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**EMPLOYMENT, WAGES, COST OF
LIVING, AND TRADE DISPUTES IN
JUNE.**

EMPLOYMENT.

THERE was a decline in employment during June, especially in the coal mining industry.

Among the 11,500,000 workpeople insured against unemployment under the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the percentage unemployed at 22nd June, 1925, was 12·2, as compared with 11·2 at 25th May, 1925, and with 9·4 at 23rd June, 1924. Among the members of those Trade Unions from which returns were received, the percentage unemployed was 12·3 at the end of June, 1925, compared with 10·1 at the end of May, 1925, and with 7·2 at the end of June, 1924. The total number of persons registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland as unemployed at 29th June, 1925, was approximately 1,368,000, of whom 1,062,000 were men and 241,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls; at 25th May, 1925, it was 1,253,000, of whom 963,000 were men and 226,000 were women; at 30th June 1924, it was 1,049,000, of whom men numbered 793,000 and women 199,000.

The increase, during June, in the total number unemployed was due mainly to the decline in employment in the coal mining industry. There was also increased unemployment in the iron mining, iron and steel, shipbuilding, cotton, wool textile, jute, carpet, pottery, and brush-making industries, but in a number of other industries, including tinplate and steel sheet manufacture, the linen industry, and the glass trades, minor improvements were recorded.

Detailed information for the principal industries is given on pages 241–249.

WAGES.

In the industries for which statistics are regularly compiled by the Department, the changes in rates of wages reported in June resulted in an aggregate reduction of over £38,000 in the weekly full-time wages of about 423,000 workpeople and in an aggregate increase of about £25,000 in the weekly wages of 267,000 workpeople.

The principal groups of workpeople whose wages were reduced were coal miners in Yorkshire and the East Midlands, where the percentage addition to basis rates was reduced by the equivalent of about 4 per cent. on current wages. Other important bodies of workers whose wages were reduced included steel sheet millmen and galvanisers in various districts, iron puddlers and millmen in Scotland, blastfurnacemen and iron-ore miners in Cumberland, and employees in the non-trading services of local authorities in the Midlands.

The principal increases in rates of wages resulted from the raising of the minimum rates fixed in certain trades under the Trade Boards Acts. These increases affected men and women in the jute industry, in the ready-made and wholesale bespoke tailoring trades

and the wholesale mantle and costume trade, and women engaged in shirt-making.

During the first six months of 1925 the changes reported to the Department, in the industries for which statistics are compiled, have resulted in net increases amounting to about £90,000 in the weekly full-time wages of 900,000 workpeople and in net reductions of nearly £73,000 in those of nearly 780,000 workpeople. In the corresponding period of 1924, there were net increases of about £580,000 in the weekly wages of 2,900,000 workpeople, and net reductions of over £23,000 in the weekly wages of 317,000 workpeople.

Further particulars as to the changes in wages during June will be found on pages 250–254.

COST OF LIVING.

At 1st July the average level of retail prices of all the commodities taken into account in the statistics compiled by the Ministry of Labour (including food, rent, clothing, fuel, light, and miscellaneous items) was approximately 73 per cent. above that of July, 1914, as compared with 72 per cent. at 2nd June. The rise in the percentage was due to an increase in the food group of items, from 66 per cent. above the pre-war level at 2nd June to 67 per cent. at 1st July.

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

For further particulars, and for details of the statistics relating to 1st July, reference should be made to the article on page 238.

TRADE DISPUTES.

The number of trade disputes involving stoppages of work reported to the Department as beginning in June was 48. In addition, 31 disputes which began before June were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The number of workpeople involved in all disputes in June (including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes) was about 34,000; the estimated aggregate duration of all disputes during June was about 281,000 working days. These figures compare with totals of approximately 27,000 workpeople involved and 202,000 days lost in the previous month.

The aggregate duration of all disputes in progress in the first six months of 1925 was about 953,000 working days, and the total number of workpeople involved in these disputes was 131,000. The figures for the corresponding period of 1924 were 3,341,000 days and 390,000 workpeople respectively.

Detailed information is given on page 255, and a special article on pages 230–232 of this GAZETTE summarises the statistics relating to disputes involving stoppages of work in recent years.

In each year, except 1921, the number of disputes which ended in a compromise, or were only partially successful, was greater than the number which ended in favour of the employers...

METHODS OF SETTLEMENT.

The following Table gives particulars as to the methods by which the disputes involving stoppages of work were settled :-

Table with columns for Year, By direct negotiation between the parties or their representatives, By Conciliation, By Arbitration, By return to work on employers' terms without negotiation, Other-wise, Total.

By far the largest number of disputes were settled by direct arrangement between the parties, this method accounting for 72 per cent. of the total number of settlements in the period under review...

It is of interest to note that during the war years 1915-8, the proportion of disputes settled by arbitration rose as high as 13 per cent., and the proportion of workpeople involved in disputes thus settled to 15 per cent., the increase in the proportion of disputes settled by means of arbitration being accompanied by a similar decrease in the settlements by direct negotiation.

* Cases in which the disputes ended in the replacement of the workpeople involved, or in the closing of the works, and settlements effected by legislation...

WAGES IN AGRICULTURE.

IN the issue of this GAZETTE for February, 1925, details were given of the minimum rates of wages of ordinary agricultural labourers which had been fixed up to that date by Orders of the Agricultural Wages Board...

Table with columns for Area, Ordinary Male Labourers (21 years and over), Women (18 years and over except where otherwise specified), Per Week, Per Hour, Summer, Winter.

The Orders also specify minimum rates for juvenile workers, overtime rates, special rates for horsemen, cattlemen and shepherds, in certain cases and the allowances in kind which may be granted in lieu of payment in cash...

Copies of the Orders in full are obtainable on application to the Secretary of the Agricultural Wages Board, 7, Whitehall Place, London, S.W. 1.

* No age specified. † Minimum rate for adult casual workers fixed at 3d. per hour. ‡ Subject to an increase of 1s. per week for every ten points that the index figure of the prices of retail commodities rises above the figure published for December, 1924.

Factories and Workshops: Chief Inspector's Annual Report.

THE Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories and Workshops for the year 1924 has been issued.*

The Report states that, taking industry as a whole, trade conditions have again been bad, though there have been particular industries and branches of industry which have been very prosperous and where employment has been good...

Reference is made in the Report to the continued development of new industrial areas, to the steady increase in the removal of factories from the centre to the outskirts of London, and to the continued and rapid increase in the generation and use of electricity.

The number of registered factories in Great Britain again increased during 1924, the total being 142,494, as against 139,920 in 1923. Workshops† declined from 140,850 to 133,729. Factories thus for the first time exceed workshops in number...

The only new legislation affecting the Department which became operative during the year was the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, which imposed new duties on the staff both in regard to notices and registers required to be kept for workmen's compensation purposes...

Table with columns for Industry, All Accidents (fatal and non-fatal), Fatal Accidents, 1924, 1923.

Table with columns for Industry, All Accidents (fatal and non-fatal), Fatal Accidents, 1924, 1923.

It is stated that the alteration from seven to three days in the case of non-machinery accidents has caused a marked increase in the number of reportable cases, and that the publicity given to the alteration of the law has had a marked effect in securing more regular notification of accidents.

Attention is called to the fact that by far the largest proportion of casualties occur in a comparatively limited group of industries. In the case of both shipbuilding and building construction, which accounted for 103 and 104 fatal accidents respectively...

With regard to the large number of accidents that are not preventable by fencing and other safeguards, the Report refers to the important part played by "Safety First" organisations, and instances are quoted showing the successful results in reducing accidents obtained in establishments where safety organisation is a special feature.

Summarised by age and sex the accidents of the year 1924 were distributed as shown in the following table :-

* Cmd. 2437. H.M. Stationery Office; price 2s. 6d. net. † "Factories" are equipped with mechanical power; "workshops" are not so equipped.

Table with columns for Adults, Young Persons, All Ages, Male, Female, Total, All Accidents, Fatal Accidents.

The Report of the Senior Medical Inspector includes the following Table of notifications under Section 73 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, showing, as compared with previous years, an increase in the number of cases from lead poisoning, and a notable increase in the number of reported cases of epitheliomatous ulceration :-

Table with columns for Disease, Cases, Deaths, 1924, 1923.

The increase in lead poisoning compared with 1923 was due to cases in shipbreaking and in the electric accumulator industry. Regulations based on the principle of exhaust ventilation are now in force in the electric accumulator industry.

The number of young persons examined for certificates of fitness in 1924 was 364,297. Of these 20,738 were rejected or obtained conditional certificates, as shown in the following Table :-

Table with columns for Defect, Number of Rejections, Certificates under conditions or advice, Total.

About three-fourths of the rejections for non-medical reasons were due to non-production of a certificate or other evidence of age.

A detailed Report on the operation of the system of employment of women and young persons in two day-shifts, permitted by Section 2 of the Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children Act, 1920, is given in the Report. The total number of Orders permitting the working of two shifts, issued up to the end of 1924, was 425, showing an annual average, roughly, of 106...

The Report states that the Statutory Welfare Orders, which apply to fourteen different industries, appear to have been well observed on the whole. In regard to voluntary welfare schemes the Report observes :- "These movements usually are more active during trade prosperity, and it is all the more satisfactory to know that, notwithstanding depression in certain industries, numerous welfare organisations were carried on successfully last year, and much new activity is reported by the inspectors."

By Section 29 (1) of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, which came into force on the 1st January, 1924, the provision of first-aid, introduced by the Welfare Order of October, 1917, into blastfurnaces, copper and iron mills, foundries and metal works, and extended by a series of subsequent Welfare Orders to a limited number of other industries, became compulsory in all factories.

Among other subjects dealt with in the Report are dangerous trades, sanitation, and the working of the "particulars" section of the Factory Act (which requires employers in certain trades to publish particulars of the work to be done and of the rate of wages applicable thereto).

SURVEY OF OVERSEAS MARKETS BY THE COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRY AND TRADE.

THE Committee on Industry and Trade, which was appointed by the Prime Minister in July, 1924, under the Chairmanship of Sir Arthur Balfour, K.B.E., to inquire into the conditions and prospects of British industry and commerce, with special reference to the export trade, has prepared a volume, entitled "Survey of Overseas Markets," which was published on 15th July.

The main feature is a series of surveys dealing separately with the various Dominions, Colonies and foreign countries, considered primarily as markets for British goods. Each survey begins with the main figures of external trade for 1904, 1913, and the latest available post-war year. The public finance of the country is briefly dealt with, and the economic development is discussed at greater length. The surveys also describe the industrial and commercial policy of the countries, their external trade, with special reference to the growth or diminution of trade with the United Kingdom, and the competitive situation. The second chapter includes Tables comparing the rates of Customs Duty charged in 1914 and 1924 on a number of important British exports in the chief pre-war markets, with a view to an estimate being made as to whether the average ad valorem incidence of these tariff rates has or has not materially increased. The next chapter contains memoranda on foreign commercial policy affecting British export trade. Finally, the volume includes a number of statistical tables showing, for example, the volume of the external trade of the United Kingdom on the basis of 1913 prices, the share of the United Kingdom and certain other countries in the world trade, and the division of United Kingdom trade between the Empire and foreign countries, etc., etc.

The above-mentioned material is all drawn from official sources, but the Committee have prefixed an introduction in which they review the situation, and point out some of the main considerations arising from the surveys. They emphasize the fact that the volume does not constitute a Report in which their recommendations are formulated, but represents an attempt to assemble the facts in regard to British trade in Overseas Markets. The first subject discussed by the Committee is the question of the United Kingdom's share in the world trade, and it is pointed out that while the United Kingdom has retained or even increased its share of the total world trade compared with pre-war, the great reduction which has occurred in that total means a substantial reduction in the actual volume of British export trade.

The Committee then proceed to discuss in detail the various factors responsible for the decline. These factors the Committee class under the three following heads:—

- (1) Decline of Purchasing Power of Local Population;
- (2) Growth of Local Manufacture in the overseas countries; and
- (3) Displacement of British imports by imports from other countries.

In summing up, the Committee point out that the main forces with which the trade of the United Kingdom has to contend are, so far as they arise in the Overseas Markets themselves, world forces, the effects of which, however, are felt with special acuteness by Great Britain, which depends so greatly on foreign trade.

The volume, which is some 700 pages in length, is published at the price of 6s., and may be purchased directly from His Majesty's Stationery Office or through any bookseller.

STATE INSURANCE SCHEMES: NET ANNUAL ADDITION TO CONTRIBUTIONS.

In answer to a question in the House of Commons on the 13th July, asking as to the increased net annual charge on employers, on employed persons, and on the State as a result of the provisions of the Widows', Orphans', and Old Age Contributory Pensions Bill and of the Unemployment Insurance Bill conjointly, the Minister of Health gave the following information:—

The subjoined Table shows, as regards the contributions of employers and employed persons coming within each of the three schemes, the increased net annual charge resulting from the provisions of the Widows', Orphans', and Old Age Contributory Pensions Bill taken in conjunction with the Unemployment Insurance Bill, and also the total increased annual charge to the State under these measures for the year 1926-27. It has been assumed that on the average an employed person and his employer pay 48 contributions in the year. The charge to the State in respect of pensions includes the estimated additional cost of unrestricted old age pensions at 70, which increases progressively in subsequent years. The sum shown in the table as the additional State charge in respect of unemployment insurance is the estimated product of the increased Exchequer contribution of 1½d. a week (¾d. for women, boys and girls). From 2nd January, 1928, the increased charge will be reduced to about £500,000 per annum, owing to the reduction in the Exchequer contribution of 1d. a week (¾d. for women, boys and girls) which will then operate. On the other hand, the Exchequer contribution is subject to a contingent further increase of 1d. a week (¾d. for women, boys and girls) in any quarter during the deficiency period in which the average outstanding Treasury advances for that

quarter exceed those outstanding on 31st December, 1925. This further increase is equivalent to about £425,000 a quarter.

	Contributions per Employed Person per Annum.								Increased Charge to the State for the year 1926-7.
	Net Increase resulting from Pensions Bill.*		Reduction under Unemployment Insurance Bill.		Net Increase.		Em- ployed Person.	Em- ployed Person.	
	Em- ployer.	Em- ployed Person.	Em- ployer.	Em- ployed Person.	Em- ployer.†	Em- ployed Person.			
Men ...	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	Pensions, £5,700,000;	
Women...	8 0	8 0	4 0	4 0	4 0	4 0	4 0	Unemployment Insurance, £2,200,000.‡	
Boys ...	16 0	16 0	4 0	4 0	12 0	12 0	12 0		
Girls ...	8 0	8 0	4 0	4 0	4 0	4 0	4 0		

PROCEEDINGS OF JOINT INDUSTRIAL COUNCILS AND INTERIM INDUSTRIAL RECONSTRUCTION COMMITTEES IN JUNE.

DURING the four weeks ended 27th June, 1925, ten meetings of Joint Industrial Councils and Interim Industrial Reconstruction Committees were reported to the Ministry of Labour.

At the sixth annual meeting of the National Joint Industrial Council for the *Flour Milling Industry*, arrangements were made for the publication of the Annual Report. A memorandum submitted by the Workers' Side on the questions of overtime provisions and the guaranteed week was also discussed.

The first Annual Report of the Technical Education Committee of this Council has been printed and records the progress made in the matter of technical education since the Committee took over the responsibilities in this regard from the National Association of British and Irish Millers. A conference of Technical Teachers is being held in order to discuss the best means of forwarding the work which the Committee has in hand.

At the meeting of the Joint Industrial Council for the *Metallic Bedsteads Industry*, discussion centred on the recent imposition by the Irish Free State Government of a duty of 33½ per cent. on all imported metallic bedsteads. It was decided to appoint a Sub-Committee to consider certain points arising therefrom.

The National Council of the *Pottery Industry* has now issued a statement of the conditions governing the award of the open Technical Scholarship offered by the Council. The Scholarship is of the value of £50 per annum, tenable for three years; and it is stipulated that candidates must be over 16 years of age on July 31st, 1925, and resident in the United Kingdom. They will be required to give evidence of satisfactory general education and to answer questions in Elementary Chemistry and Physics, including Heat. They will also be required to satisfy the Council that they have a satisfactory knowledge of the materials and processes of the industry. The selected candidate will be required to attend at the Central School of Pottery at Stoke-on-Trent, or such other educational Institution as the Council may approve, for at least five half-days per week or the equivalent, and on the remaining five half-days per week his time must be spent in practical work in a Pottery, or in a manner to be approved by the Principal of the Institution at which the Scholarship is held. Attendance at Evening Classes may not be substituted for this arrangement, but attendance at Evening Classes may be additional to it.

REGISTRATION OF DOCK LABOURERS IN PORT OF LONDON.

THE Dock Transport Workers (Registration and Guaranteed Week) Committee, of which the Rt. Hon. Sir Donald Maclean, K.B.E., LL.D., is Chairman, in their first and second Interim Reports§ made strong recommendations in favour of the establishment of schemes for the registration of dock transport workers.

It is now announced that agreement has been reached between the parties concerned for the establishment of a Joint Committee representative of employers and workpeople engaged in the dock transport industry in the Port of London, to carry out the recommendations of the above-named Committee. Nominations for the membership of the new Joint Committee have been invited from the employers' organisation, the Transport and General Workers' Union, and the National Amalgamated Stevedores, Lightermen, Watermen, and Dockers; and it is hoped to arrange for a meeting to take place at an early date.

* Combined health and pensions contributions.
† No account is taken of the further reduction of 4s. for men and women (2s. for boys and girls) which is to be made when the outstanding Treasury advances do not exceed the debt at 31st December, 1925, and in the opinion of the Minister and the Treasury are not likely to exceed that amount.
‡ Subject to the contingent further increase of £425,000 a quarter.
§ The Reports were published in full in the July, 1924, issue of this GAZETTE (pp. 236-7).

DEDUCTIONS FROM POLICE PAY AND ALLOWANCES.

A REPORT* has recently been issued by a Committee appointed to consider the question of a continuance of the deductions from Police pay and allowances and in the alternative an increase in the rateable deductions in respect of Police pensions. The deductions from pay and allowances consist of (a) deductions from rent allowances (with corresponding charges for quarters) at the rate of 3s. 6d. a week for constables in England and 2s. 3d. a week in Scotland; and (b) supplementary deductions from pay at the rate of 2½ per cent. introduced in 1922 as part of the measures taken by the Government to secure reductions in Police expenditure. These deductions were instituted in the financial year 1922-23 and were continued during the succeeding two financial years. Recently they have been under discussion by the Police Councils, which have failed to arrive at an agreement. The Home Secretary and the Secretary for Scotland accordingly authorised the continuation of the deductions till 30th June in England and to 31st July in Scotland. The Committee recommends that the deductions from rent allowances and the supplementary deduction from pay should be discontinued as from the date when the present Regulations come to an end and that the rateable deductions for pension purposes should be increased from 2½ to 5 per cent.

EMPLOYMENT OF EX-SERVICE MEN.

NATIONAL SCHEME (KING'S ROLL).

THE latest returns show that there are approximately 28,000 firms on the King's National Roll. The number of disabled ex-Service men employed by these firms is approximately 360,000.

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING.

At 30th June, 1925, the number of men in training was 4,680, and the number awaiting training, 1,128. Since 1st August, 1919, 92,896 men have terminated training.

EX-SERVICE MEN: COST OF TRAINING.

In answer to a question in the House of Commons on the 29th June, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Labour stated that the sum expended on training ex-service men under Government schemes was approximately £38,700,000 to 31st March, 1925, excluding the cost of concurrent treatment-training provided by the Ministry of Pensions.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE: UTILISATION OF WORKERS' SPARE TIME.

At the sixth session of the General Conference of the International Labour Organisation of the League of Nations,† a recommendation was adopted on the subject of the development of facilities for the utilisation of workers' spare time.‡

H.M. Government have now laid upon the table of both Houses of Parliament the draft of a proposed communication§ to the Secretary-General of the League of Nations on the subject of this recommendation. In this communication H.M. Government report the action that has been taken by them in this matter, and continue:—

"As one of the British Government delegates indicated in the course of the debate at the Conference itself, H.M. Government did not disagree generally with the principles set out in the text which the Conference was asked to adopt. They could not help feeling, however, that it was too much to hope that the long recommendation adopted, which was necessarily of so vague and general a character, could be of much practical utility.

"Since that time H.M. Government have given further consideration to the terms of the recommendation but have found no reason to modify their view."

With regard to Part I, sub-paragraph (a), of the recommendation, which suggests "so arranging the working day as to make the periods of spare time as continuous as possible," the proposed communication states that, "if it is to be understood that the object of this recommendation is to promote arrangements for a working day unbroken by any substantial interval for dinner, H.M. Government are advised that such an arrangement would not, generally speaking, be conducive to the health and welfare of the workers, and ought not to be encouraged; in any case they are of opinion that (subject to the observance of any conditions imposed by the Factories Acts for the protection of the health of women and young persons) the adjustment of the hours of the working day is a matter which should be left to the employers and workers in the different industries and localities to settle for themselves, and that any Government intervention would be undesirable."

* Cmd. 2444. H.M. Stationery Office; price 2d. net.
† A brief account of the proceedings of this Conference appeared in the July, 1924, issue of this GAZETTE (p. 239). A fuller report is contained in Cmd. 2325 (1925); H.M. Stationery Office, price 6d. net.
‡ For text, see Cmd. 2292 (1924). H.M. Stationery Office; price 6d. net.
§ Cmd. 2441 (1925). H.M. Stationery Office; price 1d. net.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION: SEVENTH SESSION, GENERAL CONFERENCE.

THE Seventh Session of the General Conference of the International Labour Organisation of the League of Nations, convened under Article 389 of the Treaty of Versailles, opened at Geneva on the 19th May and ended on the 10th June, 1925.

Dr. Edouard Benes, Czecho-Slovakian Government delegate and former Prime Minister of Czecho-Slovakia, was elected President of the Conference.

The main subjects dealt with are shown below. The summaries are necessarily very brief owing to exigencies of space and must not be regarded as modifying in any way the actual texts of the draft conventions or recommendations adopted.

PROCEDURE.

The Sixth Session of the Conference (1924) had agreed that when a draft convention or recommendation had been provisionally voted upon as a whole and had received a two-thirds majority the Conference should decide whether the final vote should be deferred till the following Session. Where it was decided to defer the vote, the texts were to be sent to Governments within one month of the close of the 1924 Conference and Governments were to be entitled to submit such amendments as they considered necessary to facilitate their ratification or acceptance not later than four months before the opening of the 1925 Session, facilities being given at that Session for any necessary discussion on the amendments proposed. The 1924 Conference decided that this two-reading procedure should be applied to a draft convention and a draft recommendation regarding equality of treatment for national and foreign workers as regards workmen's compensation for accidents, a draft convention concerning the weekly suspension of work in glass manufacturing processes where tank furnaces are used, and a draft convention regarding night work in bakeries. Consequently these three subjects came up for reconsideration at the 1925 Conference. The 1925 Conference considered the possibility of adopting definite rules governing a regular two-reading procedure, but finally decided to refer the whole matter to the Governing Body of the International Labour Office for further consideration. In the case of the subjects which were before the 1925 Conference for the first time, viz. workmen's compensation for accidents and workmen's compensation for occupational diseases, the Conference, by narrow majorities, decided against the final votes on the various draft conventions and recommendations being deferred to the 1926 Session.

EQUALITY OF TREATMENT FOR NATIONAL AND FOREIGN WORKERS AS REGARDS WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION FOR ACCIDENTS.

The 1924 Conference had adopted provisionally a draft convention and a draft recommendation on the subject of equality of treatment for national and foreign workers as regards workmen's compensation for accidents, and the 1925 Conference finally adopted these drafts, subject only to certain drafting amendments, by 125 votes to none and 128 to none respectively.

WEEKLY SUSPENSION OF WORK IN GLASS MANUFACTURING PROCESSES WHERE TANK FURNACES ARE USED.

By the terms of the draft convention provisionally adopted by the 1924 Conference, States would undertake to suspend work for twenty-four consecutive hours in glass manufacturing processes where tank furnaces are used, the suspension to occur, in principle, on Sunday or any other day already established by the legislation, tradition or customs of the country or district. Exceptions might be authorised by each State for work which must necessarily be carried on continuously for technical or economic reasons and for certain complementary, preparatory or repair work.

The British Government felt that the wide latitude allowed to each State to grant exemptions would detract seriously from the value of the convention from the point of view of the workers and would also militate against its uniform application by competing States. They accordingly forwarded to the International Labour Office within the prescribed period amendments designed to secure that the convention should require glass workers to be given one day's rest in seven (as far as practicable on Sunday), without requiring a stoppage of the machinery, which, in their view, was unnecessary for the particular object in view and would involve unwarranted interference with production. Other amendments were submitted by the British Government with a view to limiting severely the exceptions to the main principle which might be authorised by each member. The British amendments were considered at great length by a special committee appointed by the Selection Committee of the Conference but were rejected by this Committee. In these circumstances, the British Government delegates decided not to move the amendments in full Conference and announced their intention of voting against the draft convention, inviting other delegates to take the same course. In the final result, sixty-eight votes were given for the convention and thirty-seven against, the convention thus being defeated owing to the necessary two-thirds majority required by Article 405 of the Treaty of Versailles not having been obtained.

NIGHT WORK IN BAKERIES.

By the text of the convention provisionally adopted by the 1924 Conference, States undertook to prohibit the making of bread, pastry, or other flour confectionery during a period of at least seven

TRADE UNION PERCENTAGES OF UNEMPLOYED.

TRADE Unions with a net membership of 978,117 in branches covered by the returns received, reported 120,754 (or 12.3 per cent.) of their members as unemployed at the end of June, 1925, compared with 10.1 per cent. at the end of May, 1925.

Table with 5 columns: Trade, Member-ship of Unions reporting at end of June, 1925., Unemployed at end of June, 1925.*, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage Unemployed as compared with a... and Year ago.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED TRADES.

THE percentage unemployed among workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was 12.2 per cent. (males 13.4 per cent., females 9.0 per cent.) at 22nd June, 1925, as compared with 11.2 per cent. (males 12.1 per cent., females 8.9 per cent.) at 25th May, 1925, and 9.4 per cent. (males 10.0 per cent., females 7.8 per cent.) at 23rd June, 1924.

SUMMARY OF EMPLOYERS' RETURNS.

INFORMATION as to the state of employment in certain industries in June, derived from returns furnished by employers and employers' associations, is summarised below.

(a) CERTAIN MINING AND METAL TRADES.

Table with columns: Trade, Workpeople included in the Returns for June, 1925., Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago, Year ago, Days Worked per week by Mines., Furnaces in Blast.

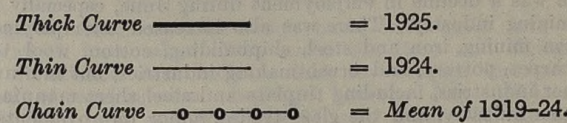
(b) OTHER TRADES.

Table with columns: Trade, Number of Workpeople Employed., Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople., Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago.

* Short time and broken time are not reflected in the figures. In the mining and textile industries a contraction in the demand for labour is generally met by short-time working. Persons on strike or locked out are also excluded.

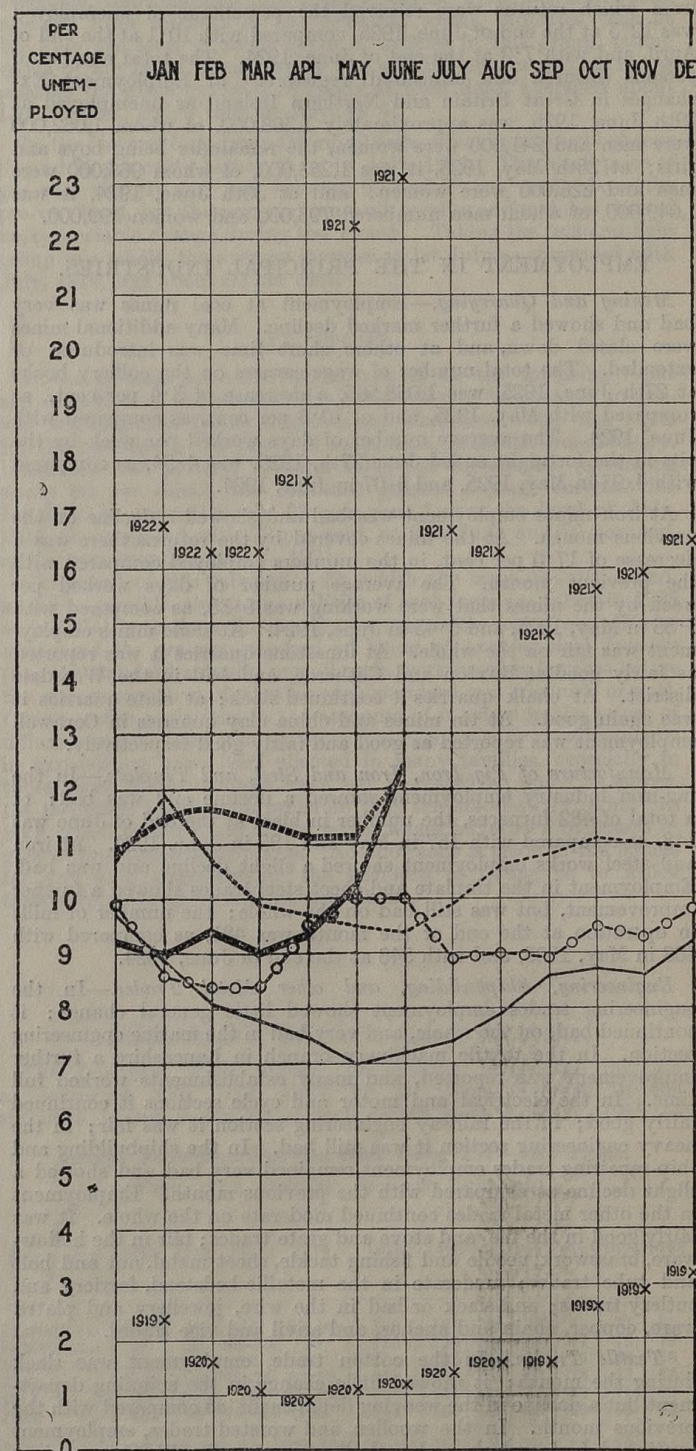
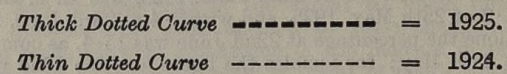
EMPLOYMENT CHART.

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



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

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



NOTE.

The figures relate to Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The Trade Union Returns are furnished by various Trade Unions which pay unemployment benefit to their members.

The figures for insured workpeople are briefly explained, and are analysed in detail, on pages 248 and 249.

DETAILED REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN SOME OF THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

NOTE.—The numbers of workpeople given in the following Tables represent the numbers covered by the Returns received and (except as regards coal mining) not the total numbers employed in the various industries.

COAL MINING.

EMPLOYMENT during June was very bad and showed a further marked decline compared with the previous month. Many additional mines were closed down and in many others short-time working was either introduced or extended.

The total number of wage-earners on the colliery books at 27th June, 1925, showed a decrease of 3.4 per cent. as compared with that at 23rd June, 1925, and of 10.8 per cent. as compared with that at 28th June, 1924.

The average number of days worked per week in the fortnight ended 27th June, 1925, was 4.54, a decrease of 0.39 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 23rd May, 1925, and of 0.53 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 28th June, 1924.

The following Table shows, for the principal coal-mining districts, the total number of wage-earners on the colliery books and the average number of days worked per week* during the fortnight ended 27th June, 1925, as shown by returns obtained by the Mines Department.

Table showing total number of wage-earners on colliery books and average number of days worked per week for various districts in England and Wales, Scotland, and Great Britain.

The average number of coal-winding days lost in Great Britain during the fortnight ended 27th June, 1925, was 1.23 of a day per week, of which 1.14 was due to want of trade and transport difficulties.

The output of coal for Great Britain for the four weeks ended 27th June, 1925 (including the Whitsun holidays), was returned to the Mines Department at 16,171,000 tons, as compared with 19,912,100 tons in the four weeks ended 23rd May, 1925.

The exports of coal, including coal shipped for the use of steamers engaged in foreign trade, and the coal-equivalent of coke and manufactured fuel, amounted to 5,269,478 tons in June, compared with 6,280,741 tons in May.

Statistics of output, cost of production, etc., in the coal-mining industry in the first quarter of 1925 and in previous quarters are given on page 227.

* The figures in this and the following article show the number of days (allowance being made in all the calculations for short time) on which coal, iron, etc., were got from the mines included in the returns.

IRON AND SHALE MINING

Iron Mining.

EMPLOYMENT was bad on the whole, and showed a marked decline as compared with the previous month.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed in iron ore and ironstone mining and quarrying, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 25.4 at 22nd June, 1925, as compared with 21.0 at 25th May, 1925, and 21.3 at 23rd June, 1924.

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

Table showing number of workpeople employed at mines and average no. of days worked per week for districts in Cleveland, Cumberland and Lancashire, and other districts.

Shale Mining.

At shale mines employment was fair on the whole. At mines employing 4,086 workpeople during the fortnight ended 27th June, 1925, there was a decrease of 0.3 per cent. in the number employed compared with the previous month, and of 1.4 per cent. compared with June, 1924.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during June showed a decline and was bad. The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 19.4 at 22nd June, 1925, as compared with 17.7 at 25th May, 1925, and 13.5 at 23rd June, 1924.

The total number of furnaces in blast at the end of the month as shown by the returns collected by the Federation was 148, a decrease of 9 since the beginning of the month and a decrease of 37 compared with June, 1924.

The following Table shows the number of furnaces in blast at the end of June, 1925, May, 1925, and June, 1924 :-

Table showing number of furnaces in blast at end of month for districts in England and Wales, and Scotland.

The production of pig iron in June amounted to 510,300 tons, as compared with 574,700 tons in May, and 607,800 tons in June, 1924.

* See note * in previous column.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED INDUSTRIES.

The statistics here presented show, industry by industry, the number of persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, and the number and percentage of such persons who were unemployed on 22nd June, 1925.

Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, substantially all employed persons, except outworkers and persons employed in agriculture and private domestic service, must be insured against unemployment.

The number of persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland is estimated at approximately 11,514,000.

Every insured person claiming unemployment benefit must lodge his unemployment book at an Employment Exchange when making a claim.

- (a) Insured persons, unemployed and in receipt of benefit;
(b) Insured persons not in receipt of benefit, but known to be unemployed by reason of their maintaining registration at an Employment Exchange or otherwise;
(c) Insured persons who are not in receipt of benefit and are not maintaining registration, but whose unemployment books remain lodged at Employment Exchanges.

Insured persons who are disqualified for the receipt of benefit under the trade dispute disqualification are not included amongst the numbers unemployed.

In July, 1923, the classification of insured workpeople was revised so as to bring it, so far as practicable, into conformity with the industrial grouping adopted in connection with the 1921 census of population.

Table with columns: INDUSTRY, ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AT JULY, 1924, NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYMENT BOOKS REMAINING LODGED AT 22ND JUNE, 1925, PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 22ND JUNE, 1925, INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) AS COMPARED WITH 25TH MAY, 1925. Includes sub-tables for Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Great Britain only.

NUMBERS AND PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED.

Table with columns: INDUSTRY, ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AT JULY, 1924, NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYMENT BOOKS REMAINING LODGED AT 22ND JUNE, 1925, PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 22ND JUNE, 1925, INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) AS COMPARED WITH 25TH MAY, 1925. Includes sub-tables for Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Great Britain only.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.

Rates of Wages.

In the industries covered by the Department's statistics* the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation in June, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, resulted in an aggregate reduction of over £38,000 in the weekly full-time wages of about 423,000 workpeople, and in an increase of about £25,000 in the weekly wages of about 267,000 workpeople.

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

Table with columns: Group of Industries, Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by (Increases, Decreases), Amount of Changes in Weekly Wages (Increases, Decreases). Rows include Mining and Quarrying, Metal, Textile, Clothing, Other, and Total.

The principal reduction in the mining group affected coal miners in Yorkshire and the East Midlands, where the percentage addition to basis rates was reduced by an amount equivalent to 4 per cent. on current rates.

In the metal group there was a reduction of over 3 per cent. on current rates in the wages of steel sheet millmen and galvanisers in England and Wales, of 1½ per cent. on current rates in those of iron puddlers and millmen in the West of Scotland, and of 2½d. to 7d. per week in those of blastfurnacemen in Cumberland.

The increases in the textile group mainly affected workpeople employed in the jute industry, for whom the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts were increased by 1s. 6½d. per week in the case of most classes of men and by amounts varying from 1s. to 1s. 6d. per week in the case of women.

Changes in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts also mainly accounted for the increases in the clothing group. Such rates were raised by 1d. and ½d. per hour in the case of men and women respectively employed in the ready made and wholesale bespoke tailoring and the wholesale mantle and costume trades, and by ½d. per hour in the case of women employed in the shirtmaking trade.

In the other industrial groups the principal reductions affected men employed in the non-trading services of various local authorities

in the Midland Counties, the reductions amounting to from 10d. to 1s. 3½d. per week in the West Midlands, and ½d. per hour in the East Midlands. Under Trade Board Orders there was a reduction in the minimum rates fixed for women employed in the cement making trade, and increases in those fixed for both male and female workers employed in the milk distributive trade in Scotland.

Of the total increase of £25,000 per week in June, £24,200 took effect as the result of Orders under the Trade Boards Acts; £250 took effect under arrangements made by joint standing bodies of employers and workpeople; £250 took effect under sliding scales based on selling prices; and the remaining £300 took effect after direct negotiations between employers and workpeople or as the result of arbitration or mediation.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES REPORTED IN JANUARY-JUNE, 1925.

The following Table shows the number of workpeople in Great Britain and Northern Ireland affected by changes in rates of wages reported to the Department during the six completed months of 1925, and the net aggregate amounts of such changes:—

Table with columns: Group of Industries, Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by net (Increases, Decreases), Net Amount of Change in Weekly Wages (Increases, Decreases). Rows include Mining and Quarrying, Brick, Pottery, Glass, Chemical, etc., Iron and Steel, Engineering and Ship-building, Other Metal, Textile, Clothing, Food, Drink and Tobacco, Woodworking, etc., Paper, Printing, etc., Building and Allied Trades, Transport, Public Utility Services, Other, and TOTAL.

In the corresponding six months of 1924 there were net increases of over £580,000 in the weekly wages of 2,920,000 workpeople, and net reductions of over £23,000 in the weekly wages of 317,000 workpeople.

Hours of Labour.

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

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

Table with columns: Industry, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Rows include Agriculture (Devonshire, Staffordshire, Pembrokeshire and Cardiganshire) and Coal Mining (Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, Derbyshire, Cannock Chase, and Warwickshire).

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

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

Table with columns: Industry, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Rows include Coal Mining (Radstock), Coke and By-products (South Yorkshire), Iron Mining (Cumberland, Furness District), Lead Mining (Wearhead and Allendale, West Cumberland), Quarrying (South and West Durham, Leicestershire and Warwickshire, Thames and Medway Districts), Brick, Pottery, Glass, Chemical, Etc., Trades (Bridgewater and District), Glue, etc. (Bristol), Pig Iron Manufacture (West Cumberland and North Lancashire), Iron and Steel Manufacture (England and Wales, North of England, Barrow-in-Furness, West of Scotland), Shipbuilding, Ship-repairing, etc. (Great Britain, Hull), and Tinplate Manufacture (South Wales and Monmouthshire).

* The change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with selling prices. † The reduction in bonus took effect under a cost-of-living sliding scale, and applied to underground shiftmen, underground day-work labourers over 18 years of age, and surface workers over 18 with a shift rate of less than 6s.

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

Table with columns: Industry, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Rows include Galvanising, Heating and Domestic Engineering, Textile Machinery Fittings, Optical Instrument, Farriery, Steel and Metal Pens and Other Small Wares, Cotton, Flax and Hemp, and Jute.

* Certain firms—members of the Galvanising Conciliation Board. † This change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with selling prices. ‡ A further increase of 1/2d. per hour is to take effect on and from the first pay day after 4th September. § The change described took effect under an agreement arrived at by the Optical Instrument Interim Industrial Reconstruction Committee. It was agreed that the increase was to apply only to those who have served not less than 9 months in the trade, and that no reduction was to be made in the wages of present employees.

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

Table with columns: Industry, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Rows include Wholesale Mantle and Costume, Ready-made and Bespoke Tailoring, Shirtmaking, Baking and Confectionery, and Food, Drink, and Tobacco Trades.

* The above rates of 1s. 8 1/2d. and 1s. 6 1/2d. had previously been recognised as the minimum time rates for measure and stock cutters respectively in London, under an arrangement made between the London District Wholesale Clothiers' Association and the Tailors and Garment Workers' Union, with effect from 2 March 1925 (see p. 137 of the April issue of this GAZETTE). The Association has recommended to its members that in the case of stock cutters a minimum rate of 7s. per week should be recognised, with effect from 18 June. † The change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour cost-of-living index figure.

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

Table with columns: Industry, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Sections include Woodworking and Furniture Trades, Paper, Printing, and Allied Trades, Building and Allied Trades, Public Utility Services, and Miscellaneous Trades.

* The change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour cost-of-living index number. † The Undertakings affected are those which follow the recommendations of the South Wales and Monmouthshire Joint Industrial Council for Waterworks Undertakings...

TRADE DISPUTES.*

Number, Magnitude and Duration.—The number of trade disputes involving a stoppage of work, reported to the Department as beginning in June in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was 48, as compared with 47 in the previous month and 57 in June, 1924.

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

Table with columns: Groups of Industries, Started before 1st June, Started in June, Total, Number of Disputes in progress in June, Number of Work-people involved in all Disputes in progress in June, Aggregate Duration in Working Days in all Disputes in progress in June.

Causes.—Of the 48 disputes beginning in June, 7, directly involving 9,000 workpeople, arose out of proposed reductions in wages; 21, directly involving 4,000 workpeople, on other wages questions; 10, directly involving 5,000 workpeople, on questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons; 3, directly involving 6,000 workpeople, on questions of Trade Union principle; and 2, directly involving 100 workpeople, on other questions.

Results.—Settlements were effected in the case of 28 new disputes, directly involving 17,000 workpeople, and 15 old disputes, directly involving 2,000 workpeople. Of these new and old disputes, 13, directly involving 7,000 workpeople, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 16, directly involving 6,000 workpeople, in favour of the employers; and 14, directly involving 6,000 workpeople, were compromised.

TOTALS FOR FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1924 AND 1925.†

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

Table comparing statistics for January to June, 1924 and January to June, 1925. Columns include: Groups of Industries, No. of Disputes, Number of Work-people involved in all Disputes in progress, Aggregate Duration in Working Days in all Disputes in progress.

In a special article on pages 230 to 232 statistics of industrial disputes are given for a series of recent years.

PRINCIPAL TRADE DISPUTES IN PROGRESS DURING JUNE, 1925.

Table with columns: Occupations and Locality, Approximate Number of Work-people Involved (Directly, Indirectly), Date when Dispute (Began, Ended), Cause or Object, Result.

* Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople, and those which lasted less than one day, have, as usual, been omitted from the statistics except when the aggregate duration (i.e., number of workpeople multiplied by number of working days, allowing for workpeople replaced by others, etc.) exceeded 100 days.

BUILDING PLANS APPROVED.

RETURNS have been received from 141 Local Authorities in Great Britain giving the estimated cost of buildings for which plans were passed during the second quarter of 1925.

Table with columns for District and Aggregate Population, Estimated Cost of Buildings, and Total. Includes sub-tables for (a) Second Quarter of 1925 and (b) Second Quarter of 1924.

Table with columns for District and Aggregate Population, Estimated Cost of Buildings, and Total. Includes sub-tables for (a) Second Quarter of 1925 and (b) Second Quarter of 1924.

ASSISTED PASSAGES UNDER THE EMPIRE SETTLEMENT ACT, 1922.

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

Table with columns for Assisted Passage Schemes, Assisted Passages Granted, Total Assisted Passages Granted, and Departures. Includes sub-tables for 1922, 1924, and 1925.

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

* Particulars are not available for the London County Council Area. † Revised figures.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.*

THE total number of cases† of poisoning, anthrax and epitheliomatous and chrome ulceration in Great Britain and Northern Ireland reported under the Factory and Workshop Act during June, 1925, was 52.

Table with columns for (a) Cases of Lead Poisoning, (b) Cases of Anthrax, (c) Cases of Epitheliomatous Ulceration, and (e) Cases of Chrome Ulceration. Includes sub-tables for Among Operatives engaged and House Painting and Plumbing.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.‡

THE number of workpeople, other than seamen, reported as killed in the course of their employment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland during June, 1925, was 196, as compared with 193 in the previous month and with 152 a year ago.

Table with columns for Railway Service, Factories and Workshops, Mines, Quarries over 20 feet deep, and Places under ss. 104-106, Factory Act, 1901. Includes sub-tables for Brakesmen and Goods, Engineering and Machine Making, etc.

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

POOR LAW RELIEF IN GREAT BRITAIN.

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

THE number of persons* relieved on one day† in June, 1925, in the thirty-one selected areas named below was 695,337, or 0.3 per cent. more than in the previous month, but 9.2 per cent. less than in June, 1924.

In the twenty-five selected areas in England and Wales the number of persons relieved in June, 1925, was 577,153, or 366 per 10,000 of the estimated population.

Recipients of indoor relief in the thirty-one districts in June numbered 121,734, or 1.0 per cent. less than in the previous month, but 1.1 per cent. more than in June, 1924.

Sixteen areas showed increases, and thirteen areas showed decreases in the number per 10,000 relieved in June, 1925, as compared with the previous month; with the exception of Paisley and Greenock, where an increase of 111 per 10,000 was recorded, all increases and decreases were small.

Table with columns for Selected Urban Areas, Number of Persons* in receipt of Poor Law Relief on one day† in June, 1925, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population; as compared with a Month ago, and Year ago. Includes sub-tables for England and Wales, Metropolitan, and Other Districts.

* Including dependants. The figures exclude casuals, lunatics in Asylums, Registered Hospitals and Licensed Houses, and persons receiving out-door medical relief only. † The figures for England and Wales relate to 27th June, and those for Scotland to 15th June.

RETAIL PRICES OVERSEAS.

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

I.—FOOD.

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

Table with columns for Country, Percentage Increase as compared with July, 1914, and Latest figures available. Includes sub-tables for United Kingdom, Foreign Countries, and British Dominions, &c.

II.—ALL ITEMS.

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

Table with columns for Country, Items on which Computation is based, Percentage Increase as compared with July, 1914, and Latest figures available. Includes sub-tables for United Kingdom, Foreign Countries, and British Dominions, &c.

* Exceptions to this are: France (other towns), August, 1914; The Hague, January to July, 1914; Milan, January to June, 1914; Switzerland, June, 1914; Amsterdam, South Africa, average, 1914. † Figure for June. ‡ Fuel and lighting are also included in these figures. § Figure for August. ¶ A = Food; B = House-Rent; C = Clothing; D = Fuel and Light; E = Other or Miscellaneous Items. ¶ Exceptions to this are: France, Spain, Australia and South Africa, in which comparison is with the average for 1914; Belgium, April, 1914; Greece, March, 1914; Milan, January to June, 1914; Germany, Egypt, Hungary, average, 1913-1914; Switzerland and Luxembourg, June, 1914; United States and Chile, 1913; Poland, January, 1914. ** Figure for 3rd Quarter. †† Figure for June. ††† Figure for May. §§ Based on prices calculated on a gold standard. ¶¶ See article on p. 81 of March, 1925, GAZETTE as to change in the basis of the index number.

—Re-drainage: Dent & Hellyer, Ltd., London, W.C. Plymouth, Station Sorting Office—Asphalter: Engert & Rolfe, Ltd., London, E. Preston (Brighton) Telephone Exchange—Erection: H. Lacey & Sons, Luton. Ramsgate—Maintenance Work: E. Dunn, Ramsgate. Shaw (Lancs.) P.O., etc.—Erection: Ogden Bros., Oldham. Twickenham Telephone Exchange—Asphalte: Lawford & Co., London, E. Steelwork: Measures Bros. (1911), Ltd., London, S.E. Watford, Building Research Station—Adaptation of "Bucknalls": Kempster & Williams, Watford.—**Engineering Services:** British Museum—Heating re-arrangement: The Wembley Heating Co., Ltd., London, N.W. Paris, British Embassy—Fire Service: Dent & Hellyer, Ltd., London, W.C. Rampton Estate Institution—Extension of Heating, etc.: Alfred Grindrod & Co., Sheffield. Walworth Telephone Exchange—Heating: The National Heating Co., Ltd., London, E.C. Windsor—Ironfounders' and Smiths' Work: Wellman Bros., & Co., Windsor.—**Painting:** J. Scott Fenn, London, S.E.—**Miscellaneous:** Brushes: T. W. Ridgewell, Enfield. Bureaux and Armoires: H. Hermann, Ltd., London, E. Cabinets (Steel): G. A. Harvey & Co. (London), Ltd., London, S.E.; Roneo, Ltd., London, E.C. Carpet: Carpet Trades, Ltd., Kidderminster. Casements (Steel): W. James & Co., London, N.W. Chairs: T. Glenister, Ltd., High Wycombe; Owen Haines, High Wycombe; W. H. Healy, Ltd., High Wycombe; R. and H. C. Mines, High Wycombe; B. North & Sons, West Wycombe; J. W. Webb & Son, High Wycombe. Dressing Chests, etc.: The Barnstaple Cabinet Co. (Shapland & Petter (1924), Ltd.), Barnstaple; H. Hermann, Ltd., London, E.; Holland & Sons, Ltd., London, W. Dust Sheets: G. I. Sidebottom & Co., Manchester. Fire Extinguishers and Charges: Bert Birks & Co., Cradley Heath; Mather & Platt, Ltd., London, S.W.; Moneys Patents, Ltd., London, E. Flooring (Wood Block): R. W. Brooke & Co., Ltd., Liverpool. Horse and Cart Hire: A. E. Gains & Sons, London, S.W. Laboratory Fittings, etc.: Brown & Son (Alembic Works), Ltd., London, N. Leather (Chamois): H. Garfield & Co., London, E.C.; The North of England Chamois Co., Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne. Linen Holland: Cottrill & Co., Ltd., Manchester. Linoleum, etc.: Barry, Ostlere & Shepherd, Ltd., Kirkcaldy; The Linoleum Manufacturing Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Michael Nairn & Co., Ltd., Kirkcaldy; The New Shepley Linoleum Co., Ltd., Audenshaw. Lockers (Steel): Roneo, Ltd., London, E.C. Lorry Hire: T. W. Davies & Son, London, S.W. Mirrors: The Barnstaple Cabinet Co., Barnstaple. Pillow Cases and Sheets: W. T. Coates & Co., Belfast. Powder (Soap and Polishing): Pavitt & Co., Ltd., London, S.E. Presses, etc.: C. Turnbull & Son, West Hartlepool; Robert Young's Construction Co., Ltd., London, N. Racks: T. Bradford & Co., Manchester. Rope: Latch & Batchelor, Ltd., Birmingham; J. & E. Wright, Ltd., Birmingham. Settees: A. Tyzaak, Ltd., High Wycombe. Soap: The Hull Chemical Works Co., Hull. M. P. Hunt, London, E.; John Knight, Ltd., London, E.; Joseph Watson & Sons, Ltd., Leeds. Sponges: Cresswell Bros., London, W.C. Tables: D. M. Davies, London, N.; Lord Roberts' Memorial Workshops, London, S.W.; Siemens Bros., & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Wake & Dean, Ltd., Yatton. Tallow: John Knight, Ltd., London, E. Wardrobes: Holland & Sons, Ltd., London, W.; A. Younger, London, E.C. Washstands, etc.: The Bath Cabinet Makers Co., Ltd., Bath; Simpson & Sons, Ltd., Halifax.

CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

Asbestos Corrugated Sheet: Bell's Poilite & Everite Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Blankets:** A. Preston & Sons, Earlsheaton, Dewsbury.—**Boots:** Adams Bros., Ltd., Raunds, Wellingboro'; S. Walker, Walgrave, Northants.—**Boots and Laces:** S. Walker, Walgrave, Northants.—**Bolts, Nuts and Dogspikes:** C. Richards & Sons, Ltd., Darlaston, Staffs.—**Boxes, Ammunition:** Vickers, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Buffers:** Ibbotson Bros. & Co., Ltd., Sheffield.—**Buoys and Moorings:** Brown, Lennox & Co. (London), Ltd., London, E.—**Brakes, Vacuum, Spares:** Consolidated Brake & Engineering Co., London, S.W.—**Cables:** British Insulated & Helsby Cables, Ltd., London, W.C.—**Canning Machinery:** D. Milne & Sons, Aberdeen.—**Carbons:** Kolok Mfg. Co., London, N.—**Carriage Spares:** Head, Wrightson & Co., Ltd., Thornaby-on-Tees.—**Casements, Metal, for Bungalows:** Crittall Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Braintree.—**Cement:** Cement Marketing Co., London, S.W.—**Clips, etc.:** Hadfields, Ltd., Tinsley, Sheffield.—**Coats:** Hobson & Sons, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Concrete Mixers:** Ransome Machinery Co. (1920), Ltd., London, S.W.—**Copper Ingots:** The Broughton Copper Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Crane, Gantry:** Taylor & Hubbard, Leicester.—**Cranes, Electric, Derrick:** Anderson-Grice Co., Ltd., Carnoustie, Forfarshire.—**Cranes, Electric:** Ransomes & Rapier, Ltd., London, S.W.; S. Butler & Co., Ltd., Stanningley, Nr. Leeds.—**Cranes:** Vaughan Crane Co., Ltd., Openshaw, Manchester.—**Crane, Steam, Travelling:** Grafton & Co., Ltd., Bedford.—**Culverts:** Walls, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Drill Hall:** F. Morton & Co., Ltd., Garston, Liverpool.—**Drilling Plant, Portable, Compressed Air:** Consolidated Pneumatic Tool Co., Ltd., London, W.—**Electric Switchgear:** Metropolitan-Vickers Electrical Export Co., Ltd., Trafford Park, Manchester.—**Engines, Oil, etc.:** Campbell Gas Engine Co., Ltd., Halifax, Yorks.—**Engines, Motor-Boat:** The Bergius Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Fans, Ceiling, and Regulators:** Crompton & Co., Ltd., Chelmsford, Essex.—**Fencing, Galvanised Corrugated Steel Sheet:** A. & J. Main & Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—**Flannel:** R. Schofield, Rochdale.—**Gelignite, etc.:** Nobel's Industries, London, S.W.—**Guns:** W. W. Greener, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Jerseys:** S. D. Stretton & Sons, Leicester.—**Lathes:** J. Lang & Sons, Ltd., Johnstone, Nr. Glasgow.—**Locomotive:** Kitson & Co., Ltd., Airedale Foundry, Leeds.—**Locomotives, etc.:** Beyer, Peacock & Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Loco. Boilers:** R. & W. Hawthorn Leslie & Co., Newcastle-on-Tyne.—**Loco. Engines and Tenders:** Nasmyth, Wilson & Co., Ltd., Patricroft, Manchester.—

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