

THE LABOUR GAZETTE

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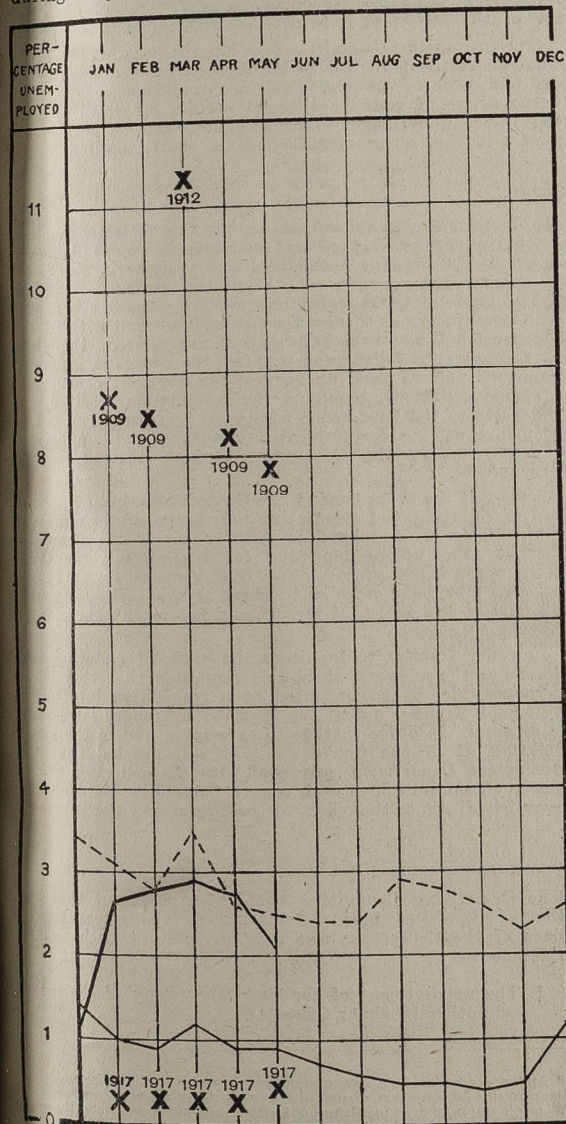
[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

EMPLOYMENT CHART.

SHOWING PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED OF MEMBERS OF TRADE
UNIONS MAKING RETURNS.

— Thick Curve = 1919. — Thin Curve = 1918.
----- Dotted Curve = Mean of 1909-18.

× The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages of unemployed, in the months named, during the years 1909-18.



NOTE TO CHART.

The above Chart is based solely on Returns furnished direct to the Department of Labour Statistics by various Trade Unions which pay unemployed benefit to their members. Persons on strike or locked out, sick or superannuated, are excluded from the figures.

EMPLOYMENT, WAGES, AND RETAIL PRICES.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

THERE was an improvement in the state of employment during May, and the out-of-work donation statistics show that the large amount of transitional unemployment which has prevailed in recent months has diminished considerably. The number of unemployed persons whose out-of-work donation policies remained lodged at Employment Exchanges fell from 1,093,328 at 25th April to 771,211 at 30th May—a reduction of 322,117. The number of policies lodged by women (civilians) and girls fell from 472,905 to 221,128, i.e., by 251,777, this constituting 78 per cent. of the total reduction.

After making allowance for the reduction in the number of policies lodged owing to the exclusion of policies of persons working short time, to the abandonment of claims to extended donation on the expiry of the first period of 13 weeks, and to the review of policies, there is no doubt that the substantial decrease since 25th April is to a considerable extent the result of an improvement in the state of employment. This improvement is confirmed by the Trade Union records of unemployment and by the detailed reports on the separate industries which are summarised below. Some trades, especially the clothing trades, report a shortage of skilled labour.

Increases in wages which came into operation in May affected nearly 350,000 workpeople, and about 300,000 workpeople were affected by reductions in hours of labour. The general level of retail prices of food and other items entering into the cost of living was about the same on 2nd June as at the beginning of May, viz., about 105 per cent. above the pre-war level.

Employment.—The total number of persons in receipt of unemployment donation at 30th May was 771,211. The composition of this total was as follows: (a) Civilians—Men 150,250, boys 12,912, women 207,897, girls 13,231; (b) Demobilised—Men 384,919, women 2,002. An analysis of the policies lodged at 30th May revealed that 68,444 of the unemployed persons were in receipt of the reduced donation paid to civilians after the expiry of the first period of 13 weeks' unemployment.

The number of men on the live registers of the Employment Exchanges at 6th June was 569,098, or a decrease of 84,172 on 9th May, and the number of women was 256,038, or a decrease of 194,117 on the total at 9th May. The number of vacancies unfilled on 6th June was 45,311 for men and 59,751 for women, the corresponding figures for 9th May being 44,211 and 62,369.

Trade Unions with a net membership of 1,337,759, excluding those serving with the Forces, reported 2.1 per cent. of their members as unemployed at the end of May, as compared with 2.7 per cent. at the end of April, and 0.9 per cent. a year ago.

The number of workpeople employed at coal mines included in the returns for the week ended 24th May was 1 per cent. greater than in the week ended 3rd May, and 18 per cent. greater than a year ago. The average number of days during which the collieries were

STATISTICS OF EMPLOYMENT IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

OUT-OF-WORK DONATION.

The number of persons in receipt of donation benefit was 1,093,400 in the week ending 2nd May. At the end of the month this figure had fallen to 771,211, a drop of 322,189.

The reduction in the numbers of policies remaining lodged is partly due to the exclusion of all policies lodged by persons working short time,* partly to the abandoning of claims to extended policies on the expiry of the first period of 13 weeks, and partly to the review of policies, but the magnitude of the decrease leaves no room for doubt that the situation was more favourable at the end of May than a month earlier.

The number of unemployed persons whose out-of-work donation policies remained lodged at employment exchanges and had been signed within the preceding six days, at the end of each week in 1919, is shown in the following Table:—

Table showing statistics of employment in the United Kingdom, including columns for Civilians (Men, Boys, Women, Girls, Total) and Demobilised Members of H.M. Forces (Men, Women, Total, Grand Total) across various weeks from Jan 3rd to May 30th.

The number of policies lodged by men civilians is lower than at any time since the middle of January, and the number lodged by women civilians and by boys and girls is lower than at any time in 1919. The total number of civilian policies lodged at the end of May was less than half the number at the beginning of March, when the figures were at their maximum.

Table showing statistics of employment in the United Kingdom, including columns for Civilians (Great Britain only) and Demobilised Members of H.M. Forces (United Kingdom) across various dates from January 31st to May 30th.

As regards duration of payments, 315,846 of the 384,290 civilian policies lodged on 30th May were policies on which payment had not been made for more than 78 days. Extended policies on which donation at reduced rates was being paid after the expiry of the first period of 78 days numbered 68,444.

* The number of policies lodged by workpeople on short time who were drawing donation was 107,765 on 23rd May (91,440 in the textile industries); on 9th May it was 99,353. These figures are now entirely excluded from the totals, though formerly a proportion was included.

† The number of officers and men demobilised between 11th November and 20th May was 2,887,885; on 1st May the figure was 2,687,873.

became exhausted, having been lodged for 156 days at the end of May. Following is an analysis of policies lodged at 30th May according to the duration of payments.

Table showing statistics of employment in the United Kingdom, including columns for Civilians (Men, Boys, Women, Girls, Total) and Demobilised Members of H.M. Forces (Men, Women, Total, Grand Total) across various durations of payments from 139-155 days to Policies lodged but no payment.

The number of claims for donation which had been referred for the consideration of Appeals Officers up to 22nd May was 191,589. About 7 per cent. of these were allowed by the Appeals Officers without reference to Courts of Referees, and with regard to the claims heard by such Courts, an analysis has been made of 139,200 cases, which shows that 36,228 claims (26 per cent.) were allowed and 102,807 disallowed, while compromises were arranged in 165 cases.

Of claims for extended donation, the proportions granted and disallowed were the reverse of those for the original donation, 26 per cent. being refused and 74 per cent. granted, out of 161,925 applications decided.

As a result of the examination of civilian workers' policies up to 24th May, about 170,000 were found to require review, and over 90,000 cases have been decided; in 67 per cent. of the cases heard (by the Employment Committees) the policies were cancelled, in 21 per cent. they were continued for the whole period, and in 12 per cent. for a provisional period.

The distribution of unemployment in the various industries in the weeks ended 25th April and 23rd May is shown below:—

Large table showing the number of workpeople unemployed by industry and sex (Men and Boys, Women and Girls, Total) for various weeks in 1919, categorized into Insured Industries and Uninsured Industries.

TRADE UNION PERCENTAGES OF UNEMPLOYED.

Trade Unions with a net membership of 1,337,759 reported 27,509 (or 2.1 per cent.) of their members as unemployed at the end of May, 1919, compared with 2.7 per cent. at the end of April, 1919, and 0.9 per cent. at the end of May, 1918.

Table showing Trade Union Percentages of Unemployed, including columns for Trade, Membership at end of May, 1919, exclusive of those serving with H.M. Forces, Unemployed at end of May, 1919, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage Unemployed as compared with a Month ago, and Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Year ago.

RETURNS RECEIVED FROM EMPLOYERS.

Information as to the state of employment in May is also derived from Returns furnished by employers, which are summarised in the Tables given below:—

MINING AND METAL TRADES.

Table showing Mining and Metal Trades, including columns for Trade, Workpeople included in the Returns for May, 1919, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago, and Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Year ago.

TEXTILE AND OTHER TRADES.

Table showing Textile and Other Trades, including columns for Trade, Number employed (Week ended 24th May, 1919), Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, and Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Year ago.

* In the case of certain Trade Unions, especially some of those in the cotton trade, this number excludes members receiving Government out-of-work donation who are not receiving Society benefit.

† This percentage is based mainly on Returns relating to carpenters and plumbers.

‡ In some of the textile trades, there was also short time and broken time, which is not reflected in the figures.

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

EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES, IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

[NOTE.—The numbers given in the following Tables represent the numbers of workpeople covered by the Returns received and not the total numbers employed in the various industries.]

COAL MINING.

There was an increase of 5,815 (or 1.0 per cent.) in the number of workpeople employed at the collieries making Returns as compared with the previous month, and of 92,727 (or 18.3 per cent.) on a year ago.

Of the 600,182 workpeople included in the Returns for May 1919 (or 55.4 per cent.) were employed at pits working twelve days* during the fortnight to which the Returns relate, and a further 211,319 (or 35.2 per cent.) were employed at pits working eleven days or more, but less than twelve days. The average number of days worked per week in the United Kingdom as a whole was 5.74, as compared with 5.62 in April and 5.67 in May, 1918.

There was a considerable increase in the average number of days worked in the Cumberland and North Wales districts and a slight increase in nearly all other districts of England and Wales. The increase in Scotland, averaging 0.65 days per week, was due to a holiday taken in the period with which the "month ago" comparison is made.

Table showing Employment in the Principal Industries, including columns for District, No. of Workpeople employed at Mines included in the Returns, Average No. of days worked per week by the Mines, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago, and Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Year ago.

Returns received from mines employing 273,697 workpeople in May, 1919, showed an increase of 2.3 per cent. in the number employed as compared with May, 1913.

The following Table gives similar particulars, re-classified according to the principal kind of coal raised at the pits:—

Table showing Employment in the Principal Industries, including columns for Description of Coal, No. of Workpeople employed at Mines included in the Returns, Average number of days worked per week by the Mines, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago, and Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Year ago.

The exports of coal, coke and manufactured fuel during May, 1919, amounted to 4,087,857 tons, or 1,305,377 tons more than in April, 1919, but 2,059,757 tons less than in May, 1913. The principal countries of destination of coal (similar

* The figures in this and the following article only show the number of days (allowance being made in all the calculations for short days) on which coal, iron ore or shale was got and drawn from the mines or open works included in the Returns. It is not necessarily implied that all the persons employed worked every day that the mines or works were open.

particulars cannot be given for coke and manufactured fuel) were as follows:—

Table showing employment in iron, shale, and other mining and quarrying for various countries in May, April, and May 1913, and May 1919. Countries include Russia, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Germany, Netherlands and Belgium, France, Spain and Canaries, Italy, Austria-Hungary, Greece, Roumania, Turkey, Egypt, Brazil, Argentina, and Other Countries.

IRON, SHALE, AND OTHER MINING, AND QUARRYING.

EMPLOYMENT at iron and shale mines continued good; at tin and lead mines it was fairly good generally. At quarries it was good on the whole. Fair weather prevailed during most of the month, and there was very little interruption of operations.

MINING.

Iron.—Returns received, relating to the same mines and open works, show that 16,688 workpeople were employed in May, 1919, an increase of 0.9 per cent. on the previous month, but a decrease of 3.3 per cent. on a year ago.

Table showing the number of workpeople employed at mines and the average number of days worked per week by the mines, broken down by district (Cleveland, Cumberland and Lancashire, Scotland, Other Districts, and ALL DISTRICTS).

For those mines and open works in regard to which a comparison with May, 1913, is possible, Returns from mines employing 8,883 workpeople in May, 1919, show a decrease of 9.4 per cent. in the number employed.

Shale.—The Returns received from firms employing 4,857 workpeople show that in the fortnight ended 24th May, 1919, the number employed was 0.4 per cent. less than in the previous month but 2.8 per cent. greater than a year ago. The average number of days per week worked by the mines was 6.00, showing no change compared with April, 1919, or May, 1918.

Tin.—Employment in the Cornish district was fairly good on the whole. Lead.—Employment continued very good in the Weardale district, but was only fair in Flintshire.

QUARRYING.

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

Table showing the number of workpeople employed at quarries and the average number of days worked per week by the quarries, broken down by mineral (Limestone, Sandstone, Granite, Slate, Basalt, Whinstone) and a TOTAL.

* See note in previous column.

Taking those Returns in regard to which a comparison with May, 1913, is possible, the total number of workpeople employed in May, 1919, shows a reduction of nearly 40 per cent..

Limestone.—As in April employment with limestone quarries was good, except at quarries for road-making material, where it was fairly good. There was very little interruption by bad weather, but some stoppages were caused by a shortage of waggons. The supply of skilled quarrymen was not equal to the demand.

Sandstone.—Employment continued good in all branches except at building stone quarries, where it was only fairly good. There was some shortage of labour, chiefly in regard to quarrymen.

Granite (Road Material, Setts, &c.).—Employment was again good in quarries for road-making material, and fairly good at quarries for paving setts, &c. There was a demand for more labour, particularly at Aberdeen and Peterhead.

Slate.—Employment in North Wales was good. Basalt and Whinstone (Road Material).—Employment was good generally at basalt quarries, and was again fairly good at whinstone quarries. Some irregularity of working was caused by a shortage of railway waggons.

China Clay.—Employment continued good at Lee Moor and moderate at St. Austell.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT continued good during May, and a shortage of both skilled and unskilled labour was reported by a few employers. A few of the returns also mentioned a continued difficulty in obtaining the necessary supplies of coal and iron ore.

At the works covered by the Returns received, 263 furnaces were in blast at the end of May, 1919, as compared with 269 in the previous month and 294 in May, 1918. The corresponding number in May, 1913, was 332.

Table showing the number of furnaces included in the Returns, in blast at end of May, April, and May 1918, and the increase or decrease in May, 1919, on a month ago and a year ago, broken down by district (England and Wales, Scotland, and TOTAL).

Returns received from firms employing about three-quarters of the workpeople employed at the Furnaces referred to in the Table above show an increase of 8 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed in May, 1919, as compared with May, 1918.

The imports of iron ore in May, 1919, amounted to 430,232 tons, or 6,382 tons more than in April, 1919, but 207,978 tons less than in May, 1913.

The exports of pig iron in May, 1919, amounted to 23,968 tons, or 668 tons less than in April, 1919, and 73,125 tons less than in May, 1913.

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

EMPLOYMENT at iron and steel works continued good on the whole, and showed some improvement as compared with the previous month, especially at puddling forges and Bessemer converting departments. It was about the same as a year ago, on the whole, though there was a good deal of variation in different departments and districts. A shortage of puddlers, millmen, &c., was reported by some firms in Scotland, and a deficiency of various kinds of labour was occasionally reported from other districts. A shortage of fuel and raw materials was mentioned by a few firms.

According to Returns relating to 114,610 workpeople, the aggregate number of shifts worked during the week ended 24th May, 1919, was 641,862, showing an increase of 21,798 (or 3.5 per cent.) on the previous month, but a decrease of 7,284 (or 1.1 per cent.) on a year ago. The average number of shifts worked was 5.60, as compared with 5.65 in the previous month and with 5.74 a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 65,882 workpeople in May, 1919, showed an increase of 9,907 in the number employed as compared with May, 1913.

The following Table shows the number of workpeople employed by the firms making returns and the aggregate number of shifts worked by such workpeople, classified according to departments and districts, in the week ended 24th May, 1919, in comparison with a month earlier and a year earlier.

SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT remained good, on the whole, during May. The following Table relates to workpeople (skilled and unskilled) who were insured under Part II. of the National Insurance Act. As pointed out in THE LABOUR GAZETTE for May (p. 187), however, the number insured relates to January last, and the percentages are seriously affected by changes since that date in the total numbers employed, and by recent changes in classification:—

Table showing the number of workpeople insured under Part II. of the National Insurance Act, broken down by Division (London, Northern Counties, North-Western, Yorkshire, East Midlands, West Midlands, S. Midlands and Eastern, S.E. Counties, South-Western, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, and UNITED KINGDOM) and the percentage of out-of-work donation policies lodged at 12th, 23rd, 25th, and 31st May 1919.

Employment on the Tyne was reported as moderate or fair, and as not so good as a year ago. On the Wear it was good on the whole. It continued good at Hartlepool, Middlesbrough and Stockton, except for shipbuilders on repair work, with whom it was only fair. At Hull, Yarmouth and Lowestoft employment was again reported good.

Employment on the Thames was fairly good on the whole during May, and a little better than in the previous month. It remained fair on the South Coast, and was good but showed a slight decline on the South-West Coast. At the South Wales ports employment was fair. For shipwrights it was good at Bristol, and very good on the Mersey, overtime on repair work being reported in both districts.

On the Clyde employment was good for joiners, blacksmiths and painters, and fair for shipbuilders, shipwrights and labourers. It was good at Aberdeen and Dundee. Employment at Belfast was good for painters; for shipbuilders it was only moderate, a shortage of materials being reported. Employment at Cork remained good.

TINPLATE AND STEEL AND GALVANISED SHEET TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT continued good during May, and was about the same as in April. Compared with May of last year there was a marked improvement, the number of mills now working being 40 per cent. greater than a year ago. A shortage of millmen was again reported in some cases.

The number of tinsplate mills working at the end of May showed an increase of 3 on the previous month, and of 103 on a year ago. The number of mills making steel and galvanised sheets working at the end of May showed a decrease of 3 compared with the previous month, but an increase of 17 compared with a year ago.

Table showing the number of works open and the number of mills in operation, broken down by type (Tinplate, Steel Sheet, and TOTAL) and showing the increase or decrease in a month and a year ago.

The exports of tinned and galvanised plates and sheets in May, 1919, amounted to 28,025 tons, or 10,414 tons less than in April, 1919, and 92,654 tons less than in May, 1913.

MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT was again fairly good on the whole, instances of improvement in certain sections compared with last month being set off by a decline in others. A moderate amount both of overtime and short time was worked, the latter being attributable mostly to shortage of material. Trade Unions with 67,895 members had 1.4 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of May, compared with 1.8 per cent. in the previous month, and 0.1 per cent. in May, 1918.

Brasswork.—Employment at Birmingham continued good, and showed an improvement on April.

Nuts, Bolts, Nails, &c.—Employment with nut and bolt makers improved to fairly good at Black Heath and Hales-

Table showing the number of workpeople employed by firms making returns and the aggregate number of shifts worked, broken down by Department (Open Hearth Melting Furnaces, Crucible Furnaces, Bessemer Converters, Puddling Forges, Rolling Mills, Forging and Pressing, Founding, and Other Departments) and District (Northumberland & Durham, Cleveland, Sheffield and Rotherham, Leeds, Bradford, &c., Camberland, Lancashire & Cheshire, Staffordshire, Other Midland Counties, Wales and Monmouth, and Scotland).

ENGINEERING TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT during May again showed little general change. Short time was infrequent, and overtime as a rule was only worked on repairs to plant, &c.

Returns from Trade Unions usually described employment as fairly good, and in several branches of textile engineering it was better than a year ago. As in recent months it was not so good with the less skilled occupations as with the more highly skilled branches.

The following Table relates to workpeople (skilled and unskilled) who were insured against unemployment under Part II. of the National Insurance Act. As pointed out in last month's LABOUR GAZETTE, the number insured relates to 12th January, since which date considerable changes have occurred in the number of workpeople, especially of women and girls, employed. The percentages shown are seriously affected both by this qualification and by the recent changes in the system of classification of unemployed workers, referred to on page 187 of THE LABOUR GAZETTE for May.

Table showing the number of workpeople insured against unemployment under Part II. of the National Insurance Act, broken down by Division (London, Northern Counties, North-Western, Yorkshire, East Midlands, West Midlands, S. Midlands and Eastern, S.E. Counties, South-Western, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, and UNITED KINGDOM) and the percentage of out-of-work donation policies lodged at 12th, 23rd, 25th, and 31st May 1919.

On the Tyne employment was only moderate, a large number of skilled men being still idle. On the Wear employment for skilled men was fair, but showed a decline; on the Tees it continued good. In Lancashire, Cheshire and Yorkshire employment was fairly good, and a slight improvement was shown with some branches at Leeds, Sheffield and Manchester. Labourers at Blackburn were again reported as only moderately employed; at Oldham a large number of labourers were out of employment. At Nottingham employment was slightly better than last month, but short time was worked by some of the less skilled workers. At Derby it was only moderate. In the Birmingham, Coventry and Wolverhampton district an improvement was shown, especially in the motor-car and motor-cycle trades, but the percentage of Out-of-Work Donation policies lodged remained high. In the Eastern and Southern Counties and Wales employment was usually either good or fair. At Edinburgh it was good; at Glasgow it was fair on the whole; at Dundee it was stated to be brisk, and at Aberdeen fairly good. At Belfast it was again only moderate.

Imports and Exports.

Table with columns: Description, May 1919, April 1919, May 1918, Inc. (+) or dec. (-) on A Month ago, May 1913.

FOOD PREPARATION TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT continued good in these trades, and showed a considerable improvement on the previous month, especially in the sugar confectionery and cocoa and chocolate trades.

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

Table with columns: Trade, Workpeople (Week ended 24th May 1919, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago), Earnings (Per cent., £, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago).

Supplementary information received from firms employing 37,296 workpeople in May, 1919, shows an increase of 3,248 in the total numbers employed, as compared with 1913.

AGRICULTURE.†

ENGLAND AND WALES.

THE dry weather experienced during May was generally favourable for farming operations, and enabled arrears of work to be greatly reduced.

In the North of England there was, as a rule, a shortage of labour, particularly of skilled men, but in a few districts there was sufficient casual labour for requirements.

SCOTLAND.

The lateness of the season caused an unusual rush of work on practically every farm, and the withdrawal of a proportion of soldiers belonging to agricultural companies has caused some dislocation, so that the deficiency of labour, and more especially of skilled men, was being felt more acutely in May.

* Comparison of earnings is affected by changes in rates of wages, including war bonuses.

† Based on information supplied by the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries and by the Board of Agriculture for Scotland.

FISHING INDUSTRY.

THE quantity of fish landed in May was about twice as much as in May, 1918, although considerably less than in 1913. The influence of the increase in the quantity landed is reflected in the average value per cwt. of fish landed (other than shell fish), which dropped from 53s. 7d. in May, 1918, to 31s. 4d. in May, 1919.

The following Table shows the quantity and value of fish landed in May, 1919, as compared with a year ago and with May, 1913:—

Table with columns: Quantity of fish landed (Cwts., Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on May 1918, May 1913), Value (£, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on May 1918, May 1913).

The increased activity in fishing operations in May also affected employment favourably among all the various classes of workers employed ashore and afloat.

The following are the district reports:— East and South Coasts.—In the Tees and Hartlepool district employment continued to improve, and was reported as good, both with fishermen and curers.

Scotland.—At Aberdeen employment continued good with fishermen, fish dock labourers and fish curers. At Peterhead there was an improvement to fair in all branches.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

EMPLOYMENT remained fairly good on the whole during May. London.—Employment was fairly good; it was better than in April, 1919, and much better than in May, 1918.

Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London.

Table with columns: Period, In Docks (By the Port of London Authority or through Contractors, By Ship-owners, &c., Total), At Wharves making Returns, Total Docks and Principal Wharves.

Tilbury.—The mean daily number employed at the docks from 3rd May to 31st May was 2,131, as compared with 2,076 in April, 1919, and 1,921 in May, 1918.

East Coast.—Employment on the Tyne, Wear and Tees continued fairly good on the whole. Employment showed a slight improvement at Hull, Grimsby and Goole.

Southern and Western Ports.—At Plymouth employment remained good. It improved in South Wales; it was good at Liverpool, and good, and better than in April, at Manchester.

Scottish and Irish Ports.—At Dundee employment continued good. It was fairly good at Glasgow, good at Greenock, and fair at Ayr.

SEAMEN.

THE supply of able seamen was again generally equal to, and at some of the ports, including Sunderland, South Shields, Swansea, and Dublin, in excess of the demand.

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

Table with columns: Principal Ports, Number of Seamen* shipped in (May 1919, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago, Five months ended May 1919, May 1918, May 1913).

MINISTRY OF LABOUR EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES.

THE following Table summarises the work of the Employment Exchanges during the week ended the 6th June, 1919:—

Table with columns: Department, No. of fresh Registrations during week, No. on Live Register at end of week, Vacancies notified during week, Vacancies filled during week, Vacancies unfilled at end of week.

A comparison between the figures for the three dates shows that there has been a continuous decline in the number of fresh applications for work and in the number of persons remaining on the live registers.

The usual monthly analysis for the four weeks ended the 9th May is shown below.

GENERAL REGISTER.

The number of workpeople on the register of the Employment Exchanges (414 in number) at some time or other during the four weeks ended 9th May, 1919, was 1,665,880 (men, 871,880; women, 674,423; boys, 58,065; girls, 61,512).

The number of vacancies notified during the period was 162,202, and the number of vacancies filled was 103,607. The total number of workpeople remaining on the registers at 9th May, 1919, was 1,119,221.

Table with columns: Men, Women, Boys, Girls, Total. Rows: On registers at 11th April 1919, Number of individuals registered during period, Total, Re-registrations during period, On registers at 9th May 1919, Vacancies notified during period, Vacancies filled during period, Applicants placed in other districts.

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

The average daily registrations, vacancies notified and vacancies filled during the month were 22,795, 7,373 and 4,709 respectively. A Chart showing the fluctuations since February, 1918, is given on page 244.

Table with columns: Average Daily Registrations, Average Daily Vacancies Notified, Average Daily Vacancies Filled. Rows: 4 Weeks ended 9 May 1919, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on a Month ago, Year ago, 4 Weeks ended 9 May 1919, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on a Month ago, Year ago, 4 Weeks ended 9 May 1919, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on a Month ago, Year ago.

Compared with the previous month, the daily average of registrations showed a percentage decrease of 16.9; the daily average of vacancies notified and vacancies filled showed percentage decreases of 5.2 and 4.9 respectively.

The following Table shows the comparative volume of work done in insured and uninsured trades during the month:—

Table with columns: Registrations, Vacancies Notified, Vacancies Filled. Rows: Men, Women, Men, Women, Men, Women. Total: 298,170 Registrations, 153,609 Vacancies Notified, 64,723 Vacancies Filled.

In the case of men, the insured trades accounted for 39.7 per cent. of the total registrations, 61.5 per cent. of the vacancies notified, and 62.7 per cent. of the vacancies filled.

Of the vacancies filled 3.5 per cent. were known to be for less than a week's employment, and of the vacancies filled by boys and girls 16.3 per cent. were filled by applicants who obtained their first situation since leaving school.

The following Table shows the proportion of vacancies filled to vacancies notified (excluding those on the register at beginning of period):—

Table with columns: Men, Women, Boys, Girls, Total. Rows: Insured Trades, Uninsured Trades, All Trades. Do. a month ago, Do. a year ago.

Compared with the previous month there was no appreciable change in the proportions; compared with a year ago there was a decrease, chiefly of women and girls.

The proportion of vacancies filled to vacancies notified varied considerably in different trades, as is shown in the Table for men and women below:—

Table with columns: Men, Women. Rows: Groups of Trades (Building, Works of Construction, Engineering, Shipbuilding and Construction of Vehicles, Miscellaneous Metal Trades, Chemicals, Domestic Service, Commercial and Clerical, Conveyance of Men, Goods and Messages, Agriculture, Mines and Quarries, Textiles, Dress (including Boots and Shoes), Food, Tobacco, Drink and Lodging, General Labourers, All other Trades).

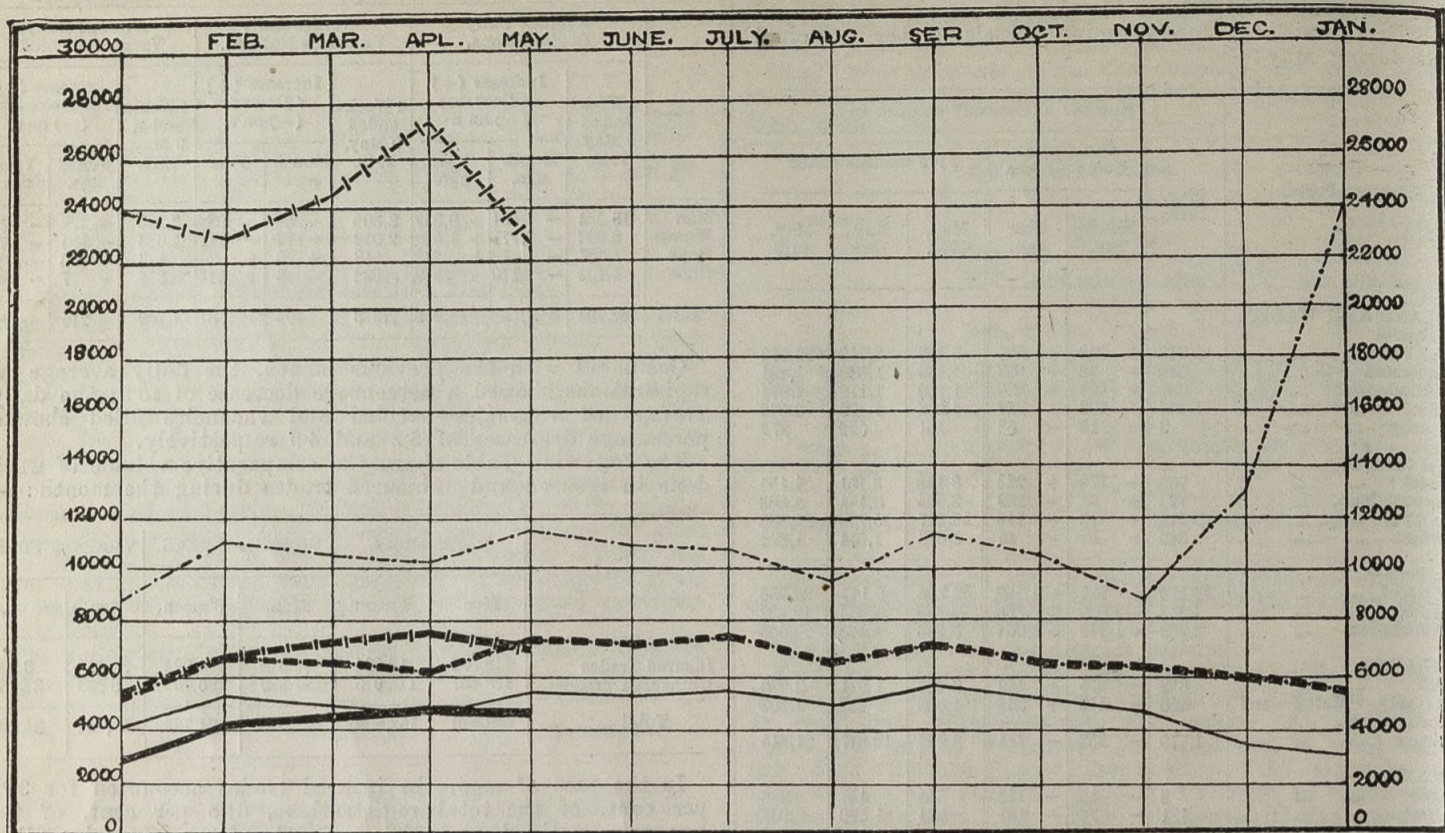
The largest proportion of vacancies filled to vacancies notified for men was 86.0 in chemicals, and the lowest, 37.7, in mines and quarries. For women the largest proportion was 90.5 in chemicals, and the lowest, 45.2, in dress.

CASUAL EMPLOYMENT.

The above figures exclude casual occupations (dock labourers and coal labourers). The number of casual jobs found for workpeople in these occupations was 1,292, a daily average of 59, compared with 77 in the previous five weeks and with 230 in the four weeks ended May, 1918.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES (contd.).

AVERAGE DAILY NUMBER OF REGISTRATIONS, VACANCIES NOTIFIED AND VACANCIES FILLED.



Registrations in 1918, Vacancies Notified in 1918, Vacancies Filled in 1918.

Registrations in 1919, Vacancies Notified in 1919, Vacancies Filled in 1919.

INDIVIDUALS REGISTERED, VACANCIES NOTIFIED AND VACANCIES FILLED IN THE FOUR WEEKS ENDED 9th MAY, 1919.

Persons are now registered at Employment Exchanges according to their normal occupation, or, where there is no normal occupation, according to the work for which they are suitable; previously they were registered occupationally, according to the "work desired" by them.

Table with columns for Occupation Groups, Registrations (Men/Women), Vacancies (Men/Women), and Juveniles (Boys/Girls). It is divided into A.—INSURED TRADES and B.—UNINSURED TRADES.

* These figures are from the General Register for a period ended early in the month stated at the head of the Chart. † These are trades insured against unemployment under the National Insurance Acts, 1911-1916.

TRADE DISPUTES.*

[Based on Returns from Employers and Workpeople.]

TRADE DISPUTES IN MAY.

Number and Magnitude.—The number of trade disputes beginning in May was 170, as compared with 85 in the previous month, and 71 in May, 1918.

Table showing Trade Disputes in May 1919, 1918, and 1919, categorized by groups of trades (e.g., Building, Coal Mining, etc.) with columns for No. of Disputes and No. of Workpeople Involved (Directly, Indirectly, Total).

Causes.—Of the 170 new disputes, 103, directly involving 21,802 workpeople, arose on demands for advances in wages; 15, directly involving 5,399 workpeople, on other wages questions; 12, directly involving 9,290 workpeople, on questions respecting working hours; 12, directly involving 13,032 workpeople, on details of working arrangements; 22, directly involving 14,495 workpeople, on questions affecting the employment of particular classes or persons; and 6, directly involving 2,882 workpeople, on other questions.

Results.—During the month settlements were effected in the case of 79 new disputes, directly involving 40,949 workpeople, and 21 old disputes, directly involving 2,058 workpeople. Of these new and old disputes, 25, directly involving 13,042 workpeople, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 20, directly involving 13,115 workpeople, in favour of the employers; and 55, directly involving 16,850 workpeople, were compromised.

Table showing Trade Disputes in First Five Months of 1918 and 1919, categorized by groups of trades with columns for No. of Disputes and Aggregate Duration in Working Days.

PRINCIPAL TRADE DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN OR ENDED IN MAY.

Table detailing principal trade disputes in May, including Occupation and Locality, Estimated Number of Workpeople Involved, Date when Dispute began, Duration in Working Days, Cause or Object, and Result.

DISPUTES STILL IN PROGRESS.—122 disputes, involving about 30,000 workpeople, were reported to be in progress at the time of going to press.

* Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople, and those which lasted less than one day, have, as usual, been omitted from the statistics, except when the aggregate duration (i.e. number of workpeople multiplied by number of working days, allowing for workpeople replaced by others, &c.) 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. ‡ 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. § It is reported that several thousand workpeople at iron and steel works, &c., were also rendered idle by this dispute. ¶ A large number of workpeople employed in the hosiery trade, but not at the establishments where the strike occurred, have been rendered idle by the strike.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.

[The particulars given, which are based on returns from employers and workpeople, are exclusive of changes affecting agricultural labourers, seamen, railway servants, police and Government employees. War bonuses and war increases have been so described where possible, but the information is not in all cases sufficient to distinguish between these and the increases not thus limited.

The particulars relate to changes reported, both by the employers and the workpeople concerned, to have come into actual operation, irrespective of whether they have or have not been approved by the Minister of Labour. The fact that a particular change in rate is shown in the Table, therefore, should not be taken as implying that the new rate has been formally approved by the Minister of Labour as a "substituted rate" under the provisions of the Wages (Temporary Regulation) Act.]

Wages.

THE changes in rates of wages reported as having come into operation in May resulted in an increase of over £80,000 in the weekly wages of nearly 350,000 workpeople. In addition a large number of workpeople had their hourly time rates and piece rates increased so as to give the same weekly wages as before for a shorter working week.

The principal changes included were increases (awarded in March, but not generally put into operation until May) to workpeople in the wholesale clothing trade in the United Kingdom and to those in the bespoke tailoring trade in many of the principal towns in England, the total war advances of time-workers were raised to 18s. 9d. per week for men 22 years and over; 12s. 6d. for men 18 and under 22 and for women 18 and over; and 7s. for boys and girls under 18; while piece-workers received advances of 3d. per log hour for men 22 years and over, 1/2d. per log hour for men 18 and under 22 and for women 18 and over, and 1/4d. per log hour for boys and girls under 18.

Other important changes included were increases granted to workpeople engaged in the brick, tile, &c., industries, making the total minimum war advance for men 21 years and over 30s. per week, and 25s. for those 18 and under 21; increases to compositors and bookbinders in England and Wales, resulting from the adoption of a national grading scheme for all the principal towns outside London; and an increase of 6d. per shift to shift workers on 8-hour shifts in gas undertakings. New minimum rates of wages were agreed upon for workpeople engaged in tobacco, &c., manufacture; and there were numerous increases in wages in the building trade.

Of the increases taking effect in May, 25, affecting 184,000 workpeople, were arranged by arbitration; 10, affecting 19,000 workpeople, were arranged by conciliation; 13, affecting 21,000 workpeople, took effect under sliding scales; and the remaining 81 changes, affecting nearly 127,000 workpeople, were arranged directly as the result of negotiations between employers and workpeople, or their representatives. In 17 cases only, affecting 8,000 workpeople, the changes were preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work.

CHANGES TAKING EFFECT IN JANUARY-MAY, 1919.

The following Table shows the effect of the changes for which particulars are available:—

PRINCIPAL CHANGES TAKING EFFECT IN MAY, 1919.

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Occupations, Particulars of Change. Includes entries for London, Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Spen Valley, Todmorden, Wakefield, and York.

1 This rate applies to skilled painters, but, at the option of the employer, the following work may be executed by labourers at the labourers' rate of pay:—lime-whiting, distemping unplastered walls in factories and cellars, painting ironwork on buildings, applying wood preservatives to other than finished joiners' work, tarring, washing-off distemper, stripping papered walls, and knotting and priming joinery.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES TAKING EFFECT IN MAY, 1919—(continued).

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Occupations, Particulars of Change. Includes entries for Lancashire & Cheshire, North and West Midland Counties, Bristol, Cheltenham, Chesterfield, Derby, Hereford, Ilkeston, Leek, Loughborough, Newport (Salop), Nuneaton, Redditch, Stoke-on-Trent, Worksop, South Midland and Eastern Counties, Chelmsford, Clacton-on-Sea, Cromer, Kettering, Luton, and Oxford.

1 Viz., Bacup, Clitheroe, Colne, Darwen, Great Harwood, Leigh, Nelson, Padiham, Rawtenstall, and Rishton. 2 This rate is inclusive of the bonus of 12 1/2 per cent. on earnings granted to men on munitions work. 3 See also under "Changes in Hourly Labour."

PRINCIPAL CHANGES TAKING EFFECT IN MAY, 1919—(continued).

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Occupations, Particulars of Change. Includes sections for South Midland and Eastern Counties, South-Eastern Counties, and South-Western Counties.

1 This rate is inclusive of the bonus of 12 1/2 per cent. on earnings granted to men on munitions work. 2 See also under "Changes in Hours of Labour." 3 Viz., Brighton, Canterbury, Chatham, Dorking, Eastbourne, Folkestone, Gillingham, Godalming, Guildford, Hastings, Littlehampton, Maidstone, Redhill, Reigate, Rochester, St. Leonards, Sheerness, Thanet (including Margate and Ramsgate), Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells, and Worthing. 4 These rates are inclusive of all bonuses.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES TAKING EFFECT IN MAY, 1919—(continued).

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Occupations, Particulars of Change. Includes sections for South-Western Counties, Wales and Monmouthshire, Ireland, Mining and Quarrying, Pig Iron Manufacture, Iron and Steel Manufacture, Engineering and Boiler-making, Tinplate Manufacture, and Other Metal Trades.

1 See also under "Changes in Hours of Labour." 2 This rate is inclusive of the bonus of 12 1/2 per cent. on earnings granted to men on munitions work. 3 The new rates were approved by the Minister of Labour on 14 May, on the understanding that they were inclusive of all war advances and bonuses. 4 The lower of the two rates applies to men working a 47-hour week; the higher is for men working a reduced week of 44 1/2 hours during the winter months. 5 Granted under an arrangement made in May to have effect from the date shown. 6 This increase was to take effect from the beginning of the first pay week in which a week of 44 hours was worked. 7 This increase took effect from the date shown, under an award issued in May.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES TAKING EFFECT IN MAY, 1919—(continued).

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Occupations, Particulars of Change. Includes sections for Bobbin and Shuttle Manufacture, Flax Tow Industry, Hosiery Manufacture, Lace Industry, Elastic Web Manufacture, Textile Bleaching, Dyeing, Printing, Finishing, &c., Trades, and Clothing Trades.

1 These increases did not apply to shuttle-makers in Yorkshire and Lancashire covered by agreements between the Shuttle Manufacturers' Association and the Amalgamated Society of Shuttle-makers. 2 This increase took effect from the date shown, under an award issued in May. 3 See also under "Changes in Hours of Labour." 4 The change took effect, under an arrangement made in May, from the first pay day in April in respect of the full pay week preceding that date. 5 The increases were granted as the result of Arbitration Awards (issued in March, but not generally put in operation until May), to which the Wholesale Manufacturers' Federation of Great Britain and Ireland, the Huddersfield Wholesale Clothiers' Association, and the Northern Clothing Manufacturers' Association were parties, with the United Garment Workers' Trade Union and the Amalgamated Society of Tailors and Tailoresses. A separate arrangement was subsequently made as regards Huddersfield. 6 The increases were granted as the result of an arbitration award (issued in March, but not generally put in operation until May), to which the National Federation of Merchant Tailors, the Master Tailors' Federation, and the Association of London Master Tailors were parties with the United Garment Workers' Trade Union and the Amalgamated Society of Tailors and Tailoresses. In West London the increase was paid from 5th April (see LABOUR GAZETTE for May). In Huddersfield separate arrangements were made. At several other towns, including Liverpool, Hull, and Sheffield, the award had not generally come into operation at the end of May.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES TAKING EFFECT IN MAY, 1919—(continued).

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Occupations, Particulars of Change. Includes sections for Clothing, &c., Trades, Transport Trades, Printing and Allied Trades, Furniture Trades, and Upholsterers in retail trade.

1 See also under "Changes in Hours of Labour." 2 The increases took effect from the date shown, under an Award issued in May. 3 The increases took effect from the date shown, under an arrangement made in May. 4 GRADE I.—Liverpool, Manchester. GRADE II.—Bury, Birmingham, Bradford, Bristol, Cardiff, Leeds, Newcastle, Rotherham, Sheffield, Swansea, West Bromwich. GRADE III.—Aberavon, Abercromby, Aberdeen, Abertillery, Accrington, Ammanford, Ashton-under-Lyne, Bargoed, Barrow-in-Furness, Bishop Auckland, Blackburn, Bloxwich, Bolton, Burnley, Bury, Caerphilly, Castleford, Cleckheaton, Clitheroe, Coventry, Darlington, Dalton-in-Furness, Derby, Dudley and District, Durham, Ebbw Vale, Hartlepool, Hebburn, Houghton-le-Spring, Hull, Hyde, Idle, Jarrow, Leicester, Lichfield, Llanelli, Merthyr Tydfil, Mexborough, Middlesbrough, Morley, Neath, Newport, Newton-le-Willows, North Shields, Nottingham, Oldham, Otley, Pontypool, Pontypridd, Preston, Prescot, Pudsey, Rochdale, Rhymney, Rhondda Valley, Runcorn, Seaham Harbour, Shipley, South Shields, Stanningley, Stockport, Stockton, St. Helens, Sunderland, Tredgar, Ulverston, Walsall, Warrington, Wednesbury, Widnes, Wigan, Wolverhampton, Wolverton, York, Ystalyfera. GRADE IV.—Aldershot, Barnsley, Bath, Blackpool, Buxton, Cannock, Carlisle, Chester, Chesterfield, Chorley, Crewe, Darwen, Dewsbury, Doncaster, Dorking, Dunstable, Glossop Dale, Goolle, Gravesend, Grimsby, Halifax, Harrogate, Hemel Hempstead, Hertford, Hitchin, Huddersfield, Keighley, Kendal, Lancaster, Leamington, Leigh, Letchworth, Loughborough, Macclesfield, Mansfield, Mirkfield, Morecambe, Northampton, Oxford, Plymouth, Potteries, Reading, Redhill, Shrewsbury, St. Albans, Southport, Stafford, Stourbridge, Tonbridge, Warwick, Wexham, Weymouth, Wisbech, Yarmouth, Yeovil. GRADE V.—Alfreton, Ashford, Aylesbury, Banbury, Bedford, Beverley, Bicester, Wakefield, Watford, Wellington, Chesham, Cockermouth, Coedpoeth, Coleford, Devizes, Dursley, Eastbourne, Eton, Exeter, Frome, Gloucester, Grantham, Guildford, Hastings, Hereford, Ipswich, Isle of Thanet, Kettering, Knutsford, Leves, Lincoln, Luton, Maidstone, Nantwich, Northwich, Norwich, Penrith, Portsmouth, Redditch, Ripley, Rugby, Salisbury, Scarborough, Southampton, St. Leonards, Stroud, Swindon, Taunton, Thrapston, Todmorden, Tunbridge Wells, Uttoxeter, Uxbridge, Wellington (Som.), Weston-super-Mare, Whitehaven, Windsor, Worcester, Worthington, Worthing, Wrexham. GRADE VI.—Aberystwyth, Arundel, Bala, Bangor, Barmouth, Barnstaple, Beccles, Blandford, Brecon, Bridgend, Bury St. Edmund's, Cambridge, Carmarthen, Carnarvon, Canterbury, Chelmsford, Chichester, Cinderford, Cirencester, Clevedon, Colchester, Colwyn Bay, Conway, Corwen, Dartmouth, Denbigh, Dolgelly, Evesham, Fakenham, Felmsley, Folkestone, Foxton, Ilfracombe, Eton, Isle of Wight, Kidderminster, King's Lynn, Lampeter, Ledbury, Leek, Leominster, Llandudnod Wells, Llanidloes, Lowestoft, Lydney, Malvern, March, Mold, Monmouth, Newton Abbot, Nuneaton, Newport, Oswestry, Penzance, Peterborough, Poole, Pwllheli, Prestatyn, Rexford, Rhyl, Ross, Selby, Sherborne, Skipton, Southend-on-Sea, Tewkesbury, Torquay, Toines, Turo, Usk, Welshpool, Weymouth, Whitchurch, Winchester, Wisbech, Yarmouth, Yeovil. In the case of compositors in towns in the South-Western and North Wales areas the changes will not take effect until July, and if the advance then payable exceeds 5s., the sum of 5s. will be paid on the Agreement becoming operative, and the balance by quarterly advances until the prescribed rate is reached. In the Isle of Wight it has been agreed to accept the increase of 12s. (48s. to 60s.) in two quarterly instalments, viz. 6s. on 24th May and 6s. on 23rd August. Full particulars are not available with regard to all the towns covered by the Agreement, but so far as ascertained, other districts in which the new rates have not yet become generally operative include the Isle of Thanet, Carlisle, Kendal, Oxford, and Cambridge.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES TAKING EFFECT IN MAY, 1919—(continued).

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Occupations, Particulars of Change. Includes sections for Furniture Trades, Coachbuilding, Other Wood-working Trades, Brick, Tile, Clay, &c., Industries, Tobacco, &c., Manufacture, Leather Trades, and Other Trades.

1 See also under "Changes in Hours of Labour."
2 The increases took effect from the date shown, under an award issued in May.
3 The increases were granted as the result of an arbitration to which the Employers' National Council for the Clay Industries, the National Federation of General Workers, and the Welsh Artisans' United Association were parties.
4 The changes were the result of an agreement adopted in May by the Joint Industrial Council for the Made-up Leather Goods Industry.
5 The rates referred to are those proposed to be fixed under the Trade Boards Acts. Pending the fixing of the rates under the Acts, the rates are being paid as a matter of agreement between the parties concerned.
6 This change took effect from the date shown under an arrangement made in May.
7 The changes took effect from the date shown, under an agreement which received the approval of the Ministry of Labour during May.
8 This increase of 6d. per shift applies to those undertakings which have had the 8-hour shift for some time. Full details are not available as to the exceptions, but it is known that the large majority of shiftworkers received the above increase.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES TAKING EFFECT IN MAY, 1919—(continued).

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Occupations, Particulars of Change. Includes sections for Northern Counties, South Midland and Eastern Counties, Southern Counties, Wales, and Ireland.

1 Including Blyth, Gateshead, Hebburn, Jarrow, Morpeth, North and South Shields, Tynemouth, Wallsend, and Whitley Bay.
2 See also under "Changes in Rates of Wages."
3 In the case of shiftmen the 8-hour shift was introduced at various dates in the first four months of 1919. The majority of shiftmen already had the 8-hour shift; the chief districts affected by its introduction in 1919 are South Staffordshire, South Wales, and Scotland.
4 In the case of men, other than shiftworkers, the 47-hour week took effect mainly in January and February, 1919.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES TAKING EFFECT IN MAY, 1919—(continued).

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Occupations, Particulars of Change. Includes sections for 'Changes in Hours of Labour' and 'Increases in Minimum Wages under the Trades Board Act.'

1 The change took effect from the date shown under an arrangement made in May. 2 See also under "Changes in Rates of Wages." 3 The 48-hour week does not apply to firemen and other non-productive workers...

Increases in Minimum Wages under the Trades Board Act.

Machine Made Lace and Net Finishing Trade.—From 2nd May variations were made in the minimum piece rates for certain operations (see LABOUR GAZETTE for May, 1919, p. 214).

PRICES AND WAGES IN THE COAL AND IRON TRADES.

THE results of recent ascertainment of the selling prices of Durham coal and manufactured iron for North of England, Midlands, and the West of Scotland are given below:—

Table with columns: Product and District, Price according to last Audit, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) of last Audit on. Includes data for COAL and MANUFACTURED IRON.

Coal.—No change in the wages of Durham miners was made in connection with the ascertainment of the average selling price of coal for the above period...

or shift worked to men 16 years of age and over and of 1s. per day or shift worked to boys under 16, granted as a result of the recommendations of the Coal Industry Commission.

WAGES (TEMPORARY REGULATION) ACT EXTENSION.

THE Wages (Temporary Regulation) Act, 1918, was passed mainly for the purpose of maintaining for a period of six months the minimum wages generally payable at the date of the signing of the Armistice...

The Provisional Joint Committee of the National Industrial Conference recommended the extension of the Act for a further six months, and the Wages (Temporary Regulation) Extension Act, which has now become operative, carries out this recommendation.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS. CASES REPORTED.

[Based on Home Office and Board of Trade Returns.] THE Table below shows the number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment during May, in comparison with the numbers for the previous month and for May, 1918.

The number reported as killed in May, 1919, was 256, an increase of 50 on the previous month, but a decrease of 9 on a year ago. The mean number in May during the five years 1914-1918 was 264, the maximum being 295 and the minimum 229.

Fatal accidents in the railway service during May, 1919, numbered 36, compared with 28 in April, 1919, and 30 in May, 1918. The total number of fatal accidents at mines was 106, an increase of 14 on the previous month and 5 on a year ago.

The total number of fatal accidents reported under the Factory and Workshops Act in May, 1919, was 112, an increase of 33 on April, 1919.

FIVE MONTHS ENDED MAY, 1919.

During the five months ended May, 1919, the total number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment was 1,214, as compared with 1,594 in the corresponding period of the year 1918, a decrease of 380.

The total number of fatal accidents in the railway service was 162, as compared with 178 last year.

The total number of fatal accidents at mines was 483, as compared with 683 last year. There were 17 fatal accidents at quarries, compared with 34 last year.

The total number of fatal accidents reported under the Factory and Workshop Act in the five months January-May, 1919, was 547, as compared with 691 last year.

Table showing Number of Workpeople killed during and Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in May, 1919, on a year ago. Includes categories like RAILWAY SERVICE, MINES, FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS, and GRAND TOTAL.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS. IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

[Cases include all attacks, fatal or otherwise, reported to the Home Office 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.]

THE total number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax reported to the Home Office under the Factory and Workshop Act during May, 1919, was 25, of which 17 were due to lead poisoning, 1 to arsenic poisoning, and 7 to anthrax. One death due to lead poisoning and 1 to anthrax were reported.

FIVE MONTHS ENDED MAY, 1919.

During the five months ended May, 1919, the total number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax reported under the Factory and Workshop Act was 111, compared with 118 in the corresponding period of 1918. The number of deaths in 1919 was 18, compared with 14 in 1918.

ANALYSIS BY INDUSTRIES.

Table showing Analysis by Industries with columns for Industry, Cases (Month of May, 1919, Five months ended), and Deaths (Month of May, 1919, Five months ended). Includes categories like Lead Poisoning, Other Forms of Poisoning, and Anthrax.

* Of the 3 persons affected in the China and Earthenware Industry 1 was a female. † Caused by arseniuretted hydrogen gas.

Committee with the Management. If the question in dispute cannot be settled at this stage, it shall be open for either side to request that it should be referred to the Trade Joint Council.

It shall be open, at any stage of the negotiations, for the Trade Union representatives to co-opt additional representatives on the Trade Committee.

FUNCTIONS.

31. In indicating the principal functions which will come within the scope of the Committees no attempt has been made to demarcate as between the powers of the Shop and Department Committees or between those of the Department and Works Committee, but, in practice, the Works Committee will, of necessity, deal with wider aspects of the subjects indicated than either the Shop or Department Committee.

32. It must also be noted, in the case of some of the functions, that it may have been the rule with certain trades to negotiate on such matters apart from other trades. Where this is the practice, local arrangements should be made accordingly.

33. It is a fundamental principle, in addition, that no Works Committee (or subordinate Committee) shall have power to make agreements which may be inconsistent with the powers or decision of a Departmental or Trade Joint Council.

34. Functions of a general nature to be dealt with (subject to paras. 31 and 32 above) in full Joint Committee:—

- (a) The issue and revision of works rules.
- (b) The distribution of working hours; breaks; time recording, &c.

- (c) The payment of wages (time, form of pay ticket, &c.); explanation of methods of payment.
- (d) The settlement of grievances; other than those of a specific trade character (*see* para. 35).
- (e) Holiday arrangements.
- (f) Questions of physical welfare (provision of meals, drinking water, lavatories and washing accommodation, cloakrooms, ventilation, heating and sanitation; accidents, safety appliances, first aid, ambulance, &c.).
- (g) Questions of promotion, position of foremen, &c.
- (h) Questions of discipline and conduct as between management and workpeople (malingering, bullying, time-keeping; publicity in regard to rules; supervision of notice boards, &c.).
- (i) Terms of engagement of workpeople.
- (j) The training of apprentices and young persons.
- (k) Technical library, lectures on the technical and social aspects of industry.
- (l) Suggestions of improvements in method and organisation of work; the testing of suggestions.
- (m) Investigation of circumstances tending to reduce efficiency or in any way to interfere with the satisfactory working of the establishments.
- (n) Collections (for clubs, charities, &c.).
- (o) Entertainments and sports.

35. The Trade Committees, or the Trade Union representatives or Shop Stewards where there is no Trade Committee, shall consider such questions as rates of wages, fixing and adjustment of piece prices, questions of deductions from wages, the relation of the shop and works rules to those of the Union (or Unions) concerned, &c.

NOTE.—The above draft constitutions for Departmental Joint Councils, Trade Joint Councils, and (a) Shop, (b) Department, (c) Works or Yard, (d) Trade Committees in local establishments under the Government Departments have been drawn up by a Provisional Committee appointed at a preliminary conference of representatives of Trade Unions having members directly employed in Government industrial establishments and officials of the Government Departments concerned, held on 20th February, 1919. The draft constitutions are based on the general requirements of all the Government Departments and Trade Unions concerned, and will therefore require to be adapted to the particular requirements of each department. For this purpose conferences have been convened for each Government Department of official representatives of the department and of the Trade Unions having members in its establishments. Each of these conferences will be invited to appoint a Joint Drafting Committee, and it will be the duty of this Committee to make any necessary amendments in the constitutions as at present drafted, and in particular to determine the Trade Union representation on the proposed Council.

When the constitution for each Departmental Joint Council has been prepared by the Drafting Committee, it will be referred to the department and to the Trade Unions concerned, and if approved, the representatives will be appointed and the first meeting of the Council will be held.

It will be the duty of the Departmental Joint Council to see that arrangements are made for local joint organisation of the kind proposed by the scheme.

The formation of the Trade Joint Councils, which cover a number of Government Departments concerned in any particular trade or group of trades, must necessarily be left over until the Departmental Joint Councils have been set up.