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

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

THE number of men and boys registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain as wholly unemployed at 17th August, 1942 (exclusive of 23,450 men who had been classified by interviewing panels as unsuitable for ordinary industrial employment) was 71,308; those registered as on short time or otherwise temporarily suspended from work on the understanding that they were shortly to return to their former employment numbered 1,766; and those registered as unemployed casual workers (being persons who normally seek their livelihood by jobs of short duration) numbered 2,548. As compared with 13th July the numbers wholly unemployed showed a decrease of 260 among men, but an increase of 5,452 among boys, the latter being mainly due to the registration of school leavers. Those temporarily suspended from work showed an increase of 38, and unemployed casual workers showed an increase of 368.

The corresponding figures for women and girls at 17th August, 1942, were 36,226 wholly unemployed (exclusive of those, numbering 1,122, who had been classified by interviewing panels as unsuitable for normal full-time employment), 1,856 temporarily stopped, and 121 unemployed casual workers. Of the 36,226 wholly unemployed, 1,146 had been classified as unable for good cause to transfer to another area. As compared with 13th July, the numbers wholly unemployed showed a decrease of 2,974 among women, but an increase of 3,880 among girls, the latter being mainly due to the registration of school leavers. Those temporarily stopped showed an increase of 320, and unemployed casual workers showed a decrease of 4.

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 August resulted in an aggregate increase estimated at about £77,000 in the weekly full-time wages of nearly 720,000 workpeople. There were slight decreases

in the wage rates of approximately 6,000 workpeople, the aggregate reduction being estimated at about £50 a week.

The industries and services in which wage rates were increased included most sections of the iron and steel industry, railway workshops, the woolcombing section of the wool textile industry in Yorkshire, linen and cotton handkerchief, etc., manufacture in Northern Ireland, tobacco manufacture, electricity supply, and retail drapery, outfitting and footwear distribution. The rates of wages of coal miners in Leicestershire were reduced under the operation of a sliding-scale agreement by which wage rates fluctuate in correspondence with the proceeds of the industry in the district.

Further particulars regarding the changes in rates of wages in August are given on pages 165 to 167.

COST OF LIVING.

At 1st September the official cost-of-living index figure was 100 per cent. above the level of July, 1914, as compared with 101 per cent. a month earlier.

The decline in the figure was due to a fall in the average level of prices of clothing, resulting partly from the removal of Purchase Tax from utility cloth and apparel despatched to retailers on and after 3rd August and partly from increased sales of utility clothing at prices below those of non-utility goods of corresponding quality. For food alone the index figure remained unchanged at 60 per cent. above the level of July, 1914.

TRADE DISPUTES.

The number of trade disputes involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as beginning in August, was 118. In addition, 6 disputes which began before August were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The approximate number of workpeople involved in these 124 disputes (including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred) was 22,000, and the aggregate duration of the disputes in August was about 37,000 working days.

WAGES IN THE COAL MINING INDUSTRY.

BONUS FOR INCREASED OUTPUT.

The first Report of the Board of Investigation, appointed under the chairmanship of the Rt. Hon. Lord Greene, O.B.E., to enquire into wages and wage-fixing machinery in the coal mining industry, recommended the payment of a bonus for increased output, and outlined a scheme for consideration. The Government accepted the recommendation, in principle, and asked the Board to settle the details in the light of any representations which the industry might wish to make, and of certain observations which the Government themselves had to offer.*

In a Supplemental Report recently presented to the Minister of Labour and National Service and the Minister of Fuel and Power, the Board state that the representations of the industry have now been made in the form of an agreed proposal, and that they have received observations offered on behalf of the Government. After a careful examination of the views thus placed before them, the Board submit, in their Report, a Scheme embodying their detailed proposals.

In an introductory note, the Board explain that the object of the Scheme is to give additional remuneration to the workers whenever the monthly output of saleable coal in their districts exceeds the standard output for the district by at least one per cent. The two sides of the industry are unanimous in preferring a scheme based on district output to one based on the output of individual pits, as had been originally recommended by the Board of Investigation. The Board have thought it right to accept the views of the industry in this respect, since it is by the industry that the Scheme must be worked and it is by the joint efforts of both sides that the desired increase in output must be obtained. The Board state, however, that they reserve the right to revert to a scheme based on individual pits or groups of pits, if it should appear after an experimental period that a district scheme is not effective.

A standard output for each district has been fixed by the Board. The figures are in each case based on those proposed by the two sides of the industry, but some adjustment has been made to provide for certain factors which those proposals did not cover. The figures have been arrived at in such a way as to take into account normal occurrences affecting district output; but it has been necessary to make special provision for other matters affecting output upwards or downwards which are beyond the control of the workers. This will be done in two ways:—

- Abnormal occurrences of a temporary nature and recognised holidays will be met by making an addition to the actual figure of output of the district for the relevant period equal to the tonnage lost by reason of any given occurrence or holiday. These additions will usually be simple matters of calculation and they will be made by the Minister of Fuel and Power, who may, if he thinks proper, ask the advice of the independent reviewing authority mentioned below. The expression "abnormal occurrences" does not include stoppages due to disputes.
- Matters which are calculated to affect output permanently or for a long period will be dealt with by an independent person with the help of three assessors, one nominated by each side of the industry and one nominated by the Minister of Fuel and Power. This person will, where necessary, review the standard output of a district at six-monthly intervals and any alteration in the standard output of the district which he may think fair and reasonable will have effect during the ensuing period of six months and so on.

The bonus payments will take the form of an equal payment to the workers in the district, over 21 years of age, for each shift worked during the period in which the bonus is earned. Workers under 21 will receive one half of the full amount except in the case of underground workers, where the full amount will be payable at the age of 18. The amount of the payment in the case of female workers will be governed by local practice.

The Scheme is a new departure and is necessarily experimental, and the Board propose to review its operation after a suitable period. In the meanwhile the Board hope that all concerned will co-operate with goodwill in making the Scheme a success, thus helping to secure the increased production which is so urgently needed.

The following are the full terms of the Scheme:—

- The Scheme shall come into operation on a day to be prescribed by the Minister of Fuel and Power and the period of four consecutive weeks commencing on that day and every subsequent period of four consecutive weeks is referred to as an "output period."
- There shall be a standard output of saleable coal for each district. The standard output for a district for the first output period shall be that stated in the First Schedule (see below). This commencing standard output may be adjusted from time to time as provided below. In the following paragraphs, the expression "standard output" means the standard output ruling for a district for any particular output period.
- Whenever the output of saleable coal in a district during an output period exceeds the standard output, the workers in that district shall be entitled to a bonus payment for every

* See the issue of this GAZETTE for July, 1942, page 134.

complete one per cent. by which the output exceeds the standard output.

4. This Scheme shall apply to all male workers within the industry who are directly or indirectly engaged in the work of winning, raising and handling coal and operations connected therewith. It shall only apply to other male workers and to women workers in so far as such application would be in accordance with practices existing on 18th June, 1942.

5. Save as otherwise provided in this Scheme, the bonus payment shall be an equal payment to all workers in the district for each shift worked during the output period in which the bonus is earned. It shall be paid in four equal weekly instalments by way of addition to the wages of the worker, the first instalment to be paid on the third pay day after the end of the output period in which the bonus is earned and the remaining instalments to be paid on the three following pay days.

6. Bonus payments for all workers aged 21 and upwards and for all underground workers aged 18 and upwards shall be in accordance with the following scale:—

Percentage of standard output reached.	Bonus payment per shift.
100 per cent.	—
101 "	3d.
102 "	6d.
103 "	9d.

and so by increases of 3d. for every complete one per cent. up to

115 per cent. and over 3s. 9d.

7. Bonus payments to underground workers under the age of 18 and to surface workers under the age of 21 shall be at half the rates stated above.

8. The output of saleable coal in each district in an output period shall be ascertained and certified by the Ministry of Fuel and Power upon the basis of the statutory weekly returns of output of coal raised.

9. The provisions set out in the Second Schedule (see below) shall apply with regard to notional additions to actual output, periodical reviews of standard output and to a general review by the Board of the working of the Scheme.

10. Any major question of interpretation arising under this Scheme, which may be raised by or through the national bodies or one of them, may be referred for decision to the Board by the Minister of Fuel and Power.

The *First Schedule* appended to the Scheme contains particulars of the commencing standard output of saleable coal in each of the 25 coal mining districts.

In the *Second Schedule*, provision is made for compensatory adjustments in the figures of actual output, to be effected by the Minister of Fuel and Power in districts in which output has been diminished by abnormal occurrences (other than stoppages due to disputes) or by recognised holidays, and for periodical reviews of the standard outputs by "reviewing authorities" occasioned by matters which are calculated to affect output permanently or for a long period.

The Minister of Fuel and Power has announced that the Scheme has been accepted by the Government, to operate as from 6th September, 1942.

THE ESSENTIAL WORK (COALMINING INDUSTRY) (AMENDMENT) ORDER, 1942.

THE above Order,* made by the Minister of Labour and National Service on 7th September, 1942, amends in certain respects, with effect as from 17th September, 1942, the provisions of the Essential Work (Coalmining Industry) (No. 3) Order, 1941,† which relate to employment in scheduled undertakings and to the procedure for dealing with absenteeism.

Under the provisions hitherto in force relating to employment in scheduled undertakings, it was expressly stipulated that the competent National Service Officer might not refuse the grant to a worker of permission to leave his employment in a scheduled undertaking in cases where he was satisfied that the permission was required to allow the worker to go immediately into another scheduled undertaking. This provision is cancelled by the new Order.

As regards the provisions relating to the procedure for dealing with absenteeism, the amendments effected by the new Order make it an immediate offence for a person employed in a scheduled undertaking to (a) absent himself from work without reasonable excuse, (b) be persistently late in presenting himself for work, (c) fail to comply with any lawful and reasonable orders given to him, or (d) persistently behave at work in such a manner as to impede the effective production of the work carried on in the undertaking. In accordance with the procedure contemplated by the Government in their White Paper on the control and organisation of the coal industry (see the issue of this GAZETTE for June, 1942, page 122), cases in which any such offence is imputed to a worker are to be investigated by new officers of the Ministry of Fuel and Power, called "Regional Investigation Officers," whose recommendation in favour of prosecution is necessary before a prosecution is undertaken by the Ministry of Labour and National Service.

* Statutory Rules and Orders, 1942, No. 1847. See page 172.

† See the issue of this GAZETTE for January, 1942, pages 6 and 26-27.

RECRUITMENT OF JUVENILES IN THE COAL-MINING INDUSTRY.

FIRST REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF ENQUIRY.

The Committee of Enquiry appointed in April, 1942, under the Chairmanship of Sir John Forster, to examine the whole situation with regard to the recruitment of juveniles in the coal-mining industry (see the issue of this GAZETTE for May, 1942), have recently issued their First Report* setting out their observations and recommendations in the light of written memoranda and oral evidence furnished by the Mining Association of Great Britain, the Mineworkers' Federation of Great Britain, the Ministry of Labour and National Service, the Ministry of Fuel and Power, the Board of Education, and various other competent authorities and interested parties specified in an Appendix to the Report. A review of the more important features of the Report is given below.

From the evidence submitted to them, the Committee are satisfied that the shortage of juvenile labour in the coal-mining industry has now assumed a serious character, both as regards the present productivity of the industry and as regards the future supply of skilled workers. Since 1934, the number of new juvenile entrants to the industry has fallen from 30,000 in a year to the present annual figure of slightly over 14,000, and the rate of recruitment now falls far short of the gross wastage rate arising from deaths or retirements through age or incapacity. The decline has not been confined to the war years, though in certain districts it has been intensified by new opportunities for the employment of juvenile labour in war industries, and accordingly the Committee have endeavoured to consider both the immediate needs and the long-term problems associated with recruitment to the industry.

As the main operative causes of the reluctance of boys to enter the coal-mining industry the Committee enumerate various factors, particularly the past record of the industry as regards unemployment, the wage level, the widespread feeling that the type of employment provided by the industry is un congenial because of conditions peculiar to the industry; and the widened choice of occupations open to boys in mining districts as the result of the development of facilities for local transport. These causes, the Committee state, are not likely to be removed by short-term remedies. If boys are to be attracted in adequate numbers to the industry, it will be necessary to provide a greater sense of economic security and a firmer assurance of a progressive career. To this end, the Committee put forward a number of recommendations designed to serve as the basis of a long-term recruitment policy. These recommendations are governed by a single general principle, viz., that every effort should be made to increase the sense of economic security for persons who enter the coal-mining industry, that adequate provision should be made for the systematic training of new entrants for the work which they will be called upon to perform, and that, as far as possible, the new entrant will be assured of a regular progress up to the stage when he qualifies as an adult workman in his occupation.

As regards training, the principal recommendations of the Committee propose that all new juvenile entrants to the coal-mining industry should undergo a period of training during ordinary working hours and be paid the appropriate rate of wages, according to the prevailing scale for juveniles. The initial training period should be not less than sixteen weeks. The first eight weeks should be devoted to general instruction at a suitable centre (at the headquarters of a colliery or group of collieries, or at a convenient mining school or institute), together with practical demonstration at a non-productive underground gallery specially prepared for the purpose. The second eight weeks should be devoted to practical work in an actual production unit to be reserved and worked for training purposes at the pit or group of pits at which the trainee is employed.

At the age at which youths are eligible for work at the coal-face, they should undergo further training, extending over not less than six months, on all relevant coal-face operations, the training being given at the actual production unit reserved and worked for training purposes at the pit or group of pits at which the youth is employed.

The Committee further recommend that the approval of the Minister of Fuel and Power should be required for all training schemes, that supervision of the schemes should be vested in suitable and adequately trained persons specially designated for the purpose, and that there should be close liaison between the Ministry of Fuel and Power and the Board of Education and local Education Authorities as regards theoretical instruction.

Ancillary craftsmen in the industry should, the Committee consider, be recruited from the ranks of apprentices, and all new entrants should be eligible for training as apprentices, the numbers of which should be regulated by the needs of the industry.

On the subject of wages, the Committee approve the principle of the establishment of national minimum rates for juvenile workers in the industry, with appropriate differentiation of the rates as between underground and surface workers, and they recommend accordingly. In view, however, of the first Report of the Board of Investigation into Miners' Wages (see the issue of this GAZETTE for July, 1942, page 134), the Com-

* Committee on the Recruitment of Juveniles in the Coal-Mining Industry. First Report. H.M. Stationery Office, price 4d. net (5d. post free).

mittee announce their intention to report separately on the question of juvenile wages, after further discussions with the two sides of the industry. As regards the existing regulation of the hours of shifts, it is proposed that this should be re-examined at a later stage, having regard, *inter alia*, to the health and welfare of juvenile workers.

Other recommendations of the Committee on the long-term aspects of the problem of the recruitment of boys for coal-mining advocate the continuance into the post-war period of the guaranteed week, as embodied in the Essential Work Orders and the compulsory medical examination of the boys, as part of the proposed Mines Medical Service. At a later stage, this Service, or some other appropriate body, should be invited to report on the desirability of limiting the age at which boys may work underground.

With regard to the immediate need to recruit additional juveniles for the industry, the principal recommendation of the Committee proposes that the Minister of Labour and National Service should allow youths in other industries, on reaching the age of 18½ years, to opt for coal-mining employment as against military service.

WAR-TIME EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN SHIPBUILDING AND ALLIED INDUSTRIES.

THE Ministry of Labour and National Service have recently issued a leaflet* calling attention to the urgent need for the increased war-time employment of women in the shipbuilding and allied industries, and giving general indications regarding particular aspects of the recruitment of women for suitable occupations in those industries.

The extensive and expanding demands of most munitions industries, including such heavy industries as the iron and steel and chemical industries, have, it is pointed out, been met to a large extent by the introduction of women. In the shipbuilding industry, however, little use has, so far, been made of female labour, although many of the unskilled and semi-skilled operations offer considerable scope for the employment of women, and employers who have experience of the employment of women in their yards report favourably on them. The need for labour in the shipbuilding and allied industries is urgent and imperative, and men are not available from outside these industries. Accordingly, existing male labour must be used to the best effect, women replacing men on the lighter jobs, thus releasing them for heavier work on other jobs in which their experience can be used to the best advantage. In some yards a start has already been made, and examples are quoted in the leaflet of occupations in shipbuilding and ship-repairing, marine engineering and boatbuilding in which women have successfully replaced men.

Employers are, therefore, earnestly urged to continue their endeavours to substitute women for men and to experiment in the employment of women in new types of jobs for which men have been considered essential in the past. District Shipyard Controllers and Shipyard Labour Supply Officers have been asked to give all possible help, and employers should not hesitate to seek their advice and assistance.

As regards particular aspects of the employment of women on men's work in these industries, the leaflet refers to the need for consultation with trade union officials on the subject and contains some observations on the unsuitability of certain work for women, the provision of welfare facilities, and the existing administrative regulation of hours of work and overtime. The leaflet also contains, as an Appendix, the text of an Agreement concluded on 17th July, 1941, between the Shipbuilding Employers' Federation and the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, regulating the wages and conditions of employment of women employed in shipbuilding and ship-repairing establishments for the period of the war on work normally done by male labour.

Copies of the leaflet may be obtained by interested persons from the Director of Public Relations, Ministry of Labour and National Service, St. James' Square, London, S.W.1.

REGISTRATION FOR EMPLOYMENT ORDER, 1941.

FURTHER REGISTRATION OF WOMEN.

In accordance with the programme announced on page 134 of the issue of this GAZETTE for July, 1942, women, whether married or single, who were born in the year 1897 are required to register on 3rd October, 1942, under the Registration for Employment Order, 1941,† unless they belong to the classes of women excepted under that Order. Women so excepted include those rendering paid whole-time service with the Armed Forces of the Crown in the Women's Auxiliary Services (A.T.S., W.A.A.F., W.R.N.S.), and those rendering whole-time paid service in specified nursing and medical services with those Forces.

* War-time Employment of Women in Shipbuilding and Allied Industries.—P.L.109/1942.

† See the issue of this GAZETTE for March, 1941, pages 51 and 78.

REGISTRATION OF BOYS AND GIRLS ORDER.

FURTHER REGISTRATIONS OF BOYS AND GIRLS.

FURTHER registrations of boys and girls under the Registration of Boys and Girls Order, 1941,* were effected on 12th September, 1942. The obligation to register on this date applied, subject to the exemptions specified in the Order to (i) all boys born between 1st March, 1926, and 12th September, 1926, and (ii) all girls born between 26th April, 1926, and 12th September, 1926, both dates inclusive in each case.

The boys and girls so registered are being invited to attend for interview by the Local Education Authorities, with a view to encouraging those who have not already done so to associate themselves with some youth organisation or some form of training or service in the national interest.

PRICE CONTROL OF CLOTHING AND TEXTILES.

"Utility" Clothing, etc.—In order to ensure an adequate supply of essential clothing in the lower ranges of prices, the Board of Trade made arrangements in 1941 for the production and price control of "utility" cloth and apparel. From time to time the lists of goods covered by these arrangements have been extended and the details of control have been revised. On 3rd August, 1942, a new series of Orders and Directions† relating to the prices of utility goods came into force. Utility goods now include various descriptions of fabrics (woollen, cotton and rayon); of clothing of all kinds, from men's and women's overcoats to babies' underclothing; of boots and shoes; and of household textiles and bedding.

Utility goods must comply with certain minimum specifications relating generally to the nature and amount of material and to the method of manufacture, and all such goods are required to bear a specified mark by which they can be identified. Utility goods are subject to price control at all stages from manufacturer to consumer. This control takes the form of maximum percentage margins which may be added to their costs of production and sale by manufacturers, and to their buying prices by wholesalers and retailers. The margins vary according to the type of goods concerned and in most cases "ceiling" prices are laid down for each type of garment or cloth at all stages of production and distribution. These "ceiling" prices must never be exceeded.

Removal of Purchase Tax.—Prices of utility cloth and clothing have been appreciably lower, on the whole, than those of non-utility goods of corresponding quality, and are being reduced still further by the removal of Purchase Tax from utility apparel and cloth for apparel. This tax was introduced in October, 1940,† and applied, *inter alia*, to cloth and to adult's clothing (including boots and shoes), but not to children's clothing. As from 3rd August, 1942, utility apparel and cloth for apparel despatched to retailers was free of Purchase Tax (utility boots and shoes being already tax-free) and must be sold at tax-free prices.

Retailers will, however, be allowed until 30th September to charge tax inclusive prices (as permitted under the Orders in force before the 3rd August, 1942) for utility cloth and apparel on which the tax has been paid. After that date, if they wish to continue selling these goods at tax-inclusive prices, they must comply with certain conditions laid down by the Board of Trade. In any event, all utility cloth and apparel must be priced according to the new Orders after 31st January, 1943, when the concession to sell at tax-inclusive prices ceases to be operative. Purchase Tax continues to be chargeable on utility goods other than footwear, apparel and cloth for apparel; it also continues to be chargeable on utility cloth for the manufacture of goods other than utility apparel.

Clothing, etc., outside the Utility Scheme.—Prices of cloth and clothing outside the utility scheme, which hitherto have been controlled under the Prices of Goods Act, 1939, and the Goods and Services (Price Control) Act, 1941, are subjected, from 3rd August, 1942, to a stricter control, which is intended to stop further rises in prices and in many cases to effect considerable reductions in prices. The Orders imposing this further control extend to cloth, to all kinds of clothing (including hats and haberdashery) but not boots and shoes (which are to be dealt with later), and to household textiles and bedding. Under these Orders manufacturers must not charge higher prices than those charged for comparable goods on 30th June, 1942, and maximum percentage margins which differ according to the goods are fixed for wholesalers and for retailers. The control applies to non-utility goods of these kinds already in stock as well as to stocks to be acquired in future. The removal of Purchase Tax does not apply to any goods except the utility cloth for apparel, utility apparel and utility footwear mentioned above, and all the other goods covered by this series of Orders remain subject to tax at the usual rates.

* See the issue of this GAZETTE for January, 1942, pages 7 and 28.

† A list of these Orders, etc., was given in the issue of the BOARD OF TRADE JOURNAL for 1st August, 1942.

‡ See the issue of this GAZETTE for October, 1940, page 265.

THE TRADES UNION CONGRESS.

THE seventy-fourth Annual Trades Union Congress was held at Blackpool on September 7th, 1942, and the four following days. The President was Mr. F. Wolstencroft, Chairman of the General Council.

The number of delegates appointed to attend the Congress, as shown in the statistical statement compiled by the General Council, was 710; the number of organisations affiliated to the Congress (including those organisations, with an aggregate membership of 41,000, which did not appoint delegates) was 185*, with a membership of approximately 5,433,000 at the end of 1941.

The following Table shows the total memberships of the affiliated unions, grouped according to the classification adopted by the Department for its annual statistics of membership of all trade unions; comparative figures are also given for the previous year.

Group of Organisations.	1942 Congress.			1941 Congress.		
	Number of Organisations.	Number of Delegates.	Number of Members at end of 1941.	Number of Organisations.	Number of Delegates.	Number of Members at end of 1940.
Agriculture, Horticulture, etc.	1	11	50,100	1	10	45,100
Coal Mining	6	114	602,922	5	113	598,332
Pottery and Glass	5	4	20,073	5	4	21,605
Metals, Machines, Conveyances, etc.	48	108	1,120,115	46	102	973,073
Textile	29*	102	266,181	28*	106	311,323
Clothing (including Boot and Shoe)	8	30	211,945	8	30	240,663
Paper, Printing, etc.	15	38	189,145	14	34	202,589
Building, Wood-working and Furniture Manufacture						
Public Works Contracting, etc.	17	38	387,016	17	34	375,337
Railway Service	3	30	515,805	3	25	489,996
Water Transport	2	11	56,123	2	10	58,375
Other Transport (Road, Dock, etc.) and General Labour	7	118	1,304,089	7	117	1,165,508
Commerce and Distribution	6	27	309,484	6	28	304,592
Banking and Insurance	6	18	82,378	6	18	71,291
Local Government	6	30	183,145	6	25	121,924
Entertainments and Sport	5	6	26,153	4	4	17,820
All Other Groups	21	25	107,970	18	21	81,566
TOTALS	185*	710	5,432,644	176*	681	5,079,094

A resolution was adopted expressing the unalterable resolve of British workers to see the war through to the end in complete and final victory and to spare no effort to establish the conditions of a just and lasting peace, calling upon workers of all grades and categories to give increased production of all weapons and munitions of war, and pledging the fullest support of the British trade union movement so soon as the competent authorities decide that the time has come to launch an effective offensive action in Europe. After a discussion on international affairs another resolution was adopted, welcoming the Anglo-Soviet Treaty and urging the General Council to continue to develop relations between the trade unions of the United Nations.

Resolutions were also adopted for the modification of the provisions of the Trade Disputes and Trades Unions Act, 1927, and on a variety of subjects affecting relations between the trade unions and Government Departments and the social services.

A memorandum by the General Council on Education after the War, setting out the proposals for a revision of the system of education for children aged 11 years and upwards, was discussed and adopted.

Miss Anne Loughlin, O.B.E., of the National Union of Tailors and Garment Workers, and a member of the General Council, has been elected Chairman of the General Council of the Congress for the forthcoming year.

ASSISTED TRAVEL FACILITIES FOR TRANSFERRED WORKERS.

The Minister of Labour and National Service, after consultation with the Minister of War Transport, has modified, as regards certain workers, the arrangements outlined in the issue of this GAZETTE for May, 1942 (page 105), whereby cheap travel facilities were made available to transferred workers for the purpose of assisting them to visit their homes. These facilities, as already reported, were not to be available after 15th September; but transferred workers whose homes are in Northern Ireland or Eire may now, if they have not used both their cheap warrants, be allowed to use one of them during the winter months, and transferred agricultural workers may postpone the use of both their cheap warrants until the winter.

* In some of the textile trades not only are amalgamated associations represented as such, but the branch associations of which they consist send separate delegates. These branch associations have not been reckoned as separate organisations.

EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

THE number of men and boys registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain as wholly unemployed at 17th August, 1942 (exclusive of 23,450 men who had been classified by interviewing panels as unsuitable for ordinary industrial employment) was 71,308; those registered as on short time or otherwise temporarily suspended from work on the understanding that they were shortly to return to their former employment numbered 1,766; and those registered as unemployed casual workers (being persons who normally seek their livelihood by jobs of short duration) numbered 2,548. As compared with 13th July the numbers wholly unemployed showed a decrease of 260 among men but an increase of 5,452 among boys, the latter being mainly due to the registration of school leavers. Those temporarily suspended from work showed an increase of 38, and unemployed casual workers an increase of 368.

The corresponding figures for women and girls at 17th August, 1942, were 36,226 wholly unemployed (exclusive of those, numbering 1,122, who had been classified by interviewing panels as unsuitable for normal full-time employment), 1,856 temporarily stopped, and 121 unemployed casual workers. Of the 36,226 wholly unemployed, 1,146 had been classified as unable for good cause to transfer to another area. As compared with 13th July, the numbers wholly unemployed showed a decrease of 2,974 among women but an increase of 3,880 among girls, the latter being mainly due to the registration of school leavers. Those temporarily stopped showed an increase of 320, and unemployed casual workers showed a decrease of 4.

The number of applicants for unemployment benefit or allowances included in the foregoing totals for 17th August was 71,108, as compared with 70,342 at 13th July, and 159,525 at 11th August, 1941.

The numbers registered as unemployed* at 17th August, 1942, are analysed below:—

	Wholly Unemployed.	Temporarily Stopped.	Unemployed Casual Workers.
Great Britain.			
Men	55,693	1,744	2,541
Boys	15,615	22	7
Women	23,793	1,760	120
Girls	12,433	96	1
Total	107,534	3,622	2,669
Increase (+) or Decrease (—) as compared with:			
13th July, 1942	+ 6,098	+ 358	+ 364
11th August, 1941	—76,269	—34,328	—9,899
Great Britain and Northern Ireland.			
Men	62,719	2,052	3,593
Boys	16,254	28	8
Women	30,624	3,362	142
Girls	13,253	158	1
Total	122,850	5,600	3,744
Increase (+) or Decrease (—) as compared with:			
13th July, 1942	+ 7,030	+ 366	+ 270
11th August, 1941	—88,476	—36,847	—9,935

The numbers of unemployed persons* on the registers at 17th August, 1942, in each administrative region are shown below:—

Region.	Men 18 years and over.	Boys 14-17 years.	Women 18 years and over.	Girls 14-17 years.	Total.
Wholly Unemployed.					
London and South-Eastern	13,576	3,031	5,949	2,627	25,183
Eastern	1,562	458	1,178	394	3,592
Southern	1,174	376	660	486	2,696
South-Western	1,558	410	1,013	435	3,416
Midlands	1,178	989	392	726	3,285
North-Midlands	1,333	386	466	288	2,473
North-Eastern	4,335	1,183	1,284	822	7,624
North-Western	7,987	2,945	2,439	1,440	14,811
Northern	4,217	2,011	2,442	2,132	10,802
Scotland	10,579	2,284	6,318	1,648	20,829
Wales	8,194	1,542	1,652	1,435	12,823
Great Britain	55,693	15,615	23,793	12,433	107,534
Northern Ireland	7,026	639	6,831	820	15,316
Great Britain and Northern Ireland	62,719	16,254	30,624	13,253	122,850
Temporarily Stopped and Unemployed Casual Workers.					
London and South-Eastern	583	1	276	5	865
Eastern	164	2	450	38	654
Southern	32	—	57	—	89
South-Western	279	—	70	—	349
Midlands	71	—	46	—	117
North-Midlands	107	—	44	—	151
North-Eastern	558	1	165	11	734
North-Western	599	10	310	12	931
Northern	537	2	196	3	738
Scotland	458	1	217	9	685
Wales	897	12	49	15	973
Great Britain	4,285	29	1,880	97	6,291
Northern Ireland	1,360	7	1,624	62	3,053
Great Britain and Northern Ireland	5,645	36	3,504	159	9,344

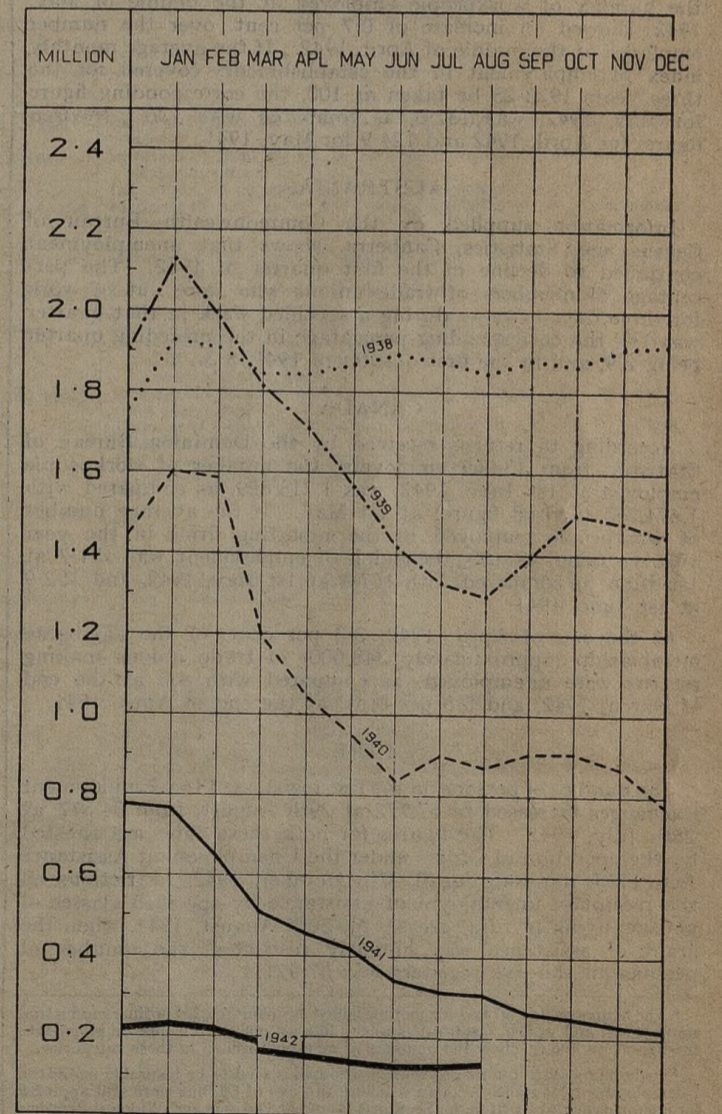
* The figures are exclusive of 23,450 men classified as unsuitable for ordinary industrial employment and 1,122 women unsuitable for normal full-time employment.

The following Table shows the numbers on the registers at one date in each month since August, 1941:—

Date.	Great Britain.					G. Britain & N. Ireland.
	Men 18 years and over.	Boys 14-17 years.	Women 18 years and over.	Girls 14-17 years.	Total.	
Wholly Unemployed.						
1941.						
11 August	98,737	17,390	82,208	21,436	219,771	247,294
15 September	87,638	12,410	78,854	17,692	196,594	220,597
13 October	85,598	11,436	72,789	16,027	185,850	210,645
17 November	86,173	9,162	64,093	12,556	171,984	194,810
8 December	84,235	8,108	62,058	10,823	165,224	189,020
1942.						
12 January	87,943	12,272	56,101	14,546	170,862	195,558
16 February	89,443	10,485	50,728	11,519	162,175	184,370
16 March* (a)	84,326	9,084	45,863	10,055	149,328	169,569
16 March* (b)	58,353	—	44,154	—	121,646	141,887
13 April	55,365	14,178	34,509	12,996	117,048	133,475
11 May	55,060	10,711	32,902	10,290	108,963	124,285
15 June	54,097	8,669	28,758	7,716	99,240	113,679
15 July	55,953	10,163	26,767	8,553	101,436	115,820
17 August	55,693	15,615	23,793	12,433	107,534	122,850
Temporarily Stopped and Unemployed Casual Workers.						
1941.						
11 August	27,089	459	21,840	1,130	50,518	56,126
15 September	17,232	112	16,002	590	34,027	39,213
13 October	15,956	84	13,764	545	30,349	35,129
17 November	16,611	87	9,671	749	27,118	31,616
8 December	13,862	87	8,303	878	23,130	27,498
1942.						
12 January	16,160	79	7,346	401	23,986	29,172
16 February	19,080	247	6,566	349	26,242	30,801
16 March	9,731	63	4,179	143	14,116	18,675
13 April	6,942	64	3,245	200	10,451	15,230
11 May	5,524	26	3,365	106	9,021	12,655
15 June	4,840	23	1,970	97	6,930	10,534
13 July	3,883	25	1,555	106	5,569	8,708
17 August	4,285	29	1,880	97	6,291	9,344

UNEMPLOYMENT CHART.

NUMBERS ON THE REGISTERS IN GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.



Note.—From March, 1942, persons classified as unsuitable for ordinary employment have been excluded from the statistics relating to the numbers unemployed. The effect of the change is shown by the two points, on the chart, for that month.

* The figures on line (a) include, while those on line (b) exclude, men classified by interviewing panels as unsuitable for ordinary industrial employment and women classified as unsuitable for normal full-time employment. The figures given in the Table for dates prior to March include, while those for later dates exclude, persons in these categories.

COMPOSITION OF UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS: GREAT BRITAIN.

ANALYSIS FOR 17TH AUGUST, 1942.

	Men 18 years and over.	Boys under 18 years.	Women 18 years and over.	Girls under 18 years.	Total.
Insured on Register—					
1. Claimants to Benefit and applicants for Unemployment Allowances* ..	(a) 51,124 (b) 19,158	2,068	14,913 593	1,255	69,360 19,751
2. Non-claimants* ..	(a) 5,464 (b) 2,060	8,593	7,128 168	7,046	28,231 2,228
Others on Register—					
3. Applicants for Unemployment Allowances* ..	(a) 1,143 (b) 1,074	17	576† 215†	12	1,748 1,289
4. Persons without applications* ..	(a) 2,247 (b) 1,158	4,966	3,056 146	4,217	14,486 1,304
Total on Register* ..	(a) 59,978 (b) 23,450	15,644	25,673 1,122	12,530	113,825 24,572
Insured Unemployed—					
5. Number on Register* (items 1 and 2) ..	(a) 56,588 (b) 21,218	10,661	22,041 761	8,301	97,591 21,979
6. Two months' file‡ ..	22,380	4,025	34,934	4,070	65,409
7. Special Schemes—Claimants to Benefit ..	147	4	101	1	253
Total* ..	(a) 79,115 (b) 21,218	14,690§	57,076 761	12,372||	163,253 21,979

EMPLOYMENT OVERSEAS.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

ACCORDING TO RETURNS received by the Bureau of Labour Statistics from employers, covering over 55 per cent. of the aggregate number of wage-earners in manufacturing industries, the number of workpeople employed at the middle of May, 1942, showed an increase of 0.7 per cent. over the number employed at the middle of April, 1942. If the average monthly index of employment in the establishments covered for the three years 1923-25 be taken as 100, the corresponding figure for May, 1942, was 137.0, as compared with 136.1 (revised figure) for April, 1942 and 124.9 for May, 1941.

AUSTRALIA.

Information supplied by the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics, Canberra, shows that unemployment continued to decline in the first quarter of 1942. The percentage of members of trade unions who were out of work for three days or more during a specified week in that quarter was 1.8, the corresponding percentage in the preceding quarter being 2.9, and in the first quarter of 1941, 5.3.

CANADA.

According to returns received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from 13,069 employers, the number of workpeople employed at 1st June, 1942, was 1,718,329, as compared with 1,674,763 (revised figure) at 1st May. If the average number of workpeople employed in the reporting firms in the year 1926 be taken as 100, the index of employment was 171.7 at 1st June as compared with 167.4 at 1st May, 1942, and 152.9 at 1st June, 1941.

At the end of April, 1942, 3.3 per cent. of the aggregate membership (approximately 348,000) of trade unions making returns were unemployed, as compared with 4.5 at the end of March, 1942, and 5.5 per cent. at the end of April, 1941.

ÉIRE.

The number of persons on the live registers of the Employment Exchanges increased to 57,772 at 29th August, from 54,577 at 25th July, 1942. The figures for both these dates are affected by the operation of Orders under the Unemployment Assistance Act, 1933, imposing, until 27th October, 1942, restrictions on the receipt of unemployment assistance by specified classes of persons living in rural areas. At 30th August, 1941, when the grant of assistance was similarly restricted, the number of persons on the live registers was 57,921.

* The figures on line (a) exclude men classified as unsuitable for ordinary industrial employment and women classified as unsuitable for normal full-time employment; the figures on line (b) show the numbers of men and women in these categories.

† Including a small number of women who had ceased to be insurable under the Unemployment Insurance Acts on reaching the age of 60, but were still applying for unemployment benefit under Section 3 (4) of the Old Age and Widows' Pensions Act, 1940.

‡ The two months' file of lodged books consists of books of persons who had registered as unemployed at some date within the previous two months and were not known to have found work, but were not maintaining registration for employment.

§ Including 7,373 boys aged 14 and 15

|| Including 5,863 girls aged 14 and 15.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

THE number of workpeople, other than seamen,* in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, whose deaths from accidents in the course of their employment occurred or were reported in August† was 192, as compared with 216‡ in the previous month and with 212§ in August, 1941. Details for separate industries are given below:—

MINES AND QUARRIES.	Factories—continued.
Under Coal Mines Acts—	Paper, Printing, etc. 1
Underground 46	Rubber 1
Surface 5	Gas Works 3
Metalliferous Mines 1	Electrical Stations 2
Quarries —	Other Industries 3
TOTAL,	
MINES AND QUARRIES 52	WORKS AND PLACES UNDER SS. 105, 107, 108, FACTORIES ACT, 1937.
Factories.	Docks, Wharves, Quays and Ships 10
Clay, Stone, Cement, Pottery and Glass 5	Building Operations 16
Chemicals, Oils, Soap, etc. 8	Works of Engineering Construction 5
Metal Extracting and Refining 2	Warehouses 2
Metal Conversion and Founding (including Rolling Mills and Tube Making) 11	TOTAL, FACTORIES ACT 118
Engineering, Locomotive Building, Boilermaking, etc. 13	RAILWAY SERVICE.
Railway and Tramway Carriages, Motor and other Vehicles and Aircraft Manufacture 11	Brakemen, Goods Guards 3
Shipbuilding 9	Engine Drivers, Motormen 2
Other Metal Trades 3	Firemen 1
Cotton 2	Guards (Passenger) 3
Wool, Worsted, Shoddy 2	Labourers 3
Other Textile Manufacture 1	Mechanics 2
Textile Printing, Bleaching and Dyeing 1	Permanent Way Men 5
Tanning, Currying, etc. 1	Porters 2
Food and Drink 3	Shunters 3
General Woodwork and Furniture 7	Other Grades 3
	Contractors' Servants 1
	TOTAL, RAILWAY SERVICE 22
	Total (excluding Seamen) 192

INDUSTRIAL DISEASES.

THE Table below shows the number of cases§ and deaths¶ in Great Britain and Northern Ireland reported during August, under the Factories Act, 1937, or under the Lead Paint (Protection against Poisoning) Act, 1926:—

I. Cases.	I. Cases—continued.
LEAD POISONING.	EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCERATION (SKIN CANCER).
Among Operatives engaged in:	Pitch 2
Smelting of Metals 1	Tar 3
Other Contact with Molten Lead 1	Paraffin —
White and Red Lead Works 1	Oil 1
Pottery 2	
Paint used in Other Industries 1	CHROME ULCERATION.
TOTAL 6	Manufacture of Bichromates 1
	Dyeing and Finishing —
	Chrome Tanning —
	Chromium Plating 1
	Other Industries 2
OTHER POISONING.	TOTAL 4
Arsenical 3	Total, Cases 51
Aniline 25	
Toxic Jaundice 2	II. Deaths
Toxic Anaemia 2	POISONING.
TOTAL 32	Toxic Anaemia 1
	EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCERATION (SKIN CANCER).
ANTHRAX.	Oil 1
Wool 2	TOTAL, Deaths 2
Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins 1	
TOTAL 3	

* Statistics of fatal accidents to seamen are not available.
† For mines and quarries, weekly returns are furnished, and the figures cover the 4 weeks ended 29th August, 1942, in comparison with the 5 weeks ended 1st August, 1942, and the 4 weeks ended 30th August, 1941.

‡ Revised figure.
§ 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 or not included (as cases) in the same or previous returns.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR IN AUGUST.

Rate of Wages.

In the industries covered by the Department's statistics,* the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation in Great Britain and Northern Ireland during August resulted in an aggregate increase estimated at about £77,000 in the weekly full-time wages of nearly 720,000 workpeople. There were slight decreases in the wage rates of approximately 6,000 workpeople, the aggregate reduction being estimated at about £50 a week.

The industries and services in which wages were increased included most sections of the iron and steel industry, railway workshops, the woolcombing section of the woollen and worsted industry, linen and cotton handkerchief, etc., manufacture in Northern Ireland, tobacco manufacture, electricity supply, and the retail drapery, outfitting and footwear distributing trades.

In the iron and steel industry (including pig iron manufacture, iron puddling and steel melting and rolling in most districts), the flat-rate additions to wages were increased, under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements, by 0.8d. a shift for men and 0.4d. for youths and boys. In the workshops of main line railway companies, war wage bonuses were increased by 4s. a week for men and by 3s. a week for women doing women's work, these increases being made retrospective to the beginning of March. In the woolcombing section of the woollen and worsted industry of the West Riding of Yorkshire there was an increase of about 7½ per cent. For workpeople employed in linen and cotton handkerchief and household goods and linen piece goods manufacture in Northern Ireland, Trade Board minimum rates were raised by amounts ranging from ¼d. to ½d. an hour in the case of men, youths and boys and by ¼d. an hour in the case of women and girls. In tobacco manufacture in Great Britain there were increases in Trade Board minimum time rates of 4½d. a week for men and of 3d. a week for women and juveniles, with corresponding increases for pieceworkers. In electricity

supply undertakings the war bonus for men was increased by ¼d. an hour. The minimum weekly rates of wages fixed by the National Joint Industrial Council for the Retail Drapery, Outfitting and Footwear Trades were raised by 5s. or 3s., according to number of staff, for branch managers and branch manageresses, by 3s., 2s. or 1s. 6d., according to age, for other male employees and by 2s., 1s. 6d. or 1s. for other female employees. Other industries in which increases occurred were iron ore mining, the manufacture of refractory goods, of stamped or pressed metal wares, of cutlery, and of tinplate, and the building industry in Northern Ireland. The rates of wages of coal miners in Leicestershire were slightly reduced under the operation of a sliding scale based on the proceeds of the industry.

Of the estimated total increase of £77,000, about £13,000 was due to arrangements made by joint standing bodies of employers and workers (including £500 under cost-of-living sliding scales arranged by such bodies); £3,000 was due to the operation of other cost-of-living sliding scales; £18,000 was due to arbitration awards; and most of the remainder was the result of direct negotiations between the employers and workpeople or their representatives.

The changes reported in the first eight months of 1942, in the industries covered by the statistics, are estimated to have resulted in a net increase of about £1,200,000 a week in the full-time wages of nearly 5,000,000 workpeople, and in a net decrease of £150 in those of 4,000 workpeople. In the corresponding eight months of 1941 there was a net increase, in these industries, estimated at about £1,500,000 in the weekly full-time wages of over 7,300,000 workpeople.

Hours of Labour.

No important changes in hours of labour were reported during August.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING AUGUST.

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decrease in <i>Italics</i> .)						
Agriculture	Middlesex	16 Aug.	Youths and boys:—	Increases of from 5s. to 11s. 6d. a week, according to age, in minimum rates.†						
			Stockmen (16 and under 21 years)		Increases of from 4s. 6d. to 10s. 6d. a week, according to age, in minimum rates.†					
			Carters (16 and under 21 years)			Increases of 1d. an hour (5d. to 6d.) in minimum rate.†				
			Boys (12 and under 14 years)				Increases of from 4s. to 9s. a week, according to age, in minimum rates.†			
Other youths and boys (14 and under 21 years)	Increase of 10s. a week in minimum rates. Rate after change at 18 years and over, 60s.†									
Women and girls:—		Increase of 9s. 6d. a week in minimum rates. Rate after change at 18 years and over, 56s.†								
Employed as stockmen (16 years of age and over)			Increase of 1d. an hour (5d. to 6d.) in minimum rate.†							
Employed as carters (16 years of age and over)				Increases of 8s. a week in minimum rates for those 15 years and over and of 7s. for those 14 and under 15 years. Rate after change at 18 years and over, 48s.†						
Girls (12 and under 14 years)	Increase of 1 per cent. on basis rates, making wages 90 per cent. above the basis rates.‡									
Other women and girls		Decrease of 0.40 per cent. on basis rates, leaving wages 83.52 per cent. above the basis rates.‡								
Coal Mining			Warwickshire		1 Aug.	Workpeople employed in and about coal mines.	War bonus increased§ by 1d. a shift (2s. to 2s. 1d.) for those 18 years and over, and by ¼d. a shift (1s. to 1s. 0¼d.) for those under 18 years.			
				Leicestershire		1 Aug.		Do.		
Coal Mining	Cumberland		24 Aug.	Iron ore miners	Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) increased§ by 0.8d. a shift (1s. 5.6d. to 1s. 6.4d.) for men, and by 0.4d. (8.8d. to 9.2d.) for youths and boys.					
		Cleveland		Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) increased§ by ¼d. a shift (2s. 0¼d. to 2s. 1d. for those 18 years and over and 1s. to 1s. 0¼d. for those under 18 years).						
		Leicestershire and adjoining parts of Lincolnshire.				Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) increased§ by 0.1d. an hour (3.3d. to 3.4d.) for men and by 0.05d. (1.65d. to 1.7d.) for youths and boys (wages are further supplemented by incentive bonuses of ¼d. to 2¼d. an hour, according to output).				
		North Lincolnshire					Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) increased§ by ¼d. a shift (2s. 0¼d. to 2s. 1d. for those 18 years and over and 1s. to 1s. 0¼d. for those under 18 years).			
		Northamptonshire (including Corby).						Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) increased§ by 0.1d. an hour (3.3d. to 3.4d.) for men and by 0.05d. (1.65d. to 1.7d.) for youths and boys (wages are further supplemented by incentive bonuses of ¼d. to 2¼d. an hour, according to output).		
		Banbury and district							Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) increased§ by ¼d. a shift (2s. 0¼d. to 2s. 1d. for those 18 years and over and 1s. to 1s. 0¼d. for those under 18 years).	
		South and West Durham.								Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) increased§ by 0.1d. an hour (3.3d. to 3.4d.) for men and by 0.05d. (1.65d. to 1.7d.) for youths and boys (wages are further supplemented by incentive bonuses of ¼d. to 2¼d. an hour, according to output).
		West Cumberland									Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) increased§ by ¼d. a shift (2s. 0¼d. to 2s. 1d. for those 18 years and over and 1s. to 1s. 0¼d. for those under 18 years).
Other Mining and Quarrying.	Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) increased§ by 0.1d. an hour (3.3d. to 3.4d.) for men and by 0.05d. (1.65d. to 1.7d.) for youths and boys (wages are further supplemented by incentive bonuses of ¼d. to 2¼d. an hour, according to output).									
Scunthorpe (certain firms).		Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) increased§ by 0.1d. an hour (3.3d. to 3.4d.) for men and by 0.05d. (1.65d. to 1.7d.) for youths and boys (wages are further supplemented by incentive bonuses of ¼d. to 2¼d. an hour, according to output).								
Various districts in England.			1st full pay week in Aug.	Workers employed in chalk quarrying (other than for the manufacture of cement) and in the production of lime and whitening from chalk:—	Basic hourly rates adopted of 1s. 4d. in the London Area and of 1s. 1d., 1s. 1¼d., 1s. 2d. and 1s. 2¼d., according to situation of firm, outside the London Area, plus war bonus of 1d. an hour (ranking for overtime, etc.) and a flat war bonus of 1s. 8d. for each day or shift (including Sundays) on which the worker works the full time required of him.					
				Able-bodied men.		Scales of basic hourly rates adopted ranging from 4¼d. to 1s. 2¼d. an hour, according to age, in the London Area, and from 3d. to 1s. 1¼d., according to age and situation of firm, outside the London Area, plus war bonuses (ranking for overtime, etc.) of ¼d. an hour at 18 years and over and ¼d. at under 18 years, and flat war bonuses of 1s. 3d. and 10d., respectively, for each day (including Sundays) on which the worker works the full time required of him.				
Various districts in England.			1st full pay week in Aug.	Youths and boys	Scales of basic hourly rates adopted ranging from 4¼d. to 1s. 2¼d. an hour, according to age, in the London Area, and from 3d. to 1s. 1¼d., according to age and situation of firm, outside the London Area, plus war bonuses (ranking for overtime, etc.) of ¼d. an hour at 18 years and over and ¼d. at under 18 years, and flat war bonuses of 1s. 3d. and 10d., respectively, for each day (including Sundays) on which the worker works the full time required of him.					

* The particulars of numbers affected and amount of change in the weekly wages and hours of labour exclude changes affecting Government employees, agricultural workers, 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 wages and hours of these classes are shown in the list of principal changes recorded. The estimates of the effects of the changes on weekly wages are based on normal conditions of employment and do not take into account the effect of overtime working, etc.

† These increases took effect under an Order issued under the Agricultural Wages (Regulation) Acts.

‡ Flat-rate advances, previously paid in addition to basis rates and percentages, remained unchanged.

§ Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING AUGUST—continued.

Table with columns: Industry, District, Date from which Change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of Change. Rows include Refractory Goods Manufacture, Iron and Steel Manufacture, Railway Workshops, Constructional Engineering, Galvanising, Tinplate Manufacture, Farriery, Stamped or Pressed Metal Ware Manufacture, and Cutlery Manufacture.

* Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements. † This increase affected mainly the employees of firms which are members of the Sheet Trade Board, the principal districts concerned being Staffordshire, Cheshire, Tees-side, South Wales and Monmouthshire and the Glasgow district. ‡ This increase affected mainly the employees of firms affiliated to the Iron and Steel Trades Employers' Association, the principal districts concerned being the North-East Coast, Cumberland, Lancashire, South Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, the Midlands, South Wales and the West of Scotland. § These increases resulted from an award of the Industrial Court dated 7th August, with retrospective effect from the date shown (see page 170). ¶ These increases resulted from Award No. 234 of the National Arbitration Tribunal dated 29th July (see this GAZETTE for August, 1942, page 156). The national engineering bonus of 35s. 6d. a week is paid in addition to the basic rates. ** This increase affected mainly the employees of firms which are members of the Galvanising Conciliation Board. †† These increases took effect under Orders issued under the Trade Boards Acts. Details of the minimum rates are contained in the Confirming Orders of the Minister of Labour and National Service, obtainable from H.M. Stationery Office.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING AUGUST—continued.

Table with columns: Industry, District, Date from which Change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of Change. Rows include Typefoundry, Woollen and Worsted Industry, Silk Dyeing and Finishing, Linen and Cotton Handkerchief and Household Goods and Linen Piece Goods Manufacture, Flax-Scutching, Elastic Web Manufacturer, Retail Bespoke Tailoring, Boot and Shoe Repairing, Baking, Tobacco, etc., Manufacture, Millsawing, Building, Electricity Supply, Local Authorities (Non-trading Services), Skip and Basket Making, Retail Drapery, Outfitting and Footwear Distribution, Factory Catering, and Cinematograph Film Production.

* Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements. † This increase was the result of an award of the National Arbitration Tribunal. (See page 170). The cost-of-living wage is subject to a maximum of either (a) 37s. 11d. a week or (b) an amount derived from applying the following percentages to the base rates—99 per cent. on the first 51s., 19·8 per cent. on the next 13s. and 9·9 per cent. on any excess over 64s., whichever yields the greater amount. ‡ These increases took effect under an Order issued under the Trade Boards Acts. Details of the minimum rates are contained in the Confirming Order of the Minister of Labour, obtainable from H.M. Stationery Office. § This change took effect under an Order issued under the Agricultural Wage Regulation Acts (Northern Ireland). ¶ These changes took effect under Orders issued under the Trade Boards Acts. Details of the minimum rates are contained in the Confirming Orders of the Minister of Labour and National Service, obtainable from H.M. Stationery Office. Corresponding increases had already been put into operation voluntarily in June (see the July issue of this GAZETTE, page 139). †† Including Atherstone, Brierley Hill, Bromsgrove, Burton-on-Trent, Cannock, Coventry, Cradley Heath, Darlaston, Dudley, Evesham, Hednesford, Kidderminster, Leamington, Lichfield, Nuneaton, Rugby, Rugeley, Smethwick, Stratford-on-Avon, Tamworth, Walsall, Wednesbury, West Bromwich, Willenhall, Wolverhampton and Worcester. ** Including Grimsby, Hull, York, Stockton, Middlesbrough, Hartlepool, Sunderland, Seaham Harbour, Gateshead, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Jarrow, North and South Shields, Blyth and Berwick-on-Tweed. This increase resulted from an award of the Industrial Court (see page 170). ††† The authorities affected are mainly those affiliated to the Provincial Joint Industrial Council for Local Authorities' Non-Trading Services (Manual Workers) in the counties indicated. †††† These rates apply to certain industrial canteens and took effect as the result of an agreement between the National Society of Caterers to Industry and the National Union of Distributive and Allied Workers and National Union of General and Municipal Workers. The rates quoted are minima and do not prevent the payment of higher rates, and are supplemented by emoluments (overalls and caps supplied and laundered free of charge and free meals supplied while on duty) valued at 10s. a week. Grade A rates apply in the London Metropolitan Area and Grade B rates elsewhere.

TRADE DISPUTES IN AUGUST.*

Number, Magnitude and Duration.—The number of disputes involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as beginning in August in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was 118, as compared with 74 in the previous month, and 94 in August, 1941. In these 118 new disputes about 16,400 workpeople were directly involved, and 4,300 workpeople indirectly involved (*i.e.*, thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, though not themselves parties to the disputes). In addition, about 900 workpeople were involved, either directly or indirectly, in 6 disputes which began before August, and were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The number of new and old disputes was thus 124, involving about 21,600 workpeople, and resulting in a loss, during August, estimated at 37,000 working days.

In the following Table an analysis is given, by groups of industries, of all disputes in progress in August:—

Industry Group.	Number of Disputes in progress in Month.			Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress in Month.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress in Month.
	Started before beginning of Month.	Started in Month.	Total.		
Mining and Quarrying	1	40	41	13,200	20,000
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding	5	53	58	5,900	13,000
Building, etc.	8	8	16	600	1,000
Transport	6	6	12	1,300	2,000
Other	11	11	22	600	1,000
Total, August, 1942	6	118	124	21,600	37,000
Total, July, 1942	5	74	79	18,500	42,000
Total, August, 1941	4	94	98	22,100	44,000

Causes.—Of the 118 disputes beginning in August, 32, directly involving 3,100 workpeople, arose out of demands for advances in wages, 6, directly involving 800 workpeople, out of proposed reductions in wages, and 31, directly involving 5,900 workpeople, on other wage questions; 6, directly involving 1,300 workpeople, on questions as to working hours; 15, directly involving 1,400 workpeople, on questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons; 24, directly involving 3,700 workpeople, on other questions respecting working arrange-

ments; and 4, directly involving 200 workpeople, on questions of trade union principle.

Results.—Final settlements of disputes which terminated during August have been effected in the case of 96 disputes, directly involving 14,000 workpeople. Of these disputes, 17, directly involving 3,300 workpeople, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 54, directly involving 7,800 workpeople, were settled in favour of the employers; and 25, directly involving 2,900 workpeople, resulted in a compromise. In the case of 19 other disputes, directly involving 2,300 workpeople, work was resumed pending negotiations.

TOTALS FOR JANUARY–AUGUST, 1942 AND 1941†

The following table summarises the figures for Great Britain and Northern Ireland for the first eight months of 1942, as compared with the corresponding period of 1941,

Industry Group.	January to August, 1942.			January to August, 1941.		
	No. of Disputes beginning in period.	Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.	No. of Disputes beginning in period.	Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.
Coal Mining	390	223,000†	751,000	306	104,200†	234,000
Other Mining and Quarrying	19	3,100	15,000	7	300	1,000
Brick, Pottery, Glass, Chemical, etc.	18	1,000	3,000	22	1,600	5,000
Engineering	109	29,200	49,000	94	53,700	255,000
Shipbuilding	56	7,900	24,000	80	16,900	81,000
Other Metal	79	11,700	35,000	79	21,000	111,000
Textile	21	2,000	4,000	30	3,700	8,000
Clothing	9	4,700	18,000	15	3,200	11,000
Food, Drink and Tobacco	7	1,000	3,000	9	600	1,000
Building, etc.	48	9,400	20,000	39	6,800	16,000
Transport	24	6,500	19,000	38	8,000	22,000
Commerce, Distribution and Finance	6	2,000	3,000	5	1,900	3,000
Other	18	2,800	6,000	29	2,600	13,000
Total	804	304,600†	950,000	753	224,500†	761,000

PRINCIPAL DISPUTES INVOLVING STOPPAGES OF WORK DURING AUGUST.

Occupations and Locality.	Approximate Number of Workpeople involved.		Date when Dispute		Cause or Object.	Result.
	Directly.	In-directly†	Began.	Ended.		
COAL MINING:— Colliery workpeople—Yorkshire (one colliery)	355	1,726	17 Aug.	19 Aug.	For withdrawal of a threat of legal action against certain colliers who had refused to work on an alternative coal face when work at their normal working place was not available.	Work resumed pending negotiations.
Colliery workpeople—Fifeshire (three collieries)	1,600	..	28 Aug.	29 Aug.	Against the imprisonment of certain men who had failed to pay fines imposed in respect of a previous stoppage of work, and for cancellation of the fines in question.	Work resumed following men's release from prison, the fines having been paid on their behalf.
STEEL SHEET MANUFACTURE:— Workpeople employed in steel sheet manufacture—Co. Durham (one firm).	300	470	5 Aug.	8 Aug.	Workpeople's dissatisfaction with wage scale agreed by Sheet Trade Board, and demand for an immediate increase in wages.	Work resumed and a formal protest made to Sheet Trade Board.
ENGINEERING:— Engineering operatives—Lancashire (one firm).	300	200	27 Aug.	27 Aug.	For reinstatement of six shop stewards who had been suspended for leaving work without permission during normal working hours.	Shop stewards reinstated after trade unions had admitted irregularity of their action.
BOLT AND NUT MANUFACTURE:— Workpeople employed in bolt and nut manufacture—Glasgow (one firm).	323	..	18 Aug.	19 Aug.	Workpeople's contention that the prescribed weekly overtime of eight hours was excessive and badly distributed.	Work resumed to permit settlement of dispute by constitutional procedure.
WATERPROOF CLOTHING MANUFACTURE:— Workpeople employed in waterproof and rainproof clothing manufacture—Manchester (one firm).	224	..	12 Aug.	14 Aug.	Workpeople's allegation that their earnings were adversely affected by a fall in production resulting from adjustments in the duties of two foremen.	Work resumed unconditionally.
TRANSPORT:— Dock workers—East Coast.	800	..	27 Aug.	29 Aug.	Demand for extra payment when unloading certain dangerous cargoes, increase in travelling allowance, and extra rates for shift working.	Extra payment of 4d. per hour for the cargoes in question and increase in travelling allowances conceded; the question of extra rates for shift working to be considered only on a national basis.

* 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, etc.), exceeded 100 days.

† In making up these totals 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, however, is slight, except in coal mining, in which the *net* number of workpeople involved was approximately 146,000 in 1942, and 65,000 in 1941. For all industries combined the *net* totals were approximately 222,000 in 1942, and 180,000 in 1941.

‡ *i.e.*, thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes.

CHANGES IN RETAIL PRICES AND COST OF LIVING.

Summary of Index Figures for 1st September, 1942.

	Food	All Items
Increase since July, 1914	60%	100%
Change since 1st August, 1942 {	Index Points nil	-1
{	Per cent. nil	-½*

FOOD.

At 1st September the average price of potatoes was slightly lower than at 1st August. Apart from this, there was little change in the average level of the retail prices of any of the articles of food included within the scope of these statistics.

The following Table compares the average retail prices in the United Kingdom at 1st September, 1942, with the corresponding prices at 1st August, 1942, and 1st September, 1939:—

Article.	Average Price (per lb. unless otherwise indicated) to the nearest ½d., at—			Percentage Increase or Decrease (—) at 1st Sept. 1942, compared with	
	1st Sept., 1942.	1st Aug., 1942.	1st Sept., 1939.	1st Aug., 1942.	1st Sept., 1939.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Beef, British—					
Ribs	1 3½	1 3½	1 2½	..	11
Thin Flank	0 9½	0 9½	0 7½	..	27
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—					
Ribs	1 1	1 1	0 9½	..	35
Thin Flank	0 6	0 6	0 4½	..	22
Mutton, British—					
Legs	1 5½	1 5½	1 3½	..	13
Breast	0 8	0 8	0 7½	..	8
Mutton, Frozen—					
Legs	1 0	1 0	0 10½	..	16
Breast	0 4	0 4	0 4	..	..
Bacon†	1 8½	1 8½	1 3	..	37
Fish . . . . .	..	..	..	..	42
Flour per 7 lb.	1 3½	1 3½	1 1½	..	15
Bread per 4 lb.	0 8	0 8	0 8½	..	-3
Tea	2 6	2 6	2 4	..	7
Sugar (granulated)	0 3	0 3	0 3	..	-1
Milk per quart	0 8½	0 8½	0 6½	1	31
Butter—					
Fresh	1 7	1 7	1 4½	..	15
Salt	1 1	1 1	1 3½	..	24
Cheese	1 1	1 1	0 10	..	30
Margarine—					
Special	0 9	0 9	0 6½	..	12
Standard	0 5	0 5	0 5	..	..
Eggs (fresh)§ each	0 1½	0 1½	..	..	1
Potatoes per 7 lb.	0 8½	0 8½	0 9	..	-5

The following Table shows the average percentage changes in prices at 1st September, 1939, 1st August, 1942, and 1st September, 1942, respectively, as compared with July, 1914:—

Article.	Average Percentage Increase or Decrease (—) since July, 1914, at—		
	1st Sept., 1939.	1st Aug., 1942.	1st Sept., 1942.
Beef, British—			
Ribs	44	60	60
Thin Flank	15	46	46
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—			
Ribs	32	78	78
Thin Flank	1	23	23
Mutton, British—			
Legs	48	67	67
Breast	14	24	24
Mutton, Frozen—			
Legs	51	74	74
Breast	-3	-3	-3
Bacon†	35	84	84
Fish	116	206	206
Flour	26	44	45
Bread	42	38	38
Tea	52	63	63
Sugar (granulated)	46	45	45
Milk	92	149	151
Butter—			
Fresh	13	30	30
Salt	7	34	34
Cheese	16	50	50
Margarine†	-8	3	3
Eggs (fresh)§	58	59	59
Potatoes	33	78	69
All above articles (Weighted Average on July, 1914, basis)	38	60	60

On the basis of the figures given in the foregoing Tables the average level of retail food prices at 1st September, 1942, was approximately the same as at 1st August, about 16 per cent. higher than at the beginning of September, 1939, and about 60 per cent. higher than in July, 1914.

ITEMS OTHER THAN FOOD.

The average level of working-class *rents* (including rates) at 1st September showed no appreciable change as compared with 1st August, being about 1 per cent. above the level of 1st September, 1939, and about 64 per cent. above that in July, 1914.

* A fall of 1 point on a total of 201 for "all items" (the figure for July, 1914, being 100) is equivalent to one-half of one per cent.

† The description of bacon specified for quotation is streaky, but where this kind was seldom being sold the returns relate to another kind, locally representative.

‡ On 1st August and 1st September, 1942, two brands of margarine, "special" and "standard", were on sale at 9d. and 5d. per lb., respectively. The figures for 1st September, 1939, and July, 1914, are averages calculated from the prices of various brands on sale at those dates.

§ Of the two prices shown for eggs at 1st August and 1st September, 1942, 2d. was for large eggs (in Ministry of Food category I) and 1½d. for small eggs (category II). At 1st September, 1939, the average price for eggs, as shown by the returns received, was between 1½d. and 2d.

As regard *clothing*, information collected from representative retailers in a number of the principal towns indicates that at 1st September the retail prices of clothing of the kinds generally bought by working-class families averaged about 2 per cent. below the level of a month earlier, and about 91 per cent. higher than at 1st September, 1939. The average decrease in prices, since 1st August, was between 2 and 3 per cent. for men's suits and overcoats; nearly 4 per cent. for woollen materials, under-clothing and hosiery; and about 2 per cent. for cotton materials and shoes. The decline in the average level of clothing prices during August resulted partly from the removal of Purchase Tax* from utility cloth and apparel despatched to retailers on and after 3rd August, and partly from increased sales of utility clothing at prices below those of non-utility goods of corresponding quality.* Owing to the wide range of quotations, to changes in qualities, and to the variations in the extent to which different articles have been affected by price changes, it is not possible to make an exact comparison over a long period of years, but such information as is available indicates that at 1st September the average rise over the level of July, 1914, was about 295 to 300 per cent.

In the *fuel and light* group, the average level of prices of coal and of gas was about the same at 1st September as a month earlier. Prices of coal averaged about 28 per cent. higher than at 1st September, 1939, and about 149 per cent. above the level of July, 1914; prices of gas averaged about 28 per cent. higher than at 1st September, 1939, and about 97 per cent. higher than in July, 1914. There was practically no change during the month in the prices of lamp oil, candles and matches. In the *fuel and light* group as a whole the average level of prices at 1st September was approximately the same as at 1st August, about 32 per cent. higher than at 1st September, 1939, and about 140 per cent. higher than in July, 1914.

As regards *other items*† included in these statistics, there were increases averaging between one-half and one per cent. in the prices of domestic ironmongery, brushes and pottery during August, but the remaining items showed little change. In the group as a whole the average level of prices at 1st September was less than one-half of 1 per cent. higher than at 1st August, about 48 per cent. higher than at 1st September, 1939, and about 165 per cent. above the level of July, 1914.

ALL ITEMS.

If the average increases in the cost of all the foregoing items are combined in accordance with their relative importance in working-class family expenditure prior to August, 1914, the resultant general average increase at 1st September, 1942, is approximately 100 per cent. over the level of July, 1914, as compared with 101 per cent. at 1st August, 1942, and 55 per cent. at 1st September, 1939. The result of this calculation (in which the same quantities and, as far as possible, the same qualities of each item are taken at each date) is to show the average percentage increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the standard of living prevailing in working-class families prior to August, 1914, no allowance being made for any changes in the standard of living since that date, or for any economies or readjustments in consumption and expenditure since the outbreak of the war.

The rise of 45 points since the beginning of September, 1939, is equivalent to about 29 per cent. Of these 45 points, about 4 points represent the effect of the increases, since that date, in the taxes on sugar, tobacco and cigarettes, and matches; and approximately 5½ points are due to increases resulting from the Purchase Tax.

SUMMARY TABLE : ALL ITEMS

Average Percentage increases as compared with July, 1914.												
Year.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1920	125	130	130	132	141	150	152	155	161	164	176	169
1921	165	151	141	133	128	119	119	122	120	110	103	99
1922	92	88	86	82	81	80	84	81	79	78	80	80
1923	78	77	76	74	70	69	69	71	73	75	75	77
1924	77	79	78	73	71	69	70	71	72	76	80	81
1925	80	79	79	75	73	72	73	73	74	76	76	77
1926	75	73	72	68	67	68	70	70	72	74	79	79
1927	75	72	71	65	64	63	66	64	65	67	69	69
1928	68	66	64	64	64	65	65	65	65	65	67	67
1929	67	65	66	62	61	60	61	63	64	66	67	68
1930	66	64	61	57	55	54	55	57	57	56	57	55
1931	53	52	50	47	47	45	47	45	45	45	46	48
1932	47	47	46	44	43	42	43	41	41	43	43	43
1933	42	41	39	37	36	36	38	39	41	41	43	43
1934	42	41	40	39	37	38	40	46	46	47	48	51
1935	43	42										

RETAIL PRICES OVERSEAS.

In the following paragraphs a summary is given of the latest information contained in official publications received since last month's issue of this GAZETTE was prepared, relating to changes in retail prices and the cost of living in overseas countries.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

In the middle of June, 1942, the official cost-of-living index figure was 0.3 per cent. above the figure for the previous month and 18.1 per cent. above the figure for June, 1939. For food alone, the official index figure for the middle of June, 1942, showed a rise of 1.3 per cent. over the figure for the previous month and of 31.8 per cent. over that for August, 1939.

AUSTRALIA.

In the first quarter of 1942, the official cost-of-living index figure for the six capital cities showed an increase of 2.3 per cent. as compared with the figure for the preceding quarter, and of 14.8 per cent. as compared with that for the second quarter of 1939. In March, 1942, the official index figure relating to the cost of food in thirty towns was 5.4 per cent. above the figure for December, 1941, and 9.5 per cent. above that for August, 1939.

CANADA.

At the beginning of July, 1942, the official cost-of-living index figure showed an increase of 1.0 per cent. above the index figure for the beginning of June, 1942, and of 17.0 per cent. above that for the beginning of September, 1939. For food alone, the corresponding percentage increases were 3.2 and 31.1 respectively.

INDIA.

In May, 1942, the official cost-of-living index figure for the working classes in Bombay City showed a rise of 2.9 per cent. over the figure for April, which was 0.7 per cent. higher than the figure for March, 1942. As compared with the figure for August, 1939, the figures for May and April, 1942, showed increases of 35.2 and 31.4 per cent., respectively. The figures for food alone showed increases of 3.8 and 1.3 per cent. as between April and May, and March and April, 1942, respectively.

NEW ZEALAND.

In May, 1942, the official cost-of-living index figure showed an increase of 1.2 per cent. over the figure for the previous month, and of 10.2 per cent. over that for August, 1939. For food alone, the corresponding percentage increases were 0.6 and 4.3 respectively.

SWITZERLAND.

At the end of April, 1942, the official cost-of-living index figure was 1.3 per cent. above the figure for March, 1942, and 39.3 per cent. above that for August, 1939. For food alone, the corresponding percentage increases were 1.1 and 50.4 respectively.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION—SUFFICIENCY OF CLAIM—DEATH FROM SILICOSIS.

What was described by MacKinnon, L. J., as an extremely difficult point under Section 14 of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1925, has been decided by the Court of Appeal (Goddard, L. J., dissenting). The claimant was the widow of a man whose death was alleged to have been caused by silicosis accompanied by tuberculosis. The respondent was alleged to be the last man who employed him in a process involving silica. The only defence raised was that the claim was barred because the requirements of Section 14 had not been complied with in that the claim for compensation had not been made within six months from the date of death. Death occurred on 15th January, 1941, so that the statutory six months for making a claim expired on 15th July, 1941. A formal letter making a claim, sent by the Union Secretary, was posted in London on 14th July, 1941, but was not received by the respondent until 17th July and was therefore two days out of time. An attempt was made to substitute a different communication, constituting a claim within Section 14. The Union Secretary gave evidence that he wrote to the respondent in May, 1941. As the letter was not produced, secondary evidence of its contents was admitted which stated "I mentioned that we were after compensation under the silicosis scheme." The Court accepted that the letter in May, 1941, contained those words; the question was whether such words constituted a claim within Section 14. The County Court Judge held that they amounted only to an intimation that enquiries were being made. MacKinnon, L. J., giving the majority judgment, held that the words received by the employer were sufficient to warn him that a claim was about to be made against him and to put him on his guard. Therefore the defence that there was no claim made within the period of six months failed and the appeal must be allowed. The evidence established that, some two years before this letter was written, the workman had been employed by that employer on the building of two cottages and that some stone which would produce silica dust was used in the construction.

Evans v. Moore. Court of Appeal, 6th and 7th July, 1942.

CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT AND NATIONAL ARBITRATION ORDERS, 1940-1942.

NATIONAL ARBITRATION TRIBUNAL AWARDS.

During August, 1942, the National Arbitration Tribunal issued nine awards, Nos. 238-246. In six cases the awards relate to the whole or a substantial part of an industry in a particular area, and the following is a summary of these awards. The other three awards relate to cases affecting individual firms.

Awards Nos. 240-41 (27th August).—*Parties:* Members of the Woolcombing Employers' Federation and (1) members of the Wool, Yarn and Warehouse Workers' Union, (2) members of the Woolcombing Section of the National Union of General and Municipal Workers, employed by them. *Claim:* For an increase in wages. *Award:* The Tribunal found against the claim as made but awarded that the cost-of-living wage addition payable shall be on the basis of 112½ per cent. in lieu of 97½ per cent. as at present, the payment of such modified cost-of-living wage addition being subject to the provisions of the memorandum of the terms of a wages settlement made between the Wool (and Allied) Textile Employers' Council on the one part and the National Association of Unions in the Textile Trade on the other part, dated 30th June, 1942, so far as such provisions are properly applicable.

Awards Nos. 242-45 (28th August).—*Parties:* (1) Amalgamated Anthracite Collieries, Ltd., (2) Cory Brothers & Co. Ltd., (3) North's Navigation Collieries (1889) Ltd., (4) Partridge, Jones and John Paton, Ltd. and members of the Clerical and Administrative Workers' Union, South Wales and West of England Area Council, employed by them. *Claim:* For the establishment of minimum salary scales and other conditions of employment of clerical and administrative workers. *Award:* The Tribunal awarded that each of the Companies should, within a period of three months from the date of the award, establish as respects clerical workers a graduated scale, on the basis of minimum salary for age, related to the nature of the work performed in the several grades, with specified periodic increments. The Tribunal made no award in respect of the other items in the claim.

Copies of all the awards may be obtained, price 1d. net each, from H.M. Stationery Office at any of the addresses shown on the back page of this GAZETTE.

NATIONAL ARBITRATION TRIBUNAL (NORTHERN IRELAND) AWARDS.

During August, 1942, the National Arbitration Tribunal (Northern Ireland) issued four awards, Nos. 132-135. In one case the award relates to the whole of the occupation concerned throughout Northern Ireland, and this award is summarised below. The other three awards relate to cases affecting two individual firms and a single local authority.

Award No. 132 (29th July).—*Parties:* The Ministry of Agriculture for Northern Ireland and slaughtermen employed by the Ministry. *Claim:* For the following increases in the basic rates per head for slaughtering:—Cattle 2s., sheep 1s. and pigs 2s. (up to 2 cwt.), 3s. 6d. (2 cwt. to 4 cwt.), and 5s. (over 4 cwt.). Casualty rates to be 50 per cent. higher in each case. An additional rate of 1s. per head to be paid where pigs have to be sawn. Overtime rates for the slaughtering of cattle, sheep and lambs to be on the percentage basis awarded by the National Arbitration Tribunal (Northern Ireland) in Award No. 73* (14th November, 1941). *Award:* The Tribunal found that the claim had not been established and they awarded accordingly.

Copies of all the awards may be obtained by making written application to the Ministry of Labour, Stormont, Belfast.

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

INDUSTRIAL COURT AWARDS.

During August, 1942, the Industrial Court issued three awards, Nos. 1872-1874. In two cases the awards relate to the whole of an industry or occupation in a particular area, and the following is a summary of these awards. The other award relates to a case affecting an individual firm.

Award No. 1872 (7th August).—*Parties:* Trade Union Side and Employers' Side of the Railway Shopmen's National Council. *Claim:* For an increase of 10s. a week in the war wage or bonus of all adult male staff and a minimum wage of £3 a week for all adult workshop employees, male or female. *Award:* The Court awarded an increase of 4s. a week in the war wage or bonus. The Court also awarded for workers in receipt of the lowest minimum rates an increase in wages of 4s. 6d. a week in the case of adult males and of 3s. a week in the case of women doing women's work.

Award No. 1874 (24th August).—*Parties:* Amalgamated Society of Woodcutting Machinists and the North Eastern

* See the issue of this GAZETTE for December, 1941, page 247.
† Copies of this award may be purchased from H.M. Stationery Office; price 1d. net (3d. post free).

TRADE BOARDS ACTS.

NOTICES OF PROPOSAL.

Proposals to vary minimum rates of wages have been issued as shown below. Further information may be obtained by persons engaged in the respective trades on application to the Secretary of the Board concerned at Sunnyside Mansions Hotel, Knowsley Road, Southport, Lancashire, in the case of Boards in Great Britain, or at Stormont, Belfast, in the case of Boards in Northern Ireland:—

Made-up Textiles Trade Board (Great Britain).—Proposal M.T.(23), dated 4th August, 1942, to vary minimum rates of wages for male and female workers.

Tobacco Trade Board (Great Britain).—Proposal N.(23), dated 7th August, 1942, to vary minimum rates of wages for male and female workers.

Wholesale Mantle and Costume Trade Board (Great Britain).—Proposal W.M.(35), dated 11th August, 1942, to vary minimum rates of wages for male and female workers.

Baking Trade Board (England and Wales).—Proposal BK.(17), dated 14th August, 1942, to vary minimum rates of wages for a certain class of female worker.

Aerated Waters Trade Board (Northern Ireland).—Proposal N.I.A. (N.15), dated 18th August, 1942, to vary minimum rates of wages for male and female workers.

CONFIRMING ORDERS.

In pursuance of the powers conferred by the Trade Boards Acts, the Minister of Labour and National Service in Great Britain and the Ministry of Labour in Northern Ireland, have made Orders confirming minimum rates of wages as varied by the Trade Boards indicated below. Copies of the Orders may be purchased from H.M. Stationery Office, either directly or through any bookseller:—

Cutlery Trade Board (Great Britain).—Order C.T. (31), dated 4th August, 1942, confirming a variation of minimum rates of wages and specifying 17th August, 1942, as the date from which such rates became effective.

Retail Bespoke Tailoring Trade Board (England and Wales).—Order R.B. (E. & W.) 20, dated 11th August, 1942, confirming a variation of minimum rates of wages and specifying 26th August, 1942, as the date from which such rates became effective.

Retail Bespoke Tailoring Trade Board (Scotland).—Order R.B.S. (21), dated 13th August, 1942, confirming a variation of minimum rates of wages and specifying 24th August, 1942, as the date from which such rates became effective.

Shirtmaking Trade Board (Great Britain).—Order S. (25), dated 29th August, 1942, confirming a variation of minimum rates of wages and specifying 11th September, 1942, as the date from which such rates became effective.

Linen and Cotton Handkerchief and Household Goods and Linen Piece Goods Trade Board (Northern Ireland).—Order N.I.H.G. (76), dated 10th August, 1942, confirming the variation of general minimum time rates, piecework basis time rates, general overtime rates for male and female workers, and cancellation of certain piecework basis time rates in their application to certain male workers in the trade, and specifying 17th August, 1942, as the date from which these rates became effective.

Boat and Shoe Repairing Trade Board (Northern Ireland).—Order N.I.B.S. (41), dated 11th August, 1942, confirming the variation of general minimum time rates, piecework basis time rates, general minimum piece rates and general overtime rates for male and female workers, and specifying 17th August, 1942, as the date from which these rates became effective.

ROAD TRANSPORT CATERING AND ACCOMMODATION JOINT COMMITTEE.

THE Road Haulage Central Wages Board, who have had under constant consideration the question of food and accommodation for road transport workers, desire to bring to the notice of all persons concerned in the road haulage industry, and in particular the proprietors of establishments providing food and accommodation, that a "Road Transport Catering and Accommodation Joint Committee" has been set up by the employers' and workers' organisations, for the purpose of compiling a national directory of establishments providing food and accommodation for road transport workers.

This Joint Committee, which is independent of the Central Wages Board (although its members are also members of the Board), will undertake the task of registering establishments providing food and accommodation for road transport workers, and of printing and circulating the directory. All communications on the subject should be addressed to the Joint Secretaries (Mr. G. W. Quick Smith and Mr. H. R. Nicholas), Road Transport Catering and Accommodation Joint Committee, at Coastal Chambers, Room 350, 15 Elizabeth Street, London, S.W.1, and not to the Road Haulage Central Wages Board.

Federation of Sawmill Proprietors. *Claim:* For an increase of 1d. per hour in the minimum time rate of woodcutting machinists employed by members of the North Eastern Federation of Sawmill Proprietors. *Award:* The Court awarded an increase of 1d. an hour in the present minimum time rate of the workers concerned.

SINGLE ARBITRATORS AND AD HOC BOARDS OF ARBITRATION.

During August, 1942, seven awards were issued by Single Arbitrators appointed under the Industrial Courts Act, 1919. Of the cases concerned, six, including one case reported under the Conditions of Employment and National Arbitration Orders, 1940-42, related to individual undertakings. The following is a summary of the award in the remaining case.

Award No. 36 (14th August).—*Parties:* The Scottish Lace Manufacturers' Association and the Scottish Lace and Textile Workers' Union. (Case reported under the Conditions of Employment and National Arbitration Orders, 1940-42.) *Claim:* For the fixing or the adjustment of the rate to be paid for weaving face veil camouflage net. *Award:* The Arbitrator awarded that the rate to be paid shall be a rate based on Table 3 of the Table of Rates and Rules of the Lace Curtain Industry (Scottish Section), less 0.20d.

CIVIL SERVICE ARBITRATION TRIBUNAL.

During August, 1942, the Civil Service Arbitration Tribunal issued two awards, Nos. 69 and 70, relating to a claim for increased scales of pay and overtime rates for Storeholders and Foremen (Store and Yard) employed by the Army Ordnance services, and a claim for an increase on promotion to Investigating Clerks in the Assistance Board, respectively.

Copies of the awards setting out the details may be obtained, price 1d. net, from H.M. Stationery Office at any of the addresses shown on the back page of this GAZETTE.

COURT OF INQUIRY.

PORT TRANSPORT WORKERS ON THE RIVER TYNE.

On 12th June, 1942, the Minister of Labour and National Service appointed a Court of Inquiry to inquire into the causes and circumstances of successive stoppages of work of port transport workers on the River Tyne, and to make recommendations for the avoidance of such interruptions of work in the future. The Court consisted of Professor A. Gray as Chairman and Messrs. Lincoln Evans and A. C. Somervell as members. The Report of the Court was issued on 9th July, 1942.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

DECISIONS GIVEN BY THE UMPIRE.

THE Umpire is a judicial authority independent of the Ministry of Labour, appointed by the Crown (see Section 40 of the Unemployment Insurance Act 1935) for the purpose of determining disputed claims to benefit. His decisions* are final.

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 leave of the Chairman of the Court of Referees, by the claimant himself. The claimant may also appeal if the decision of the Court was not unanimous.

A synopsis of a recent decision of general interest is given below.

Case No. 271/42. (1st July, 1942).

SECTION 28(3) OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT, 1935; CLAIMANT WHOSE NORMAL EMPLOYMENT IS CASUAL REFUSED OFFER OF SUITABLE EMPLOYMENT ON WORK OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE IN ANOTHER TRADE; HELD GOOD CAUSE FOR REFUSAL NOT SHOWN; BENEFIT DISALLOWED.

Claimant had been employed for a number of years as a waitress on not more than two or three days each week and she had claimed unemployment benefit in respect of the remaining days. Between 16th January, 1942, and 14th March, 1942, she was employed on twenty-one days out of a total of fifty working days. On 16th March, 1942, she was offered and refused permanent employment in the making of gas masks. The terms and conditions of employment were suitable and the claimant was unable to plead domestic hardship. The Umpire held that the employment offered was suitable under Section 28(3) of the 1935 Act. The fact that she had been unemployed for two days only when the employment was offered was off-set by the fact that for a long period she had had no prospect or intention of obtaining other than casual employment in her normal occupation and therefore she had not good cause for refusing to apply for full-time employment in another occupation. The claim to benefit was accordingly disallowed for a period of six weeks from the date of the Umpire's decision.

* Selected decisions of the Umpire are published (i) in monthly pamphlets—U.I. Code 8s.; (ii) in annual volumes. Applications and enquiries should be addressed to H.M. Stationery Office at any of the addresses shown on the back page of this GAZETTE.

STATUTORY RULES AND ORDERS.

In the list below, the full titles, the serial numbers and the prices are given of Orders made by the Minister of Labour and National Service which have been published in the series of *Statutory Rules and Orders* since the last issue of this GAZETTE was prepared, as well as of other Orders, so published, relating to matters with which the Ministry is concerned, either directly or indirectly.

Copies of *Statutory Rules and Orders* may be purchased directly from H.M. Stationery Office at the addresses shown at the foot of this page. The prices quoted are all net, those in brackets including postage at Inland Postal rates.

S.R. & O.
1942, No.

Title and Price.

- 1542 Order in Council continuing in force the Emergency Powers (Defence) Act, 1939, as amended by subsequent Enactments. 1d. (2d.).—[This Order, made on 6th August, 1942, provides for the continuance in force of the Emergency Powers (Defence) Act, 1939 (as amended) for the further period of one year beginning with 24th August, 1942.]
- 1543 Order in Council amending Regulations 58A, 58AD and 103 of, and adding Regulations 46AA and 55C to, the Defence (General) Regulations, 1939. 2d. (3d.).—[This Order, made on 6th August, 1942, provides, *inter alia*, for the amendment of Regulation 58A (which relates to the control of employment) so as to prescribe that an Order made under that Regulation may make provision designed, in cases where workers appeal successfully against dismissal for serious misconduct or against suspension for disciplinary reasons, to safeguard their rights with regard to the payment of the guaranteed wage in respect of time spent in attending hearings in the course of the proceedings, and also, so far as concerns workers who have been dismissed and have taken other interim employment, in respect of time spent in such employment.]
- 1641 The Essential Work (Merchant Navy) Order, 1942, dated August 10, 1942, made by the Minister of Labour and National Service under Regulation 58A of the Defence (General) Regulations, 1939. 2d. (3d.).—[See summary on page 147 of the issue of this GAZETTE for August, 1942.]
- 1644 The County Roadmen (Payment of Wages) Order, 1942, dated August 13, 1942, made by the Secretary of State under Regulation 59A of the Defence (General) Regulations, 1939. 1d. (2d.).—[This Order enables the councils of specified administrative counties in England and Wales to pay by means of cheques the wages of roadmen employed by them.]
- 1655 The Fire Prevention (Business Premises) (No. 3) Order, 1942, dated August 15, 1942, made by the Minister of Home Security under Regulations 27A and 38 of the Defence (General) Regulations, 1939. 2d. (3d.).—[This Order amends in a number of respects the Fire Prevention (Business Premises) (No. 2) Order, 1941, an account of which was given on page 210 of the issue of this GAZETTE for October, 1941, and, in particular, extends to women the obligation to perform fire prevention duties at business premises.]
- 1747 The Essential Work (Iron and Steel Industry) (No. 3) Order, 1942, dated August 27, 1942, made by the Minister of Labour and National Service under Regulation 58A of the Defence (General) Regulations, 1939. 1d. (2d.).—[This Order provides for the amendment of the Appendix to the Essential Work (Iron and Steel Industry) Order, 1941 (see the issue of this GAZETTE for August, 1941, pages 171-172), so as to add a further agreement to those already listed therein for the purpose of ascertaining the appropriate agreed wage of specified persons in scheduled undertakings in the iron

and steel industry. Earlier Orders of a similar nature were mentioned in the issues of this GAZETTE for October, 1941, page 209; February, 1942, page 52; and July, 1942, page 144.]

- 1847 The Essential Work (Coalmining Industry) (Amendment) Order, 1942, dated 7th September, 1942, made by the Minister of Labour and National Service under Regulation 58A of the Defence (General) Regulations, 1939. 1d. (2d.).—[See summary on page 160 of this GAZETTE.]

BOARD FOR MINING EXAMINATIONS.

Examinations for Certificates of Competency as Managers and Under-Managers of Mines and for Certificates of Qualification as Surveyors of Mines.

The Ministry of Fuel and Power announce that, circumstances permitting, the written parts of the examinations for first and second class certificates of competency as managers and under-managers of mines will be held on 25th and 26th November, 1942, at six centres, viz., Glasgow, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Doncaster, Wigan, Cardiff and Stoke-on-Trent. The oral parts of the examinations, to be attended only by those candidates who qualify in the written tests, will be held at the same centres on 20th January, 1943.

The written part of the examination for certificates of qualification as surveyors of mines will be held at the same centres on 26th November, 1942, and the oral and practical examination, to be attended only by those candidates who qualify in the written test, in January, 1943.

Intending candidates should apply after 14th September for the necessary forms, stating whether they have previously attended any of the Board's examinations. The completed applications should be returned to the Secretary as soon as possible and must, in any case, be received not later than 10th October, 1942.

Letters should be addressed to the Secretary, Board for Mining Examinations, Ministry of Fuel and Power, Block "C," Temporary Office Buildings, Heyhouses Lane, Lytham St. Annes, Lancashire.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

[NOTE.—The prices are net and, except in the case of publications of the International Labour Office, do not include postage.]

COAL-MINING.—(i) *Committee on the Recruitment of Juveniles in the Coal-Mining Industry; First Report, July, 1942.* (Stationery Office publication; price 4d.).—See summary on page 161 of this GAZETTE. (ii) *Output Bonus. Supplemental Report of the Board of Investigation.* August, 1942. (Stationery Office publication; price 1d.)

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.—*The Personal Factor in Accidents.* Industrial Health Research Board: Emergency Report 3. July 28th, 1942. (Stationery Office publication; price 4d.)

NATIONAL SERVICE.—*Selected decisions given by the Umpire during June, 1942, in respect of applications for postponement of liability to be called up for service under the National Service Acts, 1939-1941.* N.S. Code 2. Pamphlet 3/1942. Ministry of Labour and National Service. (Stationery Office publication; price 2d.)

PAYMENT BY RESULTS.—*Essential Work (Building and Civil Engineering) Order, 1941. First Supplement to Memorandum issued on March 31st, 1942, containing particulars of additional trade operations for which bonus rates have been fixed.* July 31st, 1942. Ministry of Works and Planning. (Stationery Office publication; price 2d.)

WOMEN'S SERVICES.—*Report of Committee on Amenities and Welfare Conditions in the Three Women's Services.* August 5th, 1942. (Cmd. 6384; H.M. Stationery Office, price 1s.)

FOOD CONTROL.—*Food Control in Great Britain.*—Studies and Reports Series B (Economic Conditions) No. 35. (Published in London for the International Labour Office by P. S. King and Staples Ltd.; price 5s.)

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