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

EMPLOYMENT.

EMPLOYMENT during June showed very little general change as compared with recent months. It was good in the coal mining industry, in tinplate and steel sheet manufacture, and in the carpet trade; fairly good in the tailoring, paper, coachbuilding, and certain sections of the metal trades; and fair in the furnishing, printing, and brick trades. In most of the other large industries employment was still slack. A further slight improvement was reported in the building trades, but there was a decline in the wool textile and hosiery trades.

The percentage unemployed among members of Trade Unions from which returns are received was 11.1 at the end of June, as compared with 11.3 at the end of May and with 15.7 at the end of June, 1922. The percentage unemployed among workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was 11.0* at 25th June, the same percentage as at 21st May and compared with 13.1* at the end of June, 1922. The total number of workpeople registered at the Employment Exchanges as unemployed at 25th June in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was approximately 1,226,000, of whom 934,000 were men and 223,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls. At 28th May the total was 1,261,000, of whom 959,000 were men and 229,000 were women.

WAGES.

In the industries for which statistics are collected by the Department the changes in rates of wages reported as having taken effect in June resulted in an aggregate reduction of over £42,000 in the weekly full-time wages of nearly 370,000 workpeople, and in an increase of over £8,000 in the wages of 75,000 workpeople.

The largest group of workpeople whose wages were reduced were those employed in the manufacture of boots and shoes, who sustained reductions of 1s. or 4s. a week in the case of adult male time-workers and 2s. a week in the case of women time-workers, the time rates of youths and girls being reduced by smaller amounts, and in a few instances slightly increased. Piece-workers sustained a reduction of 2½ per cent. on list prices. In the boot and shoe repairing trade the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts were reduced by amounts generally ranging, for adult workers, from 2s. to 3s. a week. Other classes of workpeople whose wage rates were reduced included men employed in civil engineering constructional work, skilled men employed in the ship-repairing industry on the Thames, workpeople in the gold, silver and allied trades at Birmingham, road transport workers at Liverpool and Birkenhead, and farriers and bakers in various districts. Under the Trade Boards Acts there were also reductions in the minimum rates fixed for adult female workers in the shirtmaking trade, and for all classes of workpeople in the hand-hammered chain, paper box, paper bag, perambulator and invalid carriage, and brush and broom trades.

* The figures include a due proportion of claimants to benefit in respect of systematic short time, previously not included.

The increases in wages occurred mainly in the iron and steel trades, under the operation of sliding scales dependent on the prices of iron and steel. Iron puddlers and iron and steel millmen in the Midlands received an increase equivalent to about 5¼ per cent. on current rates, and steel sheet millmen and galvanisers an increase of about 4 per cent. on current rates.

During the first six months of 1923 the changes in rates of wages reported to the Department have resulted in a net reduction of nearly £390,000 in the weekly full-time wages of nearly 2,700,000 workpeople, and in a net increase of nearly £112,000 in the weekly wages of over 810,000 workpeople. In the first six months of 1922 there was a net reduction of over £2,700,000 in the weekly wages of 7,150,000 workpeople, and a net increase of £3,350 in the weekly wages of 17,500 workpeople.

COST OF LIVING.

At 30th June the average level of retail prices of all the commodities taken into account in the statistics prepared by the Ministry of Labour (including food, rent, clothing, fuel, light and miscellaneous items) was approximately 69 per cent. above that of July, 1914. For food alone the corresponding percentage was 62.

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 details of the results for 30th June reference may be made to the article on page 243. For a general explanation of the method of calculation of the statistics reference may be made to the article on page 236.

TRADE DISPUTES.

The number of trade disputes, involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as beginning in June was 54. In addition, 47 disputes which began before June were in progress at the beginning of the month.

The total number of workpeople involved in all disputes in June (including those workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes) was 99,000, as compared with 48,000 in the previous month and 311,000 in June, 1922 (when a dispute was in progress in the engineering industry involving over 250,000 workpeople). The estimated aggregate duration of all disputes during June was 1,244,000 working days, as compared with 807,000 days in May, 1923, and 2,078,000 days in June, 1922. Particulars of the principal disputes in progress are given on page 253.

NOTE.

The annual subscription for this GAZETTE, which was recently reduced from 8s. 6d. to 8s., has been further reduced to 7s. 6d. as from 1st July. Communications regarding subscriptions and remittances should be addressed to the Publishers, H.M. Stationery Office, at any of the addresses given on the front page of the cover.

COST OF LIVING INDEX FIGURE.

In response to a question in the House of Commons put by Mr. Gosling on 4th July, in connection with the dockers' dispute, the Minister of Labour furnished the following statement explanatory of the method of calculating the Ministry of Labour Index Figure. A more complete detailed statement was published in THE LABOUR GAZETTE for February, 1921 (which is now out of print):—

The Ministry of Labour index figure (which relates to retail prices*) is arrived at monthly by a comparison of the prices of ordinary articles bought by working-class families before the war (food, coal, etc.) with the prices of the same articles to-day. This comparison means the careful calculation of two sets of prices:—

- (1) The prices of the articles purchased pre-war by the ordinary working-class household;
 - (2) The prices of the same articles month by month now.
- I.—The prices of articles purchased pre-war by the ordinary working-class household.

The first step was to arrive at a list of what was consumed in the average working-class household (including house room). A list of articles of food, and the proportions in which they were consumed, had been worked out some years before the war by examining the budgets of some 2,000 working-class families from areas all over the country. This list of articles, originally made in the year 1904, was, early in the war, extended to include other articles than food, and brought up to date for use as a basis for the present index number.

This complete list is grouped under five heads, as follows:—

- (1) Food (beef, mutton, bacon, fish, flour, bread, potatoes, tea, sugar, milk, butter, margarine, cheese and eggs);
- (2) Rent (including rates);
- (3) Clothing (men's suits and overcoats, woollen and cotton underclothing and hosiery, woollen and cotton materials, and boots);
- (4) Fuel and light (coal, gas, oil, candles, matches);
- (5) Other items (including soap, soda, domestic ironmongery, brushes, pottery, tobacco and cigarettes, fares, and newspapers).

The prices of these articles in 1914 are, of course, on record, and form the basis of the comparison.

II.—The prices of the same articles, month by month, now.

The index figure is worked out monthly in the Department, and the method adopted has been the same since the commencement, many years ago.

At the beginning of each month the prices paid by working people for these items, i.e., food, clothing, fuel and light, house room, etc., are obtained through numerous agencies in some 500 towns and villages all over the country. With regard to food, the prices are collected from well over 5,000 shops, including ordinary retail and multiple shops and co-operative stores; and the information so received is regularly checked by comparing it with prices given in shopkeepers' advertisements, price lists, etc. For other articles, such as clothing, fuel and light, etc., information is obtained mainly from the larger towns. As to working-class rents, data are supplied by associations of property owners and of tenants, and in some cases by local authorities. All the returns, when received, are carefully examined by the Department, and, if any of the figures seem to be inaccurate, immediate inquiries are made before they are adopted.

The Ministry of Labour index figure is then prepared each month by comparison of the prices now (as ascertained in Paragraph II), with the prices in 1914 (as ascertained in Paragraph I).

The comparison is worked out scientifically in accordance with recognised statistical practice. A full explanation of the statistical process employed was given in the MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE for February, 1921. A rough way of illustrating how this comparison of prices works out in practice would be as follows: Let us take a basketful of bread, cheese, meat, etc., such as was bought weekly by an average working-class family before the war. We know the price of each article in that basket at July, 1914; and each month now we obtain the prices of exactly the same articles. For example, we know that on the average of the whole country a 4-lb. loaf cost about 5½d. in 1914, and costs nearly 9d. to-day; and the increase on the loaf is 53 per cent. In the same way we take percentage increases on the other articles in our basket.

But this comparison, article by article, is not enough; a further step is necessary. It is obvious that the amount of each article which an average working-class family ordinarily consumed before the war varied considerably, as between different articles; take, for instance, bread and cheese: in a household where seven or eight four-pound loaves are consumed weekly, it might be that only 1 lb. of cheese would be used, and this difference in amount must be borne in mind in making the calculation. For example, if the price of the four-pound loaf had risen between 1914 and to-day by 50 per cent., and the price of 1 lb. of cheese had risen by 60 per cent., the average increase would not be 55 per cent., i.e., the mean between the two, but a lower figure than 55 per cent., because there is so much less cheese in our basket than bread. In other words, in

* The Ministry of Labour figures, which relate only to retail prices, must not be confused with the Board of Trade figures, which relate to wholesale prices.

reaching our average index figure we have to consider not only the percentage increase of each article, but the relative importance of each article in the family budget. The resulting general average may, therefore, be higher or lower than that reached in respect of any one article.

Another point must be borne in mind. We do not say what amounts of bread, cheese, meat, etc., a working-class family ought to have had in 1914. Moreover, generally speaking, the size of the basket does not affect our calculations, for whether we are dealing with a larger or a smaller basket, the percentage increase is generally the same.

It is true that over a considerable period the proportion of any one article to the others in the basket may vary, and if such variation were considerable it might have some effect on the final figure. It is conceivable that as 10 years have now elapsed since the calculations commenced (and in the case of food considerably longer) some change may have taken place in the nature of, or the proportion of, the articles. The changes are almost certainly small, and even if proved to exist will probably not be all in the same direction—in which case they would tend to cancel one another out. At the same time it is desirable from time to time to examine the list of articles so as to keep the list and the proportions up to date. For this reason it has been for some time under consideration whether it would not be necessary before long to institute one of these periodic examinations, and accordingly the Minister of Labour announced in the House on 24th April last his intention of instituting an inquiry into the present-day distribution of working-class expenditure as soon as conditions become more normal. In this connection two things must be made clear. In the first place such an inquiry would be concerned with the contents and proportions of the articles in what has been called the basket, or, to use more technical language, with the ascertainment of an average present-day working-class budget. The scientific method of calculating the Ministry of Labour index figure itself would not be an issue in such an inquiry: that method, though often attacked, and often from opposite points of view, has successfully withstood criticism. In the second place, there is ground for supposing, from such information as is obtainable without special inquiry, that the effect of the variations since 1914 on the final figure would be negligible.

COMPARATIVE REAL WAGES IN LONDON AND CERTAIN CAPITAL CITIES ABROAD IN MARCH, 1923.

INFORMATION is frequently sought from the Ministry of Labour on the question how the wages of manual workers in other countries compare with those in this country, either generally or with reference to a particular industry or occupation. That satisfactory replies can seldom be given to questions of this sort should occasion little surprise, for even if the requisite statistical data were available—which is seldom the case—the problem of comparing the average wage levels of two or more countries at a given time is very elusive and complex, if only by reason of the fact that it is approachable from either of two totally different points of view, leading to divergent and sometimes absolutely opposite conclusions. Thus there are those who are interested in "wages" chiefly as an element in the cost of production, and those who are concerned with "wages" only as constituting an essential factor in the standard of well-being of the manual worker. The former wish to compare the labour costs of a given quantity of work of a given quality executed under identical conditions in different countries, e.g., that of heaving a ton of coal or laying a hundred bricks. The latter are concerned to compare the money incomes of the workers in relation to their cost of living, irrespective of differences in the efficiency of labour. How divergent the conclusions drawn from these two methods of comparison may be is evident from the fact that competent American economists are of opinion that in the United States the average labour cost of a given volume of production is at least as low as in Europe, although the average income of the working classes is certainly higher in America than in any European country.

For the purposes of the present article the term "wages" is used exclusively in the sense in which it interests the manual worker, as being the standard by which he measures the level of his own material well-being against that of other classes in his own country or that of his own class abroad.

It must be stated at the outset that it is not, and never has been, possible to obtain an absolutely valid comparison between any two countries as regards the level of material welfare which their respective wage-earning populations occupy at a given time. For this purpose it would be necessary to possess for each country statistics for computing the average yearly earnings of all wage-earners (male and female) whether in factories, mines, transport, commerce, public service, agriculture, or domestic service; and the average real value of those earnings (calculated from average retail prices) in terms of goods and services such as are ordinarily consumed in working class households in the countries compared. Statistics so comprehensive are not available in respect of any country.

Even if the enquiry were limited to a single industry or craft, any effort to reach a true comparison would be barred by the lack of wages data covering the whole, or a sufficiently representative body, of the manual labour employed in that industry or craft in each country. Suppose, for example, it were desired to ascertain how bricklayers in this country compare at the present

time as regards material well-being with men of the same trade in Germany. Finding that there exist neither here nor in Germany data for computing the present national average money earnings of bricklayers, one might be disposed to be content with data covering certain typical urban areas only, say, London and Berlin, provided the incomes of all, or, at any rate, of a representative sample of the bricklayers in the respective cities were comprised in the average. Here, again, the way would be blocked by lack of adequate statistical material, and the same would be true if one should attempt a comparison based on the incomes of no more than 50 typical bricklayers in each of the two cities. It would, in fact, be realised in the end that the only line of enquiry along which a solution of the problem could be approached with any prospect of success consisted in ascertaining, in the first instance, the time rates of wages at which the majority of bricklayers were being paid, either under the terms of collective agreements, or in accordance with conditions tacitly recognised by employers or workers, or both, to be fair, or at any rate current in the trade. The next step would be to ascertain what relation the money wage bears to the prices that bricklayers have to pay for the things they ordinarily consume.

This relation might be established by either of the following two methods, for the illustration of which it will be convenient to take the rates payable to bricklayers on 1st April in London and Berlin for 48 hours' work,* viz., 80s. and 84,000 marks respectively.

First Method.—In using this method an answer would be sought to the question: What sum in English currency, spent in London on 1st April, would have purchased at retail prices goods and services of working class consumption equivalent to those purchasable at retail prices on the same date in Berlin for 84,000 marks? To obtain the answer it would be necessary, first of all, to find the pre-war purchasing power, in Berlin, of the 84,000 marks. This would be about 28 marks (gold), the internal purchasing power of the German mark being at the period under consideration only about one three thousandth of what it was in 1914, as shown by the rise of the German official cost of living index number from 100 in 1914 to 295,400 in April, 1923. In July, 1914, 28 marks exchanged for 27s. 6d. sterling; but as working class cost of living was then about 14 per cent. higher in Germany than in the United Kingdom, a proportionately smaller sum, say, 100-114ths of 27s. 6d., or just over 24s., would have been needed in this country to procure the goods and services purchasable in Germany for 28 marks. But what cost 24s. in this country in 1914 would have cost 74 per cent. more at the beginning of April, 1923, when the cost of living index stood at 174 (July, 1914,=100). This gives a figure of 41s. 9d. as representing the sum which would on the 1st April have purchased in London goods and services of working class consumption equivalent to those purchasable at the same date for 84,000 marks in Berlin. In other words, the 80s. earned by the London bricklayer at that time compared with a real wage of 41s. 9d. earned by the bricklayer in Berlin; consequently, if the London bricklayer's real wage=100, that of the Berlin bricklayer=52.

This method, while perfectly sound in principle, has the disadvantage of being somewhat roundabout. But apart from this, its use entails certain risks of error due to the inevitable inequality in the statistical value of the data forming the basis of the official index numbers by which different countries measure changes in their cost of living over a given period. A further drawback arises from the fact that data for comparing pre-war purchasing power parities (or cost of living levels) exist for a few countries only, and are confined to food and rent expenditure.

Second Method.—This method would dispense entirely with the use of data concerning pre-war purchasing power parities and their changes in the respective countries, and would aim at ascertaining the quantities of each kind of food of working class consumption that could be purchased in each city at the retail prices then current with the wages payable for a given amount of labour, measured in hours. The quantities so procurable would then be expressed as index numbers, these being combined to form an average for each of the trades considered. In the making of these averages there is a choice between (a) taking the simple arithmetic mean of the index numbers for the various articles of food (which is the same as assuming that all the articles enter in equal proportions into the bricklayer's total weekly food bill), and (b) weighting the index number for each article by a figure corresponding to the relative importance of that article in the weekly food bill of working-class families in the United Kingdom. It has been thought best to present both kinds of averages. Thus, Table III., page 265, gives for a bricklayer in Berlin on 1st April a real-wage index figure of 57 (unweighted) and 61 (weighted), as compared with the London bricklayer's 100.

For the purposes of the comparison attempted in this article the second of these methods has been selected, as being the one that involves least risk of error arising from the incompleteness or other defects in the material which it is possible at any time to collect from a number of different sources.

In order to secure such material, a letter was addressed by the Department on 29th March to the chief State or

* For the purposes of the demonstration, the earnings of 48 hours have been taken throughout as the product of the hourly rate multiplied by 48—i.e., no allowance has been made for the fact that the working week may be less than 48 hours and that overtime rates would be paid for the difference. The date, 1st April, was chosen, because figures for 1st March for Berlin were not available, Berlin being the only European capital in respect of which the requisite data for the illustration of the two methods described existed.

Municipal authorities responsible for the collection and publication of labour and other social statistics in each of the following cities:—Paris, Amsterdam, Berlin, Brussels, Christiania, Stockholm, Copenhagen, Berne, Rome, Vienna, Prague, Warsaw, Madrid, Lisbon, Ottawa and New York.

With each letter were forwarded specially prepared tables showing (1) the rates of wages payable to adult workmen in London under collective agreements operative on 1st March, 1923, in 22 selected occupations; (2) the number of hours constituting a normal working day and week respectively in those occupations at that date; (3) the average retail prices in London at that date of a number of articles of food ordinarily consumed in urban working-class families in most industrially developed countries. The statistical authorities in each capital were at the same time requested to supply in return a table containing parallel data, and to continue, if possible, the exchange of similar returns with this Department month by month.

Replies forwarding the desired returns (or returns fulfilling as nearly as possible the conditions set out), and expressing concurrence in the proposed periodical exchange of similar information have so far been received from Amsterdam, Berlin, Brussels, Christiania, Copenhagen, Madrid, Ottawa, Prague, Stockholm and Warsaw. No replies have been received from Lisbon, New York, Rome or Vienna.

In the case of those capitals from which no replies, or replies giving partial data only were received, the course adopted has been to extract data and information from published official sources. This, however, was impossible in the case of Berne, which is therefore excluded from the Tables. (The reply from Copenhagen was received too late to be used in the present article.)

On the basis of the information thus supplied, or extracted from published sources, the Tables reproduced on pages 264 and 265 have been prepared.

In Table I. are shown in the original currency for each of 13 capital cities (including London) the time rates of wages payable on 1st March, 1923 (or the nearest available date), for a week of 48 hours in each of 17 selected trades, so far as these could be computed from the data furnished by the respective statistical offices or extracted from returns contained in official publications of the country in question.

Table II. shows for each city, in the original currency, weights and measures, the average retail prices on the same date of each of 19 selected articles of food usually consumed in urban working class households in industrially developed countries of the West.

The figures shown in Tables I. and II. were used, first of all, to ascertain, for each occupation, the quantities of bread, meat, flour, and so on, which could be purchased with the wages of 48 hours' work. It was found, for example, that the Berlin bricklayer's wage for 48 hours would purchase 390 lbs. of bread, or 123 lbs. of flour, or 10 lbs. of butter, or 227 eggs, and so on. The corresponding quantities purchasable with the wages of the London bricklayer were then taken as a basis and called 100, and a series of index numbers was computed, which showed, in respect of each article of food, taken separately, the relative purchasing power in London and in the foreign capitals under comparison, of the earnings of 48 hours in each occupation. In the case of the Berlin bricklayer referred to above, the numbers were found to be 83 for bread, 31 for flour, 26 for butter, 43 for eggs, as against 100 in each case for London.

From these figures the two series of index-numbers given in Table III. on page 265 were calculated, to show the relative purchasing power, in respect of all the items of food taken together, of the earnings in each trade and capital represented in Table I. The arithmetical averages of the index numbers, unweighted and weighted, thus obtained are reproduced in the following summary:—

SUMMARY TABLE.

Index Numbers showing, for all the Occupations covered by the Inquiry, the Relative Quantity of Food Purchasable with Wages Payable for 48 Hours' Work on 1st March, 1923.

Index Numbers.	Capital Cities.												
	London.	Amsterdam.	Berlin.	Brussels.	Christiania.	Madrid.	New York.	Ottawa.	Paris.	Prague.	Stockholm.	Vienna.	Warsaw.
Unweighted ..	100	97	64	66	88	61	228	195	63	66	90	57	89
Weighted ..	100	103	57	70	92	61	217	180	68	67	87	55	85

It may be well perhaps to state with some emphasis that the index numbers shown in the above Summary and in Table III. afford no absolutely safe basis for conclusions as to differences in the general level of real wages even in the selected cities. For this purpose it would be necessary to secure wages data for a much larger number of occupations, including those in which women are largely employed. Still less can the figures be accepted as accurately reflecting differences in national real-wage levels. The most that can be claimed for them is that they afford a rough indication of the differences that existed on or about 1st March, 1923, between the real-wage levels of the selected categories of typical urban male labour in the various capitals.

But even within this strictly limited field of application the accuracy of the conclusions suggested by a comparison between

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 (except as regards coal mining) not the total numbers employed in the various industries.

COAL MINING.

EMPLOYMENT during June continued good; it showed little change as compared with the previous month, but was much better than a year ago.

The average weekly number of days (5.57) worked by the pits in the fortnight ended 23rd June showed a decrease of 0.02 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 19th May, but an increase of 1.08 days on a year ago; in the Cumberland and Westmorland district an average of about one and a quarter days per week was lost on account of dispute during the fortnight ended 23rd June.

The following Table shows, for the principal districts, the total number of wage-earners on the colliery books and the average number of days worked by the collieries, as indicated by the returns obtained by the Mines Department.

Table with columns: Districts, Total Number of Wage Earners on Colliery Books at 23rd June, 1923, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago, Year ago, Average Number of Days worked per Week by the Mines, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago, Year ago. Includes data for England and Wales, Scotland, and Great Britain.

The average weekly number of coal-winding days lost by the pits in the fortnight ended 23rd June was 0.19 of a day, of which 0.14 of a day was due to transport difficulties and want of trade.

The output of coal in Great Britain in the four weeks ended 23rd June, 1923, was returned to the Mines Department at 22,620,600 tons, compared with 20,464,000 tons in the four weeks ended 26th May, and with 15,826,800 tons in the four weeks ended 24th June, 1922.

The exports of coal, including coal shipped for the use of steamers engaged in the foreign trade, and the coal equivalent of coke and manufactured fuel, amounted in June to 8,634,743 tons, or 1,069,281 tons less than in May.

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

IRON AND SHALE MINING.

Iron Mining.

THERE was a slight decline in employment generally during June; in the Cleveland district it was reported as bad, in the Cumberland and Lancashire district moderate, and in other districts fair.

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

Table with columns: Districts, Number of Work-people employed at Mines included in the Returns (Fort-night ended 23rd June, 1923, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago, Year ago), Average No. of Days worked per week by the Mines (Fort-night ended 23rd June, 1923, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago, Year ago). Includes data for Cleveland, Cumberland and Lancashire, and All Districts.

Shale Mining.

Employment was again fair. At mines employing 4,507 work-people in the fortnight ended 23rd June, there was an increase of 0.4 per cent. in the total number employed, as compared with the previous month, and an increase of 1.1 per cent. as compared with June, 1922.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during June continued moderate, and showed a slight decrease as compared with May.

Of a total of 487 furnaces, the number in blast at the end of June, as shown by returns collected by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, was 222, compared with 223 at the end of May and 115 at the end of June, 1922.

Returns received by the Federation from 86 firms, employing 23,821 workpeople at the end of June, showed a decrease of 1.5 per cent., compared with the number employed at the end of May, but an increase of 45 per cent. as compared with June, 1922.

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

Table with columns: District, Total Number of Furnaces in Blast at end of June, May, 1923, and June, 1922, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in June, on a Month ago, Year ago. Includes data for England and Wales, Scotland, and Total.

The production of pig iron in June amounted to 692,900 tons, as compared with 714,200 tons in May and 369,200 tons in June, 1922.

* See * footnote in previous column.

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

EMPLOYMENT at iron and steel works was fair or moderate generally, except in Scotland, where it was bad. It showed a decline as compared with the previous month, but was much better than a year ago.

According to returns received from firms employing 80,022 workpeople, the volume of employment during the week ended 23rd June (as indicated by the number of workpeople employed at each works, combined with the number of shifts during which work was carried on in each case) showed a decrease of 3.5 per cent. on the previous month, but an increase of 34.8 per cent. on a year ago.

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

Table with columns: DEPARTMENTS, No. of Workpeople employed by firms making returns (Week ended 23rd June, 1923, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago, Year ago), Aggregate number of Shifts* (Week ended 23rd June, 1923, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago, Year ago). Includes data for various departments like Open Hearth Melting Furnaces, Bessemer Converters, etc., and districts like Northumberland and Durham, etc.

The production of steel ingots and castings in June, as returned to the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, amounted to 767,700 tons, compared with 821,000 tons in May, and with 400,200 tons in June, 1922.

TINPLATE AND STEEL SHEET TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in these trades continued good during June and showed little change as compared with the previous month. At the end of the month 527 mills were reported to be in operation at the works for which information is available, the same number as at the end of May, compared with 471 at the end of June, 1922.

The following Table shows the number of works reported to be open and the number of mills in operation at the works covered by the returns received at the end of June, 1923:—

Table with columns: Works, Number of Works Open (At end of June, 1923, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago), Number of Mills in Operation (At end of June, 1923, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago). Includes data for Tinplate and Steel Sheet.

The exports of tinned and galvanised plates and sheets in June, 1923, amounted to 98,037 tons, or 8,933 tons less than in May, 1923, but 25,471 tons more than in June, 1922.

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

SHIPBUILDING.

EMPLOYMENT in the shipbuilding and ship-repairing trades remained very bad during June.

The lock-out of boilermakers by members of the Shipbuilding Employers' Federation continued throughout the month (see p. 239), and in the affected districts employment was almost at a standstill, except at the repair yards of a number of small firms not involved in the dispute.

In other districts, employment on repair work remained fair at Liverpool; at the Bristol Channel ports it improved, but was far from good. On the Thames work was resumed at the beginning of the month after a dispute, but the industry was still depressed. With barge builders on the Thames employment was still fair, and boatbuilders at Yarmouth and Lowestoft generally worked full time. At Falmouth employment was reported as fair.

The following Table shows the number of people insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts who were registered as unemployed, or as working systematic short time in such a manner as to qualify for benefit, at June 25th, 1923. For an explanation of the method of compiling the figures see page 252.

Table with columns: Divisions, Number of insured contributors registered as unemployed or as working systematic short time at 25th June. Includes data for London, South Eastern, South Western, Midlands, North Eastern, North Western, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, and Males/Females.

SHIPBUILDING IN THE QUARTER ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1923.

According to Lloyd's Register Quarterly Shipbuilding Returns, the gross tonnage of merchant vessels under construction in Great Britain and Ireland at the end of June, 1923, amounted to 1,337,759 tons, as compared with 1,492,138 tons at the end of March, 1923, and 1,919,504 at the end of June, 1922.

The above figures are exclusive of warships and of merchant vessels under 100 tons gross.

ENGINEERING.

EMPLOYMENT in this industry was still bad during June, but in many districts the slow improvement previously reported was maintained. In the textile machinery section employment remained very bad. The marine engineering section also remained very bad and was adversely affected by the dispute in the shipbuilding industry.

The following Table shows the number of workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts who were registered as unemployed, or as working systematic short time in such a manner as to qualify for benefit at 25th June, 1923. For an explanation of the method of compiling the figures see page 252.

Table with columns: Division, Number of Insured Contributors registered as Unemployed or as working systematic short time at 25th June. Includes data for various engineering sectors like Engi-neering, Iron and Steel Founding, Stoves, Pipes, &c., and Electrical Engi-neering, etc., and Males/Females.

On the north-east coast employment remained bad, large numbers of men being totally unemployed or on short time, especially in the marine engineering section, which continued to be affected by the shipbuilding dispute.

In Yorkshire there was a very slight improvement on the whole, and employment remained bad generally, though printing machinery makers at Otley were fairly well employed.

In the Eastern Counties employment continued fair at Norwich and Chelmsford, but was slack at Ipswich and Colchester.

In the Glasgow district employment was very bad, and was affected by the shipbuilding dispute, many discharges taking place during the month.

COTTON TRADE.

In this trade employment continued very depressed during June in the weaving department and in the section of the spinning department which spins American cotton.

Taking the trade as a whole the state of employment was about the same as in the previous month; but it was worse than in June of last year, in every department and in almost every district.

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

Table with 6 main columns: DEPARTMENTS, Number of Workpeople, Total Wages paid to all Workpeople, and their respective changes. Includes sub-tables for DISTRICTS and DEPARTMENTS.

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

Returns from firms employing 7,813 workpeople in the Oldham district showed that, during the four weeks ended June 23rd, about 32 per cent. of these workpeople were on full time; about 22 per cent. were stopped for two weeks, another 24 per cent. for one week, and about 2 per cent. for the whole period.

In the Oldham, Ashton and Stockport districts employment in the spinning section continued bad; on the average about half time was worked, most firms only working alternate weeks.

In all the principal weaving districts, including Burnley, Blackburn, Darwen and Preston, employment continued very bad; it was about the same as in the previous month, but considerably worse than in June of last year.

The imports (less re-exports) of raw cotton (including cotton linters) were 26,957,700 lbs. in June, 1923, compared with 45,827,500 lbs. in the previous month, and with 118,859,200 lbs. in June, 1922.

The exports of cotton yarn were 10,029,300 lbs. in June, 1923, compared with 12,574,500 lbs. in May, 1923, and 15,743,900 lbs. in June, 1922.

The exports of cotton piece goods were 300,669,100 square yards, as compared with 409,962,600 square yards in the previous month, and with 311,907,300 square yards in June, 1922.

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in the wool textile trade in June was reported as bad; it was worse than a month earlier, especially in the worsted trade. Every department of this trade showed a decline, but it was most marked in the wool-sorting and wool-combing departments.

WOOLLEN TRADE.

During June employment on the whole showed a decline. At Huddersfield there was much variation as between one firm and another; at some mills the workpeople were losing two or three days a week, while at others overtime was worked.

In the Scottish tweed trade there was a decline, and a considerable number of factories were on short time.

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

Table with 6 main columns: DEPARTMENTS, Number of Workpeople, Total Wages paid to all Workpeople, and their respective changes. Includes sub-tables for DEPARTMENTS and DISTRICTS.

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

BOOT AND SHOE INDUSTRY.

DURING June employment remained slack on the whole, with much short time working. In the industry as a whole there was a slight decline as compared with May.

Employment at Leicester declined, and only a few firms were well employed at the end of the month. There was no marked change at Northampton, where employment was quiet.

In Scotland employment was bad at Arbroath, Dundee, and Maybole, but fair at the other principal centres.

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

Table with 6 main columns: DISTRICTS, Number of Workpeople, Total Wages paid to all Workpeople, and their respective changes. Includes sub-tables for DISTRICTS and ENGLAND AND WALES.

Returns from firms employing 41,807 workpeople in the week ended 23rd June showed that about 40 per cent. of these workpeople were on short time in that week, to the extent of 12 hours a week on the average.

The exports of boots and shoes in June, 1923, amounted to 90,425 dozen pairs, or 2,902 dozen pairs more than in May, 1923, and 37,179 dozen pairs more than in June, 1922.

BRICK TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT in the brick trade during June was again fair on the whole, and showed continued improvement. In the Peterborough district it continued good, but in the Coventry district employment was still bad, and many works were closed;

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

Table with 6 main columns: DISTRICTS, Number of Workpeople, Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople, and their respective changes. Includes sub-tables for DISTRICTS and TOTAL.

Returns from firms employing 6,276 workpeople show that 6 per cent. of the workpeople were on short time, to the extent of six hours on the average, during the week ended 23rd June.

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

Table with 6 main columns: DISTRICTS, Number of Workpeople, Total Wages paid to all Workpeople, and their respective changes. Includes sub-tables for DISTRICTS and TOTAL.

Returns from firms employing 16,584 workpeople in the week ended 23rd June showed that about 23 per cent. of these workpeople were working short time in that week, to the extent of about 10 hours a week on the average.

WORSTED TRADE.

Employment with wool sorters showed a decline, and was bad; 30 per cent. of the operatives were on short time. With wool combers employment was moderate, worse than in May, and considerably worse than in June of last year;

In the worsted spinning department there was a decline on the whole; employment in the spinning of crossbred yarns showed a slight improvement, but in the spinning of botany yarns (for the fine cloth trade) it showed a decline.

In the weaving department there was a decline, which was most marked in the Huddersfield district. The fine men's-wear trade in this district continued to decline, and was very dull at the end of the month, and 25 per cent. of the looms were standing, or waiting for warps.

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

Table with 6 main columns: DEPARTMENTS, Number of Workpeople, Total Wages paid to all Workpeople, and their respective changes. Includes sub-tables for DEPARTMENTS and DISTRICTS.

Returns received from firms employing 27,703 workpeople in the week ended 23rd June, showed that about 21 per cent. of these workpeople were working short time, to the extent of about 13 hours a week on the average.

The imports (less re-exports) of raw wool (sheep or lambs) were 44,486,800 lbs. in June, 1923, compared with 51,562,700 lbs. in May, 1923, and 54,378,900 lbs. in June, 1922.

The exports of woollen and worsted yarns were 3,780,400 lbs., compared with 4,072,100 lbs. in May, 1923, and 4,577,000 lbs. in June, 1922.

The exports of woollen and worsted tissues were 17,730,800 square yards, compared with 17,373,000 square yards in May, 1923, and 16,034,200 square yards in June, 1922.

The exports of blankets were 123,351 pairs, 117,455 pairs and 59,804 pairs in June, 1923, May, 1923, and June, 1922, respectively.

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

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED INDUSTRIES IN GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.

UNDER the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 and 1921, substantially all persons for whom Health Insurance contributions have been paid, except outworkers and persons employed in agriculture and private domestic service, must be insured against unemployment.

Coincident with the present exchange of insurance books opportunity has been taken to revise the classification of insured workpeople so as to bring it, so far as practicable, into conformity with the industrial grouping adopted in connection with the 1921 Census of population.

will have great permanent advantages, has the disadvantage of making the returns given in this and subsequent issues of the MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE not strictly comparable with those in earlier issues.

It should be noted that in arriving at the figures relating to 25th June shown in the Table below account is taken not only of claims to benefit current at the date of the return, but also of a due proportion of claims to benefit in respect of systematic short time.*

Insured persons who have lost their employment owing to a stoppage of work due to a trade dispute at the premises at which they were employed are not generally eligible for benefit, and are not included in the figures.

Table with 4 main columns: INDUSTRY, MEN, WOMEN, JUVENILES, TOTAL. It lists various industries like Building, Manufacturing, etc., with corresponding employee counts.

* The number of insured contributors claiming benefit in respect of systematic short time at 25th June was 62,169, of whom 32,832 were men, 24,748 women, and 4,589 juveniles.

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 54, as compared with 49 in the previous month and 32 in June, 1922.

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 (whether directly or indirectly) at the establishments concerned, and the approximate time lost during the month in all disputes in progress:—

Table showing Number of Disputes in progress in June, Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress in June, and Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress in June. Includes categories like Building, Mining & Quarrying, etc.

Causes.—Of the 54 disputes beginning in June, 12, directly involving 8,000 workpeople, arose out of proposed reductions in wages; 12, directly involving 1,000 workpeople, on other wages

questions; 15, directly involving 14,000 workpeople, on questions of Trade Union principle; 4, directly involving over 6,000 workpeople, in sympathy with workpeople involved in other disputes; and 11, directly involving 2,000 workpeople, on other questions.

Results.—Settlements were effected during June in the case of 32 new disputes, directly involving 20,000 workpeople, and 14 old disputes, directly involving 3,000 workpeople. Of these new and old disputes, 7, directly involving 10,000 workpeople, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 17, directly involving 3,000 workpeople, in favour of the employers; and 22, directly involving 10,000 workpeople, were compromised.

TOTALS FOR FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1922 AND 1923.†

Table comparing January to June, 1922 and January to June, 1923. Columns include Groups of Industries, No. of Disputes, Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress, Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress, and Total.

PRINCIPAL TRADE DISPUTES IN PROGRESS DURING JUNE, 1923.

Table detailing principal trade disputes in progress during June 1923. Columns include Occupations and Locality, Cause or Object, Date when Dispute Began/Ended, and Result. Includes disputes like Building Trades, Mining and Quarrying, etc.

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

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.

[Based on Returns from Employers and Workpeople.]

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 £42,000 in the weekly full-time wages of nearly 370,000 workpeople and in an increase of over £3,000 in the weekly wages of 75,000 workpeople.

The groups of industries principally affected are shown below:—

Group of Industries.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by		Amount of Changes in Weekly Wages.	
	Increases.	Decreases.	Increases.	Decreases.
Metal	54,000	39,000	£ 7,250	£ 4,000
Clothing	1,000	211,000	30	26,100
Other	20,000	113,000	850	12,300
Total	75,000	368,000	£ 8,130	£ 42,400

The increases in wages in the metal group occurred mainly in the iron and steel trades, and were the result of the operation of sliding scales dependent on the prices of iron and steel; iron puddlers and iron and steel millmen in the Midlands received an increase equivalent to about 5½ per cent. on current rates, and steel sheet millmen an increase of about 4 per cent. on current rates, the latter increase applying also to men employed in galvanising departments. The principal decreases affected skilled men employed in the ship-repairing industry in the Thames district, workpeople employed in the gold, silver and allied trades at Birmingham, and farriers in various districts.

The principal change in the clothing group affected workpeople employed in the boot and shoe manufacturing industry, in which adult male time-workers sustained reductions of 1s. or 4s. per week and women time-workers 2s. per week, while in the case of youths and girls there were smaller reductions, and in a few instances slight increases; pieceworkers generally sustained a reduction of 2½ per cent. on list prices. The minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts for workpeople in the boot and shoe repairing industry were also reduced during June, by amounts generally varying for adults from 2s. to 3s. a week. The minimum rates fixed under the Trade Board Acts for female workers in the shirt-making industry were decreased by 1d. per hour in the case of workers other than learners.

The principal bodies of workpeople in other trades affected by reductions in June included men employed on civil engineering constructional work, road transport workers at Liverpool and Birkenhead, and bakers in various districts in Great Britain. There was an increase in the wages of iron ore miners in Cumberland. Under the Trade Boards Acts the principal decreases in the minimum rates, in addition to those mentioned above, affected workpeople employed in the hand-hammered chain, paper box, paper bag, perambulator and invalid carriage, and brush and broom trades.

Of the decreases taking effect in June, 55 amounting to

£23,500 per week, took effect under cost of living sliding scales; 8, amounting to £15,500 per week, took effect under Trade Board Orders (including £3,350 under cost of living sliding scales, incorporated above); 8, amounting to £3,850 per week, were arranged by joint standing bodies of employers and workpeople (including over £1,000 under cost of living sliding scales, incorporated above); 2, amounting to £120 per week, were arranged by arbitration; and the remaining 44 cases, amounting to £3,750 per week, were arranged by direct negotiation between the parties or by individual action on the part of the employers. Reductions preceded by disputes involving stoppages of work accounted for less than £1,300 per week. Of the increases in wages, 11, amounting to £7,750 per week, took effect under sliding scales based on selling prices; and the remaining 6 were arranged by direct negotiation or took effect as the result of an Order under the Trade Boards Acts.

Summary of Changes in January—June, 1923.

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

Group of Trades.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by net		Net Amount of Change in Weekly Wages.	
	Increases.	Decreases	Increases.	Decreases.
Building	1,500	458,000	£ 450	£ 74,700
Mining and Quarrying ..	695,000	11,000	97,100	1,700
Iron and Steel	104,000	85,000	12,500	5,900
Engineering and Ship-building	2,000	153,000	300	23,700
Other Metal	3,000	130,000	600	23,900
Textile	50	245,000	10	17,800
Clothing	1,000	535,000	30	85,000
Transport	2,700	292,000	550	48,800
Paper, Printing, &c. ..	—	64,000	—	8,900
Furniture and Wood-working	100	35,000	15	8,900
Chemical, Glass, Brick, Pottery, &c. ..	100	122,000	15	19,800
Food, Drink and Tobacco ..	50	231,000	10	27,500
Public Utility Services ..	1,200	244,000	170	26,600
Other	—	73,000	—	9,400
Total	810,700	2,679,000	£ 111,750	£ 385,600

In the corresponding six months of 1922 there was a net reduction of over £2,700,000 in the weekly wages of about 7,150,000 workpeople, and a net increase of £3,350 in the weekly wages of 17,500 workpeople.

Hours of Labour.

The principal change taking effect in June was the adoption of the three-shift system for coal trimmers, tippers, etc., at the Bristol Channel ports, in lieu of the two-shift system previously worked.

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

NOTE.—The following Table relates mainly to changes which came into operation in June, with effect either from that month or from earlier dates. Certain earlier changes, however, of which particulars were received during June, are also included. The weekly rates quoted are in respect of a full ordinary working week, and do not take into account the effect of short working.

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics).
Building	Bury St. Edmunds	9 June	Bricklayers, masons, carpenters and joiners, woodcutting machinists, plumbers, plasterers, painters and labourers	Decrease of 1d. per hour for painters and labourers, and 1d. per hour for other tradesmen. Rates after change: woodcutting machinists, 1s. 4½d.; painters, 1s. 1½d.; other tradesmen, 1s. 3½d.; labourers, 10½d.
	Bideford	16 June	Building trade operatives	Decrease of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: tradesmen, 1s. 3d.; labourers, 11½d.
Works of Construction	Great Britain†	1 June	Men employed on civil engineering constructional work	Decrease of 1d. per hour for men employed in the County of London and in Class I and Class II towns, and of 1d. per hour in Class III and Class IV towns, and of 1d. per hour in Class V towns. Rates after change for navvies and labourers: County of London, 1s. 2½d.; Class I, 1s. 2d.; Class II, 1s. 1d.; Class III, 1s. 0½d.; Class IV, 11½d.; Class V, 10½d.
Glass Working	Manchester and District	1 June	Decorative glassworkers	Increase of 1d. per hour (1s. 6½d. to 1s. 7d.).§
Coal Mining	Radstock	28 June	Workpeople (both underground and surface) employed in or about coal mines other than those workpeople whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries	Increase of 0.40 per cent. on standard base rates of 1918, making wages 35.88 per cent. above the standard of 1918.

* 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. Details of changes in the current rates of wages of agricultural labourers, shop assistants and clerks, however, so far as reported to the Department, are included in the list of principal changes reported. The statistics relate to weekly full-time rates of wages, on the basis of employment of the full numbers of persons in the respective industries. † The rates were put into operation by the employers without agreement with the Trade Unions concerned. ‡ The change took effect under a decision arrived at last May by the Civil Engineering Construction Conciliation Board for Great Britain. § See also under "Changes in Hours of Labour."

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics).
MINING AND QUARRYING—(continued).				
Iron Mining	Cleveland	16 April*	Ironstone miners, etc.	New schedule of base rates adopted following an increase in working hours,* such rates being subject at present to an addition of 88½ per cent. The new base rates include the following:—Underground men—face deputies, 5s. 5d.; shifters, platelayers, and wagon way-men, 3s. 10d. to 4s. 4d.; haulage enginemen, 3s. 8d. to 4s. 4d.; firemen, 3s. 5d. to 3s. 7d.; labourers, 3s. 4d. to 3s. 8d. per shift; surfacemen—winding enginemen, 4s. 1½d. or 5s. 3d.; banksmen, 3s. 10d. to 4s. 6d.; hauling enginemen, 3s. 10d. to 4s. 4d.; ordinary firemen, 3s. 7d. to 3s. 9d.; platelayers, 3s. 6d. to 3s. 11d.; labourers, 3s. 4d. to 3s. 6d. per shift. Increase of 6d. per shift in the bargain price (10s. 9d. to 11s. 3d.), of 6d. per shift in the minimum wage (8s. 1d. to 8s. 7d.). Increase of 4½d. per shift (9s. 3½d. to 9s. 8d.). Increase of 5d. per shift for men, and of 1½d. per shift for boys under 16 years.
	Cumberland	10 June	Winding enginemen Other underground and surface workers	Increase of 3d. per shift for blacksmiths and joiners, of 4½d. per shift for other men, and of 2½d. per shift for boys under 16. Rates after change: blacksmiths and joiners, 9s. 3d.; knobblers, 9s. 6½d.; day borers (1st class), 9s. 0½d.; day labourers (1st class), 8s. 4½d.; ruddmen, 7s. 10½d. per shift. Rates after change: masons, 1s. 5d.; rock getters, 1s. 4d.; labourers (skilled), 1s. 1d.; (unskilled), 1s. per hour.
	West Cumberland	11 June	Limestone quarrymen	Increase of 3d. per shift for blacksmiths and joiners, of 4½d. per shift for other men, and of 2½d. per shift for boys under 16. Rates after change: blacksmiths and joiners, 9s. 3d.; knobblers, 9s. 6½d.; day borers (1st class), 9s. 0½d.; day labourers (1st class), 8s. 4½d.; ruddmen, 7s. 10½d. per shift. Rates after change: masons, 1s. 5d.; rock getters, 1s. 4d.; labourers (skilled), 1s. 1d.; (unskilled), 1s. per hour. Rates after change: quarrymen and rock getters, 1s. 4d.; sawyers, 1s. 3d.; labourers, 11d. per hour.
	West Lancashire	15 Mar.	Freestone, gritstone and sandstone quarrymen	Decrease of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: masons, 1s. 5d.; rock getters, 1s. 4d.; labourers (skilled), 1s. 1d.; (unskilled), 1s. per hour. Rates after change: quarrymen and rock getters, 1s. 4d.; sawyers, 1s. 3d.; labourers, 11d. per hour.
Quarrying	Macclesfield and District	26 May	Quarrymen, rock getters, sawyers and labourers	Decrease of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: quarrymen and rock getters, 1s. 4d.; sawyers, 1s. 3d.; labourers, 11d. per hour.
	Buxton District	4 April	Limestone quarryworkers:— Pieceworkers Craftsmen rated at 1s. 6d. per hour or over Stoneworkers Other timeworkers	Decrease of 5 per cent. Decrease of 2d. per hour. Decreases of 1d. or 1d. per hour, subject to a minimum rate of 1s. 5d. Decrease of 7½ per cent. (subject to a minimum rate for labourers of 1s. per hour).
Iron and Steel Manufacture	Portland	26 June	Limestone quarry labourers	Decrease of 1d. per hour or 4d. per day.
	Thames and Medway District	1st and 2nd June	Chalk quarry workers	Decrease of 1d. per hour for day workers and a corresponding decrease for pieceworkers. Hourly rates after change: Grays Area—labourers, 1s.; carmen, 11½d.; Little and West Thurrock Area—labourers, 1s.; loco. drivers, 1s. 5d. and 1s. 2d.; Kent area—loco. drivers, 1s. 1½d.; labourers, 11½d.
	Cornwall	26 May	Granite quarry workers	Decrease of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: masons and cutters, 1s. 3d.; labourers, 11½d. per hour.
Iron and Steel Manufacture	South Wales	1 June	Masons and quarrymen in pen-nant stone quarries	Decrease of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: masons, 1s. 7d.; quarrymen, 1s. 6d.
	England and Wales	4 June	Steel sheet millmen	Increase of 6 per cent. on standard rates, making wages 62 per cent. above the standard of 1891.
	Midlands (including parts of South Yorkshire and South Lancashire)	4 June	Iron puddlers and iron and steel millmen	Increase of 7½ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 50 per cent. above the standard.
	Barrow-in-Furness	4 June	Non-scale workers (chiefly labourers, etc.)	Wages bonus increased by 1s. 6d. per week for men, 9d. per week for youths 18 to 21 years of age, and 4½d. per week for boys under 18 years.
Engineering, Shipbuilding, etc.	Thames District	6 June‡	Shipwrights, blacksmiths, joiners, painters, sheet metal workers, patternmakers, electric crane drivers, sawyers, fitters, plumbers, electricians, french polishers and electric crane drivers, 61s.; rivet heaters under 18 years of age	Increase of 7½ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 50 per cent. above the standard.
		Riggers	Decrease of 1s. per week. Rates after change: pattern-makers, 68s.; shipwrights and blacksmiths, 65s. 6d.; painters, joiners and sheet metal workers, 67s.; fitters, plumbers, electricians and sawyers, 64s.; french polishers, 66s. 6d.; electric crane drivers, 61s.; rivet heaters under 18 years of age, 29s. 9d.	
	Milford Haven	8 June	Fitters and smiths.	Decrease of 2½d. per day (except Saturday). Rates after change: Saturday, 7s. 9d.; other week-days, 11s. 7d. Decreases of 1s. per week for platers, riveters, burners and welders, and of 10d. per week for holders-up.
Galvanising	England and Wales (certain firms)¶	6 June§	Platers, riveters, burners, welders and holders-up	Further decreases of 1s. per week for platers, riveters, burners and welders, and of 10d. per week for holders-up. Rates after change: platers, 84s. 10d.; riveters, 77s. 7d.; burners, 91s. 6d.; welders, 96s.; holders-up, 70s. 9d. Decrease of 2s. 6d. per week (72s. 6d. to 70s.).
		13 June§	Welders and holders-up	
Bedstead Manufacture	Birmingham, Smethwick, Dudley, Bilston, Manchester, Warrington, Sowerby Bridge, Keighley and Glasgow	1 June	Workpeople employed in the metallic bedstead trade	Increase of 6 per cent. on standard rates, making wages 62 per cent. above the standard.
		1 May	Workpeople employed in the metallic bedstead trade	Decrease in flat rate bonus, of 2s. per week for men 18 years of age and over, and of proportionate amounts for other workers. Decrease of 2½ per cent. (making a total deduction of 12½ per cent.) in the basic time and piecework rates for men, and in the basic piecework rates for women engaged in dipping bedsteads in black. Rates after change: Men—cupola men, 1s. 3d. per hour (56 hours); framesetters, 1s. 4d. per hour (48 hours); stockfitter (second in charge), 85s. per week; stockfitter (second hand), able to fit all classes of stocks, 70s. per week; bending, 1s. 3d. per hour; cutting off and other sections, 1s. 1½d. per hour; less 12½ per cent. in each case, and subject to the addition of a bonus of 14s. per week.

* Particulars of the increase in hours were given on page 184 of the May GAZETTE. The new schedule of base rates, which is stated to be generally higher than those previously in operation, was not finally agreed upon until June. † This change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with selling prices. ‡ The reduction forms the first instalment of a total reduction of 1d. per hour, the remaining 1d. to take effect in September. The first instalment did not apply to Grays Area nor in the West Thurrock Area for men filling chalk into wagons below the top of the wagons in July, August, September and October. § Further reductions in wages have been arranged to take effect for various classes of workpeople in July, August, September and October. ¶ Members of the Galvanising Conciliation Board. § This change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices.

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

Table with columns: Industry, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Includes sections for OTHER METAL TRADES, TEXTILE TRADES, and various manufacturing sectors.

* This change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices. † Including Accrington, Altrincham, Ashton, Blackburn, Blackpool, Bolton, Burnley, Bury, Chorley, Colne, Lancaster, Leigh, Middleton, Nelson and District, Oldham, Preston, Rochdale, Rossendale, Southport, Stockport, St. Helens, Warrington, Widnes and Wigan. ‡ Including Alsager, Bentham, Cheadle, Chester, Clitheroe, Congleton, Crewe, Furness District, Garstang, Kirkham, Knutsford, Macclesfield, Middlewich, Nantwich, Northwich, Ormskirk and Tarporley. § Including Barnsley, Bradford, Dewsbury, Halifax, Huddersfield, Hull, Keighley, Leeds, Rotherham, Sheffield and Todmorden. ¶ See also p. 230 of June GAZETTE.

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

Table with columns: Industry, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Includes sections for TEXTILE TRADES, CLOTHING TRADES, and TRANSPORT TRADES.

• The change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices. † See also under "Changes in Hours of Labour." ‡ Except those employed in the clothing departments and stock or shoe rooms on the following operations or processes, viz.: knot tying, inking, solutioning, brushing off by hand or machine, loop covering, trimming ends by hand, and repairs and odd jobs; also excluding engineers, mechanics, electricians, stokers, porters, sweepers-up, lift or hoist men, caretakers and timekeepers, and labourers and odd-job men not engaged in actual manufacturing. § The effect of this reduction is that in the case of statements compiled or revised under the 1919 agreement which came into force on or before 31st December, 1919, net list prices are paid to men, while women are paid at 2½ per cent. above the list; in the case of those which came into operation on or after 1st January, 1920, net list prices are paid to women, while men are paid 2½ per cent. below the list; in the case of those statements the piecework prices of which include the percentage increase granted by the Interim (1920) Agreement, net wages are 10 per cent. below list prices for men and 7½ per cent. below for women. ¶ Area A: (a) All Royal, Parliamentary and Police Burghs which had according to the most recent census a population of over 12,000, and (b) the following Special Lighting Districts, the boundaries of which have been defined, viz., Bellshill and Mossend, Blantyre, Cambuslang and Larkhall, all in the county of Lanark and the Vale of Leven in the county of Dumbarton. Area B: The whole of Scotland other than Area A.

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

Table with columns: Industry, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Includes sections for Transport Trades, Agriculture and Fishing, Paper, Printing and Allied Trades, and Paper Bag Making.

* Including Barnsley, Sheffield, Doncaster, Goole and Pontefract. † The new rates were agreed upon by the local Conciliation Committees set up under the Corn Production Acts (Repeal) Act, 1921.

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

Table with columns: Industry, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Includes sections for Paper, Printing and Allied Trades, Furniture and Woodworking Trades, Mill Sawing, Packing Case Making, and Chemical, Glass, Brick, Pottery, Etc. Trades.

* Including Newcastle, North and South Shields, Sunderland, Gateshead, Middlesbrough, Stockton, West Hartlepool and Darlington. † The change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices.

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

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
FOOD, DRINK, AND TOBACCO TRADES—(continued).				
Baking and Confectionery (cont'd.)	Certain towns in Yorkshire*	Pay day in week ending 26 May	Adult male workers employed by private traders	Decrease† of 1s. 6d. per week. Minimum rates after change: forehands, 6s.; doughmixers and ovenmen, 6s.; tablehands, 5s.
	Chester ...	18 June	Workpeople employed in the baking and confectionery trades	Decrease† of 2s. 6d. per week for adult male workers (6s. 6d. to 6s.); of 1s. 3d. per week for youths and women 18 years and over, and of 7d. per week for boys and girls under 18.
	Birmingham and Midland Districts	Pay day in week ending 7 July	Workpeople employed in the baking and confectionery trades	Decrease† of 2s. 4d. per week for adult workers and proportionate decreases for juniors. Minimum rates after change: foremen, 6s. 4d. or 6s. 4d.; dough-mixers, singlehands and secondhands, 6s. 4d.; tablehands, 5s. 4d.
	Certain districts in North Staffordshire and Cheshire†	June	Bakers and confectioners ...	Decrease† of 2s. 6d. per week for adult male workers (6s. to 6s. 6d.); of 1s. 3d. per week for women 18 and over and youths, and 7d. for juveniles and improvers and girls under 18 years.
	Chatham, Rochester and Gillingham	9 June	Bakers and confectioners ...	Decrease† of 2s. 6d. per week (5s. to 5s. 6d.).‡
	Bristol ...	1st pay day in June	Adult workers ...	Decrease† of 1s. 3d. per week (6s. 3d. to 6s.).‡
	Cornwall**	Last pay day in June	Adult workers ...	Decrease† of 2s. per week (6s. to 5s.).‡
	Swansea ...	1 June	Adult workers ...	Decrease† of 2s. 6d. per week (6s. 6d. to 6s.).‡
	Dundee ...	1st pay day in June	Adult workers ...	Decrease† of 2s. per week. Minimum rate after change, 7s.
	Edinburgh and Leith ...	Pay day in week ending 23 June	Adult workers ...	Decrease† of 1s. 6d. per week. Minimum rate after change, 7s. 6d.
Brewing	Certain towns in North and North-east Lancashire††	1st pay day in May	Men 19 years and over ... Women ... Youths ...	Decrease† of 3d. per hour. Rate after change, 5s. per week. Decrease† of 1s. 6d. per week (3s. 6d. to 3s.). Decrease† of 6d. to 1s. 1d. per week.
	Certain towns in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire‡	2nd pay day in June	Brewery workers ...	Decrease of 3s. per week for adult males, and of 1s. 6d. per week for women and youths. Rates after change for adult male workers: Grade A, 58s.; Grade B, 56s.; Grade C, 54s.; Grade D, 51s.
	Monmouthshire and East Glamorganshire	Week ending 16 June	Brewery workers ...	Decrease of 2s. per week for adult male workers (6s. to 6s.), and of 1s. per week for women and boys.
	MISCELLANEOUS TRADES.			
Tanning, Currying, etc.	London District (within a 17 mile radius of Charing Cross)	1st pay day in June	Workpeople employed in the tanning, currying, trades (except unskilled labourers)	Decreases for timeworkers of 3d. per hour for skilled and semi-skilled men, and 3d. per hour for women and youths, and corresponding decreases for pieceworkers. Rates after change for men: skilled, 1s. 4½d.; semi-skilled, 1s. 2½d.
	London District (Outer area)	1st pay day in June	Workpeople employed in the tanning, currying, trades (except unskilled labourers)	Decreases for timeworkers of 3d. per hour for skilled and semi-skilled men, and of 3d. per hour for youths, and corresponding decreases for pieceworkers. Rates after change for men: skilled, 1s. 2½d.; semi-skilled, 1s. 0½d.
Roller Leather Manufacture	Lancashire, Cheshire and North Wales	1st pay day in June	Workpeople employed in domestic and persian roller leather manufacture	"Cost of living" wage reduced† from 75 per cent. to 70 per cent. on minimum base rates.
Buffalo Picker Making	Bradford, Halifax, Retford, Rochdale, Todmorden and District	1st full pay in June	Buffalo picker makers, tanners and skip makers— Timeworkers ... Pieceworkers ...	Decrease of 3d. per hour for skilled and semi-skilled workers, and of 3d. per hour for unskilled workers. Rates after change: skilled, 1s. 2½d.; semi-skilled, 1s. 1½d.; unskilled, 1s. 0½d. Decrease of 5 per cent. on present earnings. Decrease of 1d. per hour. Minimum rate after change, 1s. 3d.
Saddlery	Glasgow and West of Scotland	29 Mar / 4 June	Saddlemakers ...	Decrease of 5 per cent. on Lancashire list prices, leaving wages 90 per cent. and 80 per cent. above the list for timeworkers and pieceworkers respectively. Rate after change for timeworkers: 8d. per hour plus 90 per cent.
	Lancashire and Cheshire§	4 June	Skip and basket makers ...	Bonus of 10s per cent. previously paid on pre-war price list reduced to 100 per cent.
Basket Making	Midland Counties	4 June	Agricultural basket makers ...	Decrease of 1d. per hour (1s. 4½d. to 1s. 3½d.). Bonuses previously granted on list of October, 1916 (with amendments thereto), reduced† by 7½ per cent.
	Basford ...	9 June	Workpeople employed in basket hamper, and cane and wicker furniture manufacture:— Timeworkers ... Pieceworkers ...	Decrease† of 5 per cent. on earnings. Decreases in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of the following amounts for the classes named respectively:— Decrease† of 1d. per hour (1s. 1½d. to 1s. 1d.).
Brush and Broom	Great Britain ...	1 June	Cane and wicker workers ... Workpeople employed in the brush and broom trade:— Male timeworkers 21 years of age and over with three years' experience in certain operations, and those of all ages who have served at least five years' apprenticeship in one or more of these operations	Decrease† of 1d. per hour (1s. 1½d. to 1s. 1d.).

* Including Bradford, Barnsley, Bridlington, Doncaster, Dewsbury, Hull, Halifax, Huddersfield, Leeds, Sheffield, Wakefield, and York.
 † The change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices.
 ‡ The rates quoted are those paid to table-hands before and after the change.
 § Including Brierley Hill, Burton-on-Trent, Cannock, Coventry, Darlaston, Dudley, Leamington, Rugby, Smethwick, Wednesbury, West Bromwich, Willenhall, and Wolverhampton.
 ¶ The rates quoted are for day work and 1s. per night extra is added for each night worked, making 6s. per week extra on continuous night work.
 ** Including Macclesfield, Leek, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Congleton, Crewe, Winning on, Winsford, Sandbach and Potteries district (including Stoke-on-Trent, Burslem, Fenton, Hanley, Longton, and Tunstall).
 †† Including Truro, Camborne, Redruth, Falmouth, and Penzance.
 ‡‡ Certain firms (members of the Blackburn Brewers' Association and the East and North-East Lancashire Consultative Brewers' Association) at Accrington Barrow-in-Furness, Blackburn, Brierfield, Burnley, Haslingden, Preston, Rawtenstall, Waterfoot, and Whittle Springs.
 §§ Grade A—Nottingham, Mansfield, Daybrook, Derby, Beeston, and Chesterfield. Grade B—Worksop. Grade C—Kimberley. Grade D—Retford.
 ¶¶ Including Ashton-under-Lyne, Blackburn, Bolton, Heywood, Knutsford, Leigh, Liverpool, Manchester, Northwich, Oldham, Preston, Rochdale, Stockport, and Warrington.

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

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
MISCELLANEOUS TRADES—(continued).				
Brush and Broom (cont'd.)	Great Britain ...	1 June	All other male timeworkers...	Decrease* of 1d. per hour for those of 14½ and under 15, 15½ and under 16, 16 and under 19, and 21 years and over; the rates for other ages remaining unchanged. Minimum rates after change: under 14½ years, 2½d., increasing to 10½d. at 21 years and over.
			All pieceworkers ...	Decrease* of 1½ per cent.
			Female pan hands ...	Decrease* of 1d. per hour for certain classes.†
			Female workers (other than pan hands and learners)	Decrease* of 1d. per hour for those of 14½ and under 15, 15½ and under 16, and 18 and over; the rates for other timeworkers remaining unchanged; also decrease of 1d. per hour in the piecework basis time rate. Minimum time rates after change: under 14½, 2½d., increasing to 6d. at 21 and over.
			Female learners (other than pan-setting learners)	Decrease* of 1d. per hour during first six months for those commencing at 16 and under 21 years, and during third three months for those commencing at 21 years and over; the rates for other periods to remain unchanged.
Apprentices ...	Decreases* proportionate to the above.			
PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES.				
Gas Undertakings	Belfast ...	5 April	Workpeople employed by Corporation (except those whose wages are regulated by movements in other trades)	New schedule of wages adopted, resulting in various small increases or decreases. Rates after change: stokers (vertical retorts), 11s. 6d. per shift; works and distribution labourers, stove maintenance men and cleaners, 1s. 0½d. per hour.
Electricity Undertakings	Belfast ...	1 April	All classes of workpeople except those whose wages are regulated by movements in other trades	Decrease* of 1d. per hour. Decrease* of 1d. per hour. Hourly rates after change for labourers (indoor), 1s. 0½d.; (outdoor), 1s. 0½d.
Non-trading Services of Local Authorities	South Shields ...	1st full week in June	Adult male workers ...	Revised scale of wages adopted, resulting in a decrease of 2s. 9d. per week on basic wage, and of 1s. per week in bonus. Rates after change: general labourers, 34s.; scavengers, 33s. per week, plus 14s. bonus in both cases.
	Scarborough ...	1 June	Adult male workers ...	Decrease* of 2s. 6d. per week. Rate after change for general and road labourers, scavengers and refuse collectors, 30s. plus 17s. 6d. bonus.
	East Midlands†	1st pay day in June	Adult male workers ...	Decrease* of 1d. per hour. Scheduled minimum hourly rates after change for road and general labourers, street and road scavengers, etc.: Grade A areas, 1s. 1½d.; Grade B, 1½d.; Grade C, 10½d.; Grade D, 10½d. (industrial) and 9½d. (agricultural).‡
GloUCEstershire, Somerset and Wiltshires§	1st pay in June	1 June	Adult male workers ...	Decrease* of 1s. per week, leaving scheduled minimum weekly rates after change: Grade A areas, 53s.; B1, 49s.; B2, 46s.; C1, 41s.; C2, 39s.; D, 34s.¶
Camberwell ...	23 June	23 June	Council employees ...	Decreases of from 1s. to 10s. per week. Rates after change: general labourers and refuse collectors, 62s. 2d.; road sweepers, 58s. 10d.; female bath, lavatory, etc., attendants, 46s. 4d.
Aberdeen ...	1 June	1 June	Adult males in non-trading and Water Departments	Decrease* of 2s. per week. Rates after change: general labourers, 48s.; scavengers and refuse collectors, 51s.
Dundee ...	30 June	30 June	Labourers in Works Department	Decrease of 3d. per hour (1s. 3d. to 1s. 2½d.).

CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED DURING JUNE, 1923.

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
Glass Working Making-up and Packing Dock, Wharf, etc., Labour	Manchester and District Manchester Bristol Channel Ports	1 June / Pay day 6 or 7 July / 4 June	Decorative glassworkers ... Certain classes of male workers** Coal trimmers, tippers, etc. ...	Uniform week of 46½ hours adopted.† Increase of 1½ hours per week (46½ to 48).‡ Adoption of the three-shift system. The hours of the shifts are as follows:—6 a.m. to 2 p.m., 2 p.m. to 10 p.m., and 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. (week-days), and 6 a.m. to 12 noon (Saturdays).††

* The change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices.
 † The rates previously paid remained unchanged for those employed on broom heads up to 11½ in. stock and banisters up to 8½ in. blade, middles made of all fibre or fibre and drafts mixed up to 3½ in., and outside of any material up to and including 3½ in.; banisters (whisk) up to 7½ in. blade made with common Venetian tops (imported as tops); sweeps' brushes up to and including 5 in. head and Toy Heath brushes up to and including 3½ in. (both made with fibre, fibre and drafts, drafts only or chin a below 3 in.)
 ‡ The Authorities affected are those which follow the recommendations of the Joint Industrial Council for the East Midlands Area, and include: Grade A—Derby, Grimsby, Ilkeston, Leicester (road labourers, 1s. 2d.), Mansfield, Northampton, Nottingham; Grade B—Boston, Chesterfield R.D.C. (from 15th July) Coalville, Eastwood, Grantham, Hinckley, Kettering, Loughborough, Mansfield-Woodhouse, Ripley, Rusden (from 12th July), Swadlow, Sutton-in-Ashfield; Grade C—Ashby Wolds, Rothwell, Warsop, Wigston Magna; Grade D—Blackwell R.D.C., Daventry (from 2nd week in July), Shardlow R.D.C.
 § The Authorities affected are those which follow the wages agreement of the Joint Industrial Council for Gloucestershire, Somerset, and Wiltshire, and include the following: Grade A—Bristol (road labourers 6s. 6d. and other classes usually 3s. above minimum fixed by the Industrial Council for various classes); Grade B1—Gloucester, Swindon, Taunton; Grade D—Taunton R.D.C.
 ¶ The above decreases were the result of a decision by the Council to adopt the rates of wages laid down by the Administrative County of London Industrial Council for Local Authorities' Non-Trading Services (Manual Workers); and in the case of craftsmen, the appropriate trade union rate; it was arranged that the necessary reductions should be made in three equal instalments to take effect in April, May and June respectively.
 ** See also under "Cham es in Rates of Wages."
 †† Viz., packers, clothlookers (print and grey), headmen (sundry department), and/or case foremen and head scalesmen, hoistmen, general warehousemen and porters.
 ‡‡ It was agreed that the additional third shift was to be for an experimental period of six months, and that during this period it would not be necessary to work more than one-third of the tips on the third shift. A definite meal time allowance of half an hour was provided for in each shift. Under the two shift-system previously in force the length of a shift was usually 8½ hours, including half an hour meal-time allowance.

CHANGES TAKING EFFECT IN JULY, 1923.

The following groups of workpeople are affected by changes in wages already reported as having been arranged to take effect in July:—Decreases.—Skilled men employed in the Thames ship-repairing industry; railway servants; dock labourers; omnibus workers in London; certain classes of workpeople employed in the printing and bookbinding trades; brewery workers at Burton; men employed in the electricity supply industry in various districts; and employees of local authorities in the West Riding of Yorkshire. Increases.—Coal miners in Northumberland, Durham, Yorkshire and the East Midlands, South Wales and Monmouthshire, Scotland; ironstone miners in Cleveland; and blast-furnace workers in Cleveland and Cumberland.

PRICES AND WAGES IN THE IRON TRADE.

THE results of recent ascertainment of the selling prices of iron are given below:—

Table with columns: Product and District, Price according to last Audit, Average Selling Price Per Ton, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) of last Audit, Previous Audit, A Year ago.

Pig Iron.—The rise in the ascertained price of Cumberland pig iron for March and April resulted in an increase of 10 1/2 per cent. on standard rates for blastfurnacemen in West Cumberland and North Lancashire, and of 9d. per shift in the bargain price and of 8 1/2d. per shift in the minimum wage of iron-ore miners in the Furness district; while the rise in the ascertained price for March resulted in an increase of 5d. per shift in the bargain price and minimum wage of iron-ore miners in West Cumberland, and the wages of limestone quarrymen were also increased by 3 1/2d. per shift.

Manufactured Iron.—In the North of England the wages of puddlers and millmen were increased by 7 1/2 per cent. while in the West of Scotland the increase amounted to 2 1/2 per cent.

CO-OPERATIVE WHOLESALE SOCIETIES.

QUARTERLY RETURNS OF SALES.

Table with columns: Names of Societies and Nature of Business, Sales in the First Quarter of (1923, 1922, 1921), Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (-) compared with Year ago, Five Years ago.

* Stated to the nearest farthing. † No ascertainment was made for this period. ‡ The figures given for Productive Departments represent Sales and Transfers to the Distributive Departments.

BUILDING PLANS APPROVED.

Returns have been received from 142 Local Authorities in Great Britain giving particulars of the estimated cost of buildings for which plans were passed in June. The summarised figures for June are given in the following Table, together with similar figures relating to plans passed in these localities in the first six months of this year.

In the 142 localities to which the figures relate, plans were passed in June for buildings of an estimated cost of over £3,860,000, compared with an average of nearly £3,300,000 in the preceding five months.

Table with columns: District and Aggregate Population (at Census of 1921) of Towns from which returns have been received, Estimated Cost of Buildings for which plans were approved in the 142 towns from which returns have been received (Dwelling Houses, Factories and Workshops, etc.), TOTAL.

Table with columns: ENGLAND AND WALES—Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire, etc., and SCOTLAND, showing population and estimated cost of buildings.

ASSISTED PASSAGES UNDER THE EMPIRE SETTLEMENT ACT, 1922.

THE number of assisted passages granted during June, 1923, in connection with agreed schemes under the Empire Settlement Act (see March, 1923, GAZETTE, page 84), and the total number of such passages granted from the inception of these schemes up to the end of June, 1923, together with the numbers of departures during the same periods, are shown in the following Table:—

Table with columns: Assisted Passage Schemes (To Australia, New Zealand, Ontario), Minor Schemes, Total Assisted Passages Granted, Departures in June, Total Departures.

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

* Particulars are not available for the London County Council area.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.*

THE total number of cases† of poisoning and of anthrax in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, reported under the Factory and Workshop Act during June, 1923, was 44. There was one death reported during the month, due to lead poisoning in paint and colour work.

Table with columns: (a) CASES OF LEAD POISONING, (b) CASES OF OTHER FORMS OF POISONING, (c) CASES OF ANTHRAX—listing various occupations and their corresponding number of cases.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.‡

THE number of workpeople, other than seamen, reported as killed in the course of their employment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland during June, 1923, was 177, as compared with 189 in the previous month and with 149 a year ago.

Table with columns: RAILWAY SERVICE (Brakemen and Goods, Guards, etc.), FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS (Boiler Making, etc.), MINES (Underground, Surface), QUARRIES over 20 feet deep, listing fatal accidents by industry.

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

THE number of persons relieved on one day* in June, 1923, in the 31 selected areas named below corresponded to a rate of 512 per 10,000 of population, showing a decrease of 4 per 10,000 on the previous month, and of 171 per 10,000 on a year ago.

As compared with May, 1923, the total number relieved showed a decrease of 6,633 (or 0.7 per cent.). The number of indoor recipients of relief was lower by 1,335 (or 1.1 per cent.), while the number of outdoor recipients decreased by 5,298 (or 0.7 per cent.).

As compared with June, 1922, the total number relieved decreased by 296,026 (or 25 per cent.). The number of indoor recipients increased by 1,383 or 1.1 per cent., and the number of outdoor recipients decreased by 297,409 (or 27.9 per cent.).

Nine other districts showed decreases ranging from 116 to 502, and eighteen districts showed decreases ranging from 9 to 99 per 10,000 of population.

Table with columns: Selected Urban Areas, Number of persons in receipt of poor law relief on one day in June, 1923 (Indoor, Outdoor, Total), Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with a Month ago, Year ago.

* The figures for England and Wales relate to 30th June, and those for Scotland to 16th June. † These urban areas include in the case of England and Wales more than one poor law union, except in the Leicester, Birmingham, and West Ham districts; and more than one parish in the case of Scotland, except in the Aberdeen district. ‡ Exclusive of casuals; of patients in the Fever and Small-pox Hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Boards; of lunatics in Asylums Registered Hospitals and Licensed Houses; and of persons receiving out-door medical relief only. The figures for Scotland include destitute able-bodied unemployed in receipt of poor law relief.

RETAIL PRICES OVERSEAS.

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

I.—FOOD.

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

Table showing percentage increase in retail food prices in various countries as compared with July, 1914. Includes columns for Country, July 1919, July 1920, July 1921, July 1922, and Latest figures available.

* Exceptions to this are: Belgium, in which comparison is with April, 1914; France (other towns), 3rd quarter of 1914; Germany, average, 1913-14; The Hague, January to July, 1914; Rome, Milan, Florence, January to June, 1914; Switzerland, June, 1914; Poland, January, 1914; Amsterdam, average, 1913; South Africa, average, 1914. † Figure for June. ‡ The increases shown are for families of the lowest income class; in June, the increase for all working-class families ranged from 326 to 323 per cent. § Fuel and lighting are also included in these figures. ¶ Figure for August.

II.—ALL ITEMS.

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

Table showing percentage increase in the cost of food, house-rent, clothing, fuel and light, and other household requirements in various countries as compared with July, 1914. Includes columns for Country, Items on which computation is based, July 1919, July 1920, July 1921, July 1922, and Latest figures available.

* A=Food; B=House-Rent; C=Clothing; D=Fuel and Light; E=Other or Miscellaneous Items. † Exceptions to this are: France, Spain, Australia and South Africa, in which comparison is with the average for 1914; Belgium, April, 1914; Rome, Milan, and New Zealand, January to June, 1914; Egypt and Germany, average, 1913-1914; Poland, January, 1914; Switzerland and Luxemburg, June, 1914; United States, 1913; Bulgaria, average, 1901-1910. ‡ Figure for 3rd Quarter. § Figure for June. ¶ Figure for May. †† 1922.

EMPLOYMENT OVERSEAS.

[N.B.—The following paragraphs include an abstract of such official information as is available with regard to the state of employment abroad, in order to indicate, as far as possible, the fluctuations in employment in each country from period to period. The bases of the official statistics published in the various countries, are, however, not the same as those of the United Kingdom statistics, and therefore the figures quoted below cannot properly be used with those on pp. 244-245 to compare the actual level of employment in the United Kingdom with that in other countries. For further information on the subject of the bases of the unemployment statistics of the various countries see Report issued in 1922 by the International Labour Office under the title "Methods of Compiling Statistics of Unemployment" (Studies and Reports, Series C., No. 7.)]

GERMANY.*

Employment in May.—According to statistical data from various sources, the conditions in the labour market continued to improve during May. The movement was not, however, of a completely uniform character. In particular, the fact must be taken into consideration that in many trades unemployment, short time and the number of applications for situations still continued at so high a level that, in spite of what, on the whole, must be admitted to be an improvement in the state of employment, the situation cannot by any means be described as favourable.

The total number of unemployed workpeople in receipt of out-of-work donation declined from 265,959 on 1st May to 254,921 on 1st June. A further drop of about 33,000 took place between 1st and 15th June, but the returns for the latter date are not complete. In addition 279,315 were reported as being in receipt of assistance owing to working short time.

Returns from Trade Unions point to less unemployment among organised workers. Out of nearly 6 million members included in the returns, 370,953, or 6·2 per cent., were unemployed on 26th May, as against 7·0 per cent. in the preceding month and 0·7 per cent. in May, 1922. The following Table gives particulars for the leading Unions:—

Table showing membership and percentage unemployed for various unions in Germany as of May, 1923. Includes columns for Unions, Membership reported at end of May, 1923, and Percentage Unemployed at end of Month.

The above totals do not include persons partially employed, of whom in May there were 21·7 per cent. among the 5,400,000 Trade Union members included in the returns on this point. In April the corresponding percentage was 28·5.

Returns from public Employment Exchanges show that in the month under review the number of situations offered by employers increased somewhat, while that of applicants for employment declined. The Exchanges reporting registered 1,112,056 applicants, against 508,090 vacancies. On the average there were 280 applications for each 100 situations for male workers and 141 for each 100 for female workers; in April the corresponding figures were 365 and 164.

Sickness insurance societies reported an increase in membership (i.e., of persons under obligation to insure, and therefore assumed to be in work) from 12,368,527 on 1st May to 12,594,055 on 1st June, a rise of 1·7 per cent.

AUSTRIA.

Unemployment in May.—According to the issue of Statistische Nachrichten (the journal of the Austrian Department of Statistics) for 25th June, the number of persons in receipt of unemployment benefit in the principal industrial districts amounted to 109,002 at the end of May, as compared with 132,000 at the end of the preceding month, and 38,573 at the end of May, 1922. At both of the two later periods over 60 per cent. of the total unemployed were in Vienna.

* Reichs-Arbeitsblatt, 1st July, 1923.

FRANCE.*

Unemployment in June.—The total number of unemployed remaining on the "live register" at the Employment Exchanges in the week ended 30th June, 1923, was 8,739 (5,936 men and 2,803 women). The total number of vacancies remaining unfilled was 9,483 (5,218 for men and 4,265 for women). During the week under review the Exchanges succeeded in placing 23,118 persons (22,532 men and 5,586 women) in situations, and in addition found employment for 4,844 foreign immigrants.

According to the latest returns, six departmental and 37 municipal unemployment funds were in operation throughout France on 5th July, the number of persons in receipt of out-of-work benefit through their agency being 2,067 (1,938 men and 129 women). This shows a decrease of 20 when compared with the corresponding figure (2,087) for the preceding week. It is to be noted that these figures do not fully indicate the number of persons out of employment, since some localities are without unemployment funds, and where they do exist their record of unemployed persons is not complete.

BELGIUM.†

Unemployment in April and May.—The most recent figures available are provisional in character and relate to May. Returns received by the Belgian Ministry of Industry and Labour from 1,705 approved unemployment funds, with a total membership of 649,774, show that 17,836 of these were either wholly or partially unemployed at the end of the month. The aggregate days of unemployment in May numbered 224,358, or 1·44 per cent. of the aggregate possible working days; for April the corresponding percentage was 1·08, and for May, 1922, 4·35.

Revised and final figures are given for April, in which month 1,727 funds, with an aggregate membership of 645,104, reported 4,869 (or 0·8 per cent.) wholly unemployed, and 10,890 partially so on the last working day of the month.

During May 14,563 applications for employment were received at Employment Exchanges, as compared with 13,350 in April. Vacancies notified by employers numbered 11,832 (12,549 in April). For every 100 situations registered as vacant there were thus 123 applications as compared with 106 in April.

SWEDEN.‡

Unemployment in April.—The percentage of unemployed members of trade unions on 30th April was 15·6, as compared with 19·9 at the end of the preceding month, and 28·3 at the end of April, 1922. The following Table gives corresponding particulars for the principal unions covered by the returns:—

Table showing membership and percentage unemployed for various unions in Sweden as of 30th April, 1923. Includes columns for Unions, Membership reporting on 30th Apr., 1923, and Percentage Unemployed.

SWITZERLAND.§

Unemployment in May.—According to figures compiled by the Central Employment Department of Switzerland, on the basis of returns from Employment Exchanges, the number of applicants for work remaining on the "live register" on the 31st May was 30,228 (as compared with 35,512 at the end of the preceding month and 71,100 at the end of May, 1922). Of these, 11,512 were employed on relief works, leaving 18,716 entirely without work. Among the applicants for employment were 3,822 normally engaged in the building trades, 3,673 in the metal, engineering and electrical trades, 3,422 in the watch, clock and jewellery trades, and 3,035 in the textile trades. In addition to the foregoing persons entirely without work, 15,640 were reported as only partially employed, including 8,587 in the textile trades, 2,948 in the metal, engineering and electrical trades, and 1,501 in the watch, clock and jewellery trades. The vacancies offered by employers remaining unfilled at the end of May numbered 3,587.

During the month of May on an average 302 applications were made for each 100 vacancies for men, and 116 for each 100 for women. In April the figures were 303 and 131 respectively.

* Bulletin du Marché du Travail, 6th July, 1923. Paris. † Revue du Travail, June, 1923. Brussels. ‡ Sociala Meddelanden, No. 6, 1923. Stockholm. § Der Schweizerische Arbeitsmarkt, 15th June, 1923. Berne.

HOLLAND.

Unemployment in June.—H.M. Commercial Secretary at the Hague reports that, according to figures supplied by the State Department of Unemployment Insurance, in the week ended 9th June, out of 283,227 members of unemployment funds making returns, 24,323 (or 8·6 per cent.) were totally unemployed, and 6,202 (or 2·2 per cent.) partially so. In the corresponding week of the preceding month (ended 12th May) the corresponding percentages were 8·8 and 2·2 respectively.

NORWAY.

Unemployment in May.—According to information supplied through the courtesy of the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics the percentage of members reported as unemployed at the end of April in certain trade unions making returns to the Bureau was 8·6, as compared with 9·0 on 30th April, and 16·3 at the end of May, 1922.

CANADA.*

Employment in June.—For 1st June, 1923, Returns were received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics at Ottawa from 5,865 firms, with an aggregate pay-roll of 800,605. On 1st May the same firms reported 754,021. There was thus an increase of about 47,000 at the later date. If the number 100 be assigned to the week ended 17th January, 1920, the index number of employment for 1st June last is 97·3, as compared with 91·4 for the 1st May and 89·2 for 1st June, 1922.

AUSTRALIA.†

Unemployment in 1st Quarter, 1923.—The percentage of members of Trade Unions unemployed in the first quarter was 7·2, as compared with 8·6 in the preceding quarter and 9·2 in the first quarter of 1922.

UNITED STATES.‡

Employment in May.—The Federal Department of Labour Statistics at Washington presents reports concerning the volume of employment in May, 1923, from 6,075 representative establishments, covering 2,249,425 employees in forty-seven manufacturing industries. A comparison of the figures with those for identical establishments in April, 1923, shows that, on the whole, there was an increase of 0·3 per cent. in the number of persons employed. Increases are shown in twenty industries and decreases in twenty-seven. The largest increase (6·0 per cent.) was in tobacco, while the brick and tile and petroleum refining industries showed increases of 4·2 and 3·9 per cent. respectively. Decreases are shown in fertilisers (26·5 per cent.), women's clothing (7·1 per cent.), millinery and lace goods (4·3 per cent.) and leather (3·9 per cent.).

The aggregate wages paid show a net increase of 4·1 per cent. over those of the preceding month. There were increases in thirty-five industries, the iron and steel industry leading with 13·1 per cent. Increases were also shown in brick and tile (11·3 per cent.), woollen goods (11·1 per cent.), slaughtering and meat packing (10·4 per cent.), carpets (8·2 per cent.), cotton goods (6·9 per cent.) and sawmills (6·7 per cent.). Steel ship-building, hardware and baking showed increases of 6·6, 5·7 and 5·6 per cent. respectively. The greatest decreases are shown in fertilisers (18·4 per cent.) and women's clothing (13·1 per cent.).

The following Table affords a comparison between returns from identical establishments in thirteen manufacturing industries in May, 1923, and May, 1922:—

Table comparing returns from identical establishments in thirteen manufacturing industries in May, 1923, and May, 1922. Includes columns for Industry, Number of Establishments reporting, Number of Workpeople, Aggregate Weekly Earnings, and Percentage Change.

The net increase in the number of persons employed in the thirteen industries was 24 per cent. Twelve industries show increases and one a decrease. Woollen goods, cotton goods, automobiles and car building and repairing show the largest increases (59·4 per cent., 43·5 per cent., 38·6 per cent. and 36·1 per cent. respectively).

Twelve industries also show increases in aggregate earnings, the largest being 84·4 per cent. in cotton goods and 79·8 per cent. in woollen goods.

* Information supplied through the courtesy of the General Statistics Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa. † Information supplied by cablegram through the courtesy of the Commonwealth High Commissioner in London. ‡ Information supplied through the courtesy of the Federal Commissioner of Labour Statistics, Washington.

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