworth & Co., Ltd., Manchester; Ashton Bros. & Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Canvas Floorcloth:** J. Hare

operative societies (distributive trading) 1914-1924. (S.O. publications; price 2d. and 3d. respectively). (2) *Report of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies for the year 1924. Part 3.—Industrial and Provident societies. Part 5.—Building societies.* (S.O. publications; price 12s. and 5s. respectively.)

INDUSTRIAL FATIGUE.—*Studies in repetitive work with special reference to rest-pauses.* Report No. 32. Industrial Fatigue Research Board. (S.O. publication; price 2s. 6d.)

INSURANCE.—*National Health and Pensions Insurance. New rates of contributions.* Memo 295/X. (December, 1925.) Ministry of Health. (S.O. publication; gratis: may be obtained at post offices.) (See page 420.)

MINING.—(1) *Coal mining industry. Explanatory memorandum of the Supplementary Estimate for the Coal Mining Industry subvention.* (Cmd. 2548; price 1d.) (See page 421.) (2) *Royal Commission on the coal industry (1925). Minutes of evidence, first six days.* (S.O. publications; price 2s. 3d. each.) (3) *Output and employment at metalliferous mines, quarries, etc. during the quarter ended 30th June, 1925.* (S.O. publication; price 4d.)

POOR LAW RELIEF.—(1) *Statement showing the number of persons in receipt of Poor Law Relief in England and Wales in the quarter ending in September, 1925, with some particulars as to the number of "unemployed" persons in receipt of such relief.* (S.O. publication; price 3d.) (See page 419.) (2) *Provisional proposals for Poor Law reform prepared in the Ministry of Health for circulation to the London County Council, associations of local authorities, and others concerned, as a basis for consideration and discussion.* (S.O. publication; price 2d.)

PRICES.—*Report on the trade in refrigerated beef, mutton and lamb.* Economic Series No. 6; Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. (S.O. publication; price 1s. 6d.)

SAFEGUARDING OF INDUSTRIES.—*Report of the Committees on (a) aluminium hollow-ware, (b) cutlery, (c) gas mantles, (d) leather gloves, (e) packing and wrapping paper.* Board of Trade. (Cmd. 2530, 2540, 2533, 2531, 2539; price 2d., 6d., 3d., 4d. and 6d. respectively.)

SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH.—*Report of the Committee of the Privy Council for Scientific and Industrial Research for the year 1924-5.* (Cmd. 2491; price 3s.)

TECHNICAL TRAINING.—*Report of H.M. Inspector on instruction in England in the manufacture of leather.* June, 1925. Board of Education. (S.O. publication; price 4d.)

TRADE BOARDS.—*Trade Boards Acts, 1909 and 1918. Report on an enquiry into a proposal to alter the description of the Paper Box Trade contained in paragraph 2 of the schedule to the Trade Boards Act, 1909.* (S.O. publication; price 9d.)

TRADE UNIONS.—*Report of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies for the year 1924. Part 4. Trade Unions.* (S.O. publication; price 4s.)

VITAL STATISTICS.—*The Registrar-General's statistical review of England and Wales: (a) for the year 1923. Text. (New Annual Series, No. 3). (S.O. publication; price 5s.) (b) for the Year 1924. Tables. Part I. Medical (New Annual Series No. 4.) (S.O. publication; price 15s.)*

& Co., Bristol.—**Chains and Shackles:** Brown, Lenox & Co., Ltd., Pontypridd; Earl of Dudley's Round Oak Works, Ltd., Brierley Hill; N. Hingley & Sons, Ltd., Netherton; Mountford, Phillips & Co. (1920), Ltd., Llantrisant; H. Wood & Co., Ltd., Saltney.—**Chemicals:** Brunner Mond & Co., Ltd., Northwick, Cheshire; United Alkali Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**China:** J. Anysley & Sons, Longton; Bishop & Stonier, Ltd., Hanley; Doulton & Co., Ltd., Burslem; A. B. Jones & Sons, Longton; Paragon China Co., Longton.—**Collars, White:** Moore's (Derry), Ltd., Londonderry; R. H. & S. Rogers, Ltd., London, E.C.; Welch Margetson & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Condensers:** W. H. Wilson, Kingston Hill, Surrey.—**Deck Tubes, Bulkhead Glands, etc.:** The Fairless Engineering Supplies Co., Ltd., Stockton-on-Tees; Hawkers, Ltd., Birmingham; W. McGeoch & Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Mechans Ltd., Glasgow.—**Earthenware:** W. Adams & Sons (Potters), Ltd., Tunstall; Bishop & Stonier, Ltd., Hanley; Booths, Ltd., Tunstall; Bovey Pottery Co., Ltd., Bovey Tracey, Devon; W. T. Copeland & Sons, Stoke-on-Trent; Doulton & Co., Ltd., Burslem; Keeling & Co., Ltd., Burslem; John Maddock & Son, Ltd., Burslem; Minton, Ltd., Stoke-on-Trent; Myott, Sons & Co., Hanley; A. J. Wilkinson, Ltd., Burslem.—**Files:** W. & S. Butcher, Ltd., Sheffield; Sanderson Bros. & Newbould, Ltd., Sheffield; Thos. Firth & Sons, Ltd., Sheffield; J. J. Saville & Co., Ltd., Sheffield; Vickers, Ltd., Sheffield.—**Firebricks, Tiles, etc.:** Bonnybridge Silica & Fireclay Co., Ltd., Bonnybridge; H. Foster & Co., Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne; Glenboig Union Fireclay Co., Ltd., Glasgow; Himley Fire & Red Brick Co., Ltd., Dudley, Staffs; J. T. Price & Co., Ltd., Stourbridge; Southwood, Jones & Co., Ltd., Risca, Mon.—**Flags:** T. C. Hayward & Co., London, E.; Walter Cockshaw, Leeds; Adam & Lane & Neeve, Ltd., London, E.; Porter Bros., Ltd., Liverpool; E. Riley & Co., Ltd., Leeds.—**Furnace, Annealing, Electric:** Electric Furnace Co., London, S.W.—**Gear, Forward Capstan:**

Napier Bros., Ltd., Glasgow.—**India-Rubber Fittings**: Avon India-Rubber Co., Ltd., Melksham; India-Rubber, & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Iron Castings, Rubbing Chocks**: The Lilleshall Co., Ltd., Oakengates, Salop.—**Jerseys, Blue Worsted**: I. & R. Morley, Leicester.—**Jute Goods**: Jute Industries, Ltd., Dundee; Craiks, Ltd., Forfar.—**Lead Sheet and Pipe**: Baxendale & Co., Ltd., Manchester; A. D. Foulkes, Ltd., Birmingham; Locke, Blackett & Co., Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne; Locke, Lancaster & W. W. & R. Johnson & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Leggings, Web**: The Mills Equipment Co., Ltd., London, N.—**Linens Goods**: A. Blyth & Co., Kirkcaldy; The Ulster Weaving Co., Ltd., Belfast; J. Gunning & Son, Ltd., Belfast; Wm. Ewart & Son, Ltd., Belfast.—**Machines, Tube Bending**: Hugh Smith & Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Machine, Segmental Surface Grinding**: Snow & Co., Ltd., Sheffield.—**Motor Alternators**: Crompton & Co., Ltd., Chelmsford.—**Motor Generators**: Small Electric Motors, Ltd., Beckenham, Kent.—**Muslin**: Fothergill & Harvey, Ltd., Manchester.—**Ovens, Wet Steam**: Benham & Sons, Ltd., London, W.—**Paint, Oxide of Iron**: Golden Valley Ochre & Oxide Co., Ltd., Bristol.—**Plant, Dust Exhausting**: Sturtevant Engineering Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Plates, Mild Steel**: Dorman, Long & Co., Ltd., Middlesbrough.—**Propelling Machinery for Cruiser**: Vickers, Ltd., Barrow-in-Furness; Fairfield Shipbuilding & Engineering Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Propellers**: The Manganese Bronze & Brass Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Screwing Tackle, Engineers**: J. Evans & Sons, Ltd., Sheffield; H. Williams & Son, London, E.; Nuckey Scott & Co., London, N.; John J. H. Lines, Stafford; E. H. Pickford & Co., Ltd., Sheffield; B. D. & Co. (Edward A. Boynton), London, E.C.; G. & J. Hall, Sheffield.—**Screws**: A. Stokes & Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Guest, Keen & Nettlefolds, Ltd., Birmingham; T. Eaves, Ltd., Birmingham; H. Cox Screw Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Butler, Spragg & Co., Ltd., Birmingham; British Screw Co., Ltd., Leeds; Bardwells, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Screws, Phosphor Bronze**: T. Haddon & Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Davis & Timmins, Ltd., London, N.; Butler, Spragg & Co., Ltd., Birmingham; W. McGeoch & Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Shackles, Lugless Joining**: Carron Company, Carron, Stirlingshire.—**Shaftings, Brackets, Bearings, etc.**: Vaughan Pulley Co., Manchester.—**Sheets, Steel**: W. Beardmore & Co., Ltd., Glasgow; The South Durham Steel & Iron Co., Ltd., West Hartlepool; The Park Gate Iron & Steel Co., Ltd., Rotherham; The Steel Co. of Scotland, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Shirts, Soft White**: Frank Lane, Ltd., London, E.C.; John James & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Shorts, Cellular and Cotton Fabric**: Frank Lane, Ltd., London, E.C.; Salisbury Manufacturing Co., London, E.C.—**Socks, Blue**: H. Bates & Co., Ltd., South Wigston; F. R. Fenwick & Co., Ltd., Consett; J. Glazebrook & Co., Ltd., Countesthorpe; F. Main, South Wigston; I. & R. Morley, Leicester; S. D. Stretton & Sons, Ltd., Leicester; Wolsey, Ltd., Leicester; A. Yates & Co., Leicester.—**Solder**: E. Cowles, Hounslow; Tyne Solder Co., Newcastle-on-Tyne; J. Ratcliff & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Starters, etc.**: Watford Electric & Mfg. Co., Ltd., Watford.—**Starters, repair of**: Marconi W/T Co., Ltd., Chelmsford.—**Steel Tubes, Weldless**: Tubes, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Steel Wire Rope**: Caledonian Wire Rope Co., Ltd., Airdrie.—**Switchboards**: Whipp & Bourne, Ltd., Manchester.—**Switches**: Hawkers, Ltd., Birmingham; Player & Mitchell, Birmingham; Wm. McGeoch & Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Gabriel & Co., Birmingham; Park Royal Engineering Co., Ltd., London, N.W.—**Switches, Change-over**: General Electric Co., Ltd., Witton; Park Royal Engineering Co., Ltd., London, N.W.—**Switches, Fuse Release**: Whipp & Bourne, Ltd., Manchester; Bertram Thomas, Manchester.—**Switches, W/T**: General Electric Co., Ltd., Witton; Whipp & Bourne, Ltd., Manchester.—**Switchgear (Branch Breakers)**: Whipp & Bourne, Ltd., Manchester.—**Table Glass**: Edinburgh & Leith Flint Glass Works, Edinburgh; Robinson, Sons & Co., Warrington; Stevens & Williams, Ltd., Brierley Hill; Stuart & Sons, Ltd., Wordsley; T. Webb & Sons, London, E.C.; T. Webb & Corbett, Ltd., Stourbridge.—**Telescopes**: Aldis Bros., Birmingham.—**Terry Towelling**: Wm. R. Lee, Ltd., Heywood; Barlow & Jones, Ltd., Manchester.—**Timber**: Bowerman & Sons, Ltd., Bridgwater, Somerset; G. Randle & Son, Ltd., Bridgwater, Somerset; E. C. White & Son, Ltd., Basingstoke.—**Tractor**: J. I. Thornycroft & Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Twin Screw Vessel**: Bow McLachlan & Co., Paisley.—**Varnishes**: Blundell Spence & Co., Ltd., Hull; Gross, Sherwood & Heald, Ltd., Barking; James Jackson & Co., London, S.E.; W. S. Jenkins & Co., London, N.W.; Jensen & Nicholson, Ltd., London, E.; Chas. Orme & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Paripan, Ltd., London, W.; John Smith & Son (Haltwhistle), Ltd., Haltwhistle; C. W. Waters, Ltd., London, E.C.; S. Wills & Co., Ltd., Bristol.—**Vests, Cellular**: Johnson & Sons, Ltd., Gt. Yarmouth.—**Voice Piping and Gear**: Power Flexible Tubing Co., Ltd., London, N.; Interlock Metal Hose Co., Ltd., London, N.—**Winches, Torpedo Lifting**: H. Wharton, Ltd., Stockport.—**Woollen Cloth for Table Covers**: James Harper & Sons, Bradford.

WAR OFFICE.

Battery, etc., Stationary: Chloride Electrical Storage Co., Ltd., Clifton Junction, nr. Manchester.—**Blankets, G.S.**: J. Walker & Sons, Ltd., Mirfield and Dewsbury; Wormalds & Walker, Ltd., Dewsbury.—**Brassfoundry, Plumbers**: Pegler Bros. & Co., Ltd., Doncaster.—**Capsules, preventive**: J. Bell Hills & Lucas, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Chassis, six-wheeled**: Karrier Motors, Ltd., Huddersfield.—**Cotton, Mercerised**: J. Dewhurst & Sons, Ltd., Skipton.—**Cylinders**: Rippingill's Albion Lamp Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Electric Light Fittings (interior)**: General Electric Co., Ltd., Birmingham and Wembley.—**Emergency Cloth**: J. Oakey & Sons, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Glass Discs**: Triplex Safety Glass Co., London, W.—**Holdalls**: Frenchs, Ltd., London, E.C.; Mills Equipment Co., Ltd., London,

N.—**Horns, Motor Cycle, Car and Lorry**: Klaxon, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Iron, Pig**: Barrow Haematite Steel Co., Ltd., Barrow-in-Furness.—**Laundry Fittings (Washing Tubs)**: Wilmer & Sons, Ltd., London, E.—**Lathe**: J. Lang & Sons, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Machine, Boring**: J. Buckton & Co., Ltd., Leeds; W. Muir & Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Machine, Gear Planing**: J. Parkinson & Son, Shipley, Yorks.—**Machines, Testing**: J. Buckton & Co., Ltd., Leeds.—**Machine, Vertical Milling**: A. Herbert, Ltd., Coventry.—**Mattresses, Single**: Soldiers: Bayswater Bedding Co., Ltd., London, W.; Thos. Briggs, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Motor Launch**: H. McLean & Sons, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Paint, Prepared for use**: Alexander Fergusson & Co., Ltd., Glasgow; Locke, Lancaster & W. W. & R. Johnson & Sons, Ltd., London, E.—**Pneumatic Covers and Tubes**: Chas. Macintosh & Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Poles, Telegraph, Conversion of**: T. M. Gardiner, Ltd., Hoddesden.—**Radiators**: The Reliance Manufacturing Co. (Broughton), Ltd., Manchester.—**Railway Ballast**: Thos. Patterson & Son, Ltd., Farnham.—**Shafts, Ash**: John Buckingham, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Shoes Canvas**: Adams Bros., Ltd., Raunds.—**Shoes, Horse**: Guest & Co. (Halesowen), Ltd., Birmingham; Wm. Cooke & Co., Ltd., Sheffield.—**Steamer, Single Screw**: Bow, McLachlan & Co., Ltd., Paisley.—**Steel, Billet**: Sir W. G. Armstrong Whitworth & Co., Ltd., Manchester; Monk Bridge Iron & Steel Co., Ltd., Leeds.—**Steel Framing for carrying Radiators, etc., for Generating Sets**: The Steel Construction Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Stockinette**: N. Corah & Sons, Ltd., Leicester.—**Tables, Small**: Lord Robert's Memorial Workshops, London, S.W.—**Thread, Linen**: W. & J. Knox, Ltd., Kilmarnock, Ayrshire.—**Waistcoats, Warm Cardigan**: F. & E. Tarratt, Leicester.—**Water Cooler**: Peter Brotherhood, Ltd., Peterborough.—**Zinc Ingot**: H. Gardner & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Works Services: Maintenance Works**: Woolwich: E. J. Logan, London, W.C. **Building Works and Services**: Colchester—Provision of Building for Carding Machine: W. Chambers & Sons, Colchester. Chester, Military Hospital—Quarters for Sergeants: Clegg Bros., Burnley. Edinburgh, Redford Barracks—Construction of football and hockey pitch: M. M. Hart, Glasgow. Bovington—Drainage to Recreation Grounds: Humphreys, Ltd., London, S.W. Aldershot—Double-storey Barrack Blocks: George Kemp & Co., Ltd., Aldershot. Berwick-on-Tweed—Construction of Preparation Room and Wash-up: Reed, Manderson & Son, Berwick-on-Tweed. Pinchurst—Platform: C. Morgan & Son, Ash Vale, Surrey. Aldershot—Quarters for Bailiff at Camp Sewage Farm: C. Morgan & Son, Ash Vale, Surrey. Pirbright Camp, Surrey—Conversion of Officers' Mess: C. Morgan & Son, Ash Vale, Surrey. Chester—Erection of Married Quarters: Thos. Riley, Ltd., Fleetwood. Plymouth—Erection of Officers' Quarters, Crownhill: G. Shellbear & Son, Ltd., Plymouth, Cardiff—Conversion of Married Quarters: James Stephens, Cardiff. Newcastle-on-Tyne—G. R. Wade & Sons, Richmond, Yorks. **Painting**: Glencorse Depot Barracks—External: T. Lawrie & Co., Glasgow. North Queensferry and Inchcolm Island: G. M. Robb, Edinburgh.

AIR MINISTRY.

Aircraft: Fairey Aviation Co., Ltd., Hayes.—**Aircraft, Floats for**: Short Bros., Rochester.—**Aircraft, Repairs to**: Vickers, Ltd., Weybridge.—**Aircraft Spares**: Blackburn Aeroplane & Motor Co., Ltd., Leeds; Fairey Aviation Co., Ltd., Hayes; Supermarine Aviation Works, Ltd., Southampton; Vickers, Ltd., Weybridge.—**Aircscrews**: D. M. Davies, London N.; Aircscrew Co., Weybridge.—**Ash (Aircraft)**: Oliver & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Bombs, Cleaning and Repairing**: Nobel Industries, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Bombs, Filling of, etc.**: Nobel Industries, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Boxes, Voltage control**: Pyne Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Teddington.—**Buildings and Works Services**: Aeroplane Shed Fittings (various stations): British Thomson-Houston Co., London, W. Artificers' Work (Donibristle): R. Durie, Junr., Inverkeithing. Artificers' Work (Henlow): M. & F. O. Foster & Co., Hitchin. Distemper (Iraq): Sissons Bros., Sculcoates, Hull. Drainage, water supply, etc. (Halton): J. Honour & Son, Tring. Hamilton Pole Parts (Iraq): Francis Morton & Co., Ltd., Liverpool.—Main Stores (Gosport): John Hunt, Ltd., Gosport.—Quarters for Married Officers (Martlesham): W. F. Cross, Ltd., Felixstowe.—Underground Cables (Altrincham): G. E. Taylor & Co., London, E.C.—**Carriers, Bomb and Attachments**: Vickers, Ltd., Dartford.—**Cases, Slip, Bolster**: E. H. Price, London, E.C.—**Crankcases, Repair of**: Peter Hooker, Ltd., London, E.—**Curtains, Mosquito**: Frank Lane, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Cylinders, Oxygen, high pressure**: Sir W. G. Armstrong Whitworth & Co., Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne.—**Dope, Cellulose, Acetate**: British Celanese, Ltd., London, S.W.; Titanine Emallite, Ltd., London, W.; Cellon (Richmond), Ltd., Richmond.—**Drums, Film drying**: Barr and Stroud, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Engine, Aircraft**: Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Bristol.—**Engine, Aircraft Spares**: Armstrong Siddeley Motors, Ltd., Coventry; D. Napier & Son, Ltd., London, W.—**Engine, Aircraft, Supercharger units for**: Armstrong Siddeley Motors, Ltd., Coventry.—**Ignition Accessories**: Robinhood Engineering Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Lenses, Camera Obscura**: Taylor, Taylor & Hobson, Ltd., Leicester.—**Mating, Coconut**: E. H. Price, London, E.C.—**Mattresses, Officers**: The Bede Furnishing Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—**Oil, Mineral, Lubricating**: Silvertown Lubricants, Ltd., London, E.—**Oxygen Cylinders**: British Mannesmann Tube Co., London, E.C.—**Planes, Iron, Smoothing**: Stanley Works (G.B.), Ltd., London, E.C.—**Rangefinders**: H. Hughes & Son, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Receivers, Repair of**: Muirhead & Co., Ltd., Beckenham.—**Solvents**: A. Boake Roberts & Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Timber (Milton)**: G. H. Renton & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Tyres (Aircraft)**: Palmer Tyre, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Tyres and Deflector Tubes**: Rapson Tyre and Jack Co., Ltd., New Malden.

POST OFFICE.

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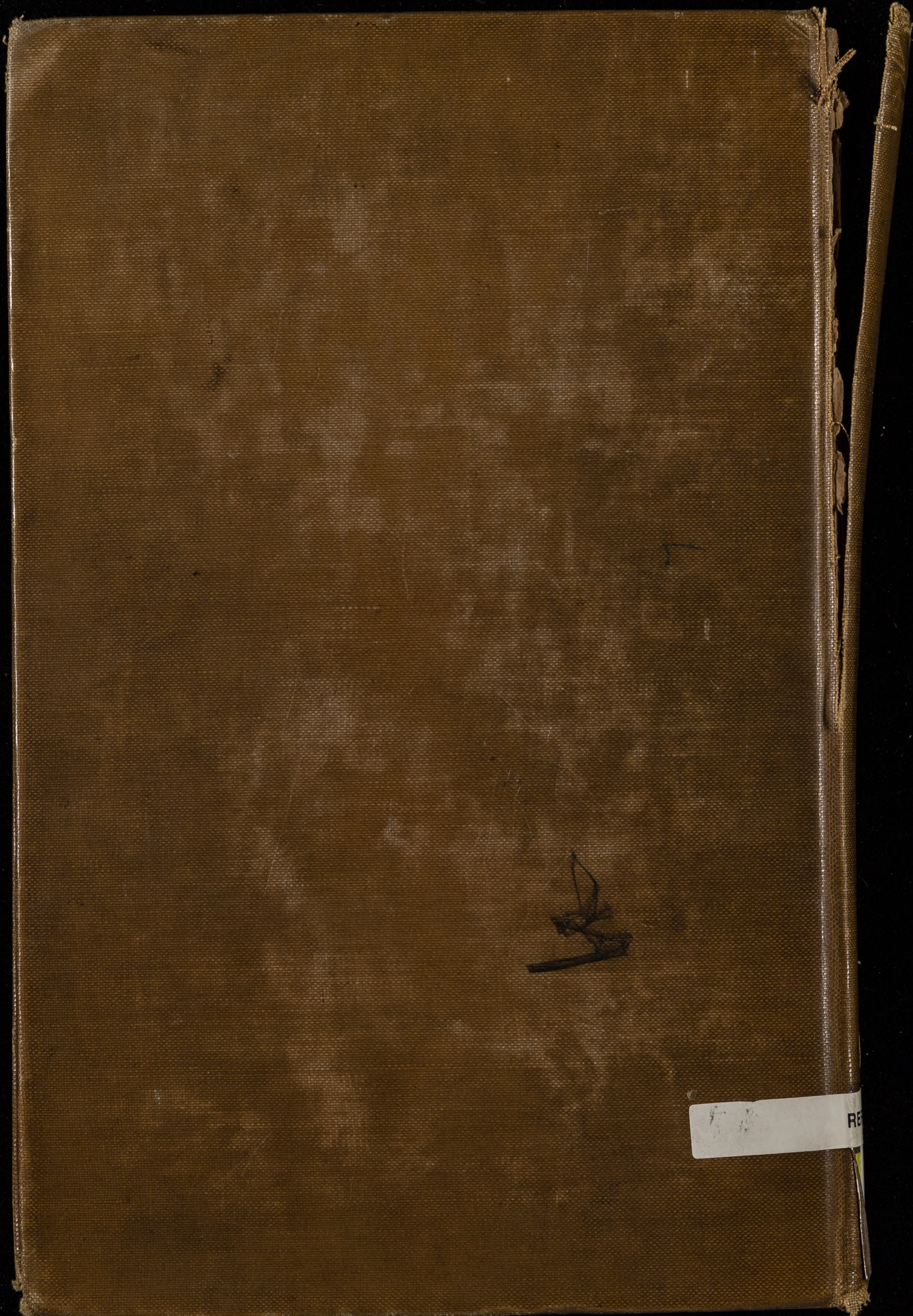
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