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

EMPLOYMENT.

EMPLOYMENT in May was seriously affected in the first half of the month by the general strike, and subsequently by the increasing shortage of fuel resulting from the stoppage of work in the coal-mining industry. In most of the large coal-using industries employment was bad, and, in many industries—particularly iron mining, and pig-iron, iron and steel, tinplate, and pottery manufacture—a large number of works were either closed down or working a considerable amount of short time at the end of the month.

Among the 11,892,000 workpeople insured against unemployment under the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the percentage unemployed at 24th May, 1926, was 14·5,\* as compared with 9·2 at 26th April, 1926, and 10·9 at 25th May, 1925. Among the members of those trade unions from which returns were received, the percentage unemployed was 13·2\* at the end of May, 1926, compared with 10·0 at the end of April, 1926, and with 10·1 at the end of May, 1925. The total number of applicants for employment registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 31st May, 1926, was approximately 1,675,000,\* of whom 1,246,000 were men and 333,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls; at 26th April, 1926, it was 1,034,000, of whom 800,000 were men and 172,000 were women; and at 25th May, 1925, it was 1,253,000, of whom 963,000 were men and 226,000 were women.

WAGES.

IN the industries for which statistics are regularly compiled by the Department, the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation during May resulted in a reduction of over £20,000 in the weekly full-time wages of nearly 240,000 workpeople, and in an increase of £3,900 in those of over 25,000 workpeople.

Among the largest groups of workpeople affected by reductions were workpeople employed in the boot and shoe repairing industry, and steel smelters and millmen in various districts in England and Scotland. In the former case there were reductions in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts, which amounted in the case of adult time-workers to 2s. or 3s. per week. The reduction in steel works, which did not apply in the case of lower-paid adults, affected over 30,000 workpeople and amounted generally to about 3 per cent. on current rates. Other bodies of workpeople whose wages were reduced included iron puddlers and millmen in the North of England and Scotland, blastfurnacemen in

\* Workpeople in the coal-mining industry, who ceased work on account of the dispute, are not included in this figure.

Cumberland, North Lincolnshire, and Scotland, and Siemens steel workers (except lower-paid men) in South-West Wales.

The increases affected principally building trade operatives at Liverpool and Birkenhead, iron ore miners in Cumberland, and workpeople employed in the explosives industry.

During the first five months of 1926 the changes reported to the Department, in the industries for which statistics have been compiled, have resulted in net increases amounting to £14,800 in the weekly full time wages of 116,000 workpeople, and in net reductions of £52,000 in those of 520,000 workpeople.

COST OF LIVING.

At 1st June the average level of retail prices of all the commodities taken into account in the statistics compiled by the Ministry of Labour (including food, rent, clothing, fuel, light and miscellaneous items) was approximately 68 per cent. above that of July, 1914, as compared with 67 per cent. a month ago and 72 per cent. a year ago. The corresponding figures for food alone were 58, 58 and 66 respectively.

These statistics are designed to indicate the average increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the pre-war standard of living of working-class families, and 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.

TRADE DISPUTES.

A general stoppage of work in the coal-mining industry directly involving about 1,075,000 workpeople began on 1st May and continued throughout the month. A general strike of members of various other Trade Unions, in support of the coal miners, began at midnight on 3rd-4th May; it was called off on 12th May, work being resumed during the period 13th to 17th May, with some exceptions. The industries most affected by the general strike were transport, printing, building and iron and steel. Statistics relating to this strike are not sufficiently complete to enable a precise calculation to be made of the number of workpeople who took part in it, but they probably numbered about 1½ to 1¾ million.

In addition to the coal-mining stoppage and the general strike, 17 other disputes, all of which were relatively small, were reported to the Department as having begun in May in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and 18 disputes which began before May were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The number of workpeople involved in these 35 smaller disputes in May (including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes) was about 18,000, and the estimated aggregate duration of these disputes in May was about 114,000 working days.

EARNINGS AND HOURS OF LABOUR IN THE TEXTILE INDUSTRIES.

In March, 1925, a general enquiry into the average weekly earnings and the weekly hours of labour of workpeople in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was instituted by the Ministry of Labour.

The Board of Trade had arranged, under the Census of Production Order of 1923, to undertake an enquiry into production, industry by industry, in 1924. It was evident that the utility of the information so obtained would be considerably increased if up-to-date statistics could also be made available as to the wages paid and hours worked in each industry, in regard to which no comprehensive information had been collected since 1906, when a general enquiry was made by the Labour Department of the Board of Trade.

It was accordingly arranged, with the co-operation of the National Confederation of Employers' Organisations, that schedules should be sent to employers in all manufacturing industries and in a number of the principal non-manufacturing industries, asking for the following particulars in regard to each of four weeks in 1924, viz., the weeks ended 19th January, 12th April, 12th July and 18th October:—

- (a) the total number of workpeople at work, and, if possible, the numbers of males and females respectively;
- (b) the total wages paid to these workpeople, showing separately, if possible, the total wages paid to males and to females, respectively;
- (c) the hours of labour in a full ordinary week, exclusive of mealtimes;
- (d) the number of workpeople on short time, and the average number of hours lost per head by such workpeople;
- (e) the aggregate number of man-hours worked.

Particulars as to the total wages paid to all workpeople during the whole of the year 1924 were also asked for. Employers were asked to include, in their returns, the whole of the operatives (including foremen, carters, warehousemen, etc.) at work on their premises during the weeks referred to, but to exclude managers, clerks, typists, commercial travellers and salaried persons generally, as well as workpeople doing work at home on material supplied by the employer. In cases where one of the specified weeks was affected by holidays, breakdown, fire, strike, lock-out or other exceptional circumstances, employers were asked to substitute particulars for the nearest week of an ordinary character. In cases, however, where, during the weeks in question, employment was wholly or partially suspended owing to bad trade no such substitution was to be made.

The total number of employers to whom enquiry forms were despatched was nearly 300,000. Up to the present time over 200,000 replies have been received, and although a proportion of these do not contain any information suitable for tabulation it is anticipated that the number of effective returns received will ultimately be found to be not far short of 150,000. In view of the voluntary character of the enquiry this response may be regarded as highly satisfactory, and the number of returns obtained should be sufficient, in most industries, to provide a thoroughly trustworthy basis for representative statistics.

The examination of the returns received, correspondence with the firms concerned in cases where this appeared necessary, and the tabulation of the figures, have been proceeding for some months, and it is hoped that the final results of the enquiry may be completed about the end of the year. Meanwhile, preliminary figures, subject possibly to slight revision when later returns are included, are now becoming available for some industries, and it is proposed to publish these preliminary figures, as they become ready for issue, in the monthly issues of this GAZETTE. The first instalment of these results, relating to the textile industries, is given below.

I.—NUMBER OF RETURNS RECEIVED AND NUMBER OF WORKPEOPLE COVERED.

The number of returns received giving information regarding earnings and the average number of workpeople covered in the textile industries are as shown below. The numbers of workpeople quoted are the averages of the totals returned for each of the four weeks of 1924 for which particulars were given.

Industry.	Number of		Industry.	Number of	
	Returns received.	Work-people covered.*		Returns received.	Work-people covered.*
Cotton ...	2,057	435,448	Hosiery ...	851	71,203
Woolen and Worsted ...	1,857	216,392	Carpet ...	95	15,650
Lace ...	378	12,215	Bleaching, printing, dyeing and finishing ...	786	87,831
Silk ...	167	31,325	Making-up and packing ...	222	8,661
Linen ...	351	68,209	Other textiles† ...	850	37,749
Jute ...	79	32,698			
			Total of above	7,693	1,017,381

The following Table shows the total number of workpeople employed, by firms which have made returns as to earnings, in each of the four specified weeks of 1924, together with the proportions of males and females employed as shown by the average of the numbers in the four weeks:—

\* Averages of the numbers employed in the four weeks.  
† Including hemp, rope, twine and net, elastic webbing, coir mat, hair, fibre, etc.

Industry.	Number of Workpeople employed in the week ended.				Proportion of	
	19th Jan.	12th Apl.	12th July.	18th Oct.	Males.	Females.
Cotton ...	430,336	434,193	433,498	443,765	36.4	63.6
Woolen and Worsted ...	213,275	217,132	217,652	217,510	41.3	58.7
Lace ...	12,394	12,444	12,030	11,990	34.7	65.3
Silk ...	28,743	30,208	32,512	33,838	37.3	62.7
Linen ...	65,319	68,762	68,792	69,962	24.6	75.4
Jute ...	32,228	32,460	33,163	32,940	33.5	66.5
Hosiery ...	68,357	71,308	72,634	72,513	16.3	83.7
Carpet ...	15,681	15,552	15,649	15,719	42.6	57.4
Bleaching, printing, dyeing and finishing ...	86,912	87,590	88,162	88,659	80.0	20.0
Making-up and packing ...	8,720	8,339	8,602	8,984	63.4	36.6
Other textiles† ...	37,220	37,553	38,132	38,089	32.0	68.0
TOTAL ...	999,185	1,015,541	1,020,826	1,033,969	40.2	59.8

Some of the firms who supplied information as to the total number employed did not supply particulars of the number of males and females, respectively. The figures given in the last two columns of the above Table are based on the proportions shown by those returns which gave such particulars. The numbers of males and females shown by these returns are given in the next Table below.

II.—AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS.

The following Table shows the average weekly earnings, in each of the four specified weeks, of the workpeople employed by the firms making returns, together with the average earnings of males and females, as shown by those returns which gave separate particulars. Owing to the fact that certain firms were unable to separate the wages paid to males and females respectively, the numbers of males and females shown are smaller than the total numbers given in the first part of the Table.

Industry.	Number of Work-people covered.*	Average Earnings in the week ended				Average of the Earnings in the Four Weeks.
		19th Jan.	12th April.	12th July.	18th Oct.	
(A) ALL WORKPEOPLE.						
Cotton ...	435,448	s. d. 36 6	s. d. 36 5	s. d. 36 8	s. d. 37 7	s. d. 36 10
Woolen and Worsted ...	216,392	39 1	41 4	40 8	40 8	40 5
Lace ...	12,215	34 5	34 4	33 9	34 1	34 2
Silk ...	31,325	37 7	39 1	39 11	39 6	39 1
Linen ...	68,209	26 9	28 3	27 7	27 7	27 7
Jute ...	32,698	32 8	32 8	33 4	33 3	33 0
Hosiery ...	71,203	33 8	35 9	34 6	35 1	34 9
Carpet ...	15,650	35 4	35 11	36 0	36 2	35 10
Bleaching, printing, dyeing and finishing ...	87,831	50 2	50 0	50 2	50 3	50 2
Making-up and packing ...	8,661	44 1	44 8	46 2	45 0	45 0
Other textiles† ...	37,749	30 7	31 4	32 0	31 10	31 5
All the above	1,017,381	37 2	37 10	37 9	38 2	37 9
(B) MALES.						
Cotton ...	80,698	s. d. 47 6	s. d. 46 5	s. d. 46 6	s. d. 47 7	s. d. 47 0
Woolen and Worsted ...	60,496	52 9	54 5	54 5	53 10	53 10
Lace ...	3,780	51 10	51 11	52 3	52 5	52 1
Silk ...	10,075	58 4	59 1	60 9	61 0	59 10
Linen ...	11,816	39 7	42 2	41 2	41 3	41 0
Jute ...	5,769	41 5	41 2	41 10	41 9	41 6
Hosiery ...	7,876	52 11	56 2	54 7	54 7	54 8
Carpet ...	3,535	49 7	49 5	50 1	50 7	49 11
Bleaching, printing, dyeing and finishing ...	58,793	57 1	56 6	56 8	56 10	56 9
Making-up and packing ...	4,389	55 5	56 1	57 10	56 6	56 6
Other textiles† ...	9,607	46 8	47 8	48 5	48 8	47 11
All the above	257,834	50 5	51 5	51 2	51 9	51 6
(C) FEMALES.						
Cotton ...	140,912	s. d. 27 10	s. d. 28 2	s. d. 27 11	s. d. 29 2	s. d. 28 3
Woolen and Worsted ...	86,001	30 0	30 8	30 7	31 1	30 7
Lace ...	7,123	24 9	24 10	23 7	24 6	24 5
Silk ...	16,924	26 11	28 4	28 10	28 0	28 0
Linen ...	36,210	21 9	23 5	22 11	22 10	22 9
Jute ...	13,423	28 2	28 4	29 0	28 10	28 7
Hosiery ...	40,425	27 2	29 9	28 9	28 10	28 8
Carpet ...	4,761	24 8	26 5	26 7	27 0	26 0
Bleaching, printing, dyeing and finishing ...	14,725	27 6	27 3	27 0	27 5	27 3
Making-up and packing ...	2,534	26 9	28 3	29 3	28 7	28 3
Other textiles† ...	20,421	23 4	23 11	24 6	24 4	24 0
All the above	383,459	27 4	28 1	27 11	28 5	27 11

\* Averages of the numbers employed in the four weeks.  
† Including hemp, rope, twine and net, elastic webbing, coir mat, hair, fibre, etc.

III.—NORMAL WEEKLY HOURS OF LABOUR.

The following Table shows the proportion of the workpeople employed by firms making returns on this point whose normal weekly hours, exclusive of mealtimes, in the week ended 18th October, 1924, were as stated, together with the average normal hours of the workpeople covered.

Industry.	No. of Work-people covered.	Percentage of employees whose normal hours were						Average weekly normal Hours.
		44 or less.	44½ to 46½.	47.	47½ to 47¾.	48.	Over 48.	
Cotton ...	443,698	Per cent. 2.3	Per cent. 0.5	Per cent. 0.3	Per cent. ...	Per cent. 96.1	Per cent. 0.8	47.9
Woolen and Worsted ...	217,454	0.9	1.3	0.1	0.4	95.8	1.5	48.0
Lace ...	11,954	8.3	7.1	6.3	0.7	57.8	19.8	48.0
Silk ...	32,671	7.3	6.4	2.6	2.1	63.9	17.7	48.0
Linen ...	69,882	12.9	3.7	7.6	0.3	70.9	4.6	47.3
Jute ...	32,940	...	0.7	0.4	...	98.8	0.1	48.0
Hosiery ...	72,014	5.7	4.5	7.6	2.9	74.4	4.9	47.6
Carpet ...	15,719	1.3	0.7	1.0	...	95.7	1.3	48.0
Bleaching, printing, dyeing and finishing ...	88,524	3.5	1.5	0.3	0.7	87.4	6.6	48.0
Making-up and packing ...	8,984	20.1	9.4	5.9	1.6	62.1	0.9	46.8
Other textiles* ...	37,981	8.7	6.3	20.8	1.6	57.5	5.1	47.4
All the above	1,031,821	3.6	1.8	2.2	0.5	89.0	2.9	47.9

IV.—HOURS ACTUALLY WORKED.

The following Table shows the average number of hours actually worked in the four specified weeks by the workpeople employed by firms who were able to supply these particulars:—

Industry.	No. of Work-people covered.†	Average hours worked in the week ended				Average Hours worked in the four weeks.
		19th Jan.	12th April.	12th July.	18th Oct.	
Cotton ...	243,371	44.8	44.1	44.2	45.1	44.6
Woolen and Worsted ...	122,961	44.7	46.2	45.3	45.5	45.4
Lace ...	4,574	42.8	42.2	41.2	41.8	42.0
Silk ...	13,901	45.1	46.5	46.9	46.6	46.3
Linen ...	35,815	45.3	46.0	46.1	45.9	45.8
Jute ...	20,724	47.6	47.0	47.8	47.5	47.5
Hosiery ...	22,336	43.5	44.6	44.5	44.2	44.2
Carpet ...	7,385	46.9	46.6	46.8	47.5	46.9
Bleaching, printing, dyeing and finishing ...	59,498	44.2	43.7	44.0	44.3	44.1
Making-up and packing ...	6,142	45.3	45.9	45.9	46.3	45.9
Other textiles* ...	22,861	45.4	45.6	45.8	45.3	45.6
All the above	559,568	44.9	44.9	44.9	45.3	45.0

V.—AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS.

The following Table shows the average earnings per hour of those workpeople covered by returns which showed the number of hours actually worked. As some firms were unable to give particulars of the total number of hours worked, the product of the average hourly earnings shown below and the average hours shown in Section IV does not correspond precisely with the average weekly earnings shown on page 196. Comparisons of the average earnings shown for different industries are, of course, affected by the different proportions of males and females employed as between one industry and another.

Industry.	No. of Work-people covered.†	Average Hourly Earnings in the week ended				Average Hourly Earnings in the four weeks.
		19th Jan.	12th April.	12th July.	18th Oct.	
Cotton ...	243,371	d. 9.7	d. 9.8	d. 9.8	d. 9.9	d. 9.8
Woolen and Worsted ...	122,961	10.6	10.8	10.8	10.7	10.7
Lace ...	4,574	9.2	9.3	9.5	9.5	9.4
Silk ...	13,901	10.7	10.7	10.9	10.9	10.8
Linen ...	35,815	7.3	7.6	7.4	7.4	7.4
Jute ...	20,724	8.2	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.4
Hosiery ...	22,336	9.1	9.4	9.0	9.1	9.2
Carpet ...	7,385	9.0	9.3	9.4	9.3	9.3
Bleaching, printing, dyeing and finishing ...	59,498	13.9	13.9	13.9	14.0	13.9
Making-up and packing ...	6,142	12.0	11.8	12.4	12.0	12.1
Other textiles* ...	22,861	8.1	8.1	8.2	8.3	8.2
All the above	559,568	10.1	10.2	10.2	10.2	10.2

VI.—EXTENT OF SHORT TIME.

The following Table shows the proportion of workpeople, employed by the firms making returns, who were reported to be working less than full time, together with the average number of hours lost per week by such workpeople and the average time lost by all the workpeople covered by the returns. Workpeople "stood off" for the whole of any of the weeks specified have been regarded as unemployed and have not been taken into account in compiling the statistics, except in cases where they are known to have been working under a system of employment in alternate weeks, or to have been "standing off" in rotation. Persons working under a system of alternate weeks have been included as working 24 hours short time. Those who were "standing off" in rotation have

\* Including hemp, rope, twine and net, elastic webbing, coir mat, hair, fibre, etc.  
† Averages of the numbers employed in the four weeks.

been shown as losing the average number of hours lost per week over the period covered by the rota.

Industry.	No. of Work-people covered.*	Proportion of Workpeople on Short Time in the week ended			
		19th Jan.	12th Apl.	12th July.	18th Oct.
Cotton ...	405,046	Per cent. 19.0	Per cent. 21.7	Per cent. 22.0	Per cent. 17.2
Woolen and Worsted ...	207,603	23.7	15.0	18.5	18.2
Lace ...	9,323	29.4	33.5	37.0	37.3
Silk ...	25,350	17.3	10.5	9.7	9.6
Linen ...	63,839	12.3	6.5	11.5	10.2
Jute ...	31,111	1.6	8.8	0.3	0.7
Hosiery ...	50,901	12.5	6.8	8.3	11.0
Carpet ...	14,088	7.5	9.2	10.9	6.2
Bleaching, printing, dyeing and finishing ...	84,239	40.3	40.7	39.8	39.7
Making-up and packing ...	8,509	15.4	12.0	11.1	9.2
Other textiles† ...	34,882	16.2	14.7	13.3	12.2
All the above	934,891	20.4	18.9	19.8	17.6

Average Number of Hours lost (a) by those who worked less than Full Time and (b) by all Workpeople covered, in the week ended

STRIKES AND LOCK-OUTS IN 1925.

In the issue of this GAZETTE for January, 1926 (pages 5 and 6), some preliminary statistics were given of industrial disputes, involving stoppages of work, which occurred in Great Britain and Northern Ireland in 1925. More detailed statistics regarding these disputes, revised in accordance with the latest information received, are now available and are given below.

The number of disputes, involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as having begun in 1925, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was 604,\* as compared with 710 in 1924. In these disputes about 401,500 workpeople were directly involved (i.e., on strike or locked-out) and 40,300 indirectly involved (i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes). In addition, 3,500 workpeople were involved, either directly or indirectly, in 25 disputes which began in 1924, and were still in progress at the beginning of 1925. The total number of workpeople involved, either directly or indirectly, in all disputes in progress in 1925 was thus over 445,000. The aggregate time lost in 1925 by these workpeople, owing to the disputes, was approximately 7,966,000 working days. In the previous year, the number of workpeople involved in disputes was approximately 616,000, and the aggregate number of days lost was about 8,424,000. It is of interest to note from these figures that neither in 1924 nor in 1925 did the aggregate loss of working time owing to industrial disputes at the establishments where the disputes occurred exceed an average of half a day per head of the whole employee population.

The following Table summarises, by groups of industries, the number of disputes reported as beginning in 1924 and 1925 in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the number of workpeople involved in all disputes in progress in each of these years, and the aggregate number of working days lost by these workpeople, owing to the disputes.

Groups of Industries.	1924.			1925.		
	No. of Disputes beginning in 1924.	Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress in 1924.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.	No. of Disputes beginning in 1925.	Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress in 1925.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.
Coal Mining ...	190	136,800	1,563,000	164	130,000	3,453,000
Other Mining and Quarrying ...	14	3,500	65,000	12	8,600	301,000
Brick, Pottery, Glass, etc. ...	23	3,400	89,000	13	700	5,000
Chemical ...	11	1,500	23,000	11	600	29,000
Engineering ...	33	11,600	112,000	18	6,400	37,000
Shipbuilding ...	40	34,500	597,000	27	7,000	49,000
Other Metal ...	63	25,400	691,000	48	11,500	97,000
Textile ...	50	11,400	200,000	59	172,100	3,173,000
Clothing ...	31	4,600	45,000	31	4,600	38,000
Food, Drink and Tobacco ...	24	9,700	77,000	26	5,300	56,000
Woodworking and Furnishing ...	28	3,100	93,000	31	5,400	126,000
Paper, Printing, etc. ...	12	2,800	18,000	17	19,200	136,000
Building, Decorating, Contracting, etc. ...	58	113,600	3,134,000	54	5,400	79,000
Transport ...	78	244,400	1,539,000	46	28,800	68,000
Other ...	55	10,000	178,000	47	39,500	†319,000
Total ...	710	616,100	8,424,000	604	445,300	7,966,000

Of the total numbers of workpeople shown as involved in all disputes, 55,000 in 1924 and 40,600 in 1925 were indirectly involved, i.e., thrown out of work, in consequence of the disputes, at the establishments where the disputes occurred, though not actually on strike or locked-out.

Disputes in the coal mining and textile industries accounted for more than two-thirds of all the workpeople involved and over 80 per cent. of all the time lost in disputes in 1925. The building, etc., and transport industries were comparatively free from large disputes, whereas in the previous year more than half of all the workpeople involved in disputes were in these industries. The numbers involved in disputes in the engineering, shipbuilding and other metal industries in 1925 were less than in any year since 1909.

PRINCIPAL DISPUTES IN 1925.

The principal dispute of the year occurred in the wool textile industry in the West Riding of Yorkshire and part of Lancashire. The workpeople made application for an increase in wages and for certain other wages concessions, and the employers made counter-proposals for reductions in wages. After negotiations, the representatives of the workpeople offered to continue the existing agreement unchanged for a further period of twelve months. The employers, however, pressed their claim for a modified reduction in wages and, no agreement having been reached, about 165,000 workpeople ceased work on 23rd and 24th July. A temporary settlement was effected on 14th August providing for resumption of work at the old rates of wages pending an inquiry by a special Court of Investigation appointed by the Minister of Labour, the recommendations of which both parties to the dispute agreed to accept. The Court issued a unanimous report on 11th November,

\* Disputes involving less than ten workpeople and those which lasted less than one day are 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.  
† Including 239,000 in India rubber and waterproof garment manufacture.

recommending the stabilisation of existing rates of wages until January, 1927.

No other stoppages occurred in the year of a magnitude approaching that in the wool textile industry, the next in order of numbers involved being a strike of coal miners which occurred in June, July and August, in the Anthracite District of South Wales, arising out of the dismissal of a collier's helper and an alleged breach of a seniority rule. This strike, which ultimately involved 20,000 coal miners, was unsuccessful, work being resumed on the old terms except at the colliery originally in dispute, which was not reopened. Among other disputes in the coal mining industry, involving smaller numbers of workpeople, were several protracted stoppages caused by the workpeople's opposition to employers' proposals for reductions in wages, extensions of working hours, or other revisions in conditions of employment. In the case of three such disputes which began in the summer of 1925 in the Durham coalfield, involving in all over 12,000 workpeople, no general settlement had been effected when the general stoppage of the coal mines began in May, 1926.

Members of the National Union of Printing, Bookbinding, etc., Workers employed by a London firm ceased work on 28th February on a question respecting the wages payable to workpeople employed on certain machines. As the workpeople refused to resume work on terms recommended (prior to the stoppage) by the Joint Industrial Council, other firms affiliated to the London Master Bookbinders' Association imposed a lock-out on 21st March on members of the Trade Union, and this again was followed on 25th March by a sympathetic strike of other members of the Trade Union employed by firms belonging to the London Master Printers' Association. The stoppage involved about 15,000 workpeople in all and lasted until 27th March, when the terms recommended by the Joint Industrial Council were accepted, and agreement was reached, upon a national basis, as to the rates of wages applicable to various machines.

About 10,000 members of the National Union of Distributive and Allied Workers employed by retail co-operative societies were involved in a strike at Preston and a subsequent lock-out at other centres in Lancashire, Cheshire, and adjoining counties, following the failure of negotiations on the Trade Union's claim for the adoption of a new wages and conditions programme. The stoppage lasted from 28th March to 2nd April, when an agreement was effected providing for resumption of negotiations and defining terms of reference, etc., for arbitration in the event of continued failure to agree.

In August a strike against a reduction in seamen's wages, which had been agreed upon between the shipowners and the National Sailors and Firemen's Union broke out in London and other British ports, where it is estimated that about 5,000 seamen struck work. In the great majority of cases, however, their places were filled rapidly and ships were able in most cases to sail with little or no delay. The dispute was abandoned in British ports on 12th October, but was continued for some time longer overseas, where it had extended to South African and Australasian ports.

Of four disputes, involving in all nearly 24,000 workpeople, which occurred in the india-rubber and waterproof garment industry in the Manchester and Birmingham districts, the largest, measured by loss of time, lasted from 16th November to 18th December at Manchester, Salford and Warrington, and arose out of a proposed reduction in piece-work rates, a modified reduction being ultimately accepted.

In the following Table a list is given of the principal industrial disputes, involving stoppages of work, occurring in 1925, with particulars of the classes of workpeople involved, the dates of the stoppages, the numbers involved, and the aggregate duration in each case.

Classes of Workpeople involved.	Dates of beginning and end of Stoppage.	Number of Workpeople involved.	Approximate Aggregate Number of Working Days lost
MINING AND QUARRYING:— Coal miners, etc.—South Shields Coal miners, etc.—Wrexham Coal miners, etc.—Consett, Co. Durham ...	24 April—21 Sept. 15 June—29 Oct. 22 June—*	3,389 2,251 7,000	336,000 168,000 1,356,000*
Coal miners, etc.—Anthracite District of South Wales ...	22 June†—24 Aug.	20,000	670,000
Coal miners, etc.—East Bolton, Co. Durham ...	5 Aug.—*	2,829	509,000*
Coal miners, etc.—South Shields Shale miners, oil workers, etc.—West Lothian ...	14 Aug.—* 11 Nov.—11 Dec.	2,414 7,017	418,000* 275,000
METAL, ENGINEERING, ETC., INDUSTRIES:— Railway carriage and wagon builders—Wolverton ...	26 Oct.—2 Nov.	3,894	24,000
TEXTILE INDUSTRIES:— Wool textile operatives, engine-men, firemen, etc.—West Riding of Yorkshire and part of Lancashire ...	23 July—14 Aug.	165,000	3,105,000
CLOTHING INDUSTRIES:— Boot and shoe operatives—Northampton ...	15 Oct.—29 Oct.	900	12,000

\* No settlement yet reported. The figures given for these disputes in the last column relate to the number of working days lost up to the end of April, 1926. In the case of the coal mining dispute at Consett, a settlement was effected at some of the collieries in April, 1926.  
† 2,000 workpeople ceased work on 22nd–24th June, and the number was increased to 20,000 on 13th July.

Classes of Workpeople involved.	Dates of beginning and end of Stoppage.	Number of Workpeople involved.	Approximate Aggregate Number of Working Days lost in 1925.
FOOD, DRINK AND TOBACCO INDUSTRIES:— Flour and provender mill workers, etc.—Cardiff and Barry ...	24 Sept.—14 Nov.	1,000	37,000
WOODWORKING, FURNISHING, ETC., INDUSTRIES:— Organ builders—London and other centres ... Tennis racket and cricket bat makers, etc.—London, Watford, Cambridge, Horbury and Leeds ...	28 Aug.—3 Dec. 17 Sept.—2 Mar., 1926.	800 400	49,000 56,000
PAPER, PRINTING, ETC., INDUSTRIES:— Workpeople employed in printing and bookbinding firms—London ... Porters, packers, bookbinders, etc., employed by book publishers—London ...	28 Feb.—27 Mar. 2 Nov.—9 Mar., 1926.	15,385 1,200	54,000 86,000
BUILDING, DECORATING, CONTRACTING, ETC.:— Bricklayers, plasterers, slaters and others—Liverpool ...	11 June—4 Aug.	370	16,000
TRANSPORT INDUSTRIES:— Carters and motormen—Liverpool ... Seamen—Various ports in Great Britain; ...	1 June—3 June 12 Aug.—12 Oct.	5,000 5,000	11,000 5,000
OTHER INDUSTRIES, ETC.:— Members of the National Union of Distributive and Allied Workers employed by Co-operative Societies—Lancashire, Cheshire and adjoining counties ... Waterproof garment makers, machinists and finishers—Manchester ... Press and pneumatic rubber workers (rubber tyres)—Birmingham ... Rubber workers—Birmingham Waterproof garment workers—Manchester, Salford and Warrington ...	28 Mar.—2 April 13 June—18 June 14 Sept.—17 Sept. 27 Oct.—4 Nov. 16 Nov.—18 Dec.	10,000 5,000 7,019 6,810 5,000	39,000 25,000 11,000 47,000 150,000

There was a prospect, in the summer of 1925, of a general stoppage of work in the coal mining industry, arising out of notices given by the Mining Association of Great Britain to terminate the 1924 wages agreement and proposals made by the Association for a new agreement. The proposals were rejected by the Miners' Federation and a general stoppage of work appeared imminent. Before the expiration of notices the Prime Minister met representatives of the parties and, on behalf of the Government, offered financial assistance to the industry until the spring of 1926, to allow of a full investigation being made into the conditions of the industry. The offer was accepted on 31st July and the stoppage was averted, for the time being. A Royal Commission was subsequently appointed to carry out the investigation.

CAUSES.

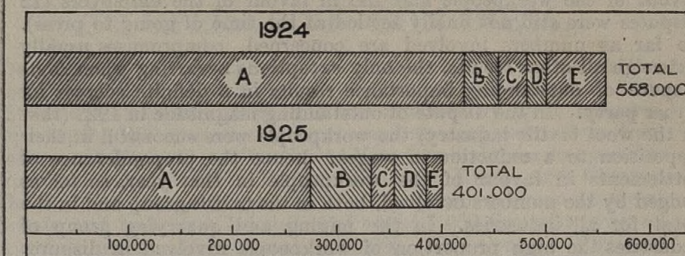
The following Table shows, by groups of industries, the proportion of workpeople who were directly involved in disputes arising in 1925 from the principal classes of causes. In some cases disputes originate from a number of different causes, e.g., a claim for an advance in wages may be accompanied by one for a reduction in working hours. For the purpose of this Table such disputes are classified according to what appears to be the principal cause of the stoppage.

Groups of Industries.	Workpeople directly involved in Disputes beginning in 1925.	Proportions directly involved in Disputes arising on questions of:—				
		Wages.	Employment of particular Classes or Persons.	Working Arrangements.	Trade Unionism.	Other Causes.
Mining and Quarrying ...	116,500	42.4	30.9	6.5	12.7	7.5
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding ...	18,400	20.4	66.8	5.0	6.5	1.3
Textile ...	169,400	98.3	0.2	0.5	0.9	0.1
Clothing ...	2,900	8.3	33.0	14.3	40.3	4.1
Building, Decorating, Contracting, etc. ...	4,400	41.4	13.7	1.5	26.1	17.3
Transport ...	27,400	61.8	9.4	9.4	19.3	0.1
Other Industries ...	62,500	58.8	6.8	16.1	9.0	9.3
All Industries, 1925	401,500	68.6	14.2	5.6	7.7	3.9
All Industries, 1924	558,000	75.6	6.2	4.7	3.3	10.2

The analysis of the causes of disputes which is given in the foregoing Table is illustrated for all industries together in the diagram which follows, in which the numbers of workpeople directly involved in disputes arising from different causes are shown thus:—A, wages questions; B, employment of particular classes or persons; C, working arrangements; D, trade unionism; E, other causes.

\* Most of the workpeople involved ceased work on 1st October.  
† The dispute began at one firm on 28th February (385 workpeople). Later the dispute spread to other firms and the number of workpeople involved increased to 5,385 on 21st March, and to 15,385 on 25th March.  
‡ The particulars given relate to British ports; seamen at South African, Australian and New Zealand ports were also involved.

Numbers Involved analysed by Causes of Disputes.



In almost every year it is found that wages questions are the most fruitful cause of labour disputes. The year 1925 was no exception, 306 disputes, or just over one-half of the total number (involving more than two-thirds of the total workpeople directly affected), arising on wages questions. In every industrial group, except the metal, engineering and shipbuilding and the clothing groups, wages questions figured more prominently than any other single cause of stoppages, so far as the number involved is concerned. It is noteworthy that nearly four-fifths of the workpeople involved in wages disputes and over one-half of the total number involved in all disputes were concerned in resisting reductions in wages, actual or proposed. This high proportion was largely due to the preponderating influence of the dispute in the wool textile industry, but even apart from this stoppage nearly as many workpeople were involved in disputes caused by wage reductions as in all other wages disputes. Other notable disputes, besides that in the wool textile industry, arising from proposed reductions in wages were the seamen's dispute which began in August and the strike of waterproof garment workers in November and December. While a larger number of disputes arose out of demands for wages advances than out of proposed reductions (116 as against 82), none of these was of outstanding magnitude, except that involving over 15,000 employees of London bookbinding and printing firms, and that involving 10,000 employees of retail co-operative societies in Lancashire, Cheshire and adjoining counties.

Next in order of frequency as causes of industrial disputes in 1925 come questions involving the employment of particular classes or persons. Included in this category are differences arising on questions of demarcation of work, the replacement of skilled men by unskilled, female or juvenile labour, the re-instatement of discharged workpeople, objection to foremen, etc., etc. In the metal, engineering and shipbuilding group and in the clothing group these questions were a noticeably more important source of friction, and in the mining and quarrying group they were little less important, than were wages questions. In all, 141 disputes in 1925 arose from such causes, affecting about 14 per cent. of the total workpeople directly involved in all disputes. The largest dispute in this category involved 20,000 coal miners, etc., in the Anthracite District of South Wales, and arose in the first instance from the dismissal of a collier's helper.

Questions respecting working arrangements, discipline, etc., and Trade Union membership gave rise to 54 and 72 disputes respectively, involving about six per cent. and eight per cent. of all workpeople directly involved in disputes.

Among other causes, questions of working hours were the primary causes of only 15 disputes (eight of which occurred in the coal mining industry), involving two per cent. of all workpeople. Only one dispute of any magnitude (that involving 7,000 coal miners at Consett) was included in this category in 1925.

RESULTS.

The following Table shows, by groups of industries, the proportion of workpeople directly involved in stoppages occurring in 1925, the results of which were (a) in favour of the employers, (b) in favour of the workpeople, (c) of the nature of a compromise, or (d) which still remain unsettled. Disputes classified as settled in favour of employers or in favour of workpeople, for the purpose of this Table, are those in which the employers or workpeople, respectively, were completely successful, or practically so, in attaining or resisting the objects to which the stoppage of work was due. Disputes in which the employers, or workpeople, were partly, but not wholly, successful, are included under "compromised."

Groups of Industries.	Workpeople directly involved in Disputes beginning in 1925.	Proportions directly involved in Disputes beginning in 1925, the Results of which were:—			
		In favour of Workpeople.	In favour of Employers.	Compromised.	Unsettled.*
Mining and Quarrying ...	116,500	21.4	31.0	29.5	18.1
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding ...	18,400	32.6	15.0	31.2	21.2
Textile ...	169,400	98.7	0.4	0.9	0.9
Clothing ...	2,900	41.6	13.2	45.2	...
Building, Decorating, Contracting, etc. ...	4,400	15.7	16.4	67.9	...
Transport ...	27,400	34.2	25.8	32.7	7.3
Other Industries ...	62,500	5.6	16.3	77.3	0.8
All Industries, 1925	401,500	53.0	14.4	25.7	6.9
All Industries, 1924	558,000	9.7	18.0	72.3	...

In 1925, as in most years, the disputes resulting in compromises or partial successes outnumbered either the complete successes or the

\* Disputes in which no final settlement has yet been reported (June, 1926).

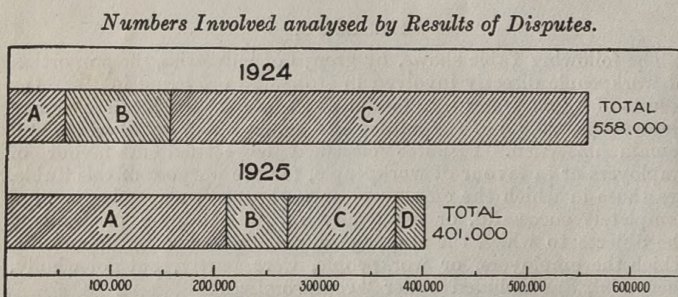
complete failures, 252 disputes being compromised, 154 settled in favour of the workpeople and 183 in favour of the employers (15 disputes were still not finally settled at the time of going to press). So far as numbers involved are concerned, compromises usually outweigh all other results, the only exceptions occurring when some dispute of outstanding importance results in a definite success for either party. In the dispute of outstanding magnitude in 1925 (that in the wool textile industry) the workpeople were successful in their opposition to a reduction in wages; hence the preponderance of settlements in favour of the workpeople in that year, so far as judged by the numbers involved, both in the textile group and in the total for all industries. In the mining and quarrying group of industries the high proportion of workpeople involved in disputes ending in favour of the employers is largely accounted for by the result of the dispute in the Anthracite District of South Wales referred to above. Of the other principal disputes in 1925 in which a final settlement has been effected, the majority terminated in compromises.

In the case of eight disputes, directly involving 15,100 workpeople, work had been resumed pending further negotiation and a final settlement had not yet been reported, and in the case of seven disputes, directly involving 12,300 workpeople, work had not been resumed at the time of going to press.

The following Table shows the number of workpeople directly involved in disputes in 1925 classified both by the principal causes and by the results of the disputes.

Principal Cause.	Number of Workpeople directly involved in Disputes beginning in 1925, the Results of which were				Total Number of Workpeople directly involved in Disputes beginning in	
	In favour of Work-people.	In favour of Em-ployers.	Com-promised.	Un-settled.	1925.	1924.
Wages:—						
For increase ...	3,300	3,300	32,000	200	38,800	304,600
Against decrease ...	174,700	10,300	18,600	11,500	215,100	79,100
Re-adjustment of rates owing to difficulties in working, etc. ...	500	500	1,600	...	2,600	7,600
Other ...	3,100	4,300	6,700	4,800	18,900	30,400
Total—Wages ...	181,600	18,400	58,900	16,500	275,400	421,700
Hours of labour ...	300	1,100	700	6,700	8,800	2,300
Employment of particular classes or persons ...	12,400	24,800	15,700	4,100	57,000	34,500
Working Arrangements ...	3,700	5,700	13,000	...	22,400	26,300
Trade Unionism ...	14,700	2,700	13,400	...	30,800	18,400
Sympathetic Disputes ...	...	5,000	1,400	100	6,500	54,200
Miscellaneous ...	100	300	200	...	600	600
Grand Total, 1925 ...	212,800	58,000	103,300	27,400	401,500	—
“ “ 1924 ...	54,400	100,200	403,400	...	—	558,000

The figures in the last two lines of this Table are represented graphically in the following diagram, in which the sections A, B, C and D are proportional to the totals of the first four columns of figures:—



METHODS OF SETTLEMENT.

Of the 604 disputes beginning in 1925, 589 had been finally settled at the time of going to press.\* The principal methods by which these disputes were settled are shown in the Table below.

Methods of Settlement.	Number of Dis-putes.	Per-centage of all Dis-putes.	Number of Workpeople directly involved.	Percentage of Workpeople directly involved in all Disputes.
By direct negotiation between the parties or their representatives ...	423	72	164,800	44
By Conciliation ...	44	7	26,200	7
By Arbitration ...	10	2	165,900	44
By return to work on em-ployers' terms without ne-gotiation ...	68	12	9,700	3
Otherwise ...	44	7	7,500	2
Total ...	589*	100	374,100*	100

\* In 15 disputes, directly involving 27,400 workpeople, no final settlement has yet been reported (June, 1926).

Nearly three-quarters (423) of all the final settlements were effected by direct arrangements or negotiations between the parties or their representatives without the intervention of third parties. Only ten disputes were settled by arbitration. Nevertheless, as the chief dispute of the year (that in the wool textile industry) was settled through the medium of a Court of Investigation (the parties having agreed to be bound by the recommendations of the Court), the number of workpeople directly involved in disputes settled by direct negotiations and by arbitration respectively was approximately the same, or 44 per cent. of all workpeople directly involved in settled disputes. Seven per cent. of all settlements, involving seven per cent. of all workpeople, were effected by means of conciliation, in most instances through the instrumentality of an officer of the Ministry of Labour. The largest dispute in this group (involving over 15,000 employees of London bookbinding and printing firms) was, however, settled through the agency of the Joint Industrial Council. Return to work on the employers' terms without negotiations was recorded in the case of 12 per cent. of the disputes, involving three per cent. of the workpeople. Of the 44 disputes settled by methods other than those mentioned above, strikers were replaced by other workpeople in the case of 29 disputes, the strike of seamen, of whom 5,000 are estimated to have been involved in British ports, being the only case of any magnitude which was so concluded; in the case of three small disputes the establishments or departments concerned were closed down.

MAGNITUDE.

In the Table below the disputes of 1925 are analysed from three different aspects of magnitude, viz., duration in weeks, numbers involved, and aggregate duration in working days.

It should be observed that for the purposes of this Table the duration in weeks and aggregate duration in working days take account of time lost in 1926 by disputes which began in 1925 and were still in progress at the end of the year. On the other hand, the aggregate duration of disputes which began before 1925 but continued into that year is excluded. As regards numbers involved the Table below relates only to disputes beginning in 1925. The figures in the Table, therefore, differ from those given in the first Table in this article (on page 198).

Limits.	Number of Disputes beginning in 1925.*	Total Number of Workpeople involved directly and indirectly in these Disputes.*	Aggregate Duration of these Disputes in Working Days.*
<b>Disputes classified by Duration in Weeks.</b>			
Under 1 week ...	309	126,400	303,000
1 week and under 2 weeks ...	111	44,200	283,000
2 weeks " 4 " ...	74	179,200	3,301,000
4 " " 8 " ...	56	38,900	820,000
8 " and over ...	54	53,100	4,212,000
<b>Disputes classified by total numbers involved directly and indirectly.</b>			
Under 100 workpeople ...	286	11,000	179,000
100 and under 500 workpeople ...	197	45,700	518,000
500 " 1,000 " ...	58	39,900	303,000
1,000 " 5,000 " ...	51	89,000	2,170,000
5,000 workpeople and upwards ...	12	258,200	5,749,000
<b>Disputes classified by Aggregate Duration in Working Days.</b>			
Under 1,000 days ...	366	41,900	106,000
1,000 and under 5,000 days ...	160	72,800	379,000
5,000 " 10,000 " ...	31	31,400	218,000
10,000 " 100,000 " ...	37	78,800	1,102,000
100,000 days and upwards ...	10	216,900	7,114,000

About half of all disputes were of very short duration, lasting less than one week, and only one in three of all disputes lasted for two weeks or more. Protracted disputes were a feature of the coal-mining industry in 1925, and six, involving 13,000 workpeople, were still in progress when the general stoppage of the coal mines began in May, 1926. While in the case of nearly half of all the disputes (286 out of 604) less than 100 workpeople were involved, the amount of time lost in such disputes formed but a small fraction of the whole. The bulk of the loss of time shown in the Table was accounted for by twelve disputes, each of which involved 5,000 workpeople or upwards; the dispute involving 165,000 wool textile operatives, alone, had an aggregate duration of over three million days.

COMPARATIVE FIGURES FOR 1893-1925.

The following Table shows the total number of disputes, involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as beginning in each of the years 1893-1925, together with the approximate number of workpeople involved in these disputes, and the aggregate number of working days lost in all disputes in progress during the year (irrespective of the date of commencement) at the establishments where the disputes occurred. It should be observed, in comparing these figures with the figures relating to 1924 and 1925, given in the first Table in this article, that in the Table below the particulars of numbers involved relate to persons involved in disputes beginning in each year, whilst in the first Table they relate to the total numbers involved in all disputes in progress, including those beginning earlier which were still unsettled at the beginning of the year.

\* Inclusive of the aggregate duration in January-May, 1926, of seven disputes, involving, directly and indirectly, 13,100 workpeople, of which no settlement has yet been reported.

FIFTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL CO-OPERATIVE CONGRESS.

The fifty-eighth Annual Congress of delegates from Co-operative Societies in the United Kingdom was held at Belfast on the 24th, 25th and 26th of May, 1926, and was attended by 1,411 delegates, representing 450 Societies. There were also representatives from various outside bodies in the United Kingdom and from co-operative organisations in Finland, France, Germany, Russia and Ukraine. The Congress was convened by the Co-operative Union of Great Britain and Ireland, a federation of about 1,450 Societies, with an aggregate membership of some 5,000,000. The Congress President was Mr. W. J. M'Guffin, J.P., the President of the Belfast Co-operative Society.

With regard to labour conditions a resolution was carried authorising the setting up of a National Conciliation Board for the Co-operative Movement, approving rules for the same, and urging all "co-operative societies in membership with the Co-operative Union to use the new machinery in a sincere spirit of conciliation and goodwill." The scheme is the work of a joint committee appointed by a Conference between representatives of the Co-operative Movement and representatives of Trade Unions having members in co-operative service. It provides that in the event of negotiations on matters of wages and/or general conditions of labour in the Co-operative Movement, breaking down or failing to produce agreement, the matters at issue shall be referred to a National Conciliation Board within 7 days, and that no strike or lock-out shall take place unless the matters at issue have been dealt with by the Board. The Board is to consist of twelve representative members, six on each side, and an independent Chairman. Panels of representatives are to be formed by the appointment of four representatives by each Trade Union and four by each section of the Co-operative Union, and by the national co-operative societies or federations. A panel of six independent Chairmen is also to be formed. In dealing with cases referred to it, any unanimous decision of the twelve representatives of the Board is to be binding on the parties. If there is a majority on both sides in favour of settlement the parties are to be asked whether or not they will accept a majority decision. Failing a settlement on these lines the parties are to be asked whether they will agree to allow the independent Chairman to act as arbitrator.

On the question of Trade Boards a resolution was carried condemning the action of the Minister of Labour in dissolving the two Groceries and Provision Trade Boards, and also his refusal to establish Trade Boards for the catering, retail drapery, and meat trades without first publishing the Reports of the investigators on the conditions prevailing in those trades upon which he stated that his policy is based; and expressing the opinion that fair wages and conditions of labour can only be obtained by an extension and not a diminution of the principle of Trade Boards to all industries where adequate machinery for collective bargaining does not exist.

The crisis in the coal mining industry occupied the attention of the Congress for some time. Three delegates who were miners were nominated to consult with the standing orders committee with a view to framing a resolution. The resolution, which was carried unanimously, stated that "This Congress regrets the present difficulties in the industrial world owing to the mining crisis, and expresses its strong belief that the miners' standard of life should not be reduced, and urges the Government to implement the Royal Commission Report with regard to the re-organisation of the industry. It further resolves that, as a practical means of giving assistance to the workers involved in the dispute, the Co-operative Union should organise within the movement a central fund for the purpose of helping societies and their members to meet the demands made upon them in consequence of this dispute."

Governmental action was also urged in resolutions dealing with the questions of the removal of the remaining restrictions on the importation of cattle from Canada; the introduction of "legislation to deal effectively with all trusts, combines and price-fixing associations"; the safeguarding of the "workers from such profiteering methods as short measure, adulterated food, and high prices"; and "the adoption of a more progressive policy which will enlarge the educational opportunities for children, adolescents, and adults." Another resolution declared "that where industries are subsidised out of public funds, provision should always be made for a measure of public control of the industry subsidised."

Other resolutions related to the policy of the Co-operative Movement in respect to the training of employees, trading clubs and mail order business, and the circulation of co-operative literature.

A resolution in favour of an arrangement with the Trades Union Congress and the Labour Party for a joint Press was defeated by an amendment which declared that "the interests of co-operation will best be served by the Co-operative Movement developing its own Press under co-operative control"; this was carried by 1,774 votes to 1,350.

The constitution of the Co-operative Political Party was amended by a resolution (1,746 votes to 1,057) empowering the Party to form voluntary local Parties in the areas of Co-operative Societies which have not taken any decision on the subject of affiliation to the Co-operative Party or have decided not to affiliate.

Other resolutions urged organised resistance to war, and supported the International Co-operative Alliance.

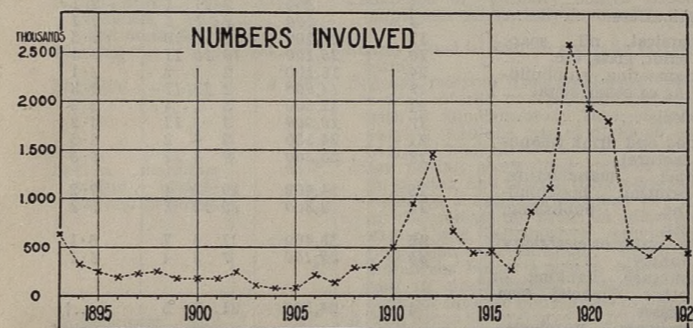
The next Congress is to be held at Cheltenham in Whit-week, 1927.

Year.	Number of Disputes beginning in year.	Number of Workpeople* in- volved in Disputes beginning in year.			Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress during year.
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.	
1893	699	597,000	37,000	634,000	30,440,000
1894	903	254,000	68,000	322,000	9,510,000
1895	728	205,000	54,000	259,000	5,700,000
1896	906	142,000	50,000	192,000	3,560,000
1897	848	166,000	63,000	229,000	10,330,000
1898	695	199,000	53,000	252,000	15,260,000
1899	710	137,000	42,000	179,000	2,500,000
1900	633	132,000	53,000	185,000	3,090,000
1901	631	111,000	68,000	179,000	4,130,000
1902	432	115,000	140,000	255,000	3,440,000
1903	380	93,000	23,000	116,000	2,320,000
1904	346	56,000	31,000	87,000	1,460,000
1905	349	67,000	25,000	92,000	2,370,000
1906	479	158,000	60,000	218,000	3,020,000
1907	585	100,000	46,000	146,000	2,150,000
1908	389	221,000	72,000	293,000	17,790,000
1909	422	168,000	129,000	297,000	2,690,000
1910	521	384,000	130,000	514,000	9,870,000
1911	872	824,000	128,000	952,000	10,160,000
1912	834	1,232,000	230,000	1,462,000	40,890,000
1913	1,459	497,000	167,000	664,000	9,800,000
1914	972	326,000	121,000	447,000	9,880,000
1915	672	401,000	47,000	448,000	2,950,000
1916	532	235,000	41,000	276,000	2,450,000
1917	730	575,000	297,000	872,000	5,650,000
1918	1,165	923,000	193,000	1,116,000	5,880,000
1919	1,352	2,401,000	190,000	2,591,000	34,970,000
1920	1,607	1,779,000	153,000	1,932,000	26,570,000
1921	763	1,770,000	31,000	1,801,000	85,870,000
1922	876	512,000	40,000	552,000	19,850,000
1923	628	343,000	62,000	405,000	10,670,000
1924	710	558,000	55,000	613,000	8,420,000
1925	604	402,000	40,000	442,000	7,970,000

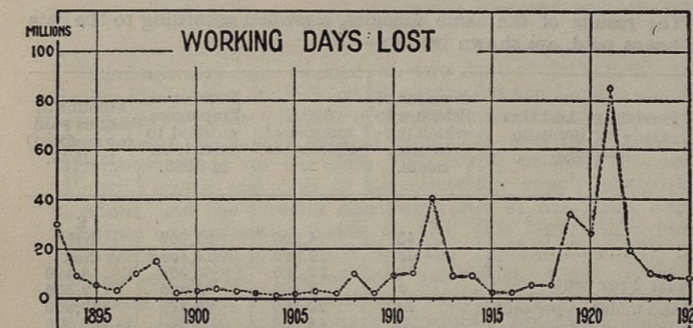
The figures show wide variations in different years, the aggregate number of days lost ranging from less than 1½ million in 1904 to over 40 millions in 1912, and nearly 86 millions in 1921. The high totals for the two latter years, as also that for 1893, were largely due to prolonged stoppages in the coal-mining industry.

A general picture of the extent of the disputes in Great Britain and Northern Ireland in each of the past thirty-three years is given in the two diagrams below, which are based on the figures in the last two columns of the above Table.

In the first of the two diagrams the position of the crosses,† in relation to the scale in the margin, indicates the total number of workpeople involved in disputes beginning in each year since 1893.



In the next diagram the position of the circles‡ indicates the aggregate duration in working days of all disputes in progress in each year of the period.

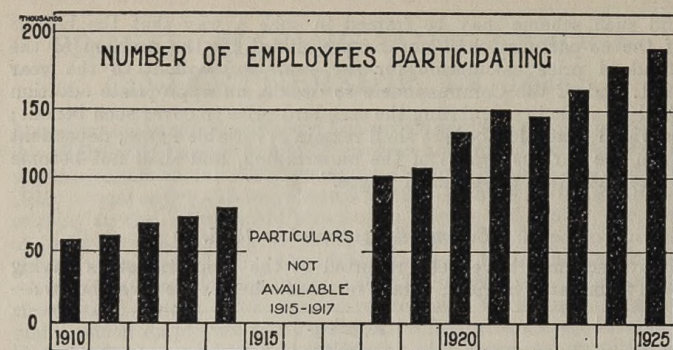


A special article, containing a statistical analysis of the magnitude, causes, results and methods of settlement of the disputes involving stoppages of work in the years 1910 to 1924, appeared in the July, 1925, issue of this GAZETTE. The figures there published for the years 1901 to 1923 are generally comparable with those given in the present article for 1924 and 1925.

\* Workpeople involved in more than one dispute during the year are counted more than once in the totals for the year. The extent of such duplication is not very considerable in most years, but it applied to about 106,000 workpeople in 1912, 150,000 in 1919, 300,000 in 1920, and 100,000 in 1921.

† The dotted lines are inserted to assist the eye by connecting successive crosses or circles.





The following Table shows the total numbers of schemes started in various periods, the number of such schemes no longer in existence, and the numbers still in operation at the end of 1925 :-

Period in which started.	Total schemes started.	Schemes discontinued by end of 1925.	Schemes suspended at end of 1925.	Schemes still in operation at end of 1925.
Up to 1880 ...	35	30	...	5
1881-90 ...	79	68	...	11
1891-1900 ...	77	63	...	14
1901-05 ...	26	19	...	7
1906-10 ...	55	23	2	30
1911-15 ...	64	23	1	40
1916-18 ...	22	6	2	14
1919-20 ...	106	27	1	78
1921 ...	13	1	...	12
1922 ...	9	...	...	9
1923 ...	15	1	...	14
1924 ...	10	...	...	10
1925 ...	8	...	...	8
Total ...	519	261	6	252

Of a total of 519 schemes of profit-sharing that are known to have been adopted up to the end of 1925, slightly under one-half were still in operation at the end of that year. Although a large number of existing schemes are of comparatively recent origin, four have been in operation for over 50 years, and 30 for over 25 years; slightly over 100 (or about 42 per cent.) date from before the war.

#### SCHEMES IN CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

The statistics of profit-sharing previously published at annual intervals in this GAZETTE have related only to schemes in businesses other than co-operative societies, profit-sharing in such societies not being on quite the same footing as in other undertakings. In order, however, that the statistics might be made more comprehensive, enquiries have recently been made of all co-operative societies which were believed to have in operation any system of sharing profits with their employees; and in the case of 125 societies, definite profit-sharing schemes have been found to be in operation. The number of workpeople employed by these societies in 1925 was about 23,000, practically the whole of whom were entitled to participate in the schemes. Of the 125 societies, 26, employing a little over 7,000 workpeople, were industrial productive societies; 52, employing nearly 15,000 workpeople, were industrial distributive societies; and 47, employing about 600 workpeople, were agricultural societies.

In the case of 66 societies (nearly all of which were productive or agricultural societies), with nearly 5,000 employees, the schemes provided for the allocation to these employees of a definite percentage of profits; in 27 other societies, with about 14,000 employees, there were schemes under which employees received a bonus on wages at a rate dependent on the rate of dividend declared on members' purchases; and in 32 societies (with one exception all distributive societies), with nearly 4,000 employees, the latter received a bonus equivalent to "not less than  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. in the £ on gross sales and  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. in the £ on net profits."

The Department was able to obtain particulars as to the bonus paid in 1923, 1924 and 1925 under all but a few of the 125 schemes referred to above, and the details so collected are summarised below :-

Type of Scheme and Year.	Number of Schemes to which particulars relate.	Number of Employees entitled to participate.	Average Amount of Bonus per head.*	Percentage addition to Earnings.*
Bonus equivalent to fixed percentage of profits :-			£ s. d.	Per cent.
1923... ..	65	4,300	4 9 4	4.2
1924... ..	66	4,600	4 18 6	4.6
1925... ..	61	4,800	3 17 6	3.8
Bonus depending on dividend paid on members' purchases :-				
1923... ..	27	12,800	5 9 7	4.4
1924... ..	27	12,900	6 0 4	4.9
1925... ..	26	13,400	6 13 1	5.3
Bonus equivalent to not less than $\frac{1}{4}$ d. in the £ on net profits :-				
1923... ..	29	3,400	0 3 2	0.1
1924... ..	27	3,500	0 3 7	0.1
1925... ..	25	3,800	0 3 9	0.1
All above schemes :-				
1923... ..	121	20,500	4 7 6	3.6
1924... ..	120	21,000	4 16 2	4.0
1925... ..	112	22,000	4 18 8	4.1

\* Schemes under which no bonus was paid are included.

In the case of societies paying a bonus of  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. in the £ on sales and  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. in the £ on profits it is obvious that profit-sharing is in force to a very limited extent, since only a small portion of the total bonus received by the employees depends on profits; for the purpose of these statistics that part of the bonus which depends on sales, as distinct from profits, has been excluded.

In the societies covered by the returns received, the profit-sharing bonus averaged £4 18s. 8d., or 4.1 per cent. on earnings in 1925, as compared with £4 16s. 2d., or 4.0 per cent., in 1924, and £4 7s. 6d., or 3.6 per cent., in 1923. It should be noted that these figures relate only to bonuses paid under profit-sharing conditions, and that under many schemes further sums, not included in the above figures, are paid to the employees by way of bonus. In particular, those bonuses which represented not less than  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. in the £ on net profits averaged only 3s. 9d. per head in 1925; but in these societies the further part of the bonus representing not less than  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. in the £ on sales amounted to £1 4s. 8d. per head. In a number of other societies, although no scheme coming within the Department's definition of profit-sharing is in operation, employees receive additional remuneration in the form of commission on sales, bonus on output, etc.

## REGISTRATION OF CASUAL DOCK WORKERS.

### BRISTOL PORT LABOUR SCHEME.

THE problem of regulating and organising the supply of labour for casual dock work has arisen at every considerable port in Great Britain; and various schemes have been adopted for ensuring, on the one hand, a supply of labour adequate to meet the varying needs of the port and avoiding, on the other, the undesirable features which tend to arise when there is a lack of any restriction on the numbers of persons allowed to seek such work.

The scheme adopted by the Bristol Port Labour Committee has been in operation since the close of the war and has been found to be successful in a large measure in achieving the objects aimed at. The Committee was appointed in June, 1916, to receive and investigate applications for exemption from military service from persons engaged in dock transport work in the port of Bristol, including the Bristol City Docks and the docks at Avonmouth and Portishead.

At the end of the war the Committee was reconstituted, and a scheme was adopted providing for the continued registration of the men then employed on casual dock work.

No addition to this pool of labour was permitted except in the case of men demobilised from H.M. Forces who had been employed at the docks before enlistment. The registered workers were provided with brass tallies, of which two different shapes were in use. These were called in and exchanged for fresh tallies of a different shape once a quarter, in order to ensure that only registered dockers could obtain employment at the docks.

Since the initial adoption of the Scheme no new registrations have been allowed, with the exception of a few isolated cases in which there were special circumstances. The number of men registered at the outset was in excess of the needs of the port, mainly because it included (as explained above) not only those who had been previously employed at the docks, and who returned to such work from the Forces, but also a number of men who had entered dock work during the war. It was therefore considered desirable to take full advantage of the gradual reduction of the register which would normally take place with the lapse of time.

The reduction between January, 1921, and January, 1924, is shown by the following figures :-

Date.	No. of casual workers registered.
January, 1921 ...	4,790
1922 ...	4,240
July, 1922 ...	4,057
January, 1923 ...	3,789
July, 1923 ...	3,666
January, 1924 ...	3,449

Early in 1924 it was agreed that the registration scheme required revision in certain respects. In particular, the use of tallies as a means of identifying a registered worker was found not to be wholly satisfactory, since a worker to whom re-registration was refused could by retaining his tally for a quarter resume employment as soon as his particular shape of tally again came into use.

In the latter half of 1924 a revised scheme was accordingly introduced under which a Record Book was issued in respect of each registered docker. The book contains entries showing the worker's name, address, age, registration number and the number of his Health Insurance Card and Unemployment Book and a space for each day of the period during which the book is current. When a worker is engaged for dock work the Record Book is handed to the Employer's agent, who retains it until the completion of the job. The Employer then stamps the book in respect of each day's employment with a rubber stamp bearing a number from which the identity of the particular employer can be ascertained.

Each record book is current for a period of six months and at the end of that time it must be exchanged for a new book.

Registration is continued only in the case of workers who are able to prove a reasonable amount of dock work. Minimum percentages of possible employment are fixed by the Committee shortly before the books expire, due regard being paid to the volume of trade in the port during the period. These percentages usually vary according to the age of the worker, being higher for younger men than for older. In cases where the prescribed minimum is not reached the worker is required to appear before a special Interviewing Committee and to furnish an explanation. Each case is dealt with on its merits, and, generally speaking, registration is continued in cases where it is proved that the failure to reach the minimum is satisfactorily accounted for by some special circumstance, such as old age, illness or other infirmity. In any case of misconduct on the part of a worker the employer is required to retain the Record Book and report full details to the Port Labour Inspector, who is employed jointly by the employers and workers. After making a preliminary investigation, the Inspector either allows the Record Book to be returned to the worker or forwards it to the Committee for a decision as to suspension or withdrawal. Alleged breaches of the rules of the scheme by employers are similarly investigated by the Committee.

The following Table shows the number of books issued at the half-yearly exchanges since September, 1924 :-

September, 1924 ...	3,450
February, 1925 ...	3,328
September, 1925 ...	3,236
March, 1926 ...	3,088

The Record Books are a source of valuable information on the working of the Scheme, including, for example, percentages of possible days worked divided according to age groups and occupational groups of workers, the nature of the work performed, place of employment, etc.

The scheme includes within its scope all casual general workers engaged in the handling of cargo both on shore and aboard ship. It does not include permanent employees of any grade; carters and warehousemen; nor certain classes of licensed boatmen and hoppers.

As stated above, in the ordinary course only registered men who hold Record Books may be engaged for work within the scope of the scheme, but if a shortage of registered workers is certified preference is given to unemployed men of the grades mentioned above which are not within the scheme. All registered workers must be members of the Transport and General Workers' Union, and the agreements between the Union and the Employers' Labour Association must be strictly observed.

The scheme covers the Port of Bristol and its outlying docks at Avonmouth and Portishead, which are  $7\frac{1}{2}$  miles and 10 miles respectively from Bristol. Calls for labour at Avonmouth are made outside the dock gates from special call stands, and requisitions for additional men are sent to Bristol and Portishead when necessary. Similar arrangements are in force at Portishead.

In the case of Bristol the docks extend unenclosed up the river for several miles. Calls are made in the first instance at the ship's side. A Central Surplus Labour Stand has also been established and is worked according to rules laid down by the Committee. Registered men who remain unemployed after the first call at the ship's side are required to report promptly to this Stand in readiness to fill vacancies in other parts of the docks. This procedure was found necessary in order to ensure sufficient mobility of registered workers and to avoid delay in the commencement of work wherever required, and it has proved effective in safeguarding the interests of both employers and workers.

At all three ports, dock workers are not regarded as being able to furnish proof of unemployment in connection with unemployment insurance benefit until all demands for labour have been met.

It has been estimated that a supply of 3,000 men would be sufficient for the needs of the port as regards casual labour, and it will be seen that the number of registered dockers is only slightly in excess of this estimate. Elderly men now form a fairly high proportion of the total, and further reductions will, therefore, occur if new entries continue to be prohibited.

The Committee have in mind the two important questions of the interchangeability and the mobility of labour, and they have found that the adoption of the present system has assisted very materially in finding a solution of these and other dock labour problems in the port.

## EMPLOYMENT OF DISABLED EX-SERVICE MEN.

### KING'S NATIONAL ROLL.

THE latest returns show that there are approximately 28,000 firms on the King's National Roll. The number of disabled ex-Service men employed by these firms is approximately 370,000.

The numbers of Local Authorities and Royal Warrant Holders now on the Roll are 1,438 and 660 respectively.

### INDUSTRIAL TRAINING.

At 25th May, 1926, the number of men in training was 1,546, and the number awaiting training, 188. Since 1st August, 1919, 98,151 men have terminated training.

## PRINCIPAL VARIATIONS IN NUMBERS OF INSURED PERSONS UNEMPLOYED.

THE following Table indicates for Great Britain and Northern Ireland the industries in which the numbers of insured persons recorded as unemployed at 24th May, 1926, differed from the figures for 26th April, 1926, to the extent of 5,000 or more.

Industry.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Numbers recorded as Unemployed at 24th May, 1926,* as compared with 26th April, 1926.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Cotton ... ..	+ 33,695	+ 62,507	+ 96,202
Steel Melting, Iron Puddling, Iron and Steel Rolling, etc. ...	+ 75,350	+ 147	+ 75,497
General Engineering, Engineers' Iron and Steel Founding ...	+ 36,227	+ 1,399	+ 37,626
Woolen and Worsted ... ..	+ 11,540	+ 17,567	+ 29,107
Pottery, Earthenware, etc. ...	+ 11,755	+ 12,895	+ 24,650
Building ... ..	+ 17,922	+ 26	+ 17,948
Boot and Shoe ... ..	+ 11,338	+ 6,541	+ 17,879
Timplate ... ..	+ 15,639	+ 1,053	+ 16,692
Distributive Trades ... ..	+ 11,382	+ 3,781	+ 15,163
Textile Bleaching, Printing, Dyeing, etc. ... ..	+ 10,091	+ 4,293	+ 14,384
Hosiery ... ..	+ 1,516	+ 10,655	+ 12,171
Pig Iron Manufacture (Blast Furnaces) ... ..	+ 11,624	+ 9	+ 11,633
Brick, Tile, etc. ... ..	+ 9,359	+ 2,244	+ 11,603
Other Metal Industries ... ..	+ 7,084	+ 3,671	+ 10,755
Construction and Repair of Motor Vehicles, Cycles and Aircraft ...	+ 8,240	+ 824	+ 9,064
Shipbuilding ... ..	+ 8,807	+ 8	+ 8,799
Tailoring ... ..	+ 1,513	+ 5,963	+ 7,476
Railway Service ... ..	+ 7,351	+ 12	+ 7,363
Public Works Contracting, etc. ...	+ 7,334	+ 6	+ 7,340
Iron Ore and Ironstone Mines and Quarries ... ..	+ 7,273	...	+ 7,273
Stove, Grade, Pipe, etc., and General Ironfounding ... ..	+ 5,592	+ 471	+ 6,063
Shipping Service ... ..	+ 5,587	+ 49	+ 5,636
Iron and Steel Tubes ... ..	+ 5,219	+ 69	+ 5,288
Other Road Transport ... ..	+ 5,162	+ 14	+ 5,176
Carpet Manufacture ... ..	+ 1,999	+ 3,136	+ 5,135
Furniture, Upholstery, etc. ... ..	+ 4,095	+ 975	+ 5,070
Net variation for above industries	+ 332,694	+ 138,201	+ 470,895
Total net variation for all insured industries ...	+ 436,802	+ 188,738	+ 625,540

## SCHEME FOR THE TRAINING OF YOUNG UNEMPLOYED MEN.

In the issue of this GAZETTE for September, 1925, certain particulars were given of the Scheme of Training Young Unemployed Men who had had no opportunity of learning a skilled trade.

Four training centres have been set up under this Scheme, viz. :-

Non-residential. Birmingham 400 Handymen	Opened 20th Oct., 1925.
Ditto. Wallsend-on-Tyne. ditto	Opened 7th Jan., 1926.
Residential. Claydon, Ipswich. 100 Handymen	Opened 3rd Nov., 1925.
Ditto. *Brandon, Suffolk. 50 Handymen	
	Opened 25th Feb., 1926.

Up to the end of May, 468 men had received training at the Birmingham Centre and, of this number, 371 were known to have found employment, notwithstanding the difficulty created by the general strike. The improvement in general employability effected as a result of the training is shown by the variety of occupations in which these men were placed.

Of the 60 handymen who completed their training course at Claydon early in May, about 30 have been placed in employment. Of the men who were trained at Claydon Centre in agricultural and other work for employment overseas, 43 are now employed on farms in Western Ontario and 51 embarked for Australia during May. The places at the Centre thus vacated have been filled with intending settlers for Australia.

Pending the completion of hutments, the accommodation at the Brandon Centre is limited to about 80 places. None of the men at this Centre have as yet completed the full 6 months' course, but about 60 of them have already been passed by the immigration authorities for employment in Canada. These men will probably embark about the end of June.

At the request of the Canadian and Australian immigration authorities, special attention has been given to training in milking, ploughing, the care of horses and of live-stock, and general agricultural operations. Letters from men placed on Ontario farms emphasize that the training given has been of great value in enabling these town-bred men to undertake work on the land.

The scheme is still in the experimental stage, but, so far, the results are encouraging. The improvement effected by the training, both in urban and in rural centres, in the physique, morale and general employability of the men is most marked; while the keenness and enthusiasm displayed by the men in training and their evident desire to make the best of the opportunity afforded them by the scheme are highly satisfactory.

\* Accommodation not yet completed.

## SCHEMES OF ASSISTANCE TO NECESSITOUS AREAS.

A COMMITTEE was appointed by the Prime Minister in November, 1925, "to consider and report on any scheme which may be submitted to them for special assistance from the Exchequer to Local Authorities in necessitous urban and quasi-urban areas." This Committee has issued its Report.\*

The greater part of the Report is occupied with an examination of five schemes submitted to the Committee; in each case the scheme was confined to the grant of assistance to Poor Law Authorities. The first scheme considered was one prepared by Mr. E. J. Johnson, O.B.E., the borough treasurer of West Ham, and supported by a number of witnesses representing a Conference of Necessitous Areas. Briefly, the scheme provides that a grant shall be paid from the Exchequer to the Guardians of each Poor Law area, having a rate in excess of the average for the country, in which the number of persons actually relieved in the year (including lunatics) exceeds the number which the area would have relieved on the assumption that all persons in receipt of relief throughout the country were distributed proportionately to population. The grant proposed is equivalent to 75 per cent. of the product of the excess number, so determined, multiplied by the lower of the following costs, viz.: (a) the average expenditure per person relieved in the area, or (b) the average expenditure per person relieved throughout England and Wales. The grant is further subject to reduction, if necessary, so as not to exceed the sum which will reduce the poor rate in that area to the average poor rate for England and Wales in that year.

The Committee examined this scheme in great detail, more than half the Report being occupied by an exposition and criticism of it. Their final conclusion is, however, that the working of the system of excess numbers—the essential feature of the scheme—in conjunction with the average expenditure for each person relieved, would result in disparities of treatment for grant purposes as between different areas. After discussing the proposals made for the prevention of abuse under the scheme, they reach the conclusion that no practicable measure of central control can adequately safeguard the interests of the Exchequer.

A scheme submitted by the West Bromwich Board of Guardians proposed to assess a grant for each parish by a formula assessing a theoretical amount of relief for each family relieved, based on certain local wage-rates and fixed percentage deductions. The Committee point out that the scheme does not distinguish necessitous areas from others, and that the necessary data are, in many areas, not available; and they consider that the proposed system of deductions cannot work equitably in the individual circumstances of each Union.

The City of London Guardians submitted a scheme based on the cost of outdoor relief only. They proposed that Poor Law Authorities should, as a minimum, bear a charge equal to twice the cost of the 1913-14 outdoor relief, plus 75 per cent., and receive a grant of a percentage of any excess expenditure. The grant should be provided partly by an equalisation rate levied in every poor law area, and partly from the Exchequer. The Committee consider that the restriction of the scheme to outdoor relief would be inequitable in its working, and would leave open certain avenues of abuse; they point out that the framers of the scheme propose to throw upon the Minister of Health the whole onus of administering the scheme and of safeguarding the Exchequer, and that no attempt is made to estimate the ability of an area to bear the present burden of poor relief.

A scheme submitted by Mr. Cecil Wilson, M.P., suggested that an area should be deemed necessitous if the percentage of insured persons registered as unemployed in the area is in excess of the average for the whole country. A Government grant should be paid in respect of the excess number of unemployed, and distributed amongst the several Local Authorities in the area. Provision should be made to give the greater benefit to areas carrying out extensive relief works. While the Committee are of opinion that a scheme based on data independent of the poor law administration itself has great advantages, they do not regard the basis proposed by Mr. Wilson as satisfactory. In the main, the figures of insured persons represent the numbers employed in each Exchange area, while claims for unemployment benefit are usually made at the Exchange nearest the claimant's place of residence; hence the percentage of unemployed to insured persons in a given area is an untrustworthy test for the purpose of allocating Exchequer assistance.

A scheme submitted on behalf of Poor Law Authorities in Scotland proposed that any Parish Council which disburses in relief (including administration) to the destitute able-bodied unemployed a sum exceeding the produce of a 4d. rate upon the gross rental of the parish should receive assistance from the Exchequer to the extent of 75 per cent. of the excess. A similar grant in respect of past expenditure (from the 15th May, 1921) on able-bodied relief was also proposed. The Committee consider that a scheme which takes no account of comparative changes in the total burden, but has regard only to the amount of a particular charge—such as the relief of the able-bodied unemployed—cannot assess equitably the real necessity of an area, or measure the assistance appropriate to different areas. They point to the unsatisfactory nature of the rating assessment as a test of necessity, and state that objections on this ground would particularly apply if the scheme were extended to England and Wales. The Committee also indicate various ways in which the proposal to pay grant in respect of past expenditure might discriminate against authorities which had met their obligations either without borrowing or by borrowing only small amounts.

In conclusion, the Committee report that they are unable to

recommend any of the schemes placed before them as providing a fair and equitable basis of distribution of special assistance from the Exchequer to necessitous areas. At the same time, certain members of the Committee record their opinion that it is not impossible to adapt some of the principles embodied in those schemes so as to give a basis of assistance to heavily burdened areas.

## INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE.

THE Eighth Session of the General Conference of the International Labour Organisation of the League of Nations, convened under Article 389 of the Treaty of Versailles, opened at Geneva on the 26th May and ended on the 5th June, 1926. Monsignor W. H. Nolens, Doctor of Law, Minister of State, Member of the Second Chamber of the States-General and Government Delegate for the Netherlands, was elected President of the Conference. A full account of the proceedings at this Session of the Conference will be published in due course as a Command Paper, in the form of a Report to the Minister of Labour by H.M. Government delegates: the official texts of the draft Convention and of the Recommendation adopted will also be published. In the meantime the following is a summary of the principal decisions of the Conference:—

The Conference adopted a draft Convention concerning the simplification of the inspection of emigrants on board ship, and a Recommendation concerning the protection of emigrant women and girls on board ship. A resolution was also passed relating to the carrying of interpreters on board emigrant ships in certain circumstances.

It was also decided to set up a Committee to examine the annual Reports received under the provisions of Article 403 of the Peace Treaty from the States Members of the Organisation, regarding the measures which they have taken to give effect to International Labour Conventions to which they are parties.

Amendments were made in the standing orders of the Conference, the most important of which related to a double reading procedure for draft Conventions and Recommendations.

## THE SETTLEMENT OF RAILWAY DISPUTES IN THE UNITED STATES.

A BILL creating new machinery for the adjustment of railway disputes was recently passed by both Houses of Congress, and received the President's signature on 20th May last under the title of the Railroad Labour Act.

The new measure provides for the abolition of the Railway Labour Board which was set up under the Transportation Act of 1920. Although a considerable number of disputes were dealt with by this body, it is stated that it had lost the confidence of both employers and workers, and a number of judicial decisions enabled its awards to be evaded. The new Act provides for the establishment, by previous agreement between railways or groups of railways and their employees, of Boards of Adjustment to deal with individual disputes or questions arising out of the interpretation of agreements. These Boards are to be composed of an equal number of representatives of employers and workers, and their decisions are to be binding on both parties.

Disputes of a more general nature, arising out of changes in rates of pay, rules or working conditions, are to be referred to a Board of Mediation, consisting of five paid impartial members to be appointed by the President on the advice and with the consent of the Senate. This Board is to constitute a permanent executive body and is to be provided with the necessary staff of experts and assistants. The Act prescribes that either party to a dispute may invoke the services of the Board when the competent local Adjustment Board has been unable to effect a settlement, or when direct negotiations between the parties have been unsuccessful; or the Board may of its own initiative offer its services in similar circumstances. Should the Board be unable to bring about an amicable settlement by mediation, it is to endeavour to induce the parties to agree to arbitration by a Board consisting of an equal number of arbitrators appointed by either party, together with an impartial member (or members) nominated by the other arbitrators or by the Board of Mediation. It is prescribed that the award of the arbitrators shall be binding upon the parties to the dispute, and shall be filed in the appropriate District Court of the United States and become a judgment of the Court.

The Act, however, stipulates that no obligation shall rest on either employers or workers to submit a dispute to arbitration, and it further contains a clause safeguarding the right of individual employees to refuse to work or to cease work at their discretion, and stating that the cessation of work by an individual employee may not be held to be illegal.

In the event of the procedure described above proving inadequate to bring about the settlement of a dispute which appears likely to affect inter-state communications, the Board of Mediation is to notify the President, who may, at his discretion, set up a special Board to investigate and report upon such dispute. Pending the issue of a report by this body, no change may be made, except by mutual agreement, in the conditions giving rise to the dispute. The Act does not specify the purpose of such reports, but it would appear from the report of the Senate Committee on the Bill, that the intention is to facilitate a settlement by submitting the facts of a dispute to public opinion.

## REGULATION OF COLLECTIVE LABOUR RELATIONS IN ITALY.

THE Italian *Gazzetta Ufficiale* of 14th April, 1926, publishes the text of an Act dated 3rd April, 1926, dealing with (1) the legal recognition of trade associations and collective labour agreements, (2) Industrial Courts, and (3) strikes and lock-outs. The following is a summary of the principal provisions of the new Act.

### (1) Legal Recognition of Trade Associations and Collective Labour Agreements.

To be eligible for legal recognition a trade association, whether it be composed of employers or of workers, must satisfy three conditions:—

(i) If it is an association of employers, the voluntary membership must represent undertakings employing at least 10 per cent. of the workers in the trade and district covered by the association. If it is an association of workers, the voluntary membership must represent at least 10 per cent. of the workers employed in the trade and district covered by the association.

(ii) In addition to the moral and economic interests of its members, it must propose to pursue, and, in fact, pursue, aims connected with the instruction and the moral and national education of its members.

(iii) Its officers must give proof of capacity, morality and assured national fidelity.

Recognised associations can consist either of employers or of workers. One of the conditions of membership to be included in the statutes of the association is "good political conduct from the national point of view." Associations of employers and of workers may be united by means of a central joint organisation with a common board of management, provided that employers and workers are separately represented on the board. Each legally recognised association will represent legally all the employers or workers of the category for which it is established in the administrative district in which it operates, whether they are enrolled as members or not. A legally recognised association has power to levy on all employers in the trade and district, whether enrolled or not, an annual contribution equal to not more than one day's wages for each worker employed, or on all workers in the trade and district, whether enrolled or not, an annual contribution equal to one day's wages.

Federations or unions of associations and confederations of federations conforming to the regulations may also receive legal recognition, this recognition implying a recognition of the affiliated associations. Only one association, federation or confederation will be legally recognised for each category of employers or of workers within the district covered by the association, federation or confederation. If legal recognition is granted to a national confederation of all categories of employers or of workers in agriculture or commerce or industry, no association or federation not forming part of the confederation will receive legal recognition. In no case can associations be recognised which, without the sanction of the Government, are in any way subject to the discipline of or are subordinate to associations of an international character.

Every recognised association will have a President or Secretary who, assisted by management committees, elected by the enrolled members of the association, will direct and represent it and be responsible for its functioning. The nomination and election of the President or Secretary, which are to be carried out in accordance with the statutes of the association, must be approved by Royal Decree in the case of national, inter-regional and regional associations, and by the competent minister in the case of provincial, district and communal associations. The former class of association will be subject to the supervision and guardianship of the competent Minister of State, and the latter to the supervision of the Prefect and the guardianship of the Provincial Administrative Council. The supervision and guardianship of an association affiliated to a federation or confederation may be exercised in whole or in part by the latter. The competent minister has power to dissolve the management committees referred to above and to place the management of the association for a period not longer than a year entirely in the hands of the President or Secretary. In more serious cases, he may entrust the management of an association to a commissary appointed by him. The recognition of an association may be revoked when serious reasons exist for so doing, and in any case when the conditions prescribed by the Act are not being complied with.

Collective labour agreements concluded between legally recognised associations of employers and workers are binding upon all employers and workers belonging to the categories represented by the respective associations in the districts covered by them. Collective agreements will be null and void unless they are in writing and they stipulate the period of time for which they are valid. The central joint organisations of employers and workers referred to above may lay down general rules governing conditions of labour in the enterprises with which they are concerned. These rules will apply to all employers and workers of the category represented by the joint organisation. Further regulations regarding collective agreements are to be issued by Royal Decree.

The Act does not apply to servants of the State, the Provinces, the Municipalities and public benevolent institutions, for whom special regulations will be issued. Officers and other ranks of the fighting forces, magistrates, professors, secondary teachers and civil servants employed in the Ministries of the Interior, of Foreign Affairs, and of the Colonies are forbidden, under penalty of dismissal, etc., to form associations. With these exceptions, associations of employers and workers not legally recognised will continue to exist as *de facto* associations.

### (2) Industrial Courts.

A special section in each Appeal Court will be formed to act as an Industrial Court, consisting of three Appeal Judges, one of whom will act as President, and two experts selected by the President from a register which will be kept at each Appeal Court. This register will contain the names of persons who are expert in problems relating to production and labour, divided into groups and sub-groups according to the various branches of industry carried on in the area within the jurisdiction of the Court. The registers will be subject to revision every two years. The presiding judge will each year designate the members of each group or sub-group who are liable to be called upon to serve.

All disputes in connection with the control of collective labour relations, whether they relate to the application of collective contracts or other existing regulations, or claims for new conditions of labour, are within the competence of the Appeal Courts acting as Industrial Courts. Before issuing a decision, the President of the Court must endeavour to secure agreement by conciliation between the parties. Disputes of the nature referred to may be settled by arbitration in accordance with Article 8 *et seq.* of the Code of Civil Procedure.

The Appeal Court, acting as an Industrial Court, will apply existing agreements in accordance with the legislation governing the interpretation and execution of contracts, and, in the case of new conditions of labour, in accordance with the requirements of equity; taking into consideration the interests of both employers and workers and in all cases safeguarding the paramount interests of production. Where new conditions of labour are formulated by the Court, a limit of time must be fixed for the duration of such conditions. The decisions of the Industrial Court will be given after the Court has been addressed by Counsel for the Crown. Appeals to the Supreme Court against the decisions of the Industrial Courts are permissible in accordance with existing legislation.

Action in disputes over collective labour agreements may be taken only by legally recognised associations, or can be brought only against legally recognised associations. Where no such associations exist, the President of the Industrial Court may appoint a proxy (*curatore*) to represent the party or parties. In the latter case, the voluntary intervention of individuals concerned is permissible.

Where an employers' or a workers' association is affiliated to a federation or confederation, or where there exists a central joint body, uniting employers and workers, action may be taken in the Appeal Courts only after the federation or confederation or central body has endeavoured to bring about a friendly settlement. The legally recognised association is the sole legal representative of all the employers or all the workers of the category for which it is constituted within the administrative district in which it operates. Decisions affecting such associations are binding upon all interested persons.

Without prejudice to the application of the rules of common law on the civil responsibility for the non-fulfilment of the awards of the Industrial Court, employers and workers who refuse to carry out the decisions of the Court will be punished by detention of from one month to one year, with a fine of from 100 to 5,000 lire. The leaders of legally recognised associations who refuse to carry out the decisions of the Court will be punished by detention of from six months to two years, with a fine of from 2,000 to 10,000 lire, in addition to dismissal from office. Where, in addition to not carrying out the decisions of the Court, the guilty parties declare a strike or lock-out, the provisions of the Penal Code will be applied.

### (3) Strikes and Lock-outs.

Strikes and lock-outs are prohibited, and punishable by fines or imprisonment or both. Employers who lock out their workers in order to enforce a modification of existing labour conditions will be fined from 10,000 to 100,000 lire; while workers, if three or more in number, who, by previous agreement, quit work or perform their work in such a way as to hinder its continuity and regularity, in order to enforce a modification of existing labour conditions, will be fined from 100 to 1,000 lire. Organisers, promoters and leaders of strikes and lock-outs will, in addition, be punished by detention of from one to two years. If the strikers or obstructors are public servants or are employees in public utility services or any undertaking serving a public need, they will be imprisoned for from one to six months, with suspension of civil rights for six months; while the organisers, promoters and leaders will, in such cases, be imprisoned for from six months to two years, with suspension of civil rights for three years or more. The directors of public utility services or undertakings serving a public need who suspend work in their establishments without justification will be imprisoned for from six months to a year, and fined from 5,000 to 100,000 lire, in addition to temporary suspension of civil rights. Servants of the State or of other public bodies, the directors of public utility services or of undertakings serving a public need and their employees who, on the occasion of a strike or lock-out, fail to do everything in their power to maintain the regular continuance, or to further the resumption, of public utility services or of undertakings serving a public need, will be punished by detention of from one to six months.

When the suspension of work by the employers or the abandonment or irregular performance of work by the workers has for its object the coercion of any State, provincial or municipal authority, or public official, the leaders, promoters and organisers will be punished by imprisonment for a period of three to seven years, with permanent suspension of civil rights, and the other parties implicated, by imprisonment for a period of one to three years, with temporary suspension of civil rights.

\* Cmd. 2645. H.M. Stationery Office; price 9d. net.

## CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION IN BELGIUM: ESTABLISHMENT OF BOARDS.

A ROYAL Order,\* dated 5th May, 1926, which was to come into force on 12th June, 1926, provides for the establishment of conciliation and arbitration boards for the prevention or settlement of collective disputes between employers and workpeople in Belgium. The Boards will be of two kinds, "official" and "free." The former will be set up by the Minister of Industry, Labour and Social Welfare in any district in which it is considered necessary. Each official Board will consist of a chairman, a vice-chairman, a secretary, three members representing the employers and three representing the workpeople. A deputy member must be appointed for each full member to act in the absence of the latter. The employers' and workers' representatives will be appointed by the Minister from lists of candidates submitted by the respective organisations in the district concerned. If lists of candidates are not submitted within a period fixed by the Minister, the members will be appointed by the Minister. The chairman and vice-chairman will be elected by the members provided that the vote is unanimous; if the vote is not unanimous they will be appointed by the Minister from among impartial persons resident in the district concerned. All the members are elected for a period of three years and are eligible for re-election. The Minister may require the Joint Employment Exchange Committee to carry out the duties of an "official" conciliation and arbitration Board.

"Free" conciliation and arbitration Boards may be set up under agreements concluded between employers and workers in an undertaking or a group of undertakings, or between associations of employers or workpeople. These Boards must be approved by the Minister of Industry, Labour and Social Welfare, who may introduce into the agreement such modifications as he may consider necessary, defining especially the competence of the Board, the undertakings or associations to which it is applicable, and the method of election of members. Approved Boards will deal with disputes between the parties to the agreement instituting the Board. Any difference with regard to the terms of the agreement is to be referred to the "official" Board, which will declare whether it is to be dealt with by the approved Board or whether it is itself the competent authority to deal with the matter.

The parties to a dispute have the option of submitting their differences to the Joint National or District Industrial Committees established by the Government for the purpose of dealing with questions relating to wages and conditions of labour. In such cases these Committees will follow the procedure prescribed for the conciliation and arbitration Boards and will take precedence over the "official" and "free" Boards. (The Joint Committees referred to were established, generally on the initiative of the interested parties, for different industries by Ministerial or Royal Decrees at various dates from 1919 onwards. One of their chief functions is to deal with collective labour disputes. By a Royal Decree of 21st February, 1924, a special section was created at the Ministry of Industry, Labour and Social Welfare to deal with questions relating to the establishment, organisation and functioning of these bodies.)

In the event of a dispute affecting several undertakings covered by different Boards, the Minister will, on the application of one of the parties or of one of the Boards concerned, designate the Board which is to intervene.

If a dispute arises which is likely to result in a strike or a lock-out, one of the parties must inform the Chairman of the competent Board who, within five days, must convene a meeting of the Board and invite the parties or their representatives to attend. The Board will hear the statements of the parties, make any necessary inquiries and invite the parties to make proposals with a view to conciliation. If all attempts at conciliation fail the Board will then suggest that the dispute be settled by arbitration, offer its services for this purpose and invite the parties to select an arbitrator. If arbitration is agreed on, the parties must sign a document indicating the points for arbitration and containing an undertaking to accept the findings of the arbitrator. If the offer of arbitration is rejected by one or both of the parties, the minutes of the proceedings of the Board, together with a statement dealing with the questions in dispute, means for settling the dispute, and the extent of the responsibility of each party for the failure of conciliation, are to be sent to the Minister of Industry, Labour and Social Welfare.

When a strike or lock-out occurs before any attempt at conciliation or arbitration has been made, the competent Board, on being informed, will immediately notify the Minister, and the Board will offer its services for the purpose of settling the dispute.

The meetings of the Boards will be private. Witnesses must withdraw after giving evidence. All decisions of the Boards must be unanimous; an equal number of employers' and workers' representatives must take part in the voting, and in the case of equal voting the chairman has the casting vote. The cost of both the official and free Boards is to be borne by the State.

Persons on strike or locked out may receive unemployment benefit from their unemployment societies, together with allowances from the National Emergency Fund, if the dispute is caused by the employer imposing new wage rates or conditions of labour on the workers before the dispute has been dealt with by the competent Board under the provisions of the present Order, or if he has declared

\* *Revue du Travail*, 31st May, 1926. Brussels.

a lock-out in contravention of the provisions of the Order. In the case of a strike or lock-out caused by some action on the part of the workers before the matter has been fully dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the Order the organisation representing the workers will be ineligible for subsidies from the National Emergency Fund for a period of one year.

## WAGES AND SALARIES IN SWEDEN, 1913-1925.

THE May number of *Sociala Meddelanden*, the journal of the Swedish Department for Social Affairs, contains the results for 1925 of the annual investigation into wages in various industries in Sweden.

The following particulars, which are of a preliminary nature as regards the year 1925, are based, as in previous investigations, on information supplied by employers and relate to two groups of workers: (a) non-manual or salaried employees, such as technical or office staffs and shop assistants; and (b) wage earners in manufacturing industries, transport, communication and commerce.

The first of the two Tables below, based on returns in 1925, relating to 45,296 non-manual workers, shows the average salaries paid in 1913, 1921 (in which year salaries reached their highest level) and 1925, and the percentage rise since 1913.

	Average Yearly Salary.			Increase as compared with 1913.	
	1913.	1921.	1925.	1921.	1925.
	Kronor.	Kronor.	Kronor.	Per cent.	Per cent.
<b>Technical Staff:—</b>					
Men ... ..	3,131	6,716	5,622	115	80
Women ... ..	1,204	2,981	2,770	148	130
Both Sexes ... ..	3,025	6,584	5,535	118	83
<b>Office Staff:—</b>					
Men ... ..	2,309	5,417	4,489	135	94
Women ... ..	1,257	3,300	2,719	163	116
Both Sexes ... ..	2,064	4,807	3,934	133	91
<b>Shop Assistants:—</b>					
Men ... ..	1,314	3,495	2,952	166	125
Women ... ..	881	2,455	2,053	179	133
Both Sexes ... ..	1,163	2,937	2,438	153	110
<b>Total:—</b>					
Men ... ..	2,346	5,625	4,671	140	99
Women ... ..	1,135	3,085	2,523	172	122
Both Sexes ... ..	2,049	4,950	4,039	142	97

The next Table, which relates to the average earnings of manual workers, by the year and by the hour, is based on returns covering 234,854 persons in 1925.

	Average Yearly Earnings.		Increase, 1913-1925.	Average Hourly Earnings.		Increase, 1913-1925.
	1913.	1925.		1913.	1925.	
	Kronor.	Kronor.	Per cent.	Kronor.	Kronor.	Per cent.
<b>Men over 18 ... ..</b>	1,241	2,637	112	0.45	1.17	160
<b>Women ... ..</b>	651	1,545	137	0.24	0.71	196
<b>Juveniles ... ..</b>	485	1,054	117	0.18	0.49	172
<b>Total ... ..</b>	1,093	2,367	117	0.40	1.06	165
<b>Sex not stated ... ..</b>	1,079	1,780	65	0.30	0.82	173
<b>All workers combined ... ..</b>	1,091	2,362	116	0.40	1.06	165

It thus appears that average yearly earnings per worker in 1925 increased by 116 per cent. as compared with 1913, while the average earnings per hour increased by 165 per cent. The disparity in the percentage increase between yearly and hourly earnings is stated to be due to the decreased number of working hours per annum, the result chiefly of the introduction of the 8-hour day and the working of short time owing to industrial depression.

The above figures relate to changes in the level of money wages only. When allowance is made for the rise in the cost of living, which was 76 per cent. higher in 1925 than in 1913, it is found that real wages in 1925 were higher than in 1913 in approximately the following proportions:—

	Percentage Increase.
Non-manual workers (both sexes): yearly salary ...	12
Manual workers:—	
Hourly earnings ... ..	50
Yearly earnings ... ..	23

NOTE.—Publication of the article on the coal mining dispute and the general strike, referred to on page 159 of the May issue of this GAZETTE, is being deferred until the July issue.

## CHANGES IN COST OF LIVING: STATISTICS FOR 1st JUNE.

### Summary: Average Increases since July, 1914.

All Items included ... ..	68%
Food only ... ..	58%

### FOOD.

At 1st June the average level of retail prices of the principal articles of food was about the same as at 1st May. Bacon, fish, flour, bread, sugar and potatoes were all slightly dearer than a month earlier, but these upward movements were counterbalanced by decreases in the average prices of milk, butter and cheese.

As a net result of all the changes recorded, the average increase over the level of July, 1914, in the retail prices (in Great Britain and Northern Ireland) of the articles of food included in these statistics was about 58 per cent. at 1st June, the same as at 1st May, as compared with 66 per cent. at the corresponding date in 1925.

In the following Table is given a comparison of retail prices of these articles of food in July, 1914, and at 1st May and 1st June, 1926:—

Article.	Average Price (per lb. unless otherwise indicated—to the nearest $\frac{1}{2}$ d.)			Average Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) at 1st June 1926, as compared with	
	July, 1914.	1st May, 1926.	1st June, 1926.	July, 1914.	1st May, 1926.
<b>Beef, British—</b>	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Ribs ... ..	0 10	1 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	...
Thin Flank ... ..	0 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	...
<b>Beef, Chilled or Frozen—</b>					
Ribs ... ..	0 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 10	0 10	+ 0 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	...
Thin Flank ... ..	0 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	...
<b>Mutton, British—</b>					
Legs ... ..	0 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	...
Breast ... ..	0 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 4	...
<b>Mutton, Frozen—</b>					
Legs ... ..	0 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 0	1 0	+ 0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	...
Breast ... ..	0 4	0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	...
<b>Bacon (streaky)*</b>	0 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 8	1 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 9	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
<b>Flour ... per 7 lb.</b>	0 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 6	1 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
<b>Bread ... per 4 lb.</b>	0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 0	+ 0 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
<b>Tea ...</b>	1 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 11	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
<b>Sugar (granulated) ...</b>	0 2	0 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
<b>Milk ... per quart</b>	0 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 2	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
<b>Butter—</b>					
Fresh ... ..	1 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 11	1 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	- 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Salt ... ..	1 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 10	1 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	- 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
<b>Cheese† ...</b>	0 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 2	1 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 5	- 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
<b>Margarine ...</b>	0 7	0 8	0 8	+ 0 1	...
<b>Eggs (fresh) ... each</b>	0 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	...
<b>Potatoes ... per 7 lb.</b>	0 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 2	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$

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

Article.	Average Percentage Increase at 1st June, 1926, as compared with July, 1914.			Corresponding General Average for 1st May, 1926.
	Large Towns (Populations over 50,000).	Small Towns and Villages.	General Average.	
<b>Beef, British—</b>	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Ribs ... ..	77	74	75	76
Thin Flank ... ..	45	46	46	46
<b>Beef, Chilled or Frozen—</b>				
Ribs ... ..	42	37	39	38
Thin Flank ... ..	11	12	11	11
<b>Mutton, British—</b>				
Legs ... ..	84	85	85	84
Breast ... ..	67	61	64	63
<b>Mutton, Frozen—</b>				
Legs ... ..	80	70	75	74
Breast ... ..	26	28	27	27
<b>Bacon (streaky)*</b>	85	76	80	77
<b>Fish ...</b>	128	102	115	106
<b>Flour ...</b>	71	74	72	71
<b>Bread ...</b>	74	70	72	71
<b>Tea ...</b>	57	63	60	60
<b>Sugar (granulated) ...</b>	71	63	67	64
<b>Milk ...</b>	57	65	61	67
<b>Butter—</b>				
Fresh ... ..	52	55	54	58
Salt ... ..	52	53	52	54
<b>Cheese† ...</b>	57	62	60	62
<b>Margarine ...</b>	19	11	15	15
<b>Eggs (fresh) ...</b>	29	20	24	25
<b>Potatoes ...</b>	56	23	39	37
<b>All above articles of Food (Weighted Percentage Increase) ...</b>	60	56	58	58

\* If this kind is seldom dealt with in a locality, the returns quote the price of another kind locally representative.

† The description of cheese specified for quotation is Canadian or American, but where such cheese is seldom sold in a locality the returns quote the price of another kind locally representative.

### RENT, CLOTHING, FUEL AND LIGHT.

As regards *rents*, inquiries which have been made into the changes which have taken effect under the Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Acts indicate that the average increase in the rents of working-class dwellings between July, 1914, and 1st June, 1926, was approximately 49 per cent. Of the total increase about two-fifths is accounted for by increases on account of rates and water charges and about two-fifths is on account of the landlord's responsibility for repairs, increases on account of the higher level of mortgage interest permitted by the Acts falling within the remaining one-fifth.

As regards *clothing*, owing to the wide range of quotations, both now and before the war, to changes in qualities and in stocks held by retailers, and to variations in the extent to which different articles and qualities have been affected by price changes, it is impossible to make an exact calculation of the increase in prices; but information as to the movements of prices of men's suits and overcoats, underclothing and hosiery, textile materials and boots, received from retailers in the principal towns, indicates that at 1st June the level of retail prices of articles in this group, taking goods of the kinds purchased by the working classes and so far as possible the same qualities of goods at each date, averaged between 120 and 125 per cent. higher than in July, 1914.

In the *fuel and light* group the average price of coal rose during May, and at 1st June was about double the price in July, 1914. The average price of gas remained at nearly 55 per cent. above the pre-war level; and candles, lamp oil and matches also showed no appreciable change in prices during the month. Taking the fuel and light group as a whole, the average increase at 1st June as compared with July, 1914, was about 90 per cent., as compared with 85 per cent. at 1st May.

### ALL ITEMS.

If the average increases in the cost of all the foregoing items are combined in accordance with their relative importance in pre-war working-class family expenditure, allowance being also made for the increase in the prices of soap, soda, domestic ironmongery, brushware and pottery, tobacco, fares and newspapers (averaging about 80 per cent.), the resultant general average increase for 1st June is, approximately, 68 per cent.\* over the level of July, 1914, as compared with 67 per cent. at 1st May and 72 per cent. at the corresponding date in 1925. The slight increase during May is accounted for by the rise in the price of coal.

The result of this calculation (in which the same quantities and, as far as possible, the same qualities of each item are taken in 1926 as in 1914) is to show the average increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the pre-war standard of living of working-class families (i.e., the standard actually prevailing in working-class families before the war, irrespective of whether such standard was adequate or not). Owing to the variations in the amounts of increase in the prices of different commodities it is probable that economies or re-adjustments in expenditure have been effected in many families, especially in those cases where incomes have not increased so much as prices. On the other hand, it is probable that the standard of living has been raised in some families in which wages have been increased in greater proportion than prices. No allowance is made in the figures for any such alterations in the standard of living, as to which trustworthy statistics are not available.

## SUMMARY TABLE: 1915 TO 1926.

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

Month.	Average Percentage Increase since July, 1914—All Items. (Food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, etc.)											
	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926
Jan. ...	10-15	35	65	85-90	120	125	165	92	78	77	80	75
Feb. ...	15	35	65-70	90	120	130	151	88	77	79	79	73
Mar. ...	15-20	35-40	70	90	115	130	141	86	76	78	79	72
Apr. ...	15-20	35-40	70-75	90-95	110	132	133	82	74	73	75	68
May ...	20	40-45	75	95-100	105	141	128	81	70	71	73	67
June ...	25	45	75-80	100	105	150	119	80	69	69	72	68
July ...	25	45-50	80	100-105	105-110	152	119	84	69	70	73	...
Aug. ...	25	45-50	80	110	115	155	122	81	71	71	73	...
Sept. ...	25	50	80-85	110	115	161	120	79	73	72	74	...
Oct. ...	30	50-55	75-80	115-120	120	164	110	78	75	76	76	...
Nov. ...	30-35	60	85	120-125	125	176	103	80	75	80	76	...
Dec. ...	35	65	85	120	125	169	99	80	77	81	77	...

### NOTE.

A brief Statement of the method of compiling these statistics was given on page 236 of the July, 1923, issue of this GAZETTE. A more detailed account was given in the issue of February, 19



EMPLOYMENT IN MAY.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

EMPLOYMENT in May was seriously affected in the first half of the month by the general strike and subsequently by the increasing shortage of fuel resulting from the stoppage of work in the coal-mining industry. In most of the large coal-using industries employment was bad, and in many industries—particularly iron mining, and pig-iron, iron and steel, tinplate, and pottery manufacture—a large number of works were either closed down or working a considerable amount of short time at the end of the month.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

Among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts, numbering approximately 11,892,000, and working in practically every industry, except agriculture and private domestic service, the percentage unemployed at 24th May, 1926, was 14.5,\* as compared with 9.2 at 26th April, 1926, and with 10.9 at 25th May, 1925. For males alone the percentage at 24th May was 15.1, as compared with 10.1 at 26th April; for females the figure at 24th May was 12.7, as compared with 6.7 at 26th April. Among members of Trade Unions from which returns were received, the percentage unemployed was 13.2\* at the end of May, 1926, as compared with 10.2 at the end of April, 1926, and with 10.1 at the end of May, 1925. The total number of persons (insured and uninsured) registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 31st May, 1926, was approximately 1,675,000,\* of whom 1,246,000 were men and 333,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls; at 26th April, 1926, it was 1,034,000, of whom 800,000 were men and 172,000 were women; and at 25th May, 1925, it was 1,253,000, of whom men numbered 963,000 and women 226,000.

The following Table shows, month by month since May, 1925, (a) the percentages unemployed among members of those Trade Unions from which returns are obtained, (b) the percentages unemployed among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland and (c) the approximate number (to the nearest 1,000) of persons on the registers in Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Month.	Percentage Unemployed (at or near end of month) among			Numbers registered at Local Offices (Insured and Uninsured).
	Trade Unions making Returns.	Males.	Females.	
<b>1925.</b>				
May...	10.1	11.8	8.5	1,253,000
June...	12.3	13.0	8.6	1,368,000
July...	11.2	11.8	9.5	1,262,000
August...	11.4	13.1	9.5	1,418,000
September...	11.4	13.3	8.8	1,401,000
October...	11.3	12.7	7.7	1,295,000
November...	11.0	12.2	7.8	1,227,000
December...	11.0	11.6	7.3	1,166,000
<b>1926.</b>				
January...	10.6	12.1	8.1	1,237,000
February...	10.4	11.5	7.7	1,169,000
March...	10.1	10.9	7.1	1,070,000
April...	10.0	10.1	6.7	1,034,000
May...	13.2	15.1	12.7	1,675,000

EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

**Mining and Quarrying.**—In coal mining there was a general stoppage throughout the month owing to the dispute. At iron mines employment was bad; most of the mines were idle, and the industry was almost at a standstill. At the mines covered by the returns received there was a decrease of nearly 80 per cent. in the number employed as compared with the previous month, and of 81.8 per cent. as compared with May, 1925. The average number of days worked by the mines that were working was 4.03 in May, 1926, 5.68 in April, 1926, and 5.29 in April, 1925. Returns received from shale mines in West Lothian showed an increase in employment as compared with the previous month. Limestone quarries in the Weardale district were reported to have been closed down during most of the month; in the Buxton district employment was reported as moderate, much short time being worked. At slate quarries in North Wales employment continued fairly good. At whinstone quarries in the East of Scotland and at chalk quarries it was slack. At tin mines and at china clay quarries in Devon and Cornwall employment continued good and fairly good respectively.

**Manufacture of Pig Iron, Iron and Steel, and Tinplate.**—The pig-iron industry was almost at a standstill as a consequence of the stoppage in the coal-mining industry. Of a total of 475 furnaces, the number in blast at the end of May was 23, compared with 147 in April, and with 157 in May, 1925. In the iron and steel trades employment was adversely affected by the dispute in the coal-mining industry, and many works were closed down and others were working short time. In the tinplate and steel sheet trade employment showed a marked decline, and many mills were idle on account of the shortage of fuel. The number of tinplate and steel sheet mills in operation at the end of May, 1926, was 264 as compared with 469 in April, 1926, and 468 in May, 1925.

\* Workpeople in the coal-mining industry, who ceased work on account of the dispute, are not included in this figure.  
† At 21st December.

**Engineering, Shipbuilding, and Metal Trades.**—In the engineering trades employment was very bad and showed a decline in all sections and in all districts, being seriously affected by the general strike and subsequently by the shortage of fuel. In the shipbuilding and ship repairing trade employment remained very bad and showed a decline in all districts, partly owing to the dispute in the coal mining industry and the consequent shortage of materials. In the other metal trades employment was affected seriously in many sections by shortage of fuel, and was only moderate on the whole. It was fair in the lock, latch and key trade, the hollow-ware, stove and grate trades; moderate in the brasswork, needle and fishing tackle, nut and bolt, sheet metal, cutlery, file, tube and wire trades; and bad in the metallic bedstead, jewellery and plated ware, copper, and chain and anchor trades.

**Textile Trades.**—In the Egyptian spinning section of the cotton trade employment continued fairly good; in the American spinning section the mills stopped one week from 3rd May, as recommended by the Short-Time Committee of the Master Cotton Spinners' Federation, and ran on the average for 30 to 35 hours a week during the remainder of the month; employment in the weaving section was more affected by the coal shortage than in the other sections; a large number of sheds closed down or worked alternate weeks, partly owing to trade depression and partly owing to shortage of coal. In the wool textile industry employment was adversely affected by the coal shortage, and towards the end of the month a large number of firms were working short time. Employment in the hosiery trade showed a further decline; in the silk and artificial silk trades, taken together, employment was fairly good in the Eastern Counties, but slack in the Macclesfield, Leek and Congleton district; in the lace trade it continued bad generally, with much unemployment and short time working; in the linen and jute trades it continued bad and showed a slight decline. In the textile bleaching, printing, dyeing, etc., trades, employment was slack.

**Clothing Trades.**—Employment in the tailoring trade showed a decline; it was generally fair in the retail bespoke branch, and slack or moderate, on the whole, in the ready-made and wholesale bespoke branch. The dressmaking and millinery trades were also seriously affected by the industrial situation, particularly in the West End of London, where acute depression was reported. In the London blouse and light underclothing trade employment was slack, short time working being general; in the corset and shirt and collar industries there was some decline, but employment was fair on the whole. In the felt-hat trade employment showed a decline and much short time was worked. In the boot and shoe industry, which is usually at its busiest just before Whitsuntide, employment was seriously affected by difficulties of transport consequent on the general strike, and by shortage of fuel and power, owing to the coal dispute. Some firms, however, were fairly busy in the third week of the month endeavouring to overtake arrears before the holidays. Many firms stopped for a whole week at Whitsuntide.

**Leather Trades.**—Employment in all sections of the leather trades was slack and showed a decline as compared with April.

**Building, Woodworking, etc.**—Employment in the building trade showed a decline, but apart from the period covered by the general strike, it was good, on the whole, with skilled workers and moderate, in most districts, with unskilled workers. With bricklayers and plasterers employment was very good; with masons, carpenters and joiners, slaters and skilled painters, it was fairly good; with plumbers it was generally fair; with tradesmen's labourers it was moderate. With brickmakers employment was adversely affected by the increasing shortage of coal; some short time was worked, and towards the end of the month a few works were closed.

Employment in the furnishing trades and with coachbuilders and mill-sawyers showed a decline but was still fair; with cooper and packing-case makers it continued bad and was worse than during the previous month.

**Paper Manufacture, Printing and Bookbinding.**—Employment in the paper trade showed a decline, and the shortage of fuel caused a certain amount of short time and unemployment. With letter-press printers employment was fair in London and moderate on the whole in the provinces; with electrotypers and stereotypers it was very good in London in the latter part of the month and fairly good in most other centres; with lithographic printers it was fair generally; with bookbinders it showed a decline.

**Pottery and Glass.**—Employment in the pottery trade declined sharply as an effect of the coal dispute and was bad on the whole, with much unemployment and short time working. In the glass trades employment was affected by the shortage of fuel and was bad;

**Agriculture and Fishing.**—In agriculture in England and Wales the supply of labour at the end of May was about sufficient to meet demands in nearly all districts and there was very little unemployment. In Scotland the supply of regular labour was generally sufficient, but a shortage of experienced men was reported in some districts. In the fishing industry employment was slack.

**Dock Labour and Seamen.**—Employment with dock labourers was bad on the whole; work was at a standstill during the general strike, except in so far as carried on by volunteer labour. On the termination of the strike, inactivity in a large degree continued at ports concerned chiefly with coal shipments, but at some other ports employment was plentiful on account of the accumulation of arrears. With seamen employment continued generally slack, being adversely affected by the results of the coal-mining stoppage.

TRADE UNION PERCENTAGES OF UNEMPLOYED.

TRADE Unions with a net membership of 835,551 in branches covered by the returns received, reported 109,947 (or 13.2 per cent.) of their members as unemployed at the end of May, 1926.

Trade.	Membership of Unions reporting at end of May, 1926.	Unemployed at end of May, 1926.*		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		Number.	Per cent.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Engineering and Shipbuilding ...	344,300	69,476	20.2	+ 5.6	+ 6.5
Miscellaneous Metal ...	49,418	5,781	11.7	+ 5.9	+ 5.6
Textiles—					
Cotton ...	55,446	4,843†	8.7	+ 2.1	+ 3.5
Other ...	68,247	3,172	4.6	+ 1.5	+ 0.7
Printing, Bookbinding and Papers ...	105,441	5,136	4.9	+ 2.0	+ 1.9
Furnishing ...	29,467	4,049	13.7	+ 7.3	+ 10.4
Woodworking ...	39,425	3,067	7.8	+ 2.6	+ 4.2
Clothing—					
Boot and Shoe ...	82,179	11,079	13.5	+ 9.9	+ 9.3
Other Clothing ...	47,856	1,356	2.8	+ 0.6	+ 2.1
Leather ...	5,668	875	15.4	+ 0.3	+ 3.9
Glass ...	1,207	33	2.7	+ 0.3	+ 0.5
Tobacco ...	6,897	1,080	15.7	+ 1.4	+ 4.7
Total ...	835,551	109,947	13.2†	+ 3.2†	+ 3.1†

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED INDUSTRIES

THE percentage unemployed among workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland (exclusive of persons who ceased work in the coal-mining industry on account of the dispute, was 14.5 per cent. (males 15.1 per cent., females 12.7 per cent.) at 24th May, 1926, as compared with 9.2 per cent. (males 10.1 per cent., females 6.7 per cent.) at 26th April, 1926, and 10.9 per cent. (males 11.8 per cent., females 8.5 per cent.) at 25th May, 1925. Tables showing the numbers and percentages unemployed in the principal industries appear on pages 218 to 221.

SUMMARY OF EMPLOYERS' RETURNS.

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

(a) CERTAIN MINING AND METAL TRADES.

Trade.	Workpeople included in the Returns for May, 1926.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.
Iron Mining ...	1,495	Days. - 1.65	Days. - 1.26
Shale „ ...	2,774	Days. + 0.10	Days. - 0.04
Pig Iron ...	...	Furnaces in Blast 23	Number. - 124
Tinplate and Steel Sheet ...	...	Mills Working 264	Number. - 205
Iron and Steel ...	29,738	Shifts Worked (one week). 147,035	Per cent. - 62.7

(b) OTHER TRADES.

Trade.	Number of Workpeople Employed.		Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople.	
	Week ended 22nd May, 1926.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended 22nd May, 1926.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.
Textiles—				
Cotton ...	79,427	- 4.0	£ 136,771	- 9.6
Woolen... ..	59,819	- 2.8	113,732	- 9.7
Worsted... ..	88,644	- 2.1	164,949	- 9.0
Boot and Shoe ...	49,550	- 5.4	108,499	- 15.5
Pottery ...	9,041	- 23.4	14,643	- 34.8
Brick ...	7,720	- 16.8	19,825	- 20.8

\* Short time and broken time are not reflected in the figures. In the textile industries a contraction in the demand for labour is generally met by short-time working. Persons on strike or locked out are also excluded. † Owing to the dispute, coal mining is not included in the figures for May, 1926; it is included, however, in those for April, 1926, and May, 1925. ‡ If coal mining is excluded throughout the increases as compared with the two latter dates are 4.6 and 5.1 respectively.

§ In addition to those shown, who were totally unemployed, a large number of the members of the unions reporting were "played off part of each week, or alternate weeks or fortnights" or on "temporary stoppage benefit."

¶ The returns actually received cover a larger number, but for purposes of comparability the number taken for this Table is that corresponding with the figures for previous months.

\*\* The returns for the tobacco trade are supplied by unions whose members are mainly cigar makers.

†† Comparison is affected by changes in rates of wages in some cases.

‡‡ Computed as explained in the article on page 83 of the March, 1926, GAZETTE.

UNEMPLOYMENT CHART.

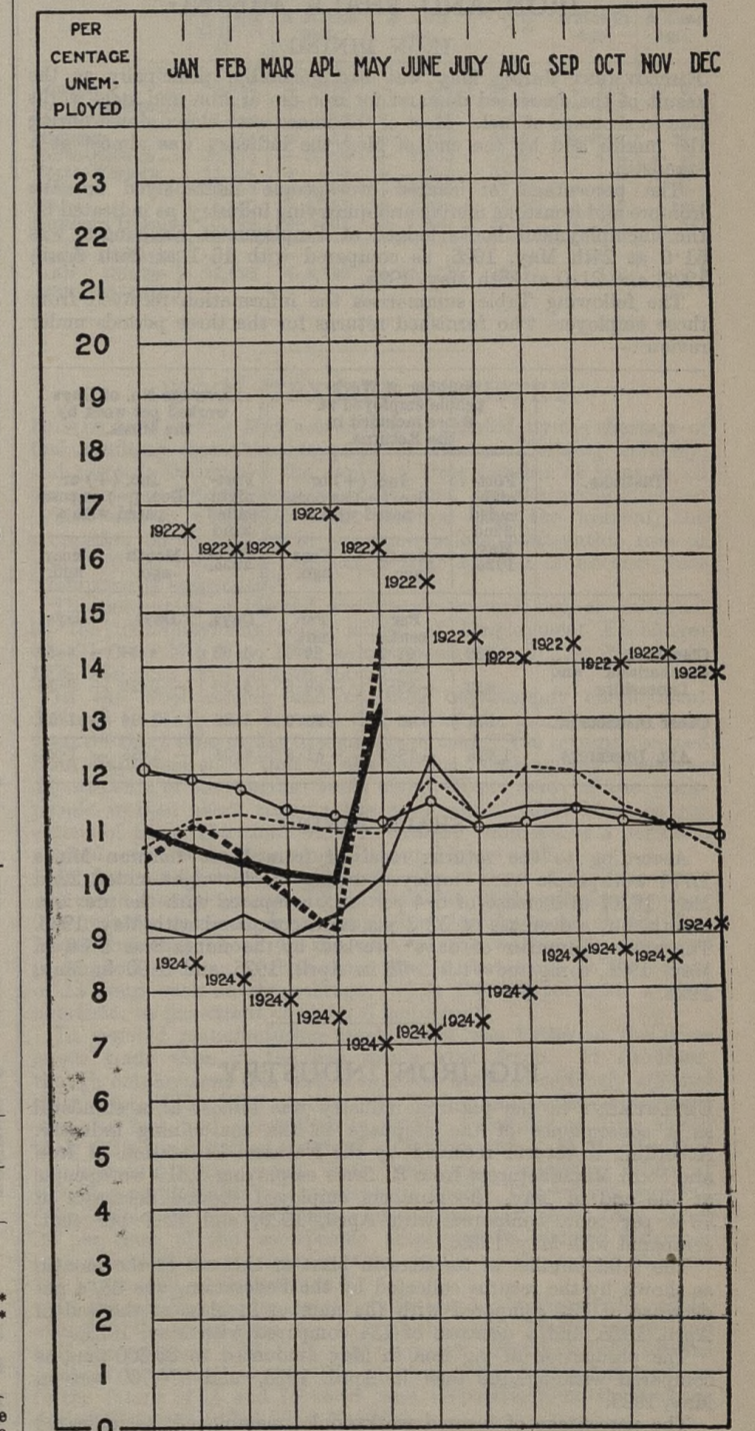
(1) PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT THE END OF EACH MONTH AMONG MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS:—

Thick Curve ————— = 1926.  
Thin Curve ————— = 1925.  
Chain Curve ○-○-○-○-○ = Mean of 1922-25.

× The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages of Trade Union members unemployed, in the months named, during the years 1922-1925.

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

Thick Dotted Curve - - - - - = 1926.  
Thin Dotted Curve - - - - - = 1925.



NOTE.

The figures relate to Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The Trade Union Returns are furnished by various Trade Unions which pay unemployment benefit to their members. Persons on strike or locked out, sick or superannuated, are excluded from the figures. Detailed figures are given in the previous column. The figures for insured workpeople are briefly explained, and are analysed in detail, on pages 218 to 221.

DETAILED REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN SOME OF THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

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

COAL MINING.

A GENERAL stoppage of work at coal mines throughout the United Kingdom began on 1st May, owing to a dispute as to wages, and was in progress throughout the month.

IRON AND SHALE MINING.

IRON MINING.

EMPLOYMENT during May was bad generally, principally as the result of the decreased demand for iron-ore at iron and steel works due to shortage of fuel.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed in the iron-ore and ironstone mining and quarrying industry, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 61.0 at 24th May, 1926, as compared with 16.1 at 26th April, 1926, and 21.0 at 25th May, 1925.

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

Table with 6 columns: Districts, Fort-night ended 22nd May, 1926, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago, Year ago, Average No. of Days worked per week by the Mines, Days, Days, Days.

SHALE MINING.

According to the returns received from West Lothian Mines 2,774 workpeople were employed during the fortnight ended 22nd May, 1926, an increase of 6.4 per cent. compared with the previous month, but a decrease of 32.3 per cent. compared with May, 1925.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT in the pig-iron industry was almost at a standstill as a consequence of the stoppage in the coal-mining industry.

The total number of furnaces in blast at the end of the month, as shown by the returns collected by the Federation, was 23, a net decrease of 124 compared with the number in blast at the end of April, 1926, and a decrease of 134 compared with May, 1925.

The production of pig iron in May amounted to 88,800 tons, as compared with 539,100 tons in April, 1926, and 574,700 tons in May, 1925.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 58.4 on 24th May, 1926, as compared with 13.3 on 26th April, 1926, and 17.7 on 25th May, 1925.

The following Table shows, by districts, the number of furnaces in blast at the end of May, 1926, as indicated by the returns collected by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, together with the decreases, as compared with April, 1926, and May, 1925.

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

Table with 6 columns: District, Total Number of Furnaces, Number of Furnaces in blast at end of May, 1926, Apr., 1926, May, 1925, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago.

IRON AND STEEL TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in May was adversely affected by the dispute in the coal-mining industry, and showed a considerable decline.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the number of unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 58.1 on 24th May, 1926, as compared with 20.3 on 26th April, 1926, and 23.6 on 25th May, 1925.

According to returns received from firms employing 29,738 workpeople in the week ended 22nd May, 1926, the volume of employment in that week (as indicated by the number of workpeople employed, combined with the number of shifts during which work was carried on in each department), decreased by 62.7 per cent. as compared with April and by 60.9 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

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

Table with 6 columns: DEPARTMENTS, No. of Workpeople employed by firms making returns, Aggregate number of Shifts, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago, Year ago, Per cent., Per cent.

\* The figures relate to the number of shifts during which the works were in operation, taken in conjunction with the numbers of men employed.

The production of steel ingots and castings, as returned by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, amounted to 45,700 tons in May, 1926, as compared with 661,000 tons in April, 1926, and 651,600 tons in May, 1925.

TINPLATE AND STEEL SHEET TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT during May showed a marked decline as compared with the previous month. Many mills were idle on account of the shortage of fuel.

The following Table shows the number of mills in operation at the end of May, 1926, at the works covered by the returns received.

Table with 6 columns: Works, Number of Works Open, Number of Mills in Operation, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 75.3 on 24th May, 1926, as compared with 16.0 on 26th April, 1926, and with 22.7 on 25th May, 1925.

The exports of tinned and galvanised plates and sheets in May, 1926, amounted to 94,580 tons, or 220 tons more than in April, 1926, but 8,529 tons less than in May, 1925.

ENGINEERING.

EMPLOYMENT during May was very bad and showed a decline in all sections and in all districts, being seriously affected by the general strike and the shortage of fuel caused by the stoppage of work in the coal mining industry.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed at 24th May, 1926 and the increase as compared with April and with a year ago.

Table with 13 columns: Divisions, Engineering, Iron and Steel Founding, Electrical Engineering, Marine Engineering, etc., Constructional Engineering, Construction and Repair of Motor Vehicles, Cycles and Aircraft, TOTAL, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Month ago, Year ago.

Percentages Unemployed at 24th May, 1926.

Table with 10 columns: London, South-Eastern, South-Western, Midlands, North-Eastern, North-Western, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND, Ditto, Apr. 1926, Ditto, May 1925.

On the North-East Coast employment was very bad, especially in marine engineering, and was much worse than in the previous month. In Yorkshire and Lincolnshire it was slack.

In the Birmingham and Wolverhampton district employment was fair in the electrical section but slack in other sections. At Coventry conditions declined and were only fair.

In Scotland conditions were very depressed and showed a decided decline. At Belfast employment remained bad with little change.

SHIPBUILDING AND SHIP-REPAIRING.

EMPLOYMENT remained very bad during May, and showed a decline in all districts compared with April and with a year ago, partly owing to the dispute in the coal mining industry and the consequent shortage of materials.

The decline compared with the end of April was greatest on the North-East Coast and the Bristol Channel, where more than half of the insured workpeople were recorded as unemployed.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed at 24th May, 1926.

Table with 6 columns: Divisions, Total Number of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 24th May, 1926, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Month ago, Year ago, Percentage Unemployed at 24th May, 1926, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage as compared with a Month ago, Year ago.

WOOL TEXTILE INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during May was adversely affected by the shortage of fuel resulting from the stoppage in the coal mining industry, and towards the end of the month a large number of firms in all the principal districts went on short time.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges was 21.0 on 24th May, 1926, as compared with 9.7 on 26th April, 1926, and with 17.8 on 25th May, 1925.

In the wool sorting and combing departments employment declined in May, and towards the end of the month many firms went on short time owing to shortage of coal.

In worsted spinning employment also showed a decline; there was much unemployment and short time at all the principal centres. The returns received from employers for the week ended 22nd May show that about 48 per cent. of the workpeople employed in worsted spinning worked short time in that week.

In worsted manufacturing employment was better in the dress goods trade than in the fine men's wear trade.

In the Huddersfield district employment was very bad, two-thirds of the operatives being on short time. In the blanket industry in the Heavy Woollen District and in the Calder Valley much short time was worked owing to the coal shortage.

In the flannel section employment at Rochdale was moderate in the sorting and spinning departments and better than a month earlier, in spite of the coal shortage; short time was still worked in the weaving section.

\* These figures do not take into account other forms of under-employment in the weaving section, such as "playing for warps" and tending one instead of two looms.







NUMBERS INSURED AND PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED.

Table with columns for Industry, Estimated Number of Insured Persons at July, 1925, Percentage Unemployed at 24th May, 1926, and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Total Percentages as compared with 26th Apr., 1925, 25th May, 1925, and 26th May, 1924. Rows include Fishing, Mining, Non-Ferrous Mining Products, Glass Trades, Ammunition, Explosives, Chemicals, etc., Metal Manufactures, Engineering, etc., Construction and Repair of Vehicles, Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing, Metal Trades, Textile Trades, Leather and Leather Goods, and Clothing Trades.

\* The unemployment figures are exclusive of persons in the coal mining industry who ceased work on account of the dispute which commenced on 1st May.

GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.

Table with columns for Industry, Estimated Number of Insured Persons at July, 1925, Percentage Unemployed at 24th May, 1926, and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Total Percentages as compared with 26th Apr., 1925, 25th May, 1925, and 26th May, 1924. Rows include Food, Drink and Tobacco, Sawmilling, Furniture and Woodwork, Printing and Paper Trades, Building and Construction of Works, Other Manufacturing Industries, Gas, Water and Electricity Supply, Transport and Communication, Distributive Trades, Commercial, Banking, Insurance and Finance, and Miscellaneous Trades and Services.

\* The unemployment figures are exclusive of persons in the coal-mining industry who ceased work on account of the dispute which commenced on 1st May.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES.

At 31st May, 1926, the total number of persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain was 1,614,212; in Great Britain and Northern Ireland it was 1,674,838.

Comparative figures for men, boys, women, and girls separately, for 26th April and 31st May, are given below\* :-

Table showing comparative figures for men, boys, women, and girls separately, for 26th April and 31st May, 1926. Columns include 26th April, 1926, and 31st May, 1926, with sub-columns for Persons normally in regular employment, Persons normally in Casual Employment, Wholly Unemployed, and Temporary Stoppages.

The following Table gives particulars relating to certain branches of the work of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland during the five weeks ended 31st May, 1926. Of the 96,449 vacancies filled, 49,307 were for men, 30,250 for women, and 16,892 for juveniles.

Table showing particulars relating to certain branches of the work of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland during the five weeks ended 31st May, 1926. Columns include Week ended, Applications from Employers, Vacancies Filled, and Number of Workpeople on Registers.

\* The figures include all workpeople on the Registers of Exchanges with the exception of those who ceased work in the coal-mining industry on account of the dispute, and persons in other industries who were included in the general strike. They include persons "suspended" or "stood off" and those who, although employed on a basis of systematic short time, were not actually at work on the date in question.

† "Vacancies filled" include certain types of cases (described as Class B placings) in which the work of the Exchanges was limited; for instance, obtaining for an employer former employees or placing the same men on relief works in alternate weeks. During the four weeks ended 3rd May, 1926, the average number of such placings was 5,530 per week. The average number of placings of casual workers, such as dock labourers and coal porters, during the five weeks ended 31st May, 1926, was 300 per week.



CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.

Rates of Wages.

In the industries covered by the Department's statistics\* the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation in May in Great Britain and Northern Ireland resulted in an aggregate reduction of over £20,000 in the weekly full-time wages of nearly 240,000 workpeople and in an increase of £3,900 in those of over 25,000 workpeople.

The groups of industries principally affected are as follows:—

Group of Industries.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by		Amount of Changes in Weekly Wages.	
	Increases.	Decreases.	Increases.	Decreases.
Iron and Steel ... ..	150	56,000	£ 5	£ 5,900
Clothing ... ..	...	62,000	...	5,800
Paper, etc. ... ..	...	25,500	...	1,900
Building etc. ... ..	16,150	7,500	3,500	500
Public Utility Services...	1,000	37,000	100	2,000
Other ... ..	8,100	51,000	500	4,000
Total ... ..	25,400	239,000	3,905	20,100

The largest group of workpeople in the iron and steel industries affected by reductions were those employed in steel smelting shops and rolling mills in various districts in England and Scotland, whose wages were reduced by 3½ per cent. on standard basis rates, equivalent in most cases to about 3 per cent. on current rates. This reduction, which affected over 30,000 workers, did not apply to men with basis rates of 7s. per shift or less. There was a reduction of 10 per cent. on basis rates, equivalent to over 8 per cent. on the current rates, of over 5,000 Siemens steel workers in South-West Wales. This reduction also did not affect the lower-rated men. Over 5,000 iron puddlers and iron and steel millmen in Scotland had their wages reduced by an amount equivalent to over 1½ per cent. on current rates, and about 2,000 iron puddlers and millmen in the North of England sustained a reduction equivalent to over 3 per cent. on current rates. Other workpeople in these industries whose wages were reduced included blast furnacemen in Cumberland, North Lincolnshire, and Scotland.

In the clothing industries the principal reduction affected workpeople employed in boot and shoe repairing, for whom the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts were reduced, the reduction in the time rates of adult workers amounting to 2s. or 3s. per week. Workpeople employed in dyeing and dry cleaning had their wages reduced by 2s. per week in the case of men and 6d. or 1s. per week in the case of other classes.

The principal reductions in the paper, etc., industries took effect as the result of Trade Board Orders which applied to paper box and paper bag making, the reduction in the rates of adult time-workers varying from 1s. to 2s. 6d. per week in the former trade and from 1s. 6d. to 3s. per week in the latter.

There were increases varying from ¼d. to 2d. per hour in the wages of building trade operatives at Liverpool and Birkenhead. Men employed on work of civil engineering construction in the

lower-rated districts (outside the large industrial areas) had their wages reduced by ¼d. or ½d. per hour.

In the public utility services nearly 20,000 omnibus drivers and conductors in London sustained a reduction of 1s. per week, and a reduction of ¼d. per hour took effect in the wages of about 7,500 workpeople employed in the non-trading services of local authorities in the West Riding of Yorkshire.

In industries other than the above, workpeople affected by reductions included penmakers at Birmingham, road transport workers in Scotland, furniture trade operatives at Manchester, Birmingham, and Glasgow, brush and broom makers, leather belt makers, and basket makers in various districts. Wages were increased in the case of iron ore miners in Cumberland, and workpeople employed in the explosives industry.

Of the total increase of £3,905 per week, £100 took effect under arrangements made by joint standing bodies of employers and workpeople, £70 under sliding scales based on selling prices, and the remainder chiefly as the result of direct negotiation between employers and workpeople.

Of the total reduction of £20,100 per week, nearly £13,300 took effect under sliding scales based on the cost of living, including over £7,500 under scales fixed by Trade Boards and nearly £2,000 under scales arranged by joint standing bodies of employers and workpeople; nearly £6,000 took effect under sliding scales based on selling prices; and nearly the whole of the remainder was the result of direct negotiation between employers and workpeople.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES REPORTED IN JANUARY-MAY, 1926.

Group of Industries.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by net		Net Amount of Change in Weekly Wages.	
	Increases.	Decreases.	Increases.	Decreases.
Mining and Quarrying ...	9,200	9,500	£ 880	£ 630
Brick, Pottery, Glass, Chemical, etc. ...	5,500	750	810	100
Iron and Steel ... ..	3,100	112,000	530	19,400
Engineering, Shipbuilding and Other Metal ...	1,750	28,000	410	2,100
Textile ... ..	4,200	156,000	180	12,400
Clothing ... ..	...	64,500	...	6,000
Food, Drink and Tobacco	...	20,000	90	1,350
Woodworking, etc. ...	1,750	20,500	170	2,300
Paper, Printing, etc. ...	16,500	25,500	1,900	1,900
Building and Allied Industries ... ..	39,000	7,500	5,650	500
Transport ... ..	1,500	13,000	600	620
Public Utility Services ...	33,000	40,000	3,500	2,300
Other ... ..	350	22,000	70	2,400
Total ... ..	116,250	519,250	14,790	52,000

In the corresponding five months of 1925 there were net increases of £70,000 in the weekly full-time wages of over 700,000 workpeople and net reductions of nearly £40,000 in those of nearly 690,000 workpeople.

Hours of Labour.

No important changes were reported in May.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MAY, 1926 (continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change; (Decreases in italics.)
Explosives Manufacture.	Great Britain	2 May	<b>CHEMICAL, GLASS, BRICK, POTTERY, ETC., INDUSTRIES.</b> Adult workpeople employed in the explosives industry (except tradesmen whose wages are regulated by those paid in their own trade).	Increases on base rates of 1½d. per hour for adult male workers and ¼d. per hour for adult female workers, into which are merged the service allowances previously paid; also new and uniform scale of service allowances adopted, for male workers of ¼d. per hour and for female workers of ¼d. per hour on completion of three years' continuous service, with an additional ¼d. per hour for both male and female workers on the completion of a further two years' continuous service. Minimum rates after change: adult male workers, 47s. 9d. per week, plus service allowance (1d. per hour after five years' continuous service); adult female workers, 33s. per week, plus service allowance (¼d. per hour after five years' continuous service).
Pig Iron Manufacture:	West Cumberland and North Lancashire.	2nd full pay in May.	<b>IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRIES.</b> Workpeople (excluding skilled craftsmen and bricklayers on maintenance work and also labourers) employed at blast-furnaces.	Decreases in bonuses* of amounts varying according to base rates, from 5-2d. to 1s. 2d. per week, leaving total amount of bonuses from 2s. 1½d. to 5s. 2-5d. per week.
	North Lincolnshire and certain firms in the Leeds District.	2 May	Keepers, slaggers, fillers, engine-men, etc., employed at blast-furnaces.	Decrease of ¼ per cent. on output bonus earnings, leaving the percentage payable 44 in the Workington Area, and 39 in the Furness Area.†
	West of Scotland	2 May	Blastfurnacemen ... ..	Decrease of 1½ per cent. on total basis rates, leaving wages 30½ per cent. above the standard, plus 1s. 1d. per shift, and the percentage payable on output bonus earnings reduced† from 27 to 25½.
			Workpeople (excluding certain lower paid daywagemen) employed at blastfurnaces.	Minimum rate after change for labourers: 3s. 8d. per shift, plus 30½ per cent., plus 1s. 1d. per shift, plus 6d. per shift. Decrease of 3 per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 11 per cent. above the standard.¶
	England** and West of Scotland.	2 May	Workpeople employed in steel-melting shops, excluding adult workers in receipt of base rates from 3s. 10d. to 7s. per shift:—Melters, pitmen, slagmen, ladle-men, furnace-helpers, etc., and gas producermen and charge wheelers.	Decrease of 3½ per cent. on the standard of 1905, leaving wages 22½ per cent. above the standard (basic process) and 2½ per cent. below the standard (acid process).
			Semi-skilled workers, etc., on 8-hour shifts.†† Semi-skilled workers, etc., whose wages are based on a 47-hour week†† and youths and boys under 21 years of age.	Decrease of 3¼ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 22½ per cent. above the standard.
			Workpeople employed at wrought-iron plants:—Lower-paid workers in receipt of a base wage of 5s. 10d. per shift up to 6s. per shift, whether such base wage is straight tonnage, time and tonnage, time and bonus, or straight time.	Decrease of 1½ of the total advance in wages given between August, 1914, and 30 April, 1921, making a total net decrease since 1 May, 1921, of 1½ of such advance.
			All workers with base wage within the above limits, except straight tonnage workers (and slaggers at one works) whose wages have previously been regulated by North of England Iron Sliding Scale.	Special bonuses granted as follows (to be paid net and not subject to sliding scale fluctuations or overtime rates):—10d. per shift on a base wage of 3s. 10d. to 4s.; 8d. per shift on a base wage of over 4s. up to 4s. 6d.; 6d. per shift on a base wage of over 4s. 6d. up to 5s.; 4d. per shift on a base wage of over 5s. up to 5s. 6d.; 2d. per shift on a base wage of over 5s. 6d. up to 6s., also to loco drivers irrespective of base wage.
			All workers who remain under North of England Iron Sliding Scale (puddlers and millmen).	Wages in future to be regulated by the Melters' Basic Sliding Scale, and new basis rates fixed by equating current earnings inclusive of sliding scale percentage, less 3 per cent., to 126½ as compared with a new basis rate of 100.
Iron and Steel Manufacture.	North of England††	8 March	All workers with base wage within the above limits, except straight tonnage workers (and slaggers at one works) whose wages have previously been regulated by North of England Iron Sliding Scale.	Special reduction of 2½ per cent.§§
			All workers who remain under North of England Iron Sliding Scale (puddlers and millmen).	
			Semi-skilled workers, etc., employed at puddling forges and in rolling mills, whose wages are based on a 47-hour week†† (excluding those in receipt of base rates from 3s. 10d. to 6s. per shift); also youths and boys under 21 years of age.	Decrease of 1½ of the total advance in wages given between August, 1914, and 30 April, 1921, making a total net decrease since 1 May, 1921, of 1½ of such advance.
	North of England	31 May	Iron puddlers ... ..	Decrease of 5 per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 45 per cent. above the standard.
			Iron millmen ... ..	Decrease of 5 per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 42½ per cent. above the standard.
	North East Coast Area (except certain men employed at Newburn, West Hartlepool and Gateshead).	2 May	Men on direct production in steel-rolling mills (excluding those in receipt of base rates from 3s. 10d. to 7s. per shift).	Decrease of 3½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 22½ per cent. above the standard.
	Workington	2 May	Steel millmen (excluding those on base rates below 7s. per shift).	Decrease of 3¼ per cent. on standard rates.
	Sounthorpe ... ..	2 May	Steel millmen, wagon builders and repairers, etc., (excluding men in receipt of base rates from 3s. 10d. to 7s. per shift).	Decrease of 3½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 22½ per cent. above the standard.
	South and West Wales.	30 May	Workpeople (excluding maintenance men) employed in Siemens steel manufacture.	Sliding scale percentage on base rates reduced from 20 to 10, and bonus paid to men on base rates up to 30s. per week increased from 30 per cent. on base rates to 40 per cent., leaving the wages of labourers at 30s. per week plus 50 per cent. (as previously). Bonuses paid to men rated over 30s. up to 50s. to remain as previously (6d. per shift for those rated at 30s. 1d. to 40s. and 4d. per shift for those at 40s. 1d. to 50s.), subject to the proviso that men on base rates from 30s. 1d. to 38s. 2d. are to have their bonus made up so that they receive same gross earnings (viz., 45s.) as men with a base rate of 30s. Boys under 18 to receive an additional bonus of 10 per cent., leaving wages at 20 per cent. above base, plus 3d. per shift (as previously).

\* Under cost-of-living sliding scale arrangements.  
 † Under selling-price sliding scale arrangements.  
 ‡ The percentage addition to the day and tonnage basis rates remained at 16, in accordance with the arrangement made in October, 1925. (See p. 400 of GAZETTE for November, 1925.)  
 § Men on base earnings of from 3s. 8d. to 4s. 6d. per shift have also been, since 1st November, 1925, in receipt of bonuses varying, according to earnings, from 2d. to 6d. per shift.  
 ¶ This change took effect from the pay starting nearest 1st May—in most cases this was 2nd May.  
 †† In the case of the lower paid men who were not affected, wages remained at 21 per cent. above the standard.  
 ‡‡ Principally the North-East Coast, Cumberland, Lancashire, South and West Yorkshire, Lincolnshire and the Midlands.  
 §§ The men on 8-hour shifts referred to are those who do not receive allowance hours and/or extra payment for night shift during the normal week. The men whose wages are based on a 47-hour week are mainly men employed in engineering shops or working with craftsmen who receive the allowances or extra payment mentioned.  
 ¶¶ The changes described took effect under an Agreement made in March between the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation and the Iron and Steel Trades Employers' Association.  
 §§ It was agreed that this reduction should be increased by a further ½ per cent. with effect from 6th September next.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MAY, 1926.

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics.)
<b>AGRICULTURE AND FISHING.</b>				
Agriculture	Durham ... ..	14 May	Female workers ... ..	Increase of 6d. per day. Minimum rates after change per day (of 8 hours): 14 and under 18 years, 2s.; 18 and over, 2s. 6d.†
	Northumberland ...	13 May	Male workers employed wholly or mainly as stewards, horsemen, cattlemen, stockmen or shepherds.	Decrease of 1s. or 2s. per week (except for householders under 15 years of age, for whom there was no change). Minimum rates after change: householders—21 and over; 40s., not householders—under 15 years, 11s., increasing to 37s. at 21 and over.‡
	Herefordshire ... ..	1 May	Other male workers (except casual workers).	Decrease of 1s. or 2s. per week. Minimum rates after change for a week of 48 hours in winter and 52½ hours in summer: under 15 years, 10s., increasing to 33s. at 21 and over.‡
Iron Mining	Cumberland ... ..	10 May	Workpeople employed at iron ore mines.	Rates fixed for a week of 52 hours in summer (in lieu of 54 hours) and 48 hours in winter, varying from 9s. at under 15 years to 22s. 6d. at 18 and under 19, and to 31s. at 21 years and over.‡
	North Lincolnshire...	2 May	Ironstone miners and quarrymen...	Increase of 1d. per shift in the bargain price (7s. 11d. to 8s.), of ¼d. per shift for winding engine-men, of ¼d. per shift for other under-ground and surface workers, and of ¼d. per shift for boys under 16 years. Rates after change: underground 1st class or leading labourers, 5s. 4½d. per shift; winding engine-men, 7s. 2½d. per shift; plus a temporary increase of 1s. 9d. per shift in each case. Decrease of 1½ per cent. on standard rates of 1909, leaving wages 30½ per cent. above the standard. Minimum rate after change for labourers, 3s. 8d. per shift, plus 30½ per cent., plus 1s. 1d. per shift, plus 6d. per shift.
Lead Mining	Wearhead and Alledale.	10 May	Underground and surface workers	Bonus reduced from 4s. 8d. to 2s. 6d. per week. Rates after change (including bonus) for labourers: underground, 7s. 9d. per shift; surface, 6s. 8d.

\* The particulars of numbers affected and amount of change in weekly wages exclude changes affecting Government employees, police, agricultural labourers, shop assistants and clerks, for which classes the information available is not sufficient to form a basis for statistics. Where information is available, however, details of changes in the current rates of wages of agricultural labourers, shop assistants and clerks are included in the list of principal changes recorded.  
 † In addition to the numbers quoted, wages stand at the same level as at the beginning of the year in the case of over 56,000 workpeople, whose wages have been increased and reduced by equal amounts during the year.  
 ‡ The minimum rates of wages referred to took effect under an Order of the Agricultural Wages Board in accordance with the provisions of the Agricultural Wages (Regulation) Act, 1924.  
 § Under selling-prices sliding scale arrangements.



PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MAY, 1926 (continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics.)
<b>IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRIES (continued).</b>				
Iron and Steel Manufacture—(cont.)	West of Scotland	2 May	Workpeople employed in steel-rolling mills:— Millmen, gas producers, enginemen, crane-men, firemen, and mill-labourers (excluding adult workers in receipt of base rates of from 3s. 10d. to 7s. per shift.) Semi-skilled workers, etc., and youths and boys under 21 years of age (excluding adult workers in receipt of base rates from 3s. 10d. to 7s. per shift).	Decrease* of 3½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 22½ per cent. above the standard.  Decrease* of 13½ of the total advance in wages given between August, 1914, and 30 April, 1921, making a total net decrease, since 1 May, 1921, of 13½ of such advance.
			31 May	Iron puddlers and millmen ... Iron and steel sheet millmen ...
<b>ENGINEERING, SHIP-REPAIRING AND OTHER METAL INDUSTRIES.</b>				
Engineering, etc.	Londonderry District	1st pay day after 1 May.	Fitters, turners, smiths, copper-smiths and patternmakers.	Increase of 5s. per week. Rates after change: turners, 65s. 11d.; fitters, 62s.; smiths, 66s. 6d.; copper-smiths, 63s. 3d.; patternmakers, 65s. 6d.
Ship-repairing	Grimsby ...	30 April	Machinists and strikers ... Male timeworkers over 21 years of age.	Increase of 2s. 6d. per week (47s. 6d. to 50s.) in minimum rate. Decrease† of 1s. 4d. per week for skilled men and charge hands, and of 1s. per week for others. Rates after change: toolmakers over 25 years of age, 78s. and 68s. 6d.; toolmakers 21 to 25 years of age, 58s. 6d., charge hands in hardening shops and rolling mills, 70s. 6d., charge hands in shaking mills and tempering and colouring shops, 62s. 6d.; others, 48s.
Steel and Metal Pens and Other Small Wares.	Birmingham and District.	Pay day following 1 May.	Male timeworkers under 21 years of age and apprentices. Female day workers and learners... Female pieceworkers ...	Decrease† of amounts varying according to age from 2d. to 5d. per week. Rate after change for day workers 18 years of age and over, 24s. 3d. per week. Decrease† of 5d. per week in the basic piecework rate (26s. 2d. to 25s. 9d.).
<b>TEXTILE INDUSTRIES.</b>				
Cotton Manufacture.	Blackburn and District.	Pay day in week ending 8 May	Drawers-in ... Female workers:— Doffers ... Other workers ...	Amendments of, and additions to, the Blackburn list of prices in respect of runners in dhooties, splits, fine heads, tape borders and artificial silk in borders, resulting in a small increase in earnings.  Increase in the minimum time rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of 4d. per hour. Minimum rates after change: 4½d.; 3½d. (See p. 235.)  Increases in the minimum time rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of 4d. per hour for those 17 years and over and 4d. per hour for those under 17 years. Minimum rates after change: 18 years and over—hand braiders (nets), house machine minders, spreaders, carders, spinners, twisters, reelers, warpers, plaiters, scourers, polishers, ballers, leeson roll winders, parcelers and sample makers, 6½d., 6d.; drawers, rovers, 6½d., 6½d.; winders, spoolers, cop winders, plaiting winders, piecers, 6d., 5½d.; layers, 5d., 4½d.; all other workers, 4½d., 4½d.; under 18 years—2½d., 2½d., at under 15 years increasing to 4d., 3½d., at 17 years. (See p. 235.)
Rope, Twine and Net Manufacture.	Northern Ireland ...	7 May	Workpeople employed in hosiery manufacture.	Decrease† of 4d. in the shilling on rates fixed in November, 1919, making a total reduction of 2½d. in the shilling on such rates. Minimum rates after change: timeworkers—men, 44s. 4d. per week; women, 25s. 4d.; pieceworkers—men, 47s. 6d.; women, 28s. 6d.
Hosiery Manufacture.	Dumfries ...	May	Machine calico printers ... Male workers ... Female workers 18 years and over...	Supplementary cost-of-living wage reduced† from 51.10 per cent. to 46.90 per cent. on basis wages, and flat rate bonuses previously paid reduced from 20s. to 19s. per week for journeymen and from 14s. to 13s. per week for apprentices. Decrease† of from 6d. to 1s. 10d. per week. Rates after change: 15s. 6d. at 14 years increasing to 30s. 6d. at 18, 43s. 6d. at 21 and to 48s. 3d. at 22½, plus special advance of 2s. for those 21 and over. Decrease† of 11d. per week. Rate after change: 26s. 11d., plus 1s. 3d.
<b>CLOTHING INDUSTRIES.</b>				
Dyeing and Dry Cleaning.	England and Scotland.	1st pay day in May.	Workpeople employed in dyeing and dry cleaning.  Workpeople employed in boot and shoe repairing, etc.:— Male and female workers wholly or mainly employed in making bespoke hand-sewn leather footwear (including bespoke hand-sewn surgical work). Male learners (other than indentured apprentices); also female learners employed on benching and/or finishing. Male workers 21 years and over employed in operating power sole-stitchers and Blake or other sole-sewing machines on the Blake principle (74s. to 72s.), and of 3s. per week for those employed in operating Blake or other sole-sewing machines on the Blake principle (70s. to 67s.). Male workers employed as pressmen who are responsible for cutting and costing. Male and female workers employed as foremen and managers. All other adult male workers; also female workers employed on benching and/or finishing in the repairing of leather footwear.	Decrease† of 2s. per week for men 21 and over and of 6d. or 1s. per week for youths under 21 and for women and girls. Rates after change: men—skilled dyers, 66s. or 71s.; dyers (one colour), 61s.; wet or dry cleaners, finishers, glazers and other skilled workers, 56s.; labourers, 51s.; boys—10s. 6d. at 14 years increasing to 28s. at 18 and to 42s. at 20 years; girls—10s. 6d. at 14 years increasing to 21s. 6d. at 18 and to 28s. at 21 years. Decrease† in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of the following amounts for the classes named respectively. (See p. 191 of May GAZETTE):— Decrease† of 3s. per week. Minimum rate after change: 62s.  Decrease† of 1s. per week for those 14 and under 17 years and of 2s. per week for those 17 and under 21 years. Minimum rates after change: 12s. at 14 years, increasing to 41s. at 20. Decrease† of 2s. per week for those employed in operating power sole-stitchers, or in operating both power sole-stitchers and Blake or other sole-sewing machines on the Blake principle (74s. to 72s.), and of 3s. per week for those employed in operating Blake or other sole-sewing machines on the Blake principle (70s. to 67s.). Decrease† of 3s. per week. Minimum rate after change: 67s.  Decrease† of 2s. per week. Minimum rate after change: 72s.  Decrease† of 3s. per week. Minimum rate after change: 57s.
Boot and Shoe Repairing, etc.	Great Britain	1 May		

\* Under selling-price sliding scale arrangements.  
† Under cost-of-living sliding scale arrangements.  
‡ The higher rate in each case applies to workers employed within the area of the County Borough of the City of Belfast and the lower rate to workers employed in other areas.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MAY, 1926 (continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics.)
<b>CLOTHING INDUSTRIES (continued).</b>				
Boot and Shoe Repairing, etc.—(cont.)	Great Britain ...	1 May	Workpeople employed in boot and shoe repairing, etc. (contd.):— All other female workers ... Male indentured apprentices Pieceworkers ...	Decreases* in the minimum rates fixed under the Trades Boards Acts of the following amounts for the classes named respectively. (See p. 191 of May GAZETTE):— Decrease* of 1s. per week for those 14 and under 17 years, and of 2s. per week for those 17 years and over. Minimum rates after change: 12s. at 14, increasing to 40s. at 21 and over. Decrease* of from 3d. to 2s. per week. Decrease* of 2½ per cent. on piece prices for bespoke hand-sewn, bespoke hand-sewn surgical, bespoke pegged and bespoke riveted work and certain classes of surgical repair work, leaving wages 1½ per cent. below list prices, and of 5 per cent. for repairing (including surgical repair work other than the above), and for work preparatory to rounding and channelling machines, leaving wages 12½ per cent. below list prices.
			14 May	Timeworkers:— Male workers under 21 years of age (other than learners and indentured apprentices). Male indentured apprentices starting apprenticeship at 18 years and over who are indentured for a period of three years. Pieceworkers ...
<b>FOOD, DRINK, AND TOBACCO INDUSTRIES.</b>				
Baking and Confectionery.	Chester ...	5 April	Juveniles and improvers ... Women and girls ...	Decrease* of 2s. 6d. per week in the minimum rates. Minimum rates after change: foremen, 71s. and 74s.; singlehands, machinemen, mixers and ovenmen, 69s.; secondhands, 67s.; tablehands, 65s. New scale of minimum weekly rates adopted starting at 8s. 9d. at 16 years and increasing to 48s. 9d. at 20 years. New scale of minimum weekly rates adopted starting at 8s. 9d. at 16 years, and increasing to 41s. 9d. at 21 years.
	Various towns in North Staffordshire and Cheshire.†	1st pay day in May.	Bakers and confectioners ... Bakers and confectioners ... Bakers and confectioners ...	Decrease* of 2s. 6d. per week for adult male workers, 1s. per week for women and for youths 16 years and over, and 6d. per week for girls under 18 years. Minimum rates after change: adult male workers—forehands, 68s. 6d. or 71s. 6d.; singlehands, machinemen, etc., 66s. 6d.; secondhands, 64s. 6d.; tablehands, 62s. 6d.; female workers 18 and over, 37s. Decrease* of 5s. per week. Rate after change for tablehands, 61s. Decrease* of 2s. 6d. per week. Minimum rates after change for table hands, 60s.
Baking and Confectionery.	Loughborough ...	24 May	Bakers and confectioners ...	Decrease* of 1s. 6d. per week. Minimum rate after change: 73s. 6d.
	Ayrshire‡ ...	1st pay day in May.	Bakers and confectioners ...	Decrease* to a minimum rate of 71s. per week.
Baking and Confectionery.	Clydebank and Coatbridge.	1st pay day in May.	Bakers and confectioners ...	Decrease* of 1s. 6d. per week. Minimum rate after change: 73s. 6d.
	Glasgow (Certain Non-Associated Firms).	1st pay day in May.	Bakers and confectioners ...	Decrease* of 1s. 6d. per week. Minimum rate after change: 73s. 6d.
Baking and Confectionery.	Hamilton and Wishaw	1 May	Bakers and confectioners ...	Decrease* of 1s. 6d. per week. Minimum rate after change: 73s. 6d.
	Edinburgh and District.§	1 April	Men employed in the vehicle building and wheelwright industries.	Standard rates adopted which are 4d. to 1½d. per hour in excess of the National minimum rates for Scotland. The new standard rates are: woodworkers and smiths, 1s. 7½d.; painters and trimmers, 1s. 4d.; coach fitters, 1s. 5½d.; on passenger carrying vehicles an additional 4d. per hour to be paid.¶
Packing Case Making.	Leicester ...	1st pay day in May.	Packing case makers ...	Decrease* of 4d. per hour (1s. 4d. to 1s. 3½d.).
	Manchester, Salford, Altrincham, Bolton and Stockport.	1 May	Furniture trade operatives ...	Decrease* of 4d. per hour for male workers and 4d. per hour for female workers with proportionate reductions for apprentices and improvers. Rates after change: cabinet makers, chairmakers, carvers, machinists (after four years on machines), upholsterers, polishers and mattress makers, 1s. 8d.; labourers, 1s. 3d.; upholsteresses and women polishers, 1s.; glass workers—bevelers, silverers and cutters, 1s. 8d.; brilliant cutters, 1s. 9d.; fitters, 1s. 6d.; packers, 1s. 5d. Decrease* of 4d. per hour for journeymen (1s. 8d. to 1s. 7½d.) and of proportionate amounts for apprentices and improvers.
Furniture Manufacture.	North-East Lancashire and Todmorden.	1 May	Cabinet makers, carvers, chair-makers, upholsterers, polishers and machinists.	Decrease of 4d. per hour (1s. 8½d. to 1s. 8d.)
	Wigan ...	1 May	Cabinet makers, machinists, upholsterers and french polishers.	Decrease of 4d. per hour (1s. 8½d. to 1s. 8d.)
Furniture Manufacture.	Birmingham, Sutton Coldfield, West Bromwich, Smethwick, Wolverhampton, Walsall and Dudley.	1st pay day in May.	Timeworkers:— Cabinet makers, chairmakers, woodcutting machinists, upholsterers, and french polishers. Female french polishers and upholsteresses. Pieceworkers ...	Decrease* of 4d. per hour for adult workers and of proportionate amounts for boys and youths. Standard rate after change for skilled adult workers, 1s. 6d. Decrease* of 4d. per hour for adult workers and of proportionate amounts for girls. Standard rate after change for adult workers, 9d. Percentage addition to pre-war piecework prices reduced* from 70 to 67½.
	Nottingham... †	1 May	Cabinet makers, carvers, chair-makers, french polishers, machinists, upholsterers, sanders by hand or machine, and packers. Female polishers and upholsteresses.	Decrease* of 4d. per hour for journeymen and of proportionate amounts for apprentices and improvers. Rates after change for journeymen: sanders (single band) and packers, 1s. 3d.; other workers, 1s. 6d. Decrease* of 4d. per hour. Rates after change: polishers, 9½d.; upholsteresses, 7½d.
Furniture Manufacture.	Beith, Dundee, Glasgow, Greenock, Kirkcaldy and Lochwinnoch.	1st full pay week in May.	Cabinet makers, chair makers, carvers, french polishers, machinists, upholsterers, upholstery sewers and sand paperers.	Decrease* of 1d. per hour for men, 4d. per hour for women, 5 per cent. for pieceworkers and proportionate amounts for apprentices. Minimum rates after change: Beith, Dundee, Kirkcaldy and Lochwinnoch—men, 1s. 4½d.; women, 8½d.; Glasgow—men, 1s. 5½d.; women, 8½d.

\* Under cost-of-living sliding scale arrangements.  
† Macclesfield, Leek, Newcastle-under-Lyne, Congleton, Crewe, Winnington, Winsford, Sandbach and Potteries District (including Stoke-on-Trent, Burslem, Fenton, Hanley, Longton and Tunstall).  
‡ Auchincloch, Dalmeilington, Irvine, Kilbirnie, Kilmarnock, Kilwinning, Maybole, Stevenston, Troon, etc.  
§ Including the counties of Linlithgow, Midlothian, East Lothian and Fife south of a line drawn from Kinross to Leven. It was provided that wages now being paid in excess of the above standard rates, and the custom of shop ratings, should not be disturbed.  
¶ Including Accrington, Blackburn, Blackpool, Burnley, Chorley, Clitheroe, Colne, Darwen, Haslingden, Padiham and Preston.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MAY, 1926 (continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics.)																																							
Perambulator and Invalid Carriage Manufacture.	Great Britain	1 May	WOODWORKING AND FURNITURE INDUSTRIES (continued). Workpeople employed in the perambulator and invalid carriage industry:— Timeworkers 21 and over:— Male workers ... .. Female workers ... .. Timeworkers under 21 years:— Male workers (except porters and labourers)... Male porters and labourers... Female workers ... .. Certain classes of male and female indentured apprentices and male and female workers who have completed an indentured apprenticeship. Pieceworkers ... ..	Decreases* in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of the following amounts for the classes named respectively (see p. 191 of May GAZETTE):— Decreases* of 1½d. or 1d. per hour. General minimum time rate after change: 11½d. per hour (higher rates apply to special classes). Decrease* of 1d. per hour. General minimum time rate after change; 6½d. per hour (higher rates apply to special classes). Decreases* of from 6d. to 1s. 9d. per week. Minimum rates after change: 12s. at 15, increasing to 31s. 3d. at 20. Decreases* of 1½d. or 1d. per hour. Minimum rates after change: 8½d. at 18, increasing to 10d. at 20. Decreases* of from 6d. to 1s. 3d. per week. Minimum rates after change: 10s. 6d. at 15, increasing to 26s. 9d. at 20. Decreases* proportionate to those for workers of corresponding ages other than apprentices. Piecework basis time rates fixed at 10 per cent. above the appropriate general minimum time rates. Cost-of-living wage reduced* from 75 per cent. to 65 per cent. on price lists of October, 1924, and March, 1926.																																							
					Sports Accessories Manufacture.	London, Watford, Bolton, Cambridge, Nottingham, Horbury and Leeds.	1st pay day in May.	Workpeople employed in the manufacture of accessories for sports and games.																																			
									Paper Box Making.	Great Britain	1 May	PAPER, PRINTING AND ALLIED INDUSTRIES. Workpeople employed in paper box-making:— Male timeworkers:— Other than learners... Learners ... .. Female timeworkers:— Other than learners... Learners ... .. Pieceworkers ... ..	Decreases* in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of the following amounts for the classes named respectively (see p. 191 of May GAZETTE):— Decreases* of 1s. to 2s. 6d. per week. General minimum time rate after change: 49s. Decreases* of from 6d. to 2s. per week. Minimum rates after change: 12s. 6d. at under 15 years, increasing to 42s. 6d. at 20. Decrease* of 1s. per week (30s. 6d. to 29s. 6d.) Decreases* of from 6d. to 1s. 6d. per week (except for those starting at 14 years in their first six months' employment, for whom there was no change). Decrease* in the minimum piecework basis time rates of 3s. per week (57s. 6d. to 54s. 6d.) for men and 1s. per week (32s. 6d. to 31s. 6d.) for women. Decreases* in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of the following amounts for the classes named respectively (see p. 191 of May GAZETTE):— Decreases* of from 1s. to 3s. per week. General minimum time rate after change: 52s. 6d. Decreases* of from 6d. to 2s. 6d. per week. Decrease* of 1s. 6d. per week (30s. 6d. to 29s.). Decreases* of from 6d. to 1s. 6d. per week (except for those starting at 14 in the first six months of employment). Decrease* in the minimum piecework basis time rate of 1s. per week (32s. to 31s.).																														
														Paper Bag Making.	Great Britain	1 May	Workpeople employed in paper bag-making:— Male timeworkers:— Other than learners... Learners ... .. Female timeworkers:— Other than learners... Learners ... .. Female pieceworkers ... ..	Decreases* of from 1s. to 3s. per week. General minimum time rate after change: 52s. 6d. Decreases* of from 6d. to 2s. 6d. per week. Decrease* of 1s. 6d. per week (30s. 6d. to 29s.). Decreases* of from 6d. to 1s. 6d. per week (except for those starting at 14 in the first six months of employment). Decrease* in the minimum piecework basis time rate of 1s. per week (32s. to 31s.).																									
																			Building	Liverpool, Birkenhead and District.	1 May	BUILDING AND ALLIED INDUSTRIES. Bricklayers, masons and tilers ... Carpenters and joiners, woodcutting machinists and sawyers. Slaters, plumbers, painters, street masons and paviors and marble polishers. Plasterers ... .. Scaffolders, labourers and navvies	Increase of 1d. per hour and "tool money" granted of 2s. per week or 4d. per day. Rates after change: masons (fixers), 1s. 10½d.; bricklayers, masons (banker hands), and tilers, 1s. 10d., per hour, plus in each case 2s. per week "tool money". Increase of 1½d. per hour. Rates after change: carpenters and joiners, 1s. 10d. per hour plus 2s. per week "tool money"; machinists and sawyers, 1s. 10d. Increase of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: painters, 9½d.; marble polishers, 1s. 7½d.; other classes, 1s. 10d. Increase of 2d. per hour. Rate after change, 1s. 11d.; any man in charge of two plasterers or more to be paid not less than 1d. per hour extra. Increase of 1½d. per hour. Rates after change: scaffolders, 1s. 5d.; tradesmen's labourers, 1s. 4½d.; general labourers and navvies, 1s. 4d. Increase of 1d. per hour (1s. 8d. to 1s. 9d.). Decrease* of 1d. per hour in Class III and IV districts, and 1½d. per hour in Class V districts, the rates for the County of London and Class I and II districts remaining unchanged. Present rates of wages for navvies and labourers: County of London, 1s. 3d.; Class I districts, 1s. 2½d.; Class II, 1s. 1½d.; Class III, 1s. 0½d.; Class IV, 11½d.; Class V, 10½d.																				
																								Civil Engineering	Aberdeen ... .. Great Britain	1 May 1st pay day after 20 May.	Plasterers ... .. Men employed on work of civil engineering construction.	Increase of 1d. per hour (1s. 8d. to 1s. 9d.). Decrease* of 1d. per hour in Class III and IV districts, and 1½d. per hour in Class V districts, the rates for the County of London and Class I and II districts remaining unchanged. Present rates of wages for navvies and labourers: County of London, 1s. 3d.; Class I districts, 1s. 2½d.; Class II, 1s. 1½d.; Class III, 1s. 0½d.; Class IV, 11½d.; Class V, 10½d.															
																													Road Transport.	Scotland (except Forfarshire).	8 May	TRANSPORT. Road transport workers ... ..	Decrease* of 1s. per week for men, and of 6d. per week for boys under 18 years. Rates after change: Glasgow and Paisley—one horse drivers, 55s. per week; petrol wagon drivers (2 tons and over), 62s.; steam wagon drivers, 72s.; second-men on steam wagons, 67s. Aberdeen—one horse drivers, 50s. 6d.; petrol wagon drivers (2 tons and over), and steam wagon drivers, 56s. 6d.										
																																		Gas Undertakings	London† ... ..	1st full pay after 1 Jan.	PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES. Youths and boys under 21 years of age.	Schedule of rates adopted as follows:—Class A: aged 14 years, 14s. 4d. per week; 15 years, 16s. 3½d.; 16 years, 18s. 3d.; 17 years, 21s. 2½d.; 18 years, 32s. 10½d.; 19 years, 35s. 9½d.; 20 years, 38s. 9d.; Class B: aged 14 and 15 years, 14s. 4d.; 16 years, 16s. 3½d.; 17 years, 18s. 3d.; 18 years, 29s. 11½d.; 19 years, 32s. 10½d.; 20 years, 34s. 10d.†					
																																							Electricity Supply Undertakings.	Certain Undertakings in the Home Counties.†	1st full pay in May.	Adult male workers ... ..	Increase of 1d. per hour. Scheduled minimum rates after change for stations of over 800 k.w.: labourers, 1s. 2d. per hour; stokers, 1s. 4d.; electrical and mechanical fitters, 1s. 7½d.

\* Under cost-of-living sliding scale arrangements.  
† This entry is to be substituted for that previously published on page 146 of the April issue of this GAZETTE. Class A refers to boys and youths engaged in the heavier forms of labouring work in the carbonising, coal, coke, breeze, yard and purification departments. Class B refers to all other boys and youths engaged in manual labour, including those in the engineering shops (where such boys and youths are subject to gas workers' Awards and Agreements or conditions).  
‡ This increase took effect under an agreement of the Home Counties Area Joint Industrial Council for the Electricity Supply Industry, dated 17th March, 1926. The undertakings affected are those which follow the wages agreements of the Council, and include the following:—Aylesbury, Banbury and District Electric Supply Co., Ltd., Bedford, Canterbury, Clacton, Dover, Folkestone Electricity Supply Co., Ltd., Gillingham, Gravesend, The Kent Electric Power Co. (Rochester), Leatherhead and District Electric Co., Ltd., Luton, Maidstone, Oxford Electric Co., Ltd., Reading Electric Supply Co., Ltd., Sheerness and District Electric Supply Co., Ltd., Southend, Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MAY, 1926 (continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics.)																																					
Tramways Undertakings.	Great Britain ... .. Liverpool ... ..	1 May 4 May	PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES (continued). Youths, under 19 years of age employed as parcels, messenger, point and trolley boys. Drivers, conductors and shed attendants. Drivers and conductors ... ..	Decrease* of 3d. per week. Rates after change: 14 to 15 years, 13s. 6d. per week; 15 to 16, 15s. 6d.; 16 to 17, 17s. 6d.; 17 to 18, 22s.; 18 to 19, 27s. 6d. Decrease* of 1s. per week. Rates after change: motormen, 62s. 5d. to 64s. 9d. per week; conductors, 57s. 8d. to 62s. 5d. Decrease of 1s. per week in accordance with the agreement of 24 March, 1926. Rates after change: drivers, 1st 6 months, 80s. 6d. per week, thereafter, 86s. 6d.; conductors, 1st 6 months, 73s. 6d., thereafter, 79s. 6d.																																					
					Omnibus Undertakings.	London ... ..	5 May	Garage inside staff (except general hands and hand washers).	Decrease of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: unit adjusters, 1s. 5½d. per hour; mechanical general hands, 1s. 3½d.																																
										Hartlepool ... ..	1 May	Manual workers ... ..	Decrease* of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: general labourers, 1s. 2d.; roadmen, 1s. 4d.; refuse collectors, 1s. 3d.; street sweepers, 1s. 1½d.																												
														Stockton-on-Tees ... ..	4 May	Manual workers ... ..	Decrease* of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: general labourers, 1s. 1½d. per hour; road labourers, 1s. 2½d.; scavengers, 1s. 1½d.; refuse collectors, 1s. 2½d.																								
																		Certain Authorities in the West Riding of Yorkshire.†	1st full pay week in May.	Manual workers ... ..	Decrease* of 1d. per hour. Minimum hourly rates after change: Grade A areas—destructor stokers, steam waggon and roller drivers, 1s. 2½d.; petrol vehicle drivers (over 1 ton), 1s. 2d.; petrol vehicle drivers (1 ton and under), sewage flushers, sewage works foremen, pump men, press-house men, gouctub men, scavenger foremen, throwers out, scarifiers, working gangers, tar-mixers, grave diggers and fumigators, 1s. 1½d.; dry ashmen and horsedriers or carters, 1s. 1d.; gully cleaners, sweepers, drivers' helpers, yard labourers, dustmen, sewage works attendants and labourers, store keepers, labourers, 1s. 0½d.; Grade B1 areas—1d. per hour less; Grade B2 areas—1d. per hour less; Grade C1 areas—1½d. per hour less; Grade C2 areas—2d. per hour less; Grade D1 areas—2½d. per hour less; and Grade D2 areas—3d. per hour less than rates quoted for Grade A areas.																				
																						Non-Trading Services of Local Authorities.	York ... ..	6 May	Manual workers ... ..	Decrease* of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: labourers, carters, refuse collectors, 1s. 2½d. per hour; day scavengers, 1s. 2½d.; night scavengers and carters, 1s. 3½d.; waggon and road roller drivers, 1s. 4d.; paviers, 1s. 1½d.															
																											Glamorganshire ... ..	1 April	Manual workers ... ..	Decrease* of 1s. 4½d. per week. Rate after change for fillers, sweepers and roadmen, 52s. 1d. per week.											
																															Leather Belt Manufacture.	Great Britain	1st pay day in May.	MISCELLANEOUS INDUSTRIES. Timeworkers ... .. Pieceworkers and cutters and daywork. Workpeople employed in brush and broom manufacture:—	Decrease* of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: skilled—London 1s. 3½d.; Provinces, 1s. 3½d.; semi-skilled—London, 1s. 0½d. Provinces, 11½d. Percentage payable on base rates embodied in agreement of November 1922 reduced* from 75 to 68. Decreases* in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of the following amounts for the classes named respectively (see p. 191 of the May GAZETTE):— Decrease* of 1d. per hour (1s. 2½d. to 1s. 2½d.). Decrease* of 1d. per hour. General minimum time rate after change at 21 and over: men, 11½d.; women, 6½d.						
																																				Brush and Broom Manufacture.	Great Britain	1 May	Experienced male timeworkers; Other male timeworkers, female pan hands and other female timeworkers, and learners; Male and female pieceworkers; Apprentices ... ..	Decrease* of 1 per cent., making wages 18½ per cent. below the list. Decreases* proportionate to the above. Bonus of 5½ per cent. on revised London price list of 1919 reduced* to 45 per cent.	
																																									Lancashire, Cheshire, Yorkshire, Midland Counties, London and Scotland.
Basket, etc., Making.	Midland Counties ... ..	3 May	Other sections of agricultural basket work.	Decrease* of 5 per cent. on earnings. Decrease in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of 1d. per hour for those 16 years and over, the rates for those under 16 remaining unchanged. Minimum time rates after change: 2d. at under 14½ years, increasing to 3½d. at 16 years, and to 5½d., 6½d., 6½d. and 7½d. (according to experience) for those 21 and over; pinkers and choppers to receive 1d. and 1½d. per hour more respectively; piecework basis time rates, 1d. per hour more than time rates.																																					
					Cereament Making	Basford ... .. Great Britain	3 May 1 May	Cane and wicker workers ... .. Female workers (including folders, packers, warehousemen and despatchers).	Decrease* of 5 per cent. on earnings. Decrease in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of 1d. per hour for those 16 years and over, the rates for those under 16 remaining unchanged. Minimum time rates after change: 2d. at under 14½ years, increasing to 3½d. at 16 years, and to 5½d., 6½d., 6½d. and 7½d. (according to experience) for those 21 and over; pinkers and choppers to receive 1d. and 1½d. per hour more respectively; piecework basis time rates, 1d. per hour more than time rates.																																

\* Under cost-of-living sliding scale arrangements.  
† The Authorities affected are those which follow the wages agreements of the West Riding of Yorkshire Provincial Joint Industrial Council for Local Authorities' Non-Trading Services, and include:—Grade A areas: Batley, Bolton-upon-Deane, Conisbrough, Golcar, Halifax, Harrogate, Honley, Kirkheaton, Leeds, Lepton, Linthwaite, Marsden, Maltham, Rotherham, Rothwell, Saddleworth, Stanley, Wakefield, Yeading, West Riding C.C. (certain districts). Grade B1 areas: Adwick-le-Street, Brighouse, Castleford, Doncaster, Keighley, Maltby, Pontefract, Queensbury, Rawmarsh, Spenborough, Todmorden, Whitwood, West Riding C.C. (certain districts). Rotherham R.D.C. Grade B2 areas: Altofts, Barnoldswick, Featherstone, Midgley, Mirfield, Normanton, Ossett, Otley, Selby, Skipton, Sowerby Bridge, Wath-upon-Deane, West Riding C.C. (certain districts). Grade C1 areas: Heckmondwike, Horbury, Royston, Stocksbridge, Luddenden Foot, Oakworth, Penistone, West Riding C.C. (certain districts). Grade D1 areas: West Riding C.C. (certain districts), Doncaster R.D.C. (certain districts), Pontefract R.D.C. Grade D2 areas: West Riding C.C. (certain districts), Doncaster R.D.C. (certain districts), Todmorden R.D.C. The rates paid by some of the Authorities differ slightly from the minimum rates shown.  
‡ Men 21 years 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.  
§ Excluding male workers under 14½, 15 and under 15½, 16 and under 18, and 19 and under 21 years, and female workers under 14½, 15 and under 15½, and 16 and under 18 years. In the case of female pan hands, the rates previously paid remain 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 hearth brushes up to and including 3½ in.; both made with fibre, fibre and drafts, drafts only or china below 3 in. For female learners, the decrease was confined to those starting at 16 and under 21 in their first six months, and those starting at 21 years in their third three months.

CHANGES IN WAGES TAKING EFFECT IN JUNE, 1926.

The following groups of workpeople are among those affected by changes in wages already reported as having been arranged to take effect in June. Increases.—Agricultural labourers in Norfolk, Shropshire, and Anglesey and Carnarvonshire. Decreases.—Workpeople employed in the electric cable making industry; farriers in London and at Liverpool; workpeople employed in the boot and shoe manufacturing industry.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.

The total number of cases of poisoning, anthrax and epitheliomatous and chrome ulceration in Great Britain and Northern Ireland reported under the Factory and Workshop Act during May, 1926, was 48. Nine deaths were reported during the month, one due to lead poisoning and eight due to epitheliomatous ulceration. In addition, six cases of lead poisoning (including four deaths) among house painters and two cases among house plumbers came to the knowledge of the Home Office during May, but notification of these cases is not obligatory.

Table with columns for (a) CASES OF LEAD POISONING, (b) CASES OF OTHER FORMS OF POISONING, (c) CASES OF ANTHRAX, and (d) CASES OF EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCERATION. Lists 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 May, 1926, was 95, as compared with 187 in the previous month and with 193 in May, 1925. Fatal accidents to seamen numbered 29 in May, 1926, as compared with 50 in the previous month; comparable figures for May, 1925, are not available.

Table showing fatal industrial accidents by sector: RAILWAY SERVICE, FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS, MINES, and QUARRIES OVER 20 feet deep. Lists specific activities and the number of fatalities.

\* The two persons affected in the Pottery industry were females. † In addition to these cases reported under the Act, one case of anthrax among dock labourers was reported.

POOR LAW RELIEF IN GREAT BRITAIN.

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

The number of persons\* relieved on one day† in May, 1926, in the thirty-one selected areas named below was 1,134,291 or 41.4 per cent. more than in the previous month, and 63.7 per cent. more than in May, 1925. The numbers relieved at these three dates were equivalent, respectively, to rates of 636, 450 and 390 per 10,000 of the estimated population.

Table showing Poor Law Relief in Great Britain by region (England and Wales, Scotland) and district. Columns include Indoor, Outdoor, Total, Rate per 10,000, and Increase/Decrease in rate per 10,000.

ASSISTED PASSAGES UNDER THE EMPIRE SETTLEMENT ACT, 1922.

The number of assisted passages granted during May, 1926, in connection with agreed schemes under the Empire Settlement Act, and the total number of such passages granted from the inception of these schemes, together with the number of departures during the same periods, are shown in the following Table:—

Table showing Assisted Passage Schemes. Columns include Assisted Passages Granted (May 1926, 1922, Jan-May 1926), Departures in May 1926, and Total Departures (1922-1926, Jan-May 1926).

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

\* The figures include dependants, but exclude casuals, lunatics in Asylums, Registered Hospitals and Licensed Houses, and persons receiving out-door medical relief only. † The figures for England and Wales relate to 29th May, except in the case of the Long Ashton Union of Bristol District and the Swansea Union, where they relate to 22nd May and 15th May respectively. The figures for Scotland relate to 15th May. ‡ Owing to alteration of area, comparison with a year ago is approximate. § Revised figures.

RETAIL PRICES OVERSEAS.

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

I.—FOOD.

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

Table showing Percentage Increase in Retail Food Prices in various countries (United Kingdom, Foreign Countries, British Dominions & C.) as compared with July, 1914. Columns include Country, July 1922, July 1923, July 1924, July 1925, and Latest figures available.

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. Columns include Country, Items on which computation is based, July 1922, July 1923, July 1924, July 1925, and Latest figures available.

\* Exceptions to this are: France (other towns), August, 1914; the Hague, January to July, 1914; Milan, January to June, 1914; Switzerland, June, 1914; Amsterdam, Spain, South Africa, average, 1914. † Figure for June. ‡ Fuel and light are also included in these figures. § Figure for August. ¶ A = Food; B = House-Rent; C = Clothing; D = Fuel and Light; E = Other or Miscellaneous Items. ¶ Exceptions to this are: Amsterdam, 1911-1913; France, Poland, Australia and South Africa, average for 1914; Belgium, April, 1914; Greece, March, 1914; Milan, January to June, 1914; Germany, Egypt, Hungary, average, 1913-1914; Switzerland and Luxembourg, June, 1914; United States and Chile, 1913; Poland, January, 1914. \*\* Figure for 3rd Quarter.

EMPLOYMENT OVERSEAS.

(N.B.—The following paragraphs include an abstract of such official information as is available with regard to the state of employment abroad, in order to indicate, as far as possible, the fluctuations in employment in each country from period to period. The bases of the official statistics published in the various countries are, however, not the same as those of the United Kingdom statistics; and therefore the figures quoted below cannot properly be used with those on pp. 210-211 to compare the actual level of employment in the United Kingdom with that of other countries. For details of the bases of the unemployment statistics of the various countries reference should be made to the Reports on Statistics of Unemployment issued by the International Labour Office. (Studies and Reports, Series C., No. 7, and Series N., No. 7).)

FRANCE.\*

Unemployment in May.—The total number of unemployed persons remaining on the "live register" of the Exchanges on 29th May, was 8,882 (5,761 men and 3,121 women). At the end of April (1st May), the corresponding total was 10,369 and in May, 1925, 10,025. The total number of vacancies remaining unfilled on the same date was 12,456 (7,752 for men and 4,704 for women), as compared with 12,305 at the end of April, (1st May) and 9,508 in May, 1925. During the last week of May the Exchanges succeeded in placing 28,976 persons in situations, including 9,892 dock workers at seaports, and in addition found employment for 2,208 foreign immigrants.

GERMANY.†

Employment in April.—The slight improvement in employment reported in the preceding month continued during April. This movement on the whole was seasonal and in accordance with the experience of former years, but owing to the exceptional degree of unemployment the general level in April was below that of the preceding year.

The number of members‡ of statutory health insurance societies showed a marked increase during April. On 1st May the societies making returns had a total of 13,231,746 members, as compared with 12,763,613 on 1st April—an increase of 3.7 per cent. Returns relating to unemployment were received from 39 trade unions which had an aggregate membership of about 3½ millions. Of these, 655,537 or 18.6 per cent., were out of work on 24th April, as compared with 21.4 per cent. at the end of March and 4.3 per cent. in April, 1925. A further 673,993, or 19.1 per cent., were working short time on 24th April, as against 21.7 per cent. in March and 4.9 per cent. in April, 1925.

The following Table gives particulars of total unemployment among the principal unions included in the returns:—

Table showing Unemployment in principal unions in Germany. Columns include Unions, Membership reported on at end of April, 1926, and Percentage Unemployed at end of Month (April, 1926, Mar., 1926, April, 1925).

Figures relating to the number of persons in receipt of benefit in respect of total unemployment are available for 15th May, on which date the total was 1,743,429. On 1st May the corresponding figure was 1,781,509 and on 15th April, 1,878,881.

At the end of April the employment exchanges making returns had 2,373,626 persons on the "live register," as against 2,520,394 at the end of March. On an average in April, there were 628 applicants for every 100 vacancies registered at the Exchanges, as compared with 680 in March.

AUSTRIA.

Unemployment in April.—According to the issue of Statistische Nachrichten (the journal of the Austrian Department of Statistics) for 25th May, 1926, the number of persons in receipt of unemployment benefit in Austria was 173,116 at the end of April, as compared with 202,394 at the end of the preceding month and 148,477 at the end of April, 1925. In Vienna alone there were 84,281 persons in receipt of benefit at the middle of May and 87,025 at the end of April.

\* Bulletin du Marché du Travail, 4th June, 1926. Paris. † Zeitschrift für Arbeitswissenschaft, 1st June, 1926. Berlin. ‡ Members of these societies are persons under obligation to pay insurance premiums. During unemployment they are relieved of this obligation; hence paying members are assumed to be in employment.

## BELGIUM.\*

*Unemployment in April.*—Provisional returns received by the Ministry of Industry and Labour from 145 approved unemployment insurance societies, with a total membership of 585,005, show that 7,392 of these (1.26 per cent.) were totally unemployed at the end of the month. In the preceding month the percentage was 1.40, and in April, 1925, 1.60. In addition, 11,562 members were employed intermittently during the month. The total days lost through unemployment in April numbered 228,986 or 1.63 per cent. of the aggregate possible working days; in the preceding month the percentage was 1.96, and in April, 1925, 3.25 per cent.

## HOLLAND.†

*Unemployment in April.*—The Journal of the Dutch Statistical Office contains preliminary figures compiled by the State Department of Unemployment Insurance and Employment Exchanges, which show that out of 278,970 members of subsidised unemployment funds making returns for the week ended 24th April, 1926, 14,386 (5.2 per cent.) were unemployed during the whole week, and 4,810 (1.7 per cent.) for less than six days. In the corresponding week of the preceding month (ended 27th March) the percentages were respectively 5.7 and 2.0.

## SWITZERLAND.‡

*Unemployment in April.*—On 30th April, 1926, the number of applications remaining on the "live register" of Employment Exchanges making returns to the Federal Labour Department was 11,320, as compared with 14,307 at the end of March, and 8,591 at the end of April, 1925. Offers of situations made by employers on these dates numbered 2,858, 3,215, and 3,997 respectively. There were thus on an average 396 applications for each 100 vacancies on 30th April, as compared with 445 on 31st March, and 215 on 30th April, 1925.

## POLAND.§

*Unemployment in April.*—According to reports furnished to the Central Statistical Office by the Polish Ministry of Labour, approximately 320,512 persons were unemployed throughout the country at the end of April (1st May) as compared with 346,431 at the end of March. The improvement in employment is stated to be attributable to a large extent to public works undertaken by the State and Communes, to agriculture and forestry work, and to emigration.

## SWEDEN.||

*Unemployment in April.*—The percentage of members of trade unions making returns who were unemployed on 30th April, 1926, was 12.2, as compared with 14.7 on 31st March, and 10.8 on 30th April, 1925.

## UNITED STATES.¶

*Employment in April.*—Figures relating to the volume of employment in April, based on returns from 9,689 establishments in 53 industries, are published by the Federal Bureau of Labour Statistics. These establishments reported 2,971,407 persons employed in April as against 3,004,062 in March, or a decrease of 1.0 per cent. The aggregate wages paid for April show a decrease of 1.9 per cent. as compared with March, and the average weekly earnings a decrease of 1.0 per cent.

As regards comparison between the month under review and the corresponding month of 1925, there was an increase of 0.8 per cent. in the number employed, of 3.2 per cent. in the aggregate wages paid, and of 2.4 per cent. in the average weekly earnings. The most notable increases in employment in April, 1926, as compared with April, 1925, are shown in the machine tool (24.4 per cent.), and agricultural implement (11.3 per cent.) industries. The greatest decline in employment is shown in the woollen and worsted goods industry (14.6 per cent.), other marked decreases being in the millinery and lace goods (13.7 per cent.), and fertiliser (10.1 per cent.) industries.

*Index Number of Employment, April.*—If the monthly average index number of employment in manufacturing industries in 1923 be taken as 100, the corresponding index number for April, 1926, is 92.8, as compared with 93.7 in March, and 92.1 in April, 1925.

## CANADA.

*Employment in May.*\*\*—For 1st May, 1926, returns were received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from 5,866 firms, with an aggregate of 773,471 upon their pay rolls. On 1st April the same firms reported 750,323 employed and the total for May thus shows an increase of 23,148 persons. If employment in the week ended 17th January, 1920, be represented by 100, the index number of employment for 1st May, 1926, is 94.3, as compared with 91.4 at the beginning of the preceding month and 90.8 on 1st May, 1925.

*Trade Union Unemployment in April.*††—On 30th April, 1926, 7.3 per cent. of the aggregate membership of trade unions making returns were unemployed, as compared with 7.3 at the end of March and 8.7 per cent. in April, 1925.

\* *Revue du Travail*, 31st May, 1926. Brussels.  
† *Maandchrift van het Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek*, 31st May, 1926.  
‡ *Sozialstatistische Mitteilungen*, May, 1926. Berne.  
§ *Statystyka Pracy*, May, 1926. Warsaw.

¶ Information supplied by the Swedish Department of Social Affairs.  
¶ *Employment in Selected Industries*, April, 1926. Washington.  
\*\* *The May Employment Situation*, 1926. Ottawa.

†† Information supplied by the Canadian Department of Labour.

## LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

## Trades Disputes Act.

**GENERAL STRIKE—SAILORS' AND FIREMEN'S UNION CALLED UPON TO CEASE WORK BY TRADES UNION CONGRESS GENERAL COUNCIL—EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF UNION ISSUED NO INSTRUCTIONS TO MEMBERS OF UNION, AS REQUIRED BY UNION'S RULES—UNION SOUGHT INJUNCTION AGAINST OFFICIALS OF BRANCH WHICH ISSUED STRIKE NOTICES.**

THIS case was a motion by the National Sailors' and Firemen's Union of Great Britain and Ireland for an injunction to restrain the secretary and officials of the Tower Hill branch of the Union from calling out members on strike without the prior authority of the executive council of the Union. By the rules of the Union no strike may be called without the consent of two-thirds of the members voting by ballot. When the general strike was called by the General Council of the Trades Union Congress a ballot of the National Sailors' and Firemen's Union was in progress, but it had not been completed. The General Council of the Trades Union Congress called upon all Unions affiliated to the Congress to cease work if required by the General Council; the National Sailors' and Firemen's Union was one of those directed by the General Council to strike. The Tower Hill branch of the Union, without the authority of the Sailors' and Firemen's Union, passed a resolution endorsing the action of the Trades Union Council, and issued a notice calling out the members, although the executive council of the Union had given no orders for such action. The Union claimed an injunction, the grounds being a breach of the rules of the Union, and also at common law.

Mr. Justice Astbury in his judgment said:—

"This is a motion in an action brought by the National Sailors' and Firemen's Union of Great Britain and Ireland against a number of defendants who are officers or officials of a branch in London of the plaintiff Union, seeking an injunction to restrain the defendants, putting it shortly, as branch secretary or officials of the Union, or in the name of the Union, calling members of the plaintiff Union out on strike or calling upon members of the plaintiff Union to leave their employment without the authority of the executive council of the Union. The defendants have appeared in person, and they have given me considerable assistance in dealing with this matter, which I am bound now to do. I will try and state as clearly as I can the facts which have been proved in the evidence which has been filed upon this motion.

The facts are as follows. First, a serious crisis has arisen in the country with regard to the dispute in the mining industry. The General Council of the Trades Union Congress have assumed control of this dispute, and have called upon all affiliated Unions to the Trades Union Congress to cease work if required by the General Council. The General Council has called a so-called general strike; and the defendants have kindly explained to me the nature of that strike which has been so called. A large number of unionists throughout the country in railway, transport and other trades have been called upon by the Trades Union Council to come out on strike. The defendants are the branch secretary and delegates of the Tower Hill branch of the plaintiff Union, and they intend to take instructions from the Trades Union Congress and not from the executive council of their own Union in relation to the matter in question. The Tower Hill branch of the plaintiff Union has, without the authority of that Union, passed a resolution endorsing the action of the Trades Union Council or Trades Union Congress in calling a general strike, and that resolution is in these terms:—

We, the members of the Tower Hill branch of the National Sailors' and Firemen's Union endorse the action of the Trades Union Congress General Council in calling the general strike, and pledge ourselves to do all in our power to help them; and we call on the branch secretary and officials to notify all members to cease work immediately.

In pursuance of the above resolution the defendant Stuart has issued the following notice. It is written on the plaintiff Union's paper, it is addressed from 27, Plough Road, Rotherhithe, and dated 4th May instant. It is in these terms: 'All members of the Sailors' and Firemen's Union except men on articles of agreement are to come out in support of the Trade Union Council's policy and are to picket their jobs.' Mr. Stuart signs that as Acting Secretary, and he has explained to me in Court what it means, and the other defendants are apparently in agreement with him. I have been told that that policy therein referred to is the policy of the Trade Union Congress in trying to induce and promote a general strike throughout this country. In addition to the resolution of the Tower Hill branch, which I have already read, they passed a further one as follows:—'We, the members of the Tower Hill branch, express our confidence in the secretary and officials of this branch'—whom I have had the pleasure of seeing and hearing—'and we will support them in carrying out the instructions of the Trades Union Congress General Council.' I have been informed by the defendants that those instructions are to come out on strike. The general president of the plaintiff Union, Mr. Havelock Wilson, has made an affidavit, in which he has proved a number of the matters I have referred to; and in paragraph 3 he says this: 'Having regard to the present emergency the attitude of the above-named defendants is one of national importance, inasmuch as, beyond it causing a breach of agreements with shipowners, it is an interference

## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTS, 1920-25.

## DECISIONS GIVEN BY THE UMPIRE.

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

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

The following are recent decisions of general interest:—

**Case No. 995/26. (4/5/26.) Section 1 (4) of the Unemployment Insurance (No. 2) Act, 1924—Not Unemployed—Continued to receive Wages.**

COMPOSITOR DISCHARGED BEFORE HOLIDAY SEASON—RECEIVED PAY IN LIEU OF HOLIDAYS IN PROPORTION OF ONE DAY'S PAY FOR TWO MONTHS' SERVICE—NO EVIDENCE THAT PAYMENT WAS EXPRESSLY APPROPRIATED TO ANY PARTICULAR DAYS.

The applicant, a compositor, lodged a claim for benefit on the 16th January, 1926. It appeared that he ceased work on the 15th January, and, in addition to his wages, received two days' pay in lieu of holidays. The claim was accordingly disallowed as from the 16th January to the 18th January, on the ground that he was not unemployed during a period in respect of which he continued to receive wages.

The disallowance was contested, on the ground that the payment in lieu of holidays was not by way of compensation for loss of employment, since the applicant would still have been entitled to the sum in question even had the employment continued. Further, under the agreement in accordance with which the payment was made, it would be the duty of his new employer to adjust the payment of wages during the holiday period by an equivalent reduction.

A representative of the applicant's Union stated that payment of wages to compositors during the holiday season, which extended between the 31st March and 30th September, was governed by an agreement dated 30th January, 1919, between the Master Printers' Association and the Printing and Kindred Trades Unions, in which it was laid down that each man should receive a week's holiday during the holiday season with full pay. In the case of temporary engagements a man, when leaving an employer, was entitled to receive pay in lieu of holidays in the proportion of one day's pay for each two months' completed service subsequent to June 30th. It was stated that a holiday between 31st March and 30th September was compulsory under the agreement.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim should be allowed. The Court were of the opinion that the payment of a sum of money in accordance with the holiday agreement was not within the scope of Section 1 (4) of the Unemployment Insurance (No. 2) Act, 1924, since the two days' pay was not in respect of the days of unemployment following his discharge.

The Insurance Officer did not agree with the Court's recommendation. He considered that the case was governed by Decisions 119/25 and 1650/25. A hearing took place before the Umpire on 30th April, and the following decision was given:—

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

"The hours and holiday agreement under which the applicant received two days' pay follows closely, but not exactly, the agreements which were considered in Decision No. 8820, and in some later cases which have not been printed.

"The agreement in this case provides that every employee should be granted one week's holiday per annum, to be paid for at the ordinary rate and to be taken (unless otherwise agreed) between 31st March and 30th September, and that in the event of any employee leaving his employment such employee shall be entitled to a *pro rata* allowance in respect of the week's holiday, on the basis of one day for each completed two months' service. When the applicant left his employment he received, in accordance with this agreement, the equivalent of two days' wages. I am satisfied that that sum was 'wages,' but it is not clear in respect of what days it was paid. It was contended before me that it was paid in respect of some unascertained two days between March 31st and 30th September, when the applicant may be taking a holiday. If there were anything to show that the payment was expressly appropriated at the time of payment to any particular period of two days I should have held that it was paid in respect of those days, but in the absence of such appropriation I must hold, as in previous cases, that the two days' wages were paid in respect of the two days immediately following the loss of employment, at about which time the payment was made, and that the applicant continued to receive wages in respect of those two days."

\* Volumes containing the collected decisions of the Umpire are published by H.M. Stationery Office. Decisions given prior to 31st December, 1924, have been published in pamphlet form and later embodied in bound volumes and either separate pamphlets or bound volumes may be purchased through any bookseller or direct from H.M. Stationery Office. Decisions given subsequent to December, 1924, are printed in pamphlet form and may be obtained as and when issued, on payment of an annual subscription. All enquiries and applications should be made to H.M. Stationery Office at any of the addresses shown on the front cover of this GAZETTE.

with the food supply on which the nation is dependent.' According to the rules of the plaintiff Union certain trade union benefits are given to the members of the Union under certain conditions. One of these conditions is that, without the consent of a two-thirds majority assured, no general strike—that means no strike in the Union itself—shall be proclaimed; and I see in Rule 16, sub-rule 3, that there is a provision referring to members 'wilfully and persistently doing or suffering any act or thing in contravention of any of these rules or of any lawful resolution of the executive council.' According to the evidence before me certain members of the plaintiff Union have been misled and compelled in London by the defendants and their pickets to leave their ships and to suffer serious loss and damage, and have been placed in doubt as to their position as members of this Union. These acts on the part of the defendants have been done without the authority of the plaintiff Union and contrary to its rules and orders; and lastly, no strike has been called by the plaintiff Union and no ballot of its members, as provided for by its rules, has been completed. In these circumstances the plaintiff Union seeks the injunction which I have referred to, and the learned counsel who has appeared for the Union bases his right to claim this injunction on two grounds:—one, that the defendants have acted in breach of the rules and orders of the Union and are liable to be restrained as prayed; and secondly, that they have acted contrary to the common law of this country.

"I will endeavour now to state what I apprehend is the law upon this matter. In the first place it is evident from the facts above mentioned, and from the rest of the evidence that has been filed that members of the plaintiff Union have been placed in a position of doubt and danger, and it is my duty to state shortly their rights and those of their Union. The defendants have very fairly admitted that they desire that the members of their Union shall be told their rights under the unfortunate circumstances which have arisen. The so-called general strike called by the Trades Union Congress Committee is illegal and contrary to law, and those persons inciting or taking part in it are not protected by the Trade Disputes Act of 1906. No trade dispute has been alleged or shown to exist in any of the Unions affected, except in the miners' case, and no trade dispute does or can exist between the Trades Union Congress on the one hand and the Government and the nation on the other. The orders of the Trades Union Council above referred to are therefore unlawful, and the defendants are at law acting illegally in obeying them and can be restrained by their own Union from doing so. The plaintiff's counsel has contended that, if the members of the plaintiff Union stay in their jobs and refuse to strike, they cannot be deprived of their trade union benefits, and the defendants who have appeared before me have stated, very properly, that it is important to them that their members should know their rights in this respect.

Now the law upon that matter is as follows.—No member of the plaintiff Union or any other trade unionist in this country can lose his trade union benefits by refusing to obey unlawful orders, and the orders of the Trades Union Congress and the Unions who are acting in obedience thereto in bringing about the so-called general strike are unlawful orders, and the plaintiff Union is entitled to have this fact made clear and brought to the attention of its members.

Mr. Luxmoore [counsel for the] plaintiff Union] further contended that those members of the plaintiff Union who obey this order to strike will not be entitled during the continuance of the strike to receive any strike pay from their Union; and the defendants have, again very properly, and I think very fairly, stated that it is their desire that they should know, and that their members should know, their rights in this respect. Trade Union funds in this country are held in a fiduciary capacity, and cannot legally be used for or depleted by paying strike pay to any member who illegally ceases to work and breaks his contract without justification in pursuance of orders which are unlawful; and this fact also is one that the plaintiff Union is entitled and bound to make clear to its members in the difficult position in which they have been placed.

With regard to the second ground upon which the plaintiff Union seeks to obtain this injunction the matter is beyond question. The defendants, in addition to acting as above in defiance of the law, have acted contrary to the rules and orders of their own Union, and are on this ground also liable at the suit of that Union to be restrained by injunction from continuing to do so.

The result is that there must be an injunction until the trial or further Order, substantially in the terms of the Notice of Motion, which can be settled later; or the defendants may, if they prefer it, give an undertaking in those terms until the trial or further Order. I was desirous of assisting the defendants as far as I was able to do so in coming to a conclusion as to whether they would prefer to give this undertaking or be restrained by injunction. They agreed with me that they would like to know their rights before deciding which course to adopt. I have done my best to explain the rights as I understood them. I will now ask the defendants to kindly agree among themselves whether they will prefer that the injunction should be granted *in invitum*, or to give an undertaking substantially in the terms of the injunction that I have referred to."

The defendants submitted to an injunction.

*National Sailors' and Firemen's Union of Great Britain and Ireland v. G. Reed and others. High Court of Justice (Chancery Division). 11th May, 1926.*

**Case No. 1034/26. (10/5/26.) Section 8 (2) of the Principal Act—Employment left voluntarily.**

INDENTURES OF APPRENTICE BOILERMAKER CANCELLED AT OWN REQUEST—WAGE 12s. 6d. PER WEEK—DESIRED TO OBTAIN HIGHER WAGE IN OTHER WORK—MAIN SUPPORT OF WIDOWED MOTHER AND LARGE FAMILY—JUSTIFIED IN LEAVING.

The applicant, an apprentice boilermaker, aged 19, left his employment on the 6th March, and his claim for unemployment benefit, made two days later, was accordingly disallowed for six weeks, on the ground that he had left his employment voluntarily without just cause.

It appeared that the applicant was an indentured apprentice, and had served three years of his apprenticeship. He stated that his wages were 12s. 6d. per week, and, being desirous of increasing his income for domestic reasons, he requested his firm to put him on piece work. This the firm refused, and accordingly he left in order to search for work which would enable him to obtain a higher wage. His father had died twelve months previously, and he was the main support of his mother and five other members of the family.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim should be disallowed. The Court were not satisfied that the applicant had shown just cause for leaving his employment, but were of the opinion that, in view of his domestic circumstances, the period of disallowance should be reduced to two weeks.

The Insurance Officer agreed that just cause had not been shown, but saw no reason for a reduction of the period of disallowance.

Subsequently the employers reported that they were unable to find evidence that the applicant had asked to be placed on piece work. The boy had applied to the engine works manager for the cancellation of his indentures, giving as his reason that he could not earn a sufficient wage as an apprentice and could obtain more at other work. In accordance with the usual practice of the firm he was asked to make a written application and to support this by a letter from his parents. His mother replied that as her son did not care for the trade of boilermaker, she had requested him to leave for that reason.

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

“It is a misfortune for a lad when circumstances make it impossible for him to bind himself as apprentice to a skilled trade or necessitate his breaking his articles, and in a number of cases I have disagreed with Courts of Referees and have held that apprenticeship is suitable employment, although a lad gets much less in wages than he would in some blind-alley occupation. As a general rule apprenticeship on fair terms must be regarded as suitable employment.

“But the applicant's circumstances are peculiarly difficult as he is 19 and one of a large family and he has no father, and owing to slackness of trade he could not get piece work as an apprentice. He cannot live on 12s. 6d. a week, and I think he had just cause for leaving and trying to get employment which may be more remunerative at first, although in the end he will probably be worse off than if he had been able to work out his articles.”

**Case No. 1065/26. (10/5/26.) Section 7 (1) (ii) of the Principal Act—Not Unemployed—Daily Average of Remuneration.**

FITTER RECEIVED £50 PER ANNUM FOR EVENING AND WEEK-END WORK AS TERRITORIAL QUARTERMASTER-SERGEANT—ALSO RECEIVED 13s. 10d. PER DAY DURING ANNUAL TRAINING—PAY FOR TRAINING SPECIFICALLY APPROPRIATED TO WHOLE-TIME EMPLOYMENT—NOT AVERAGEABLE WITH YEARLY SALARY.

The applicant, normally employed as a fitter, lodged a claim for unemployment benefit on the 20th March, which was disallowed as from that date on the ground that he was not unemployed.

It appeared that, in addition to his usual employment, the applicant had for the past three years held the rank of regimental quartermaster-sergeant in the Territorial Force, the duties of the rank occupying his time in the evenings and at week ends. For this service he was paid £50 per annum. In addition he received service pay at the rate of 13s. 10d. per day and his keep for 21 days whilst in annual camp with his unit.

The applicant contended that since the Army authorities stamped his insurance card in respect of the three weeks spent in camp, this period should be regarded as ordinary full time work, and the amount of pay should not, therefore, be added to the sum paid for his subsidiary occupation for the purpose of computing the daily average of remuneration in such occupation.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim should be disallowed. The Court were of the opinion that the attendance at camp should be regarded as part of his subsidiary employment.

The applicant appealed to the Umpire, pointing out that subsidiary employment did not necessitate the payment of insurance contributions and could not, therefore, be bulked with ordinary employment for the purposes of the Insurance Act.

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

“I agree with the view expressed by the applicant in his notice of appeal. The 13s. 10d. a day which the applicant receives when he is in camp is specifically appropriated to his whole-time employment during that period.

“During the remaining part of the year he only receives on the daily average one three hundred and sixty-fifth part of £50, which is less than 3s. 4d.”

**Case No. 1069/26. (11/5/26.) Section 8 (2) of the Principal Act—Employment left voluntarily.**

APPLICANT LEFT REGULAR EMPLOYMENT TO JOIN HUSBAND WHO HAD OBTAINED CASUAL WORK IN ANOTHER TOWN.

The applicant stated that she had left her employment as a box maker in Bradford on the 9th March, 1926, in order to join her husband, who had obtained work in Liverpool. Her claim for unemployment benefit made on the 16th March was accordingly disallowed, on the ground that she had voluntarily left her employment without just cause.

It was elicited that the husband, whose employment was of a casual nature, had secured rooms in Liverpool and had sent for his wife a week after he found work.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim should be allowed. The Court were of the opinion that the applicant was justified in leaving her employment.

The Insurance Officer did not agree with the Court's recommendation. In his opinion the applicant had not shown just cause for leaving.

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

“The applicant, who had regular work in Bradford, left her employment because her husband obtained casual work as a builder's labourer at Liverpool. It would have been otherwise if he had obtained regular work and was taking a house in Liverpool.”

**Case No. 1158/26. Section 7 (1) (ii) of the Principal Act—Not Unemployed—Additional Occupation—Daily Average of Remuneration.**

LABOURER TENDED SMALL HOLDING IN SPARE TIME—RENTAL OF HOLDING £15 PER ANNUM—PROFITS ASSUMED TO BE EQUAL TO ANNUAL VALUE OF HOLDING AS FOR INCOME TAX PURPOSES.

It was reported that the applicant, whose normal occupation was that of a quarry labourer, carried on a business as a small holder, from which he derived remuneration or profit exceeding the statutory maximum on daily average. Accordingly his claim for unemployment benefit was disallowed as from the 18th September, 1925, on the ground that he was not unemployed.

It appeared that the applicant had rented a small holding of about five acres since March, 1922, at a yearly rental of £15. In January, 1926, the stock comprised seven head of cattle under two years old, and 80 to 100 fowls. The applicant stated that he had sold a heifer recently for £21, and in 1925 had sold three head of cattle for £20 each. The latter, however, had been raised from calves, and had been kept for nearly three years. The sale of eggs realised about 14s. per week, but he had to buy chicken food and corn, which cost about £1 per week. His rates were £3 per annum.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim should be disallowed. The Court were satisfied that the applicant had not produced evidence that he had not earned more than £1 per week, but granted him leave to appeal to the Umpire.

The applicant, in contesting the Court's recommendation contended that he was genuinely seeking employment, and stated that he had made application for work to several employers, and was, in fact, employed at the time of his appeal. He further stated that he had worked on his holding for a long time in addition to his usual occupation as labourer, and had not increased his stock when he lost his regular employment.

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

“A District Commissioner of the Ministry of Agriculture estimates the applicant's gross profit for the year at £13 15s. The rental of the holding is £15 a year, and for income tax purposes the applicant's income from his holding would presumably be assessed at £15 or thereabouts.

“For the purposes of income tax the profits derived from the occupation of land occupied wholly or mainly for husbandry are assumed to be equal to the annual value of the holding (including any dwelling house or building held by virtue of the same demise together with a farm); and I see no reason why the profits should not be estimated on the same basis for the purpose of Section 7 (2) (a) of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920.

“In several cases in which I have had reports from the Ministry of Agriculture relating to small agricultural holdings of this kind, the Assistant Commissioner's estimate of the profits has approximated very closely to the annual rent. The rule of assessment for income tax, though it may be only approximate, is probably much more accurate than any estimate which can be made by a Court of Referees or by me from such materials as are available.

“In all doubtful cases of this kind the applicant should be advised to produce the assessment to income tax under Schedule B, and if the assessment does not exceed £60 16s. 8d., it may generally be assumed that the profits do not exceed 3s. 4d. on the daily average.

“This principle, however, need not be applied in cases where the actual profit can be proved by the production of accurate and complete accounts; nor does it apply to land not assessable under Schedule B, such as land occupied as nurseries or gardens for the sale of produce.

“In this case, as the rent is only £15 it is clear that the applicant would not be assessed for income tax at a sum approaching £60 a year, and I am satisfied that his profits do not exceed 3s. 4d. on the daily average.”

**Case No. 1155/26. (20/5/26.) Section 7 (1) (ii) of the Principal Act—Not Unemployed—Additional Occupation—Daily Average of Remuneration.**

TOOL SETTER, DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRIAL SOCIETY, USUALLY ATTENDED MEETINGS ON TWO EVENINGS WEEKLY—RECEIVED £6 PER QUARTER—EMPLOYMENT CONTINUOUSLY FOLLOWED.

It appeared that the applicant, whose usual employment was that of a tool setter, was also a director of an Industrial Society, and was required to attend board meetings, the remuneration for his services being £6 per quarter. Accordingly, his claim for unemployment benefit was disallowed as from the 18th February, 1926, in respect of each day he attended a board meeting, on the ground that he was not unemployed.

The applicant stated that the position of director was filled by election, and was subject to the will of the members. Meetings were held on at least two evenings of each week. The applicant further stated that he was elected on the 16th January, 1926, and had carried out the duties outside the normal working hours of his employment. He contended that his case was analogous with Decision 9022, in which the claim was allowed.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim should be allowed. The Court were of the opinion that the occupation was subsidiary, and that the remuneration was less than £1 per week.

The Insurance Officer did not agree with the Court's recommendation. He considered that the remuneration should be averaged only in respect of the days actually worked, in which case the remuneration would be in excess of 3s. 4d. per day.

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

“The applicant appears to be a director of a company, and for his services as such he receives remuneration at the rate of £6 in respect of each quarter. Board meetings are usually held twice a week, but a person cannot be a director of a company on two days a week only. He is continuously following that occupation, and as he has ordinarily followed it in addition to his usual employment he is not to be deemed to be not unemployed by reason of his following it.”

**INDUSTRIAL COURTS ACT, 1919, AND CONCILIATION ACT, 1896.****Recent Proceedings.****(A.)—INDUSTRIAL COURT DECISIONS.**

H.M. INSPECTORS OF FACTORIES, CLASS II, INCLUDING INSPECTORS (WOMEN), AND H.M. INSPECTORS OF FACTORIES' ASSISTANTS.—The Institution of Professional Civil Servants v. Home Office. *Difference*.—Salary scales—Claims for increase. *Decision*.—The Court decided against the claim. Issued 6th May, 1926. (1215.)

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

BOOT MANUFACTURING, NORTHAMPTON.—The two sides of the Board of Conciliation and Arbitration for the Boot Manufacturing Industry of Northampton Town. *Difference*.—Claim by the Trade Union side relating to the price to be paid for certain stitching work. Mr. W. Addington Willis, C.B.E., appointed under the Industrial Courts Act, 1919, to act as Umpire to determine the matter. *Award*.—Claim refused. Issued 1st June, 1926.

**(C.)—OTHER SETTLEMENTS.**

[There were no cases under this heading during May.]

**TRADE BOARDS ACTS.****Orders, Notices, etc., Recently Issued.****I.—CONFIRMING ORDERS.****Boot and Shoe Repairing Trade Board (Great Britain).**

Order D(32), (33) and (34), dated 11th May, 1926, confirming general minimum time rates, general minimum piece rates, and overtime rates, and the variation of general minimum piece rates for certain classes of male and female workers, and specifying the 14th May, 1926, as the date from which such rates shall become operative.

Copies of the Order D (32), (33) and (34), which contains all the rates at present effective in the trade (including the rates mentioned above), may be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office or through any bookseller, price 3d.

**Rope, Twine and Net Trade Board (Northern Ireland).**

Order N.I.R. (14), dated the 22nd April, 1926, confirming certain minimum rates of wages as varied for female workers in the rope, twine and net trade in Northern Ireland, and specifying the 7th May, 1926, as the date from which these rates become effective.

**Boot and Shoe Repairing Trade Board (Northern Ireland).**

Order N.I.B.S. (14), dated the 10th May, 1926, confirming certain minimum rates of wages as fixed for male and female workers in the boot and shoe repairing trade in Northern Ireland, and specifying the 24th May, 1926, as the date from which these rates become effective.

**II.—NOTICES OF PROPOSAL.****Rope, Twine and Net Trade Board (Northern Ireland).**

Proposal N.I.R. (N.15), dated 10th May, 1926, to vary certain general minimum time rates and to fix piecework basis time rates for female workers.

**III.—REGULATIONS.****Paper Box Trade Board (Great Britain).**

In pursuance of the Special Order dated 9th November, 1925, the Minister of Labour has issued Regulations, dated 3rd June, 1926, with respect to the constitution and proceedings of the Paper Box Trade Board (Great Britain), under which he has appointed a new Trade Board, with jurisdiction in respect of the trade as now defined. Professor L. T. Hobhouse, D.Litt., has been appointed to be Chairman of the new Board, and Mr. F. Popplewell, Office of Trade Boards, 1, Whitehall Gardens, S.W. 1, to be Secretary.

The Trade Boards (Paper Box, Constitution and Proceedings) Regulations, dated 18th October, 1916, have been revoked.

**WELFARE OF WORKERS.****Herring-Curing (Scotland) Welfare Order, 1926.**

THE Home Secretary has made an Order, dated the 12th May, 1926, in pursuance of the powers conferred on him by Section 7 of the Police, Factories, etc. (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1916, to apply to all factories and workshops in Scotland, in which the gutting, salting and packing of herring are carried on. It is provided, however, that, where the Chief Inspector of Factories is satisfied in respect of any such factory or workshop that all or any of the requirements of the Order are not necessary for the welfare of persons employed therein, he may by certificate exempt any such factory or workshop from all or any of the provisions of the Order, for such period and on such conditions as he may think fit. The Order, which may be cited as the Herring Curing (Scotland) Welfare Order, 1926,\* came into force on the 1st June, 1926.

**OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.**

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE.—(1) *Proposed action by the British Government regarding Draft Conventions and Recommendations adopted by the Conference at its seventh session, 19th May to 10th June, 1925.* (Cmd. 2633; price 1d.) (2) *International Labour Conference: Eighth Session, Geneva, May, 1926. Report on simplification of the inspection of emigrants on board ship.* (3) *Ninth Session, Geneva, June, 1926. (a) Report on international codification of the rules relating to seamen's articles of agreement. (b) Report on general principles for the inspection of the conditions of work of seamen.* International Labour Office. (Geneva; price 1s. 3d., and 1s., respectively.)

These reports are issued by the International Labour Office in preparation for the Eighth and Ninth Sessions of the Conference.

For a summary of the proceedings at the Eighth Session of the Conference, see page 206.

NECESSITOUS AREAS.—*Report of Committee on schemes of assistance to necessitous areas.* (Cmd. 2645; price 9d.) (See page 206.)

PICKETING.—*Intimidation and molestation. Home Office Circular, dated 30th December, 1925, addressed to Chief Constables of England and Wales, as to the provisions of the law relating to intimidation and molestation.* (Cmd. 2666; price 1d.)

POOR LAW RELIEF.—*Annual Local Taxation Returns, England and Wales, 1923-4. Part I. Statement of sums expended and received by Boards of Guardians and other Local Authorities charged with the administration of the laws relating to the relief of the poor, for the financial year ended 31st March, 1924.* Ministry of Health. (S.O. publication; price 5s.)

TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION.—*Report of H.M. Inspectors on workshop courses of instruction in technical schools for workers in the mechanical engineering trades.* Board of Education. (S.O. publication; price 2d.)

Explains the distribution and character of the industry, the trades or crafts comprised in it, and the conditions of apprenticeship; and describes the relation of technical schools to the training of apprentices and others in the industry.

\* *Statutory Rules and Orders, No. 535 of 1926.* H.M. Stationery Office; price 1d. net.



Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; R. Wharton & Sons, High Wycombe; William Keen, High Wycombe; B. North & Sons, West Wycombe; T. Glenister, Ltd., High Wycombe; The Enham Village Centre, Andover; Kingfisher, Ltd., West Bromwich; J. Greenwood, Ltd., London, E.C.; A. Harvey, Ltd., London, N.; H. Hermann, Ltd., London, E.; J. W. Webb & Son, High Wycombe. Notice Boards: The Enham Village Centre, Andover. Presses (Steel): Roneo, Ltd., London, E.C. Rags: A. Armitage, Dewsbury. Rugs: J. Templeton & Co., London, E.C. Screens: W. E. Chivers & Son, Ltd., Devizes; T. Bradford & Co., Salford. Wood-paving, Maintenance of: The Improved Wood Pavement Co., Ltd., London, E.C.

## CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

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## METROPOLITAN POLICE.

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**Hire of Motor Launch at Greenock for further period of 12 months from 1st June, 1926:** Clyde Marine Motor Co.

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