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

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

EMPLOYMENT at 26th June, 1933, showed a further substantial improvement, which again extended to all but a few industries.

Among workpeople insured against unemployment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the percentage unemployed was 19·5 at 26th June, 1933, as compared with 20·5 at 22nd May, 1933, and 22·2 at 27th June, 1932. For males alone the percentage at 26th June, 1933, was 22·8, and for females 10·9. At 22nd May, 1933, the corresponding percentages were 23·7 and 12·1.

Insured Persons in work in Great Britain.—It is estimated that at 26th June, 1933, there were approximately 9,792,000 insured persons aged 16-64 in employment in Great Britain. This was 135,000 more than a month before, and 461,000 more than a year before.

Numbers Unemployed (excluding Persons normally in Casual Employment).—At 26th June, 1933, there were 1,884,322 persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain who were out of a situation. This was 114,245 less than a month before, and 77,447 less than a year before. The total on 26th June, 1933, included 1,577,429 men, 42,817 boys, 232,686 women and 31,390 girls. It was made up of 541,215 insured persons with claims for insurance benefit, 1,026,561 applicants for transitional payments, 200,965 other insured persons not in receipt of benefit or transitional payments, and 115,581 uninsured persons.

Numbers Temporarily Stopped.—At 26th June, 1933, there were registered as unemployed in Great Britain 350,523 men, 8,785 boys, 100,119 women and 4,285 girls who were on short time or otherwise suspended from work on the understanding that they were shortly to return to their former employment. The total of 463,712 was 26,531 less than a month before, and 224,666 less than a year before. It included 407,672 insured persons with claims for insurance benefit, 31,997 applicants for transitional payments, and 24,043 persons not in receipt of benefit or transitional payments.

Numbers Unemployed normally in Casual Employment.—At 26th June, 1933, there were on the registers in Great Britain 88,389 men, 107 boys, 1,574 women and 4 girls who normally seek a livelihood by means of jobs of short duration; these are largely employed in dock and harbour service. The total of 90,074 was 3,995 less than a month before, and 7,122 less than a year before. It included 60,592 insured persons with claims for insurance benefit, 28,701 applicants for transitional payments, and 781 persons not in receipt of benefit or transitional payments.

Industries in which Principal Variations occurred.—The improvement was most marked in mining and quarrying, iron and steel, tinplate, and metal goods manufacture, engineering, shipbuilding and ship repairing, the textile industries, cement, brick and tile,

glass, furniture, leather and leather goods manufacture, the food and drink, paper, printing, and distributive industries, and the transport, hotel and boarding house services.

On the other hand, there was a decline in tailoring, dressmaking, hat and cap manufacture, and in the motor vehicle industry.

WAGES.

In the industries for which statistics are regularly compiled by the Department, the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation in June resulted in a decrease of £5,350 in the weekly full-time wages of 66,500 workpeople, and in an increase of £260 in those of 1,850 workpeople.

The workpeople whose wages were reduced during June included coal miners in Warwickshire, iron puddlers and iron and steel millmen in the Midlands, chain makers, bobbin makers, paper makers in various districts, and brush and broom workers. Among those whose wages were increased during June were higher-paid steel sheet millmen and galvanisers.

The changes so far reported in the six completed months of 1933 have resulted in a net decrease of over £88,000 per week in the full-time wages of about 950,000 workpeople, and in a net increase of nearly £17,000 in those of about 130,000 workpeople.

COST OF LIVING.

At 1st July the average level of retail prices of the commodities taken into account in the statistics compiled by the Ministry of Labour (including food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, and miscellaneous items) was approximately 38 per cent. above the level of July 1914, as compared with 36 per cent. at 1st June, 1933, and 43 per cent. at 1st July, 1932. For food alone the average increase was approximately 18 per cent. at 1st July, 1933, as compared with 14 per cent. a month earlier, and 25 per cent. a year earlier.

The rise in the index-number at 1st July, 1933, as compared with that for a month earlier, was due mainly to displacement of old potatoes by new potatoes at higher prices, and to a seasonal advance in the prices of eggs.

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

TRADE DISPUTES.

The number of trade disputes involving stoppages of work reported to the Department as beginning in June was 42. In addition, 9 disputes which began before June were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The number of workpeople involved in all disputes in June (including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, though not themselves parties to the disputes) was about 18,600, and the aggregate duration of all disputes in June was about 98,000 working days.

THE ADJUSTMENT OF WAGES BY SLIDING-SCALE ARRANGEMENTS.

COST-OF-LIVING SLIDING SCALES.

In an article which was published on pages 122 to 124 of the April issue of this GAZETTE, details were given of the collective agreements between employers and workpeople in operation in a number of industries, providing for periodical variations in wage rates in correspondence with fluctuations in the selling prices of the products of the industry. In a number of other industries collective agreements are in operation which provide for the automatic adjustment of wage rates on a pre-arranged basis in accordance with the changes in the average level of working-class cost of living, as indicated by the index numbers compiled and published by the Ministry of Labour.

During the past few years there has been a diminution in the number of such agreements in operation, and it is estimated that the number of employees whose wages are subject to adjustment in this manner is now about 1½ millions, as compared with rather more than 2½ millions in 1925. In the case of many of the agreements which are still in force, however, the workpeople covered have not had their wage rates changed for some time, either because the cost-of-living index figure has reached a specified level below which it ceases to affect wages, or because the employers have decided not to operate reductions due under the sliding scales. If these were excluded the number of workers covered by the remaining scales would be between ½ and 1 million.

The principal industries and services in which there are cost-of-living sliding-scale agreements at the present time are specified below:—

Metal:—

Electrical Cable Making (Great Britain).
Metallic Bedstead Making (Midlands).
Military Musical Instrument Making (London).§
Farriery (Lancashire, Cheshire, and North Staffordshire).
Steelwork Erecting (England and Wales).†
Pen Making (Birmingham).
Typefoundry (London).*
Harness Furniture: Spring Hook and Swivel Section (Walsall).
Bobbin Making (England and Wales).
Shuttle Making (Lancashire and Yorkshire).†
Chain and Anchor Making (Cradley Heath).
Chain Making (Great Britain).†

Textile:—

Wool Textile Industry (Leicester and certain firms in the Colne Valley).
" " (West of England).†
Mechanical Cloth Manufacture (Bury, Lanes.).
Bleaching, Dyeing, Printing and Finishing (Yorkshire, Lancashire, Cheshire, Derbyshire, and Scotland).
Machine Calico Printing (Great Britain and Northern Ireland).
Engraving in Calico Printing and Engraving Works (Lancashire, Scotland, etc.).
Silk Manufacture (Leek).
Silk Dyeing (Leek and Macclesfield).
Hosiery Manufacture (Midlands and Hawick).
" " (Dumfries).†
Hosiery Finishing (Nottingham).
Carpet Manufacture (Great Britain).†
Asbestos Manufacture (Great Britain).
Elastic Web Weaving (Leicester).

Clothing:—

Boot and Shoe Manufacture (Great Britain).
Shoe and Slipper Making (Rossendale Valley).
Felt Hat Making (Denton, Stockport, Hyde, Atherstone, etc.).
Dyeing and Cleaning (England and Scotland).*†

Food and Drink:—

Brewing (North-East Lancashire).
" (Burton-on-Trent).§
Grist and Provender Manufacture (Bristol).†
Baking (Liverpool, Manchester, Cheshire and North Staffordshire, and Galashiels).
" (Northwich, Birmingham, Chatham, Portsmouth, Cornwall, Newport (Mon.), Swansea and Wrexham).†

Woodworking:—

Furniture Manufacture (London, Manchester, North-East Lancashire and High Wycombe).
" (Nottingham and Scotland).†
Sawmilling (Nottingham, Derby, Burton-on-Trent, and King's Lynn).
Coopering (Great Britain).†
Packing Case Making (London).§
Perambulator and Invalid Carriage Making (Great Britain).†§

Building and Allied Industries:—

Building (England and Wales, with certain exceptions, and Scotland).
" (Isle of Man).†
Electrical Contracting (England and Wales, and Northern Ireland).
Civil Engineering Construction (Great Britain).†
Public Works Contracting (London).†
Asphalting (Northern Counties).

* In these cases the scales, though still operative, are no longer the subject of a collective agreement.

† In these cases the scales are embodied in Orders under the Trade Boards Acts.

‡ In these cases the operation of the scale has either been suspended for a definite period, or recent changes in wages due under the scale have not been made or have been put into only partial effect.

§ In these cases the agreements provide that wages shall not be reduced below a level corresponding with an index number which is in excess of the present figure.

Transport:—

Railway Service: Conciliation grades, dock staff, etc., and police (Great Britain).
Railway Service: Electrical workers (Great Britain).
Road Transport (Nottingham).†
Coal Tipping and Teeming (England and Scotland).
Furniture Warehousing and Removing (Great Britain).†

Public Administration and Public Utility Services:—

Electricity Undertakings: Manual workers (Great Britain).†
Electricity Undertakings: Technical engineers (Great Britain).
Waterworks Undertakings (Lancashire and Cheshire, Midlands and South Midlands).
" " (Home Counties and South Wales).†
" " (Yorkshire).§
Local Authorities' Non-Trading Services: Manual workers—
(South Midlands).
(West Midlands, London, Middlesex and Southern Home Counties).†
(Northumberland and Durham, and West Riding of Yorkshire).§

Other Industries and Services:—

Freestone Quarrying (Northumberland and Durham).
Granite Quarrying (Aberdeen).†
Limestone Quarrying (Portland).†
Machine-Made Paper Making (Great Britain).†
Hand-Made Paper Making (Maidstone, Wells, and Totnes).†
Glue and Chemical Manure Manufacture (Bristol).
Flint Glass Making and Cutting (Stourbridge and other districts).†
Basket Making (Lancashire and Cheshire, Midland Counties, and Government work generally).
Roller Leather Manufacture (Lancashire, Cheshire and North Wales).†
Leather Belt Making (Great Britain).†
Saddlery and Harness Making (London).
" " " (Birmingham and Walsall).†
Cemeteries (London).†
Brush and Broom Making (Great Britain).†
Hair, Bass, and Fibre Trade (Great Britain).†
Coffin Furniture Making (Great Britain).†§

PRINCIPAL AGREEMENTS.

In the following paragraphs details are given of the provisions of some of the more important agreements:—

Textile Bleaching, Dyeing, Printing, and Finishing.—The wages of workpeople employed in this industry in Yorkshire, Lancashire, Cheshire and Derbyshire are regulated by a general agreement made between the principal parties in February, 1932, which provides for the payment, in addition to the basis rates of wages, of a "cost-of-living wage." This agreement continued the operation of a similar sliding scale which had operated for many years previously. Two distinct systems are prescribed for arriving at the amount of this "cost-of-living wage." One system, which operates mainly in Yorkshire, is known as the percentage system: under this system the cost-of-living wage takes the form of a percentage addition to the basis wages of the individual worker. This percentage, in the case of timeworkers, is the exact equivalent of the index figure; in the case of pieceworkers it is four-fifths of the index figure, except for pressers, for whom it is three-fifths, in accordance with a separate agreement. Thus the current cost-of-living wage consists of the following percentages paid on basis rates:—37 per cent. for timeworkers, 22½ per cent. for pressers, and 29½ per cent. for all other pieceworkers. Under the other system, known as the flat-rate system, and operative mainly in Lancashire, Cheshire, and Derbyshire, the cost-of-living wage takes the form of flat weekly amounts, varying only according to the age and sex of the worker. These amounts are arrived at by applying a percentage exactly equivalent to the index figure to specified nominal basis rates. Thus the present cost-of-living wage of 11s. 2d. per week for male workers 21 years of age and over is obtained by applying a percentage of 37 to the nominal basis rate, which for this class of worker is fixed by the agreement at 28s. per week plus 8 per cent. Fluctuations under the scale take place quarterly, the index figures taken into account being those published in the issues of this GAZETTE for January, April, July, and October, and any alteration taking effect on the first pay-day in the following month, in respect of the whole of the week paid for on that pay-day.

There is a separate agreement for the industry in Scotland, which embodies the principle of the same flat-rate system.

Hosiery Manufacture (Midlands).—An agreement arrived at in 1921 by the Joint Industrial Council for the Hosiery Industry provided that when the index number fell to 145 the existing bonus on earnings should be reduced from 1s. 3d. to 1s. 2d. on each shilling earned, with a further reduction of 1d. when the index number fell to 130. From this point the bonus was subject to a variation of 1d. in the shilling for each rise or fall of 10 points in the index number. The changes in bonus operate each time the index number shows the necessary fluctuation, and take effect on the pay-day in the first week following the publication of the index figure in the GAZETTE. The present bonus of 4d. in the shilling came into operation in March, 1933, when the index figure fell below 41.

Boot and Shoe Manufacture.—An agreement arrived at by a National Conference of representatives of employers and workpeople in this industry provides for the payment of specified minimum time rates of wages to male and female operatives when the index is over 70, and for reduced rates when the index number is below 70, 50, and 30 respectively. The minimum time rates of wages so

† † § See footnotes in previous column.

fixed for males of 22 years and over* are 56s., 54s., and 50s. a week when the index number is below 70, 50, and 30 respectively. For females of 20 years and over* the rate is 34s. when the index number is below 70, and is reduced to 33s. when it falls to 50, and to 31s. when it reaches 30. Graduated minimum rates for males of 15 to 21½ years and for females from 15 to 19½ years are also fixed, to correspond with the same index numbers. The agreement also provides for deductions of 3½ per cent. and 2½ per cent. from the piecework rates of male and female operatives respectively when the index number falls to 50, but leaves the amount of the deduction on a fall to 30 points for future determination. Any change in rates due under these arrangements takes effect once a year on the first pay-day in November, based upon the index number published in September.

Building.—By an agreement adopted by the National Joint Council for the Building Industry in England and Wales, specified standard hourly rates of wages of craftsmen in London and in ten grades of districts are taken to correspond with an index figure of 78. Variations of ¼d. an hour in these rates are made in respect of each complete 6½ points difference between this datum figure and the average monthly cost-of-living figure for the period January to December. The variations are decided upon at the "statutory" meeting of the Council held in January of each year, and take effect on 1st February following. Thus, in January, 1933, it was ascertained that the average of the index figures for the twelve dates 1st January to 1st December, 1932, was 43.75, i.e., 34.25 points below the datum figure of 78; and accordingly, on 1st February, 1933, the standard rates for craftsmen were reduced by ¼d. per hour, making a total reduction from the original standard rates of 2½d. Throughout the variations the standard rates for labourers are maintained at 75 per cent. of the current standard rates for craftsmen. A similar agreement has been adopted by the Scottish National Joint Council, but with a datum figure of 50 instead of 78.

Railway Service.—For adult male workers engaged in the manipulation of traffic, agreements provide that, for each rise or fall of five full points in the index number,† there shall be an increase or decrease of 1s. a week in wage rates; but whatever the fall in the index number may be, wages are not to fall, owing to the operation of the scale, below certain specified rates. The sliding scale, however, does not now apply to new entrants into any adult grade after 1st February, 1926; and as the specified rates have been reached by most of the employees, the number affected by changes at the present level of the cost-of-living is comparatively small, amounting to less than 5 per cent. of the total at the time of the last reduction under the scale on 1st April, 1933. Furthermore, deductions from earnings made independently of the scale are at present in operation. The necessary adjustments in wages, which are considered at meetings of the Central Wages Board in March, June, September and December, are based upon the index figure published in those months, and operate from the first day of the month following.

OTHER AGREEMENTS.

It will be seen that in the above cases the relationship between the amounts of change in wage rates and the extent of the fluctuations in the cost-of-living varies. In the less important agreements there is also considerable variation in this respect. For example, in trades in which the unit of fluctuation in wages is ¼d. an hour, the determining variation in the index number is 5 points in the case of furniture trade operatives at Manchester, and in the case of farriers in Lancashire, Cheshire and North Staffordshire; 6 points in the case of sawmilling in the Midlands; 6½ points in the case of furniture trade operatives in North-East Lancashire; and 7½ points in the case of civil engineering construction. Other examples of diverse arrangements are found in the case of road transport at Nottingham (1s. a week for 5 points), bedstead making (2s. a week for 10 points), flint glass cutting (1s. a week for 4 points), and baking at Manchester and Liverpool (2s. a week for 9 points).

In some trades the variations in wages depend on different fluctuations in the index number for different classes of workers. Thus, for furniture trade operatives in London a change of 1d. an hour follows a variation of 12 points in the case of cabinet makers, polishers and some other classes, of 18 points for packers and porters, and of 24 points for female polishers. For workers in the same trade at High Wycombe the rates for skilled men are changed by ¼d. an hour for each 6½ points variation, those for women by ¼d. for each 11 points, and those for labourers by ¼d. for each 9 points.

Other agreements provide for different amounts of wage changes for different classes of workers for the same fluctuation in the index number. In pen-making, for example, a fluctuation of 4 points gives a wage change of 1s. 4d. a week to skilled men, 1s. to unskilled men, and 5d. to women. This type of variation is to be distinguished from the differences between the percentage paid to timeworkers and that paid to pieceworkers, where the cost-of-living element in the wage consists of a percentage addition to basis rates. In such cases, as in the textile dyeing trade referred to above, the percentage for pieceworkers, whose earnings are normally higher than those of timeworkers, is made lower than that for timeworkers for the purpose of equalising the actual additional amount received by way of cost-of-living wage.

* Clerks, mechanics, porters, labourers, etc. are excluded from the application of the rates quoted.

† In accordance with interpretations made by the Central Wages Board rates of wages are increased or reduced by 1s. a week when the index number rises or falls by five full points from the level of that which determined the previous adjustment. Thus, if wages are based on a figure of 75 there is no variation till the index number falls to 70 or rises to 80. For the purpose of the subsequent adjustment the level would be assumed to be 70 or 80 respectively, and a variation of five full points from these figures would be necessary to warrant a further adjustment of wages, that is to say, wages would remain unchanged for index numbers of 66 to 74 or 76 to 84 respectively.

It will also be seen from the scales described above that in some cases, viz., hosiery manufacture and boot and shoe manufacture, the changes take effect whenever the index number shows the necessary variation; while in other cases, viz., textile dyeing, building, and the railway service, they operate at stated intervals, either quarterly or annually, being based either on the index number for the same or the preceding month, or on an average of the preceding months. Similar differences occur in other agreements.

In a number of cases the agreement provides a stop in the downward movement, in the form either of a minimum rate, or of a proviso that the movements in the cost-of-living below a certain point shall cease to have any effect on wages. Thus, as stated above, there are certain minimum rates for railway employees; while the agreement for chain and anchor making at Cradley Heath stipulates that wages shall not be reduced below 20 per cent. above pre-war level, and that for waterworks undertakings in Lancashire and Cheshire directs that the scale shall cease to operate by way of reduction when wages have reached the level of those paid in July, 1914, plus 50 per cent. thereon. The agreement for military musical instrument making stipulates that wages shall not be reduced below the rates corresponding with a cost-of-living figure of 65; that for woollen trade operatives in the Colne Valley provides for changes in wages only when the index figure rises to 55; while for waterworks employees in Yorkshire, and for manual workers employed in the non-trading departments of local authorities in Northumberland and Durham, and in the Southern Home Counties, the scales cease to operate in a downward direction when the index number has fallen to 50, 45, and 67 points respectively. The scales fixed by the Perambulator and Invalid Carriage Trade Board and by the Coffin Furniture Trade Board make the same rates apply whenever the index figure is below 72 in the former case and 50 or below in the latter case; while the Hair, Bass, and Fibre Trade Board has fixed two scales of rates, one applying whenever the index figure is 53 or over, and the other whenever the figure is below 53. The agreement for brewery workers at Burton-on-Trent simply provides for changes in wages if the index figure rises above 65; in the agreement for packing case making at London, the lowest scale of rates corresponds with an index figure of 63; the scales for the dyeing and cleaning trade, and for waterworks undertakings in the Midlands, do not make any provision for reductions when the index number falls to 20; while that for manual workers employed in the non-trading departments of local authorities in the South Midland area stipulates that reconsideration shall be given to the question of wages after the index number has fallen to 50, with a proviso that, in any settlement, wages shall remain materially above the pre-war level. In most of such cases, therefore, the cost-of-living scales at the present level of prices have had the effect of stabilising wage rates, and the agreements, though included in the list above, will only affect wages if there should be an appreciable rise in the index number.

THE PREVENTION OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

I.—A NEW ILLUSTRATED SERIES OF REPORTS.

The Home Office are proposing to issue quarterly a series of abstracts from reports of industrial accidents. Much valuable information relating to the causes of accidents and means for their prevention is often contained in the reports of H.M. Inspectors of Factories, and this new series has been launched with a view to disseminating this information as widely as possible.

Volume I of this new publication has now appeared.* It contains reports of thirty accidents, accompanied by comments on the causes of the accidents, and suggestions for the prevention of similar accidents in future. There are nine diagrams, illustrating the errors or defects which gave rise to certain of the accidents.

II.—THE USE OF CHAINS AND OTHER LIFTING GEAR.

The Home Office have also issued a new edition of Safety Pamphlet No. 3, dealing with the use of chains and other lifting gear.† Accidents due to the failure of chains and lifting gear are of common occurrence; and this pamphlet has been prepared with a view to giving information as to the causes of such failures, and the best existing practice with regard to the quality, proportions, safe working load, and treatment of such gear. This pamphlet also has numerous illustrations.

III.—HOME OFFICE INDUSTRIAL MUSEUM.

This museum is a permanent exhibition of mechanical and other arrangements for promoting the safety, health, and welfare of industrial workers.

During the past year a number of additional exhibits have been installed at the museum. One of these deals with the scientific and economical heating of factory buildings, to which increasing attention has been paid of recent years. Another shows a device—one of several that have recently been invented—to indicate, at any angle of the jib, the maximum safe load of jib cranes; the overloading of such cranes is often the cause of accidents. The electricity exhibit has been largely re-arranged and modernised. Other exhibits deal with the industrial diseases of silicosis and asbestosis.

The museum is situated in Horseferry Road, Westminster, and is open (free) each week-day from 10 to 1 and from 2 to 4.

* An Illustrated Series of Abstracts from Reports of Industrial Accidents: Vol. I. H.M. Stationery Office; price 3d. net (3½d. post-free).
† Safety Pamphlet No. 3: Sixth Edition. H.M. Stationery Office; price 9d. net (10d., post-free).

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE.

PROCEEDINGS AT THE SEVENTEENTH SESSION.

THE seventeenth session of the General Conference of the International Labour Organisation, convened under Article 389 of the Treaty of Versailles, opened at Geneva on 8th June and ended on 30th June, 1933. The Conference held twenty-six sittings.

Forty-nine States Members were represented, thirty-five of them by complete delegations representative of the Government, employers, and workers. On 19th June the German delegation left the Conference, and on 21st June its credentials were withdrawn by the German Government. The United States of America were represented by four observers, and Egypt by two observers. The delegates representing the United Kingdom were Mr. F. W. Leggett, C.B., of the Ministry of Labour; Sir Walter S. Kinnear, K.B.E., Controller of Insurance, Ministry of Health; Sir James Lithgow, Bart., ex-president of the National Confederation of Employers' Organisations, with Mr. J. B. Forbes Watson, Director of the Confederation, as adviser and substitute delegate; and Mr. Arthur Hayday, of the Trades Union Congress General Council. Mr. J. F. G. Price, C.B., of the Ministry of Labour, was present as adviser and substitute delegate. His Excellency M. de Michelis, Italian Government delegate, was elected President of the Conference.

On the subject of invalidity, old age, and widows' and orphans' insurance the Conference adopted six Conventions and a Recommendation. Each of the Conventions requires that each State Member which ratifies shall undertake to set up or maintain a scheme of compulsory insurance based on provisions at least equivalent to those contained in the Convention. Three of the Conventions apply to persons employed in industrial or commercial undertakings, in the liberal professions, and to outworkers and domestic servants. Of these, that concerning compulsory old-age insurance was adopted by 106 votes to 5; that concerning compulsory invalidity insurance by 89 votes to 7; and that concerning compulsory widows' and orphans' insurance by 92 votes to 6. The other three Conventions apply to persons employed in agricultural undertakings. Of these, that concerning compulsory old-age insurance was adopted by 84 votes to 17; that concerning compulsory invalidity insurance by 75 votes to 18; and that concerning widows' and orphans' insurance by 73 votes to 18. The Recommendation, which deals with the general principles of invalidity, old-age, and widows' and orphans' insurance, was adopted by 72 votes to 20.

A Draft Convention concerning fee-charging employment agencies was adopted by 91 votes to 20. This Convention provides that such agencies shall be abolished within three years of the coming into force of the Convention, and that no new agencies of the kind shall be established during the period preceding abolition. The Conference also adopted, by 92 votes to 7, a Recommendation that measures should be taken to adapt free public employment offices to the needs of the occupations in which recourse is often had to fee-charging agencies.

On the question of the reduction of hours of work, a general discussion took place at four sessions, at the conclusion of which the Conference decided, by 69 votes to 55, not to proceed to draw up a Convention or Recommendation this year, and, by 86 votes to 22, to draw up a list of points for inclusion in a questionnaire for circulation to Governments. Such a list was, accordingly, drawn up and adopted. The Conference decided, by 99 votes to 24, to place the question of the reduction of hours of work on the agenda of next year's Conference.

The Conference considered the question of unemployment insurance and various forms of relief for the unemployed, and the question of methods of providing rest and alteration of shifts in automatic sheet-glass works. On both subjects a list of points for inclusion in a questionnaire to be circulated to Governments was drawn up; and the Conference decided, by 93 votes to 4, to place the question of unemployment insurance, etc., upon the agenda of next year's Conference, and, by 94 votes to 24, to take similar action in regard to the question concerning automatic sheet-glass works.

At six sessions the Conference discussed the Report of the Director, in which he examined the influence of the economic depression upon the work of the International Labour Organisation, and the action taken and contemplated by the Organisation in the endeavour to mitigate the social effects of the crisis. Fifty-two speakers took part in this debate. The Conference, as is customary, discussed the Reports of the Governments under Article 408 of the Treaty of Versailles on the measures taken to give effect to the Conventions ratified by them. The Conference also had before it reports from the Governing Body on eight Conventions which had been in force for ten years. In regard to five of these, which dealt with non-maritime subjects, the Reports were noted; and in regard to three, which dealt with maritime matters, the Conference decided that they should be referred to a future maritime session of the Conference.

In accordance with a Resolution of the sixteenth session a report by the International Labour Office on collective agreements in agriculture was before the Conference. It was examined by a Committee of the Conference, and the report of that Committee was forwarded to the Governing Body for consideration by its agricultural committee.

On 9th June the Conference adopted a Resolution for submission to the Monetary and Economic Conference which assembled in London on 12th June. This Resolution drew the attention of that Conference to the urgency of measures covering the restoration of stable monetary conditions; the prevention of such fluctuations of the price level as must produce widespread unemployment; the cessation of economic warfare between nations; the increase in the

purchasing power of the community, and the maintenance or establishment of an adequate standard of living for the workers; and the restoration to circulation of capital now idle, particularly by the adoption of a policy of public works. This Resolution was submitted to the Monetary and Economic Conference on 13th June by Sir Atul Chatterjee, the Chairman of the Governing Body.

In addition to this Resolution, the Conference adopted Resolutions on the following subjects:—

(i) Inviting the Governing Body to instruct the International Labour Office to study the safety provisions for workers in the building industry, with a view to placing the subject on the agenda of an early session of the Conference.

(ii) Drawing attention to the Recommendation concerning reciprocity of treatment between foreign workers and national workers, adopted at the International Labour Conference, 1919, and requesting the Governing Body to consider the desirability of placing this question on the agenda of a very early session of the Conference, in order that it may be embodied in a Convention at the earliest possible moment.

(iii) Requesting the Governing Body to examine all action likely to hasten the ratification of the Convention limiting hours of work in coal mines, and in particular to consider the desirability of convening a tripartite Conference of the Governments, mine-owners and miners of Belgium, Czechoslovakia, France, Germany, Great Britain, the Netherlands, and Poland, with a view to facilitating the simultaneous and early ratification of the Convention by these seven States.

(iv) Requesting the Governing Body to consider the desirability of placing on the agenda of an early session of the Conference the question of the organisation and co-ordination of national and international public works.

(v) Inviting the Governing Body to instruct the International Labour Office to undertake all the necessary study, without interfering in internal questions touching on the national sovereignty of Germany, with a view to placing German refugees in various countries without detriment to the economic welfare of those countries. It was decided to transmit this Resolution to the League of Nations.

(vi) Requesting Governments and industrial bodies to take all necessary steps, either by administrative action or by collective agreements between organisations of employers and workers, to suspend the application of exceptions from the 48-hour week prescribed by laws or regulations or by practice; expressing the view that exceptions owing to technical difficulties, seasonal requirements, or the necessity of complying with a time limit in executing orders subject to a penalty for non-fulfilment, should be reduced to a strict minimum; and requesting the International Labour Office and the States Members to exchange information on this subject.

(vii) Deciding to place on the agenda of the 1934 Session of the Conference the following item:—"Maintenance of acquired rights and rights in course of acquisition, under invalidity, old-age, and widows' and orphans' insurance, on behalf of workers who transfer their residence from one country to another."

ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGE SYSTEM IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

AN Act, approved by the President of the United States on 6th June, 1933, provides for the establishment of a national system of public employment offices and for the co-operation of the States in its promotion. The Act sets up, in place of the existing employment service in the Department of Labour, a bureau, under a director to be appointed by the President, to be known as the United States Employment Service. The bureau is to promote and develop a national system of employment offices, to maintain services for the placing of veterans (ex-service men) and agricultural workers, and to assist in establishing and developing systems of employment offices in the several States.

The Act authorises the appropriation of \$1,500,000 for the year ending 30th June, 1934, \$4,000,000 for each succeeding year up to 30th June, 1938, and thereafter such sums as Congress may deem necessary. States which accept the provisions of the Act will be eligible to receive grants from the appropriations, based on the proportion which their population bears to the total population of the United States, provided that no payment will be made in any year until an equivalent sum (at least equal to 25 per cent. of the maximum possible grant according to population) has been made available by the State, or an agency thereof, for the purpose of maintaining public employment offices.

The director is authorised to establish a Federal Advisory Council representative of employers and workers and of the public for the purpose of formulating policies, and to require the organisation of similar councils in the various States.

EXTENSION OF WORKING HOURS IN SWITZERLAND.

AN Order, dated 2nd June, 1933, authorises a further* extension of working hours up to 52 a week in certain branches of the embroidery industry. The permits are valid until 2nd June, 1934.

* See this GAZETTE for May, 1933, page 165.

GERMANY: ACT TO REDUCE UNEMPLOYMENT.

By the Act to Reduce Unemployment, dated 1st June, 1933, the German Federal Government initiated its general programme for the revival of trade and industry. The Act is divided into six parts, embodying measures for the direct and indirect relief of the labour market. These measures are to be financed (1) through the issue by the Federal Minister of Finance of "Labour Treasury Bills" (*Arbeitschatzanweisungen*) up to the amount of 1,000 million Reichsmarks, and (2) through the proceeds of a public fund made up of voluntary donations, in consideration of which certain taxation privileges are to be granted. The Labour Treasury Bills are to be redeemed in equal amounts in each of the financial years 1934 to 1938, and are to provide cover for bills drawn on the Public Works Company.*

The following is a summary of the provisions of the six parts of the Act:—

I. *Public Works*.—For the assistance of public works either loans or grants may be made. Loans are to be granted in the case of the following classes of works: (1) the reconditioning and extension of buildings, bridges and other constructions under the control of the States, local authorities and other public bodies; (2) suburban small holdings; (3) agricultural settlement; (4) the regulation of waterways; (5) the supply of gas, water and electricity. It is a condition for the grant of loans in these cases that the works must be publicly useful and that their execution in the near future would not have been possible without such assistance.

Assistance in the form of grants is to be given to: (1) works in connection with the reconditioning of dwelling-houses and farm buildings and the conversion of house and other property into smaller dwellings; (2) excavating works instituted by the local authorities. Special regulations govern the latter class of works: they must be set in hand before 1st August, 1933, and must also satisfy the above-mentioned conditions applicable to measures financed by loans. Furthermore, mechanical labour is to be eliminated, as far as is economically justifiable, in favour of human labour; and, except in so far as the necessary skilled labour is not available among the unemployed, the work is to be performed by unemployed persons. The latter are to continue to receive whatever benefit or relief they would have received if unemployment had continued, and, in addition, are to be granted a bonus out of the general funds provided under the Act of 25 RM. for every full 4 weeks' employment, together with a hot meal at midday provided by the authority responsible for the work, or a suitable allowance in lieu of it. The bonus is to be paid in the form of "commodity vouchers" (*Bedarfsdeckungsscheine*) available for the purchase of clothing, household utensils, etc. Such vouchers are also to be issued under the general provisions of the Act to the district public relief associations for the purchase of clothing, etc., for distribution to necessitous persons.

II. *Taxation Reliefs in respect of Renewals of Industrial or Agricultural Plant and Equipment*.—Employers who incur expenditure in the replacement of industrial or agricultural plant and equipment by other similar equipment of home manufacture may deduct the cost thereof from their profits as normally assessed for taxation under the income, corporation or industrial tax legislation. It is specifically stipulated that the new equipment must be of German manufacture, must be acquired or manufactured between 30th June, 1933, and 1st January, 1935, and must not lead to a reduction of the number of workers employed in the undertaking.

III. *Voluntary Donations*.—A Fund for the Encouragement of National Labour is to be established by means of voluntary donations, in return for which certain taxation privileges are to be granted. This fund is partly to be used to provide loans for public works other than those specified in I. above, such works to be selected by the Minister of Labour in consultation with the Minister of Finance.

IV. *Absorption of Female Workers in Domestic Service*.—The reliefs from income tax granted in respect of children are to be accorded as from 1st July, 1933, in respect of female domestic servants, not exceeding three in number, who, at one and the same time, form part of the household of the private employer. Furthermore, female domestic servants in private employment are exempted from liability to the special Unemployment Relief Levy on wage and salary earners.

V. *Loans to assist Marriage*.—German nationals who marry after the coming into force of the Act may be granted loans up to the amount of 1,000 RM. for the purchase of household equipment by means of "commodity vouchers" (see I. above) issued by the local authorities. The loans may be granted only in cases where the prospective wife has been in an employment relationship in Germany for at least six months between 1st June, 1931, and 31st May, 1933, on the one hand, and, on the other hand, undertakes not to follow employment as a worker while her husband is in receipt of an income within the meaning of the Income Tax Act of over 125 RM. a month and while any part of the loan has not been repaid. The loan is repayable without interest in monthly instalments of 1 per cent. of the original amount, and is to be provided out of a levy on all single persons and childless married persons, with certain exceptions, who are in receipt of an income within the meaning of the Income Tax Act.

VI. *Administrative and Supplementary Regulations*.—General responsibility for the issue of administrative and supplementary regulations under the Act is vested in the Federal Minister of Finance except as regards work schemes referred to under III. In these cases, competence rests with the Federal Minister of Labour in consultation with the Federal Minister of Finance.

* An account of the formation and functions of the Public Works Company appears in the issue of this GAZETTE for October, 1930, page 364.

According to a statement by the Federal Minister of Labour, it is officially calculated that the application of the measures provided for under the Act would enable 1½ million unemployed persons to be absorbed into employment within a period of 12 months, independently of any general improvement in the economic situation.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL RECOVERY ACT.

ON 16th June, 1933, the President of the United States of America signed the National Industrial Recovery Act, to encourage national industrial recovery, to foster fair competition, and to provide for the construction of certain useful public works, and for other purposes.

The Act is divided into two main parts: Title I, Industrial Recovery, and Title II, Public Works and Construction Projects. Under Title I, the policy of Congress is declared to be to remove obstructions to the free flow of interstate and foreign commerce, to promote the organisation of industry for the purpose of co-operative action among trade groups, to eliminate unfair competition, to avoid undue restriction of production (except as may be temporarily required), to increase consumption by increasing purchasing power, to reduce and relieve unemployment, and to improve standards of labour. The President's powers under this Title are limited to two years after the date of enactment of the Act, and any agencies established to carry out the policy of the Title shall then cease to exist.

The Act empowers the President, on the application of one or more trade or industrial associations or groups, to approve, subject to certain safeguards, a code or codes of fair competition for the trade or industry or sub-division thereof concerned. Any violation of the provisions of an approved code in any transaction in or affecting interstate or foreign commerce will be deemed an unfair method of competition in commerce within the meaning of the Federal Trade Commission Act, and the district courts are empowered to prevent and restrain such violations. The President may prescribe and approve a code of fair competition for a trade or industry on his own initiative, or on complaint that abuses inimical to the public interest are prevalent therein.

If the President, after investigation by the United States Tariff Commission, finds that any article or articles are being imported into the United States in substantial quantities or in increasing ratio to domestic production on such terms as to render ineffective or seriously endanger the maintenance of any code or agreement made under the Act, he is authorised so to regulate the entry of the articles in question that their entry does not render ineffective any such code or agreement.

The Act further authorises the President to enter into agreements with and to approve voluntary agreements between persons engaged in a trade or industry, workers' organisations and employers' organisations where such agreements will further the aims of the Act.

In the event of the practice, in any trade or industry, of destructive wage or price-cutting or other activities contrary to the policy of Title I of the Act, the President may institute a licensing system under which persons carrying on any business in or affecting interstate or foreign commerce will be required to obtain a licence. The licensing clauses of the Act are to cease to be operative one year after the date of the enactment of the Act, or sooner if the President or Congress declare that the emergency which occasioned the Act is ended.

Every code, agreement and licence must contain the conditions that workers shall have the right of freedom of organisation and collective bargaining, and that no worker or person seeking employment may be required, as a condition of employment, to join any company union or to refrain from joining a labour organisation of his own choosing, and that employers shall comply with the maximum hours of work, minimum rates of pay, and other conditions of employment approved or prescribed by the President. So far as possible, wages, hours and general working conditions are to be established by mutual agreement; but, in the absence of such agreement, the President may, after investigation, prescribe a limited code of fair competition, fixing maximum hours of labour, minimum rates of pay and other conditions.

Under Title II, 3,300 million dollars are appropriated for a comprehensive programme of public works, which is to be planned and directed by a newly-created Emergency Administration of Public Works. The works may be carried out both by the Federal and by the State and local authorities; in the case of works undertaken by the State and local authorities, however, the Federal grant may not exceed 30 per cent. of the whole cost of the scheme, except as regards the construction of highways (for which the aggregate amount granted to the States may not be less than 400 million dollars). All contracts let for construction purposes and all loans and grants made under this Title must provide for the prohibition of the direct employment of convict labour, the limitation of working hours so far as practicable and feasible to 30 a week, the payment of wages adequate to provide a standard of living in decency and comfort, and the employment, for preference, of ex-service men with dependants. The maximum of human labour is to be used in lieu of machinery whenever practicable and economically justifiable.

Finally, the Act makes available the sum of 25 million dollars for loans in aid of the purchase of homesteads, to encourage the redistribution of the surplus population in industrial centres.

No grants or loans under Title II may be made after the expiration of two years after the date of enactment of the Act, except in fulfilment of commitments entered into with borrowers before that date.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE AND RELIEF MEASURES OVERSEAS.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

An Act, promulgated on 24th March, 1933, authorised the raising under State guarantee of a domestic loan, known as the Employment Loan, to finance the organisation of large-scale public works for the purpose of providing work for the unemployed, certain concessions being offered to persons subscribing to the loan who are in arrears with the payment of taxes. At 30th June, the date on which the subscription lists were closed, the amount subscribed was estimated at about 1,900 million crowns. The money is being allocated both to State works and to works carried out by local authorities, such as road construction, bridge construction, drainage, etc.; and it has been directed that, apart from skilled workers and overseers, only local unemployed persons and those belonging to the surrounding districts shall be employed, and that districts particularly affected by unemployment shall have special consideration. The use of machinery and mechanical means is to be restricted as far as possible, in order that employment may be given to the greatest possible number of persons.

DENMARK.

An Act of 20th May, 1933, re-enacts the Employment Exchanges and Unemployment Insurance Act, of 23rd June, 1932,* with the following main additions and amendments.

The employer's annual contribution to the Central Unemployment Fund has been increased from 3.00 to 4.50 kroner for each insured person employed for a whole year. In future, if the expenses of the Central Unemployment Fund exceed the receipts, the State is to cover the deficit, provided that the State contribution does not exceed one-half of the expenditure of the Fund on grants to unemployment societies, etc. The provisions of the Act as now amended are to come into force on 1st October, 1933.

Another Act passed on 30th April, 1933, extends to 30th September, 1933, the operation of the system of emergency relief, which, under an Act of 23rd June, 1932,* was to cease on 1st May, 1933, with the following principal amendments:—The new Act excludes from relief non-members of recognised unemployment societies who, under certain conditions, were previously eligible, and also excludes all persons joining a recognised society after 15th February, 1933. In the case of married couples living together, where both are unemployed, the relief is only to be granted to the one who normally makes the more substantial contribution towards the upkeep of the family. Unmarried members with no family responsibilities who are living at home and whose parents can afford to support them are also excluded. In future, the weekly rate of relief is to be equal to three-quarters, in the case of persons with dependants, and two-thirds in the case of those without, of the weekly rate of unemployment benefit which they would be entitled to receive from an unemployment society, but must not in any case be less than 1 krone per day. Under the previous Act relief might be equal to the amount of benefit. Provision is also made for employers liable to accident insurance to contribute an amount of 1.50 kroner for each insured person employed by them as a supplement to their annual contribution to the Central Unemployment Fund, and for the recognised unemployment societies to contribute 30 öre per week for each working member during the period covered by the provisions of the Act. The State will pay two-thirds of the remaining expenditure of the communes not covered by these contributions.

LUXEMBURG.

A Grand Ducal Decree of 20th April, 1933, provides that payment of unemployment relief may be made conditional on participation in relief works, or, if the worker is under 21 years of age, on attendance at vocational courses.

Relief works are to be of a nature that would not be undertaken without the aid prescribed in the present decree. The expenses will be borne by the State alone or, with the aid of State subsidies, by the local authorities, State or municipal undertakings, public utility undertakings, agricultural and other associations, or private persons. Relief will be paid by the State to persons engaged on the works at rates fixed by the decree; local authorities will be required to refund half the sums so expended.

Unemployed persons refusing such work may have the relief payable by the public authorities to which they are entitled withdrawn for four weeks. On the other hand, the period for which unemployment relief is payable (26 weeks in the year) will be extended by one week for every 48 hours' participation in relief work.

POLAND.

An Act of 16th March, 1933, provides for the raising of an Employment Fund for the purpose of relieving unemployment by means of public works of economic value and public utility. The Unemployment Relief Fund† set up by the Decree of 23rd August, 1932, to organise relief among persons not in receipt of unemployment benefit, has been wound up, and its functions have been transferred to the Employment Fund. The object of the new Fund is to substitute work as far as possible for the distribution of relief in cash and in kind, and to centralise the planning and financing of public works, including the construction and improvement of roads, canals, railways, land reclamation, erection of small dwelling-houses, etc. The settlement of unemployed persons on the land and in

* See this GAZETTE for August, 1932, page 287.
† See this GAZETTE for September, 1932, page 327.

suburban areas, and the setting up of workrooms for craftsmen are also contemplated. Public works will be undertaken both by the State and local authorities, financed where possible by credits advanced by the Employment Fund and repayable under specified conditions. It is anticipated that work will be provided for about 100,000 persons, who are to be organised in special "labour brigades," and lodged, fed and supplied with tools by the State.

The financial resources of the Fund are to be derived from a special tax on workers (1 per cent. of earnings); employers (1 per cent. of all wages paid); the emoluments of all classes of professional workers and the indemnities of members of the Diet and Senate (1 per cent.); and a tax of 2 per cent. on incomes derived from commissions. Further revenue is derived from special taxes on theatre tickets and on various commodities.

UNITED STATES.

An Act appropriating a sum of 500 million dollars for Federal grants to the States in aid of their unemployment relief programmes was signed by the President on 12th May, 1933.

Half of the amount voted by this Act is to be used to make quarterly advances to the States equal to one-third of the amount spent by each State for relief purposes during the preceding quarter. The remaining 250 million dollars, less the expenses of administration (which are not to exceed 350,000 dollars), are to be distributed in the form of additional grants to States whose own relief funds, supplemented by the Federal advances already mentioned, are still inadequate to satisfy all the demands for assistance. Any balance from the first 250 million dollars unexpended on 1st October, 1933, will likewise be used for supplementary grants.

The Act establishes a Federal Emergency Relief Administration, which is to remain in existence for a period of two years from the date of enactment of the measure, after which it is to be dissolved, and any residue of the amounts voted for relief grants disposed of by Congress. The Act is to be administered by an Emergency Relief Administrator, who, besides having control of relief funds, may assume the control of the relief administration in any State with the object of securing more efficient co-operation between Federal and State authorities and ensuring the more effective use of relief funds.

ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT INDUSTRIAL COUNCILS IN THE NETHERLANDS.

UNDER an Act of 7th April, 1933, providing for the institution of joint industrial councils, the Crown is authorised to establish a national or regional industrial council for any industry, branch of an industry or group of industries in which the circumstances give occasion therefor.

An industrial council is to be composed of an even number of members, not less than six and not more than twenty, who are to be appointed in equal numbers by employers' and workers' organisations designated by the Minister responsible for the administration of the Act. The members hold office for a term of four years, at the expiry of which they may be reappointed. The Crown may appoint as chairman a person not connected with the particular industry for which the council is established; if no such independent chairman is appointed, the council elects from its members two chairmen, one from the employers' and one from the workers' side, who officiate in turn for periods of six months.

The industrial council is to hold meetings as often as the chairman deems necessary, or whenever two or more members so request; so far as possible, it must meet on at least six occasions in the course of a year. No resolution may be adopted at any meeting at which less than half of the members representing each side are present.

The functions of an industrial council are of a varied character, and include the drawing up of schedules of working conditions, preferably in the form of collective agreements; the promotion of effective vocational education and training; the consideration of means of preventing unemployment and expanding the opportunities of employment; the promotion of amicable relations and mutual co-operation between the employer and the workers, both in the individual undertaking and throughout the industry as a whole; the encouragement of the formation of provident and other institutions for the benefit of the workers, and the control, management, or participation in the management, of such institutions; the discussion of the technical and commercial affairs of the industry, in so far as they affect the workers' interests; and the collection of statistical data. In regard to all matters assigned to it by the Act, the industrial council has the power to issue such regulations as it deems necessary. To issue, amend or withdraw any such regulations, a favourable majority of at least two-thirds of the members representing each side is necessary. Regulations issued by an industrial council require the approval of the Crown before they can be enforced; but, once approved, they are binding on all persons engaged in the industry.

Other functions of industrial councils include the furnishing of advice to Government Departments, local authorities and private individuals and organisations upon matters connected with their particular industries, and co-operation in the administration of legislation. The Act further prescribes that collective agreements may provide for the submission of disputes to the industrial councils for settlement, and that, where no such provision is made, the industrial councils may of their own accord take steps to prevent or settle disputes.

The date on which the Act is to come into force has yet to be fixed.

EMPLOYMENT IN JUNE.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

EMPLOYMENT at 26th June, 1933, showed a further substantial improvement, which again extended to all but a few industries. The improvement was most marked in mining and quarrying, iron and steel, tinplate, and metal goods manufacture, engineering, shipbuilding and ship repairing, the textile industries, cement, brick and tile, glass, furniture, leather and leather goods manufacture, the food and drink, paper, printing, and distributive industries, and the transport, hotel and boarding-house services.

On the other hand, there was a decline in tailoring, dressmaking, hat and cap manufacture, and in the motor vehicle industry.

There was a further reduction in the number of insured workpeople unemployed in all parts of the country. Employment continued fair in London and the South-Eastern Counties, and was moderate in South-West England. In the Midlands it continued slack, and it was still bad in all other areas.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

Among the workpeople, numbering approximately 12,808,000, insured against unemployment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and working in practically every industry except agriculture and private domestic service, the percentage unemployed at 26th June, 1933 (including those temporarily stopped as well as those wholly unemployed) was 19.5, as compared with 20.5 at 22nd May, 1933, and with 22.2 at 27th June, 1932. The percentage wholly unemployed at 26th June, 1933, was 15.8, as compared with 16.6 at 22nd May, 1933; while the percentage temporarily stopped was 3.7, as compared with 3.9. For males alone, the percentage at 26th June, 1933, was 22.8, and for females, 10.9; at 22nd May, 1933, the corresponding percentages were 23.7 and 12.1.

At 26th June, 1933, the number of persons on the Registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain was 1,884,322 wholly unemployed, 463,712 temporarily stopped, and 90,074 normally in casual employment, making a total of 2,438,108. This was 144,771 less than a month before, and 309,235 less than a year before. The total included 2,016,341 men, 51,709 boys, 334,379 women and 55,679 girls.

The persons on the Registers included 1,009,479 insured persons with claims for insurance benefit (consisting of those who (a) had paid at least 30 contributions during the preceding two years; (b) had received less than 156 days' benefit in their current benefit years; and (c) if 156 days' benefit had become payable in a previous benefit year ending on or after 12th November, 1931, had paid at least 10 contributions since the 156th day of benefit); 1,087,259 insured persons with applications for transitional payments; 225,789 insured persons not in receipt of insurance benefit or transitional payments, and 115,581 uninsured persons.

In Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the total number of persons on the Registers of Employment Exchanges at 26th June, 1933, was 2,503,898.

Mining and Quarrying.—In the coal-mining industry the numbers temporarily stopped in Yorkshire and Durham showed a fall, but employment generally continued very bad. The total number of wage earners on the colliery books at 24th June, 1933, showed a decrease of 1.0 per cent. as compared with 27th May, 1933, and of 5.0 per cent. as compared with 25th June, 1932. The average number of days worked per week in the fortnight ended 24th June, 1933, was 4.29, an increase of 0.10 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 27th May, 1933, and of 0.17 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 25th June, 1932.

In the iron-mining industry employment showed a further slight improvement, but was still very bad. In the West Lothian shale mines it continued fair. In the limestone quarries in the Cleveland area employment remained bad, with much short-time working; in the Clitheroe area it showed a slight improvement but was still slack; the improvement in the Buxton area continued. In the slate quarries in North Wales, employment continued to show an improvement and was fair. At chalk quarries it remained very slack. At china clay quarries it showed a further slight improvement and was fair generally; while at tin mines it remained bad. At the East of Scotland whinstone quarries employment showed a slight improvement but was still very bad.

Pig Iron, Iron and Steel and Tinplate.—In the pig-iron industry, employment showed a slight improvement but was still very bad. The number of furnaces in blast at the end of June was 72, the same number as at the end of May, compared with 69 at the end of June, 1932.

In the iron and steel industry, employment continued to improve but still remained very bad. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed was 38.0 at 26th June, 1933, as compared with 39.8 at 22nd May, 1933, and 48.2 at 27th June, 1932.

In the tinplate industry employment continued to improve, but was still bad on the whole. It was bad also in steel sheet manufacture, although showing some improvement.

Engineering, Shipbuilding and Metal Industries.—In the engineering industry employment showed a further improvement, but continued bad on the whole. In electrical engineering it showed an improvement and was moderate. In motor vehicle manufacture there was a seasonal decline, and employment was slack; it continued good, at most of the principal centres, in cycle and aircraft manufacture. There was a further substantial improvement in general and marine engineering, but employment continued bad in the former

and very depressed in the latter. In textile and constructional engineering it remained very bad.

In the shipbuilding industry employment showed a further slight improvement in most districts, but was still very bad.

In the other metal trades employment showed some improvement in most sections, and was moderate on the whole. It was fair in the hollow-ware and file trades; moderate in the wire manufacturing, tube, brasswork, edge tool, jewellery and plated ware, needle and fishing tackle, and nut, bolt, nail, rivet, etc., trades; slack in the ironfounding (other than engineers' ironfounding) and sheet metal trades; and bad in the cutlery and chain and anchor trades.

Textile Industries.—In the cotton industry employment continued bad in the spinning department and very depressed in the manufacturing department. The holiday stoppage at Whitsuntide was extended by many firms. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed in the industry as a whole was 24.3 at 26th June, 1933, as compared with 26.4 at 22nd May, 1933, and 32.3 at 27th June, 1932.

In the wool textile industry employment showed a slight improvement as compared with the previous month. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed was 14.0 at 26th June, 1933, compared with 15.0 at 22nd May, 1933, and 27.0 at 27th June, 1932. In the carpet section employment remained fairly good.

Employment in the hosiery trade showed a further improvement and was moderate on the whole. In the lace trade it showed little change and was slack. It was also slack in the silk industry, although there was an improvement as compared with the previous month. Employment improved also in artificial silk manufacture and was moderate. In the linen and jute industries there was again an improvement, but employment remained bad in the former, and very bad in the latter. In the textile bleaching, printing, dyeing, etc., trades it showed a further slight improvement, but still continued bad, with much short time working.

Clothing Industries.—Employment in the retail bespoke and ready-made and wholesale bespoke branches of the tailoring trade showed a decline, and was only moderate on the whole. In the dressmaking and millinery trades there was a slight decline, but employment generally remained fairly good. There was little change in the shirt and collar trade, and employment continued moderate. In the corset trade employment was moderate; in the glove trade it was moderate to fairly good. In the hat and cap trade employment showed a decline but was still fair on the whole.

In the boot and shoe industry employment during the first half of the month continued good at some of the principal centres and fair in the industry taken as a whole; towards the end of the month there was a seasonal decline at most of the principal centres. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed was 13.6 at 26th June, 1933, compared with 13.5 at 22nd May, 1933, and 22.1 at 27th June, 1932.

Leather Trades.—Employment continued to improve in all sections of the leather trades and was moderate on the whole.

Building, Woodworking, etc.—In the building trades employment continued slack on the whole. As regards individual occupations employment was moderate with bricklayers and slack or bad with other classes of operatives. It declined with slaters and painters; with plumbers there was practically no change; with other sections of the industry there was a further slight improvement. Employment in brick manufacture improved and continued moderate on the whole.

In the furnishing trades and with mill-sawyers and coachbuilders employment showed a further improvement, but was still slack on the whole.

Paper Manufacture, Printing and Bookbinding.—Employment in the paper-making industry continued to improve and was fair generally. Some short time and irregular working were still reported, but there was an increase in the number of centres working full time. In the letterpress printing industry employment showed an improvement and was fair on the whole. With electrotypers and stereotypers it remained generally good; while with lithographic printers it showed an improvement and was moderate. Employment with lithographic artists again ranged from fair to slack, though there was a slight improvement on the whole. With bookbinders it showed an improvement and was moderate generally.

Pottery and Glass.—Employment in the pottery industry in North Staffordshire remained bad on the whole, with much short-time working; it showed an improvement in the china ware and glazed tile sections, but a decline in the earthenware section. At Bristol and at Worcester the improvement reported last month was maintained. In the glass trades employment showed a slight improvement, but was still slack on the whole.

Fishing.—Employment with fishermen showed some improvement but was still bad on the whole.

Dock Labourers and Seamen.—Employment with dock labourers continued to improve but was still generally slack; while with seamen it remained very slack.

SUMMARY OF EMPLOYERS' RETURNS.

In Tables which appear on subsequent pages of this GAZETTE detailed statistics bearing on the state of employment during June are given, based on information obtained from employers or employers' associations in certain industries. In the following Tables some of the principal features of these statistics are briefly

summarised (a) for certain mining and metal industries, and (b) for various other industries:—

(a) CERTAIN MINING AND METAL INDUSTRIES.

Table with columns: Industry, Workpeople included in the Returns for June 1933, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month before, Year before. Rows include Coal Mining, Iron, Shale, Pig Iron, Tinplate and Steel Sheet, Iron and Steel.

(b) OTHER INDUSTRIES.

Table with columns: Industry, Number of Workpeople Employed, Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Week ended 24th June, 1933, Month before, Year before. Rows include Textiles, Cotton, Woollen, Worsted, Carpet, Boot and Shoe, Pottery, Brick.

UNEMPLOYMENT SUMMARY BY DISTRICTS.

The following Table shows the variations in the rates of unemployment at 26th June, 1933, among insured persons in the respective divisions into which the country is divided for the purpose of the administration of the Unemployment Insurance Acts:—

Table with columns: Divisions, Estimated Numbers Insured, at July, 1932, Percentage Unemployed at 26th June, 1933, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Total Percentages as compared with a Month before, Year before. Rows include London, South-Eastern, South-Western, Midlands, North-Eastern, North-Western, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, Special Schemes, Total.

UNEMPLOYMENT DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS.

The following Table shows, month by month from June, 1932, the percentages unemployed among insured workpeople, and the approximate number of applicants for employment registered at Employment Exchanges, etc., in Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The percentages for each month, from July, 1932, inclusive, have been calculated on the basis of the estimated numbers of insured persons at the end of the preceding June, no allowance having been made for the monthly changes in the insured population between 1st July of one year and 30th June of the following year.

Table with columns: Date, Males, Females, Wholly Unemployed (incl. Casuals), Temporarily stopped, Total, Percentages Unemployed among Insured Workpeople, Numbers (Insured and Uninsured) registered at Employment Exchanges etc. Rows cover months from 27 June 1932 to 26 June 1933.

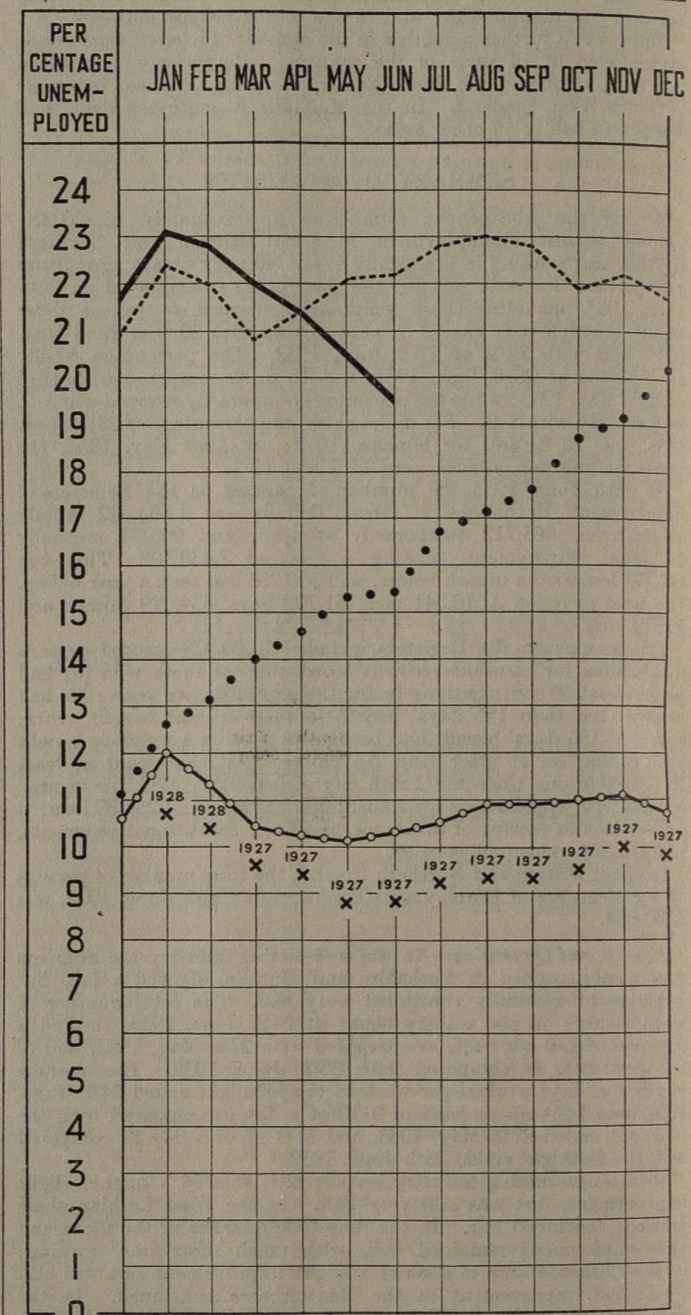
* Comparison of earnings is affected by reductions in rates of wages.

UNEMPLOYMENT CHART.

PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED AMONG WORKPEOPLE INSURED AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT IN GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND:—

Plain Curve - - - - - = 1933. Broken Curve - - - - - = 1932. Dotted Curve - - - - - = 1930. Chain Curve - - - - - = Mean for 1923-25 and 1927-29.

X The crosses indicate the minimum monthly percentages unemployed during the years 1923-25 and 1927-32. The maximum percentages in those years were recorded in 1932, except for March, when the maximum of 21.5 fell in 1931.



NEW ENTRANTS INTO UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

APPLICATIONS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT BOOKS RECEIVED AT LOCAL OFFICES OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR IN GREAT BRITAIN DURING JUNE, 1933.

Table with columns: Area, Men, Boys, Women, Girls, Total. Rows include London, South-Eastern, South-Western, Midlands, North-Eastern, North-Western, Scotland, Wales, GREAT BRITAIN.

The above figures are exclusive of cases in which, as the result of systematic search, duplication of applications has been discovered.

DETAILED REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN SOME OF THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

NOTE.—The numbers of workpeople employed given in the following Tables represent the numbers covered by the Returns received and not the total numbers employed in the various industries. In the comparisons of numbers employed and wages paid at different dates the figures relate to the same firms at each date, and cover all the wage-earners, irrespective of age, sex, or occupation, employed by these firms. In comparing the earnings in different industries, it should be remembered that any averages calculated from these figures will be affected not only by the variations in the state of employment and in rates of wages, but also by differences in the proportions of males to females, of adults to juveniles, and of skilled to unskilled workers in the respective industries. In connection with the comparative percentage rates of unemployment among insured persons given in the following articles, attention is drawn to the last paragraph of the text at the head of the Table on page 256 giving the numbers unemployed in insured industries.

COAL MINING.

EMPLOYMENT during June showed little change and continued very bad; but there was a substantial drop in the numbers temporarily stopped in Yorkshire and Durham at 26th June, as compared with 22nd May.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 36.8 at 26th June, 1933, as compared with 37.9 at 22nd May, 1933, and 40.7 at 27th June, 1932. The percentage wholly unemployed decreased by 0.1 (from 22.5 to 22.4), and the percentage temporarily stopped by 1.0 (from 15.4 to 14.4). The total number of wage earners on the colliery books at 24th June, 1933, showed a decrease of 1.0 per cent., as compared with 27th May, 1933, and of 5.0 per cent. as compared with 25th June, 1932.

The average number of days worked per week* in the fortnight ended 24th June, 1933, was 4.29, an increase of 0.10 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 27th May, 1933, and of 0.17 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 25th June, 1932.

The following Table shows, for the principal coalmining districts, the total number of wage earners on the colliery books at 24th June, 1933, and the average number of days worked per week* during the preceding fortnight, as shown by returns obtained by the Mines Department. Small numbers of workpeople employed at coalmines in raising or handling minerals other than coal are included in the totals.

Table with columns: Districts, Total Number of Wage Earners on Colliery Books, Average Number of Days worked per week* by the Mines. Rows include ENGLAND AND WALES, SCOTLAND, GREAT BRITAIN.

The average number of coal-winding days lost in Great Britain during the fortnight ended 24th June, 1933, was 1.51 days per week, of which 1.40 days were due to want of trade. The figure for the fortnight ended 27th May, 1933, was 1.61 days per week, of which 1.59 days were due to want of trade; the corresponding figures for the fortnight ended 25th June, 1932, were 1.66 days per week, and 1.59 days per week, respectively. The average non-winding time for the June and May, 1933, periods, was about one-fifth of a day per week, as compared with between one-fifth and one-quarter of a day per week during the June, 1932, period.

The output of coal in Great Britain for the four weeks ended 24th June, 1933 (which included the Whitsuntide holidays), was reported to the Mines Department as 14,150,300 tons, as compared with 15,666,800 tons in the four weeks ended 27th May, 1933, and 15,875,600 tons in the four weeks ended 25th June, 1932.

The numbers and percentages unemployed among insured workpeople in the respective areas at 26th June, 1933, and the increases or decreases as compared with 22nd May, 1933, and 27th June, 1932, are shown in the following Table:—

* The figures in this and the following article show the number of days (allowance being made in all the calculations for short time) on which coal, iron, etc., were got from the mines included in the returns. It is not necessarily implied that all the persons worked every day the mines were open. Mines not working are omitted in computing the average number of days worked.

† Including Cannock Chase.

Table with columns: Area, Insured Persons Recorded as Unemployed at 26th June, 1933, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) or Total Percentages as compared with a Month before, Year before. Rows include Great Britain, England and Wales, Scotland, Principal Districts in England and Wales, etc.

The exports of coal, including that shipped for the use of steamers engaged in the foreign trade and the coal equivalent of coke and manufactured fuel, amounted to 4,507,400 tons in June, 1933, as compared with 5,007,900 tons in May, 1933, and with 4,754,900 tons in June, 1932.

IRON AND SHALE MINING.

IRON MINING.

EMPLOYMENT showed a further slight improvement during June, 1933, but was still very bad. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, in the iron ore and ironstone mining industry was 42.0 at 26th June, 1933, as compared with 43.5 at 22nd May, 1933, and 43.4 at 27th June, 1932.

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

Table with columns: Districts, Number of Workpeople employed at Mines included in the Returns, Average No. of Days worked per week by the Mines, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) or Total Percentages as compared with a Month before, Year before. Rows include Cleveland, Cumberland and Lancashire, Other Districts, ALL DISTRICTS.

SHALE MINING.

The number of workpeople employed at the West Lothian mines during the fortnight ended 24th June, 1933, by firms making returns, was 2,050, showing a very slight increase as compared with May, 1933, and an increase of 27.7 per cent. as compared with June, 1932. The average number of days worked per week* by the mines making returns was 5.97 in June, 1933, as compared with 5.83 in May, 1933, and 5.75 in June, 1932.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during June showed a slight improvement, but was still very bad. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 36.6 at 26th June, 1933, as compared with 39.4 at 22nd May, 1933, and 42.4 at 27th June, 1932.

* See footnote * in previous column.

According to information received from the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, 72 furnaces were in operation at the end of June, 1933, the same number as at the end of May, 1933, compared with 69 at the end of June, 1932.

The following Table shows the number of furnaces in operation at the end of June, 1933, May, 1933, and June, 1932 :-

Table with 6 columns: Districts, Total Number of Furnaces, Number of Furnaces in Blast (June, May, June 1933), Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before, Year before.

The production of pig iron in June, 1933, amounted to 345,600 tons, compared with 339,900 tons in May, 1933, and 311,400 tons in June, 1932.

IRON AND STEEL MANUFACTURE.

EMPLOYMENT during June continued to improve, but still remained very bad. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 38.0 at 26th June, 1933, as compared with 39.8 at 22nd May, 1933, and 48.2 at 27th June, 1932.

At certain firms, employing 51,346 workpeople, from which returns were received for the week ended 24th June, 1933, the volume of employment in that week (as indicated by the number of shifts* during which work was carried on in each department) increased by 3.2 per cent., as compared with the week ended 27th May, 1933, and by 13.3 per cent., as compared with the week ended 25th June, 1932.

Table with 5 columns: DEPARTMENTS, Week ended 24th June, 1933, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month before, Year before, Aggregate number of Shifts, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month before, Year before.

Table with 5 columns: DISTRICTS, Week ended 24th June, 1933, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month before, Year before, Aggregate number of Shifts, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month before, Year before.

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

The production of steel ingots and castings, as shown in returns from the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, amounted to 568,800 tons in June, 1933, as compared with 599,600 tons in May, 1933, and 459,300 tons in June, 1932.

TINPLATE AND STEEL SHEET INDUSTRIES.

In the tinplate industry employment continued to improve, but was still bad on the whole. In the week ended 24th June, 1933, 346 mills were in operation at works for which information is available, as compared with 326* in the week ended 27th May, 1933, and with 289 in the week ended 25th June, 1932.

In steel sheet manufacture employment showed an improvement, but was still bad. In the week ended 24th June, 1933, 72 mills were in operation at works for which information is available, as compared with 67 in the week ended 27th May, 1933, and with 66 in the week ended 25th June, 1932.

The following Table shows the number of mills in operation at works covered by the returns :-

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

The exports of tinned and galvanised plates and sheets in June, 1933, amounted to 57,907 tons, or 8,717 tons less than in May, 1933, and 4,234 tons less than in June, 1932.

SHIPBUILDING AND SHIP-REPAIRING.

EMPLOYMENT showed a further slight improvement in most districts during June, but it was still very bad.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, at 26th June, 1933, and the increase or decrease as compared with 22nd May, 1933, and 27th June, 1932.

As compared with a year ago, employment showed some improvement in all districts except South-west England. The improvement was relatively greatest in Scotland, North-east England, South Wales and Northern Ireland, but unemployment in these areas still remained at a very high level.

Table with 7 columns: Divisions, Total Number of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 26th June, 1933, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Numbers Unemployed as compared with a Month before, Year before, Percentage Unemployed at 26th June, 1933, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Percentage Unemployed as compared with a Month before, Year before.

SHIPBUILDING IN THE QUARTER ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1933.

According to Lloyd's Register Quarterly Shipbuilding Returns the gross tonnage of merchant vessels under construction in Great Britain and Ireland at the end of June, 1933, amounted to 287,502 tons, as compared with 252,401 tons at the end of March, 1933, and 280,692 tons at the end of June, 1932.

The tonnage commenced during the quarter was 50,050 tons. While this figure shows a decrease of 27,256 tons compared with the previous quarter, it has nevertheless only twice been exceeded since the fourth quarter of 1930.

The tonnage launched during the quarter under review amounted to 11,036 tons, showing a decrease of 1,906 tons as compared with the previous three months.

The total horse-power of marine engines either under construction at the works or being installed on board vessels in Great Britain and Ireland at the end of June, 1933, amounted to 325,217 h.p., as compared with 283,433 h.p. in the previous quarter.

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

* Revised figure.

ENGINEERING.

EMPLOYMENT during June showed a further improvement, but continued bad on the whole. Employment in electrical engineering improved and was moderate. In motor vehicle manufacture there was a seasonal decline, and employment was slack.

Compared with a year ago, employment showed an improvement in all parts of the country and in all sections of the industry.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, at 26th June, 1933, and the increase or decrease as compared with a month before and a year before :-

Table with 10 columns: Division, Numbers of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 26th June, 1933, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Month before, Year before.

Table with 10 columns: Divisions, Percentages Unemployed at 26th June, 1933, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Month before, Year before.

On the North-East Coast employment was still very bad, but showed an improvement in marine engineering. In Yorkshire and Lincolnshire employment in general engineering showed an improvement at some of the principal centres, but remained very bad on the whole.

In Scotland employment in general and marine engineering showed a further improvement but continued very bad; it remained very bad also in Wales and in Northern Ireland.

COTTON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during June continued bad in the spinning department: in the section spinning American cotton employment in the mills that were working was maintained at approximately 75 per cent. of full capacity, and in the Egyptian section it was at about the same level.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed in the industry as a whole, including those temporarily stopped, was 24.3 at 26th June, 1933, as compared with 26.4 at 22nd May, 1933, and with 32.3 at 27th June, 1932.

At Ashton-under-Lyne a further improvement was reported both in the American and in the Egyptian spinning sections, and more regular employment was reported in the doubling mills.

There was also an improvement at Stalybridge. At Glossop short-time working was general. At Hyde the progress of the last few months was maintained, but the mills were still working below capacity.

At Oldham employment with spinners was very bad, worse than in May and worse also than a year ago; short-time in various forms was general, and many firms extended the holiday stoppage at Whitsuntide.

At Bolton an improvement was reported in the spinning department, but employment was still described as bad with spinners; it remained moderate with cardroom workers and fair in the weaving department.

At Preston employment declined with most firms; extended holidays at Whitsuntide were fairly general, and there was much under-employment when work was re-started; in a few isolated cases, however, employment was good.

In Yorkshire employment continued bad, but showed a slight improvement on the whole; at Todmorden employment remained good in the spinning department, and fairly good in the weaving department.

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

Table with 10 columns: DEPARTMENTS, DISTRICTS, Week ended 24th June, 1933, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before, Year before, Total Wages paid to all Workpeople, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before, Year before.

Returns from firms employing about 58,000 workpeople in the week ended 24th June showed that 9 per cent. were on short time in that week, losing 16 hours each on the average.

The following Table shows the number of men and of women (other than casuals) on the registers of 56 Employment Exchanges in the principal cotton trade centres in Lancashire and Cheshire at 26th June, 1933 :-

Table with 10 columns: Department, Wholly Unemployed, Temporarily Stopped, Total.

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

GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.

Table with columns: INDUSTRY, ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AT JULY, 1932, PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED AT 26TH JUNE, 1933, INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN TOTAL PERCENTAGES* AS COMPARED WITH, GREAT BRITAIN ONLY, TOTAL PERCENTAGES AT 26TH JUNE, 1933.

For notes see page 259.

Table with columns: INDUSTRY, ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AT JULY, 1932, PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED AT 26TH JUNE, 1933, INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN TOTAL PERCENTAGES* AS COMPARED WITH, GREAT BRITAIN ONLY, TOTAL PERCENTAGES AT 26TH JUNE, 1933.

* See last paragraph of text on page 256.
† For 27th June, 1932, and 22nd June, 1931, separate figures for each of the two sections are not available.
‡ See note * on page 63 of the issue of this GAZETTE for February, 1932, regarding the change, introduced on 25th January, 1932, in the basis on which the numbers of registered dock workers unemployed are counted. On a comparable basis the percentage rate of unemployment at 26th June, 1933, in dock, harbour, river and canal service was less by 0.3 than at 22nd June, 1931.

NUMBERS OF INSURED WORKPEOPLE UNEMPLOYED. PROPORTIONS IN VARIOUS INDUSTRY GROUPS.

Table with columns: Industry Group, Males, Females, Number Wholly Unemployed, Percentage of Total, Number Temporarily Unemployed, Percentage of Total.

PRINCIPAL VARIATIONS IN NUMBERS UNEMPLOYED.

THE following Table indicates for Great Britain and Northern Ireland the industries in which the numbers of insured persons recorded as unemployed at 26th June, 1933, differed from the figures for 22nd May, 1933, to the extent of 1,800 or more:-

Table with columns: Industry, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Numbers recorded as Unemployed at 26th June, 1933, as compared with 22nd May, 1933, Males, Females, Total.

COMPOSITION OF UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS: GREAT BRITAIN.

On page 256 an explanation is given of the unemployment statistics published in the Press, and in this GAZETTE. The following Table gives an analysis relating to the 26th June, 1933, of the composition of these statistics. Lines 1 to 4 make up the number of persons on the register; while, by omitting the uninsured persons (line 4) and including lines 5 and 6, the number of books lodged, or, in other words, the number of insured persons recorded as unemployed, is obtained:—

Table showing composition of unemployment statistics: Great Britain. Columns: Men, Boys, Women, Girls, Total. Rows: 1. Claims admitted, 2. Claims under consideration, 3. Insured persons not entitled to benefit or transitional payments, 4. Uninsured persons on Register, 5. Two months' file, 6. Unemployed—Special Schemes on Register (lines 1-4), Persons on Register (lines 1-4), Books Lodged (lines 1-3, 5 and 6).

NUMBERS ON THE REGISTERS OF EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES.*

ANALYSIS OF FIGURES FOR 26TH JUNE, 1933, AND 22ND MAY, 1933.

Table showing numbers on registers of employment exchanges: Great Britain. Columns: 26th June, 1933 (Persons normally in Regular Employment, Wholly Unemployed, Temporarily Stopped), Total, 22nd May, 1933. Rows: Men, Boys, Women, Girls, Total.

Table showing numbers on registers of employment exchanges: Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Columns: 26th June, 1933 (Persons normally in Regular Employment, Wholly Unemployed, Temporarily Stopped), Total, 22nd May, 1933. Rows: Men, Boys, Women, Girls, Total.

VACANCIES NOTIFIED AND FILLED.

(GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.)

Table showing vacancies notified and filled: Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Columns: Five weeks ended 26th June, 1933 (Vacancies Notified, Vacancies Filled), Period 28th June, 1932, to 26th June, 1933 (Vacancies Notified, Vacancies Filled), Inc. (+) Dec. (-) as compared with year before. Rows: Men, Boys, Women, Girls, TOTAL.

* The term "Employment Exchange," as used in this connection, includes Ministry of Labour Employment Exchanges and Branch Employment Offices, and also Juvenile Employment Bureaux under the control of Local Education Authorities, which are exercising powers under Sec. 107 of the Education Act, 1921, and Sec. 6 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1923.

† "Vacancies Filled" include certain types of cases (described as Class B placements) in which the work of the Exchanges was limited; for instance, obtaining for an employer former employees or placing the same men in relief work in alternate weeks. During the five weeks ended 26th June, 1933, the average number of such placements of men and women was 9,700 per week.

‡ The figures for the period 28th June, 1932, to 26th June, 1933, cover 52 weeks, while those for the year before cover 51 weeks.

NUMBERS ON THE REGISTERS IN THE PRINCIPAL TOWNS.

The following Table shows for each of the Employment Exchange administrative areas in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and for the principal towns therein, the number of unemployed persons registered at Employment Exchanges on 26th June, 1933. In certain cases (e.g., Bristol, Birmingham, Sheffield, Liverpool, Glasgow, etc.) the figures cover more than one Exchange area.

Table showing numbers on registers in principal towns: London Division, South-Eastern Division, North-Eastern Division, North-Western Division, Midlands Division, South-Western Division, Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Columns: Area, Number of Persons on Register at 26th June, 1933 (Men, Women, Juveniles, Total), Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in totals as compared with 22nd May, 1933, 27th June, 1932.

[Percentage rates of unemployment for each of 735 towns in Great Britain are given in the monthly "Local Unemployment Index."]

JUVENILE UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS.

NUMBERS OF JUVENILES AGED 14 AND UNDER 18 ON THE REGISTERS OF EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES AND JUVENILE EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX AT 26TH JUNE, 1933.

Table showing numbers of juveniles aged 14 and under 18: Division, Insured 16 and under 18, Uninsured 14 and under 18, Total, Insured 14 and under 18, Uninsured 14 and under 18, Total. Rows: London, South-Eastern, South-Western, Midlands, North-Eastern, North-Western, Scotland, Wales, Great Britain.

JUVENILES PLACED IN EMPLOYMENT. FIVE WEEKS ENDED 26TH JUNE, 1933.

Table showing juveniles placed in employment: Division, Number of Vacancies Filled (Boys, Girls, Total), Juveniles placed in first situation since leaving School (Boys, Girls, Total). Rows: South-Eastern, South-Western, Midlands, North-Eastern, North-Western, Scotland, Wales, Great Britain.

PERCENTAGE RATES OF UNEMPLOYMENT* AMONG INSURED JUVENILES AGED 16 AND 17.

Table showing percentage rates of unemployment among insured juveniles: Division, Estimated numbers insured at July, 1932 (Boys, Girls), Percentages Unemployed at 26th June, 1933 (Wholly unemployed, Temporarily stopped, Total) for Boys and Girls. Rows: London, South-Eastern, South-Western, Midlands, North-Eastern, North-Western, Scotland, Wales, Special Schemes, Great Britain.

JUVENILES IN ATTENDANCE AT APPROVED COURSES OF INSTRUCTION.

Table showing juveniles in attendance at approved courses of instruction: Division, Average Daily Attendance (Week ended 21.6.33, Month ended 21.6.33), Total No. of Separate Individuals who have attended since 1st April, 1933 (J.I. Centres and Classes, Other Educational Institutions). Rows: London, S.-Eastern, S.-Western, Midlands, N.-Eastern, N.-Western, Scotland, Wales, Great Britain.

There were 77 Junior Instruction Centres for boys, 32 for girls, and 27 mixed Centres open in Great Britain during the week. In addition, there were 14 Junior Instruction Classes for boys and 2 for girls. The number of other Institutions to which unemployed juveniles were admitted was 6 for boys, 4 for girls, 17 mixed. The attendances at these Institutions are mainly in the evening.

* Based on the numbers of Juvenile Unemployment Books lodged at Local Offices, which exceed the numbers of insured juveniles on the Register.

PERIODS OF REGISTERED UNEMPLOYMENT.

ANALYSIS IN RESPECT OF PERSONS APPLYING FOR INSURANCE BENEFIT OR TRANSITIONAL PAYMENTS.

The following Table gives an analysis, according to the length of their last spell of registered unemployment, of persons applying for insurance benefit or transitional payments who were on the registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain at 26th June, 1933. While the figures give an indication of the extent to which these persons have had recent employment, they do not purport to show in every case the extent to which they have experienced unemployment over an extended period. The persons who had been on the register for less than three months included 463,712 temporarily stopped, 90,074 normally in casual employment, and 575,280 wholly unemployed. Of the last mentioned group 257,915 (or 13.7 per cent. of all the wholly unemployed on the register) had been on the register less than one month, 162,354 (or 8.6 per cent.) one month but less than two months, and 155,011 (or 8.2 per cent.) two months but less than three months.

Table showing periods of registered unemployment: Persons who had been on the Register (Less than 3 months, 3 months but less than 6 months, 6 months but less than 9 months, 9 months but less than 12 months, 12 months or more, Total). Rows: Men, Boys, Women, Girls, Total.

Table showing percentages of registered unemployment: Men, Boys, Women, Girls, Total. Columns: 49.8, 87.7, 67.8, 86.8, 11.2, 10.6, 15.0, 11.9, 7.8, 1.3, 5.3, 1.1, 6.6, 0.2, 3.2, 0.1, 24.6, 0.2, 8.7, 0.1, 100.0, 100.0, 100.0, 100.0.

INSURED UNEMPLOYED.

POSITION UNDER PROVISIONS AS TO INSURANCE BENEFIT AND TRANSITIONAL PAYMENTS.

The following Table gives an analysis of the numbers of insured persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain at 26th June 1933, relative to their title to insurance benefit and the provisions of the Unemployment Insurance (National Economy) (No. 2) Order, 1931, which deals with transitional payments.

The First Statutory Condition requires the payment of not less than 30 contributions in the preceding two years. In cases where this condition is satisfied, insured persons may receive insurance benefit, subject to the fulfilment of the statutory conditions, for not more than 156 days in a benefit year; but in cases where benefit has been drawn for 156 days in a benefit year ending on or after the 12th November, 1931, insurance benefit does not become payable until 10 contributions have been paid after the 156th day of benefit. In cases where benefit has been received for 156 days in a benefit year, or where the 10 contributions rule is not satisfied, and in all cases in which the First Statutory Condition is not fulfilled, adults, but not boys and girls, may make application for transitional payments; and if the special transitional conditions are fulfilled, all such applications are referred to Public Assistance Authorities, or to Commissioners in certain areas, for determination of the amount of payment to be made having regard to the needs of the applicant.

In item 4 in the Table relating to adults, the term "insured non-claimants" includes all those adults on the register whose claims had been disallowed on the ground that they were not normally insurable and would not normally seek to obtain a livelihood by means of insurable employment, together with those who had not made claims for insurance benefit or transitional payments.

The Table shows that of the 1,534,208 wholly unemployed insured men on the register at 26th June, 1933, there were 435,616 with claims to insurance benefit, and 964,619 with applications for transitional payments; while 133,973 were either not entitled to benefit or payments, or had claims under consideration. The corresponding figures for the 350,523 men temporarily stopped were 305,281, 27,792 and 17,450 respectively.

Among the 203,198 wholly unemployed insured women, 92,121 had claims for insurance benefit, 61,942 were applicants for transitional payments, and 49,135 were either not entitled to benefit or payments or had claims under consideration. The corresponding figures for the 100,119 women temporarily stopped were 90,404, 4,205 and 5,510 respectively.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING JUNE, 1933 (continued).

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics.)
Galvanising	England and Wales*	4 June	Workpeople (except those on base rates of 65s. per week or less) employed in galvanising processes (excluding process of annealing).	Increase of 2½ per cent. (10 to 12½ per cent.) on base rates from 65s. 1d. to 72s. 6d. per week; and of 5 per cent. (7½ to 12½ per cent.) on base rates over 72s. 6d. per week.*
Bobbin Manufacture.	England and Wales	Pay preceding 1st pay day in July	Workpeople employed in the bobbin-making industry, also shuttle-makers employed by certain firms at Garston and Blackburn.	Decrease of 1s. per week for men 21 years and over and of 6d. per week for women 18 years and over. Rates after change: higher skilled men, 54s. 6d. per week; lesser-skilled men, 45s.; labourers, 35s.; women, 21s.
Chain and Anchor Manufacture.	Great Britain ...	1 June	Workpeople (mainly male workers) employed in making hand-hammered chain from iron up to and including ½ in. diameter.	Decrease of 5 per cent. on the general minimum time rates as fixed under the Trade Boards Acts at 1 November, 1923, and on piece-work rates as fixed, varied or extended under the Trade Boards Acts at 5 November, 1928. General minimum time rate after change for adult workers, 4½d. per hour.
	Cradley Heath and District, Chester, Stoke and Pontypridd.	1st full pay day in June	Workpeople (mainly female workers) employed in making dollied and tumbled chain from iron No. 6 I.S.W.G. up to and including ½ in. diameter, and hand-hammered chain from iron ½ in. up to and including ½ in. diameter. Commercial end-welded dollied and tumbled chain makers (except those whose wages are regulated by the Chain Trade Board) and Admiralty end-welded chain makers	Decrease of 5 per cent. on general minimum time rates as varied under the Trade Boards Acts at 1 February, 1924, and on piece-work rates as fixed, varied or extended under the Trade Boards Acts at 16 August, 1926. General minimum time rate after change for lowest-paid adult workers, 1s. 0½d. per hour.
Farriery	Manchester, Hanley, and Stoke-on-Trent.	1 June	Farriers ...	Decrease of 5 per cent. on list prices, leaving prices 25 per cent. below the lists of 1922.
	Larger towns in Lancashire and Cheshire (except Manchester, Liverpool and Birkenhead)§			Decrease of 5 per cent. on list prices, leaving prices 20 per cent. below the lists of 1922.
Baking and Confectionery.	Galashiels ...	1st pay day in May	Bakers and confectioners ...	Decrease of 5 per cent. on list prices, leaving prices 20 per cent. below the lists of 1922.
	Brewing	Accrington, Blackburn, Burnley and Barrow districts.	1st pay day in June	Brewery workers ...
Paper Manufacture	Various districts in England and Wales.¶	1 June	Workpeople employed in paper mills (excluding those employed in handmade paper mills and board mills).	Decrease of 5 per cent. on list prices, leaving prices 20 per cent. below the lists of 1922.
			Workpeople employed in the paper box trade:— Male workers under 18 years of age. Die makers, forme setters, cutters, machine minders and head stock-keepers 18 years of age and over.	Decrease of 5 per cent. on list prices, leaving prices 20 per cent. below the lists of 1922.
Paper Box Making	Great Britain ...	19 June	Other male workers 18 years of age and over.	Decrease of 5 per cent. on list prices, leaving prices 20 per cent. below the lists of 1922.
			Female workers ...	Decrease of 5 per cent. on list prices, leaving prices 20 per cent. below the lists of 1922.
Building	London district (within a 15-mile radius of Charing Cross).	1 June	Plasterers ...	Decrease of 5 per cent. on list prices, leaving prices 20 per cent. below the lists of 1922.
Electrical Installation	Scotland§§ ...	1st pay day in June	Journeymen electricians employed by electrical contractors.	Decrease of 5 per cent. on list prices, leaving prices 20 per cent. below the lists of 1922.
Tramway and Omnibus Undertaking.	Edinburgh ...	1 June	Cleaners employed in the transport department of the Corporation.	Decrease of 5 per cent. on list prices, leaving prices 20 per cent. below the lists of 1922.

* This increase affected mainly the employees of firms who are members of the Galvanising Conciliation Board. The wages of workpeople on base rates of 65s. per week or less were not affected, the percentage payable on their base rates remaining unaltered at a figure equal to or higher than that warranted by the selling-price sliding-scale.

† Under selling-price sliding-scale arrangements.

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

§ Including Accrington, Altrincham, Ashton-under-Lyne, Blackburn, Blackpool, Bolton, Burnley, Bury, Chorley, Clitheroe, Colne, Lancaster, Leigh, Middleton, Nelson and District, Oldham, Ormskirk, Preston, Rochdale, Rossendale, Southport, Stockport, St. Helens, Warrington, Widnes and Wigan.

¶ Including Alsager, Cheshire, Chester, Congleton, Crewe, Furness District, Garstang, Kirkham, Knutsford, Macclesfield, Middlewich, Nantwich, Northwich and Tarporley.

‡‡ This reduction took effect under directions issued to its members by the Employers' Federation of Papermakers, the new rates being those payable on a cost-of-living figure of 75 in accordance with the terms of an agreement of June 1931 made with the Amalgamated Society of Paper Makers (previous wages being based on a figure of 70). Full information is not available as to the extent to which the reductions have been carried into effect, but they are reported not to have been enforced at certain mills in various parts of the country, and at certain other mills, following disputes causing stoppage of work, special temporary bonuses have been granted which had the effect of restoring half the amount of the present reduction in the case of Class II male workers and adult female workers and the whole of the reduction in the case of Class III male workers.

§§ The new minimum rates for workers employed in coating mills are 1s. 2d. and 1s. 0½d. for shiftworkers and dayworkers respectively in Class I occupations (1d. less in the West of England and Wales); for other occupations in coating mills the rates are the same as those quoted above.

†† See Notice of Order on page 273.

‡‡ This reduction took effect under an agreement arrived at by the London Master Builders' Association and the National Association of Operative Plasterers. It is understood that the rate generally paid is now 1s. 7d. per hour.

§§ This reduction applied mainly to workers employed by firms who are members of the Electrical Contractors' Association of Scotland.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING JUNE, 1933 (continued).

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics.)
Local Government (Non-trading Services).	Eston ...	1 May	Manual workers (except paviors) ...	Decrease* of ½d. per hour. Rates after change: general labourers, 53s. 3d. per week; road sweepers, 7s. 4½d. per day; refuse collectors, 7s. 10½d. per day.
	Glasgow ...	1st full pay in June	Settmakers ...	Decrease* of 1d. per ton (4s. 4d. to 4s. 3d.)
Skip and Basket Making.	Lancashire and Cheshire.	5 June	Skip and basket makers ...	Decrease* of 1 per cent. on list prices, leaving wages 6½ per cent. and 5½ per cent. above the list for time-workers and piece-workers respectively.
	Great Britain ...	1 June	Workpeople employed in the brush and broom trade:— Certain classes of male time-workers.† All other male timeworkers ... Female pan hands ... Female workers (other than pan hands and learners). Female learners (other than pan-setting learners). Male and female pieceworkers Apprentices ... Butchery workers employed by co-operative societies:— Branch managers ... Other workers ...	Decreases* in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of the following amounts for the classes named respectively (see Notice of Order on page 233 of June GAZETTE):— Decrease of ½d. per hour (1s. 0½d. to 1s.). Decrease of ½d. per hour (except for those 14½ and under 16½ years, for whom there was no change), leaving minimum rates: 2d. at under 14½, increasing to 9½d. at 21 years and over. Decrease in time rates of ½d. or ¾d. per hour and in piecework basis time rates of ½d. per hour for higher-paid workers only. Decrease in time rates of ½d. per hour (except for those 14½ and under 16½ years, for whom there was no change), leaving minimum rates: 2d. at under 14½, increasing to 5½d. at 18 and under 21, and to 5½d. at 21 years and over; piecework basis time rate remained unchanged at 6½d. Decrease of ½d. per hour (except for those commencing at 16 and under 21 years in the first twelve months of employment, for whom there was no change). Decrease in minimum piece rates of 3 per cent., leaving wages 32 per cent. below the list. Decreases proportionate to the above. New scale of minimum weekly rates adopted, starting at 61s., 63s. or 65s. (according to age) for shops taking less than £20 per week and 68s. for shops taking £20 but less than £30, and increasing according to weekly sales. New scale of minimum rates adopted resulting in an increase of 1s. per week for those 23 years and over and in decreases of from 3d. to 1s. 9d. per week for those under 23 years. Minimum rates after change: 17s. at 16, increasing each year to 62s. at 23 years.
Retail Distribution.	North-East Lancashire.	Pay day in week beginning 15 May	Other workers ...	New scale of minimum rates adopted resulting in an increase of 1s. per week for those 23 years and over and in decreases of from 3d. to 1s. 9d. per week for those under 23 years. Minimum rates after change: 17s. at 16, increasing each year to 62s. at 23 years.

* Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements.
† Those 21 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.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

The number of workpeople, other than seamen, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, reported during June, 1933, as killed in the course of their employment was 120, as compared with 141 in the previous month and with 148* in June, 1932. Fatal accidents to seamen reported in June, 1933, numbered 21, as compared with 25 in the previous month and with 25 in June, 1932.

RAILWAY SERVICE.	Factories and Workshops (continued).
Brakemen, Goods Guards ...	Locomotives, Railway and Tramway Carriages, Motors, Aircraft ... 3
Engine Drivers, Motormen ... 3	Other Metal Trades ... 3
Firemen ... 3	Shipbuilding ... 1
Guards (Passenger) ... 2	Wood ... 1
Permanent Way Men ... 2	Gas ... 3
Porters ... 3	Electric Generating Stations ... 3
Shunters ... 3	Clay, Stone, Glass, etc. ... 3
Mechanics ... 1	Chemicals, etc. ... 3
Labourers ... 3	Food and Drink ... 3
Other Grades ... 3	Paper, Printing, etc. ... 1
Contractors' Servants ...	Tanning, Currying, etc. ...
TOTAL, RAILWAY SERVICE ... 15	Rubber Trades ...
	Other Non-Textile Industries ... 1
	PLACES UNDER SS. 104-106, FACTORY ACT, 1901.
	Docks, Wharves, etc. ... 5
	Buildings ... 6
	Warehouses and Railway Sidings ...
	TOTAL, MINES ... 59
	Quarries over 20 feet deep ... 4
	FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.
	Cotton ... 3
	Wool, Worsted and Shoddy ... 3
	Other Textiles ... 1
	Textile Bleaching, Dyeing ... 1
	Metal Extracting and Refining ...
	Metal Conversion, including Rolling Mills and Tube Making ... 5
	Metal Founding ... 1
	Engineering and Machine Making ... 1
	Boiler Making and Constructional Engineering ... 1
	TOTAL, SEAMEN ... 21
	TOTAL (including Seamen) ... 141

* The figure previously published for June, 1932, has been revised.

INDUSTRIAL DISEASES.

The total number of cases* of poisoning, anthrax, and epitheliomatous and chrome ulceration in Great Britain and Northern Ireland reported during June, 1933, under the Factory and Workshop Act, or under the Lead Paint (Protection against Poisoning) Act, was 30†; the total number of deaths* reported was 3.

I. Cases.	I. Cases (continued).
(a) LEAD POISONING.	(d) EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCERATION (SKIN CANCER).
Among Operatives engaged in—	Pitch ... 4
Smelting of Metals ... 1	Tar ... 5
Plumbing and Soldering ... 2	Paraffin ... 5
Shipbreaking ... 2	Oil ... 5
Printing ...	TOTAL ... 14
Tinning of Metals ...	
Other Contact with Molten Lead ...	(e) CHROME ULCERATION.
White and Red Lead Works ...	Chromium Plating ... 1
Pottery ... 2	TOTAL, Cases ... 30†
Vitreous Enamelling ... 3	
Electric Accumulator Works ...	II. Deaths.
Paint and Colour Works ... 1	LEAD POISONING.
India-rubber Works ...	Painting of Buildings ... 1
Coach and Car Painting ...	EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCERATION (SKIN CANCER).
Shipbuilding ...	Tar ... 1
Paint used in Other Industries ...	Oil ... 1
Other Industries ...	TOTAL ... 2
Painting of Buildings ... 2	(c) ANTHRAX.
TOTAL ... 11	Handling of Horsehair ... 1
	TOTAL, Deaths ... 3

* Cases include all attacks reported during the month, and not previously reported, so far as is known, during the preceding 12 months. Deaths include all fatal cases reported during the month, whether included (as cases) in previous returns or not.

† In addition, two cases of lead poisoning among plumbers not employed in factories, and one case of anthrax among dock labourers, were reported.

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. In every case the percentage calculation is based on the cost of a fixed list of commodities taken in identical quantities.

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 for various countries from July 1914 to July 1933. Columns include Country, July 1929, July 1930, July 1931, July 1932, and Latest figures available (Rise, Date).

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 all items for various countries from July 1914 to July 1933. Columns include Country, Items on which computation is based, July 1929, July 1930, July 1931, July 1932, and Latest figures available (Rise, Date).

* Exceptions to this are: Egypt, January, 1913, to July, 1914; France (other towns), August, 1914; Italy (all items), Milan and Rome, January to June, 1914; Switzerland, June, 1914; Spain, South Africa, France (Paris, all items), Poland, 1914; Germany, average, 1913-1914; Amsterdam, 1911-1913; Belgium, April, 1914; Italy (food), United States, Canada, 1913; Australia (all items), November, 1914. The Australian percentages for all items are a weighted average for the six capital cities. The percentages are calculated in Czechoslovakia and Poland, on prices converted to their gold values, and, in the other countries, on prices in the ordinary currency.

BUILDING PLANS APPROVED.

SECOND QUARTER OF 1933.

RETURNS have been received from 145 Local Authorities in Great Britain, giving the estimated cost of buildings for which plans were passed during the second quarter of 1933. The summarised figures for the quarter are given in the Table below, together with similar figures as to plans passed by the same Authorities during the corresponding quarter of 1932:—

Table showing estimated cost of buildings for which plans were approved in 145 towns from which returns have been received, categorized by district and aggregate population (1931), and building type (Dwelling Houses, Factories and Workshops, etc.).

Table showing estimated cost of buildings for which plans were approved in 145 towns from which returns have been received, categorized by district and aggregate population (1932).

PRICES AND WAGES IN THE IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRIES.

THE following Table shows the result of recent ascertainties of selling prices of pig iron and of manufactured iron and steel upon which are based changes in the rates of wages of certain classes of iron and steel and other workers in particular districts:—

Table showing average selling price and wages of pig iron and steel in various districts (Cumberland, Lincolnshire, etc.) for 1933 compared with previous periods.

In accordance with the provisions of the agreements under which wages are regulated†, the ascertainties referred to above resulted

* Particulars are not available for the London County Council area. † Stated to the nearest farthing. ‡ See the article on the Adjustment of Wages by Sliding Scale Arrangements (Selling Price Sliding Scales) in the issue of this GAZETTE for April, 1933, page 122.

DECISIONS GIVEN BY THE UMPIRE.

in a reduction in the wages of the higher-paid blastfurnacemen in West Cumberland and North Lancashire, iron puddlers and millmen in the North of England, and iron puddlers and millmen and sheet millmen in the West of Scotland.

In the case of North Lincolnshire the increase in the ascertained price did not result in any increase in the wages of blastfurnacemen, ironstone miners and quarrymen in that area, owing to the fact that wages reductions due under previous ascertainties had been waived by the employers.

As regards Siemens steel workers in South-West Wales the ascertained price remained below the standard, and in consequence did not warrant a change in wages.

For details of the changes referred to, see page 226 of the June GAZETTE.

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.

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 claimant may also appeal if the decision of the Court was not unanimous.

The following decision is of general interest:—

Case No. 7925/33. (6.6.33.)

SECTION 7 (1) (ii) OF PRINCIPAL ACT—NOT UNEMPLOYED—MILL WORKER PREVENTED FROM COMMENCING WORK OWING TO BREAKDOWN AND NOT ENTITLED TO WAGES—APPLICATION OF RULES CONTAINED IN DECISION 5468/33† FOR DETERMINING WHETHER EMPLOYMENT HAS COMMENCED.

The material circumstances of this case are as stated in the following decision given by the Deputy Umpire:—

Decision.—“On the facts before me my decision is that the claimant was unemployed on the 1st March, 1933.

“The decision of the Court of Referees was quite correct in the light of decisions previous to the 11th April, 1933. On that day Decision 5468/33† was issued, and it modified the previously existing rules as to when the employment of an underground worker in a coal mine commenced.

“Later, those modified principles were also applied to surface workers (Decision 5852/33).‡

“The question now arises whether the same principles should be applied to such a case as the present one.

“On the day in question the claimant attended the mill where she is generally employed. There is no system of clocking-on but, having put on her working clothes, the claimant proceeded to and reached the machine which she expected to work. Whether or not there was an actual attempt to start the engines is not clear, but in any event the machinery did not run. It is not stated whether the claimant was a piece-worker or a time-worker, but in either case no time of attendance was booked, and the claimant is not entitled to any wages in respect of her attendance on that day.

“The Court of Referees did not make any finding on the question of the claimant’s right (if any) to wages or pay for her attendance, because that was not a relevant issue in the light of the decisions upon which the case was decided. The statements on this subject have not been challenged and, for the purpose of this decision, I shall assume their accuracy.

“The facts of the present case are not distinguishable in principle from those of Decision 5852/33 and, applying the principle of Decision 5468/33 to the claimant in the present case, it must be held that, notwithstanding her attendance at the mill in the circumstances mentioned on the 1st March, 1933, the claimant was not on that day employed but was unemployed.”

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

Recent Proceedings.

INDUSTRIAL COURT DECISIONS.

ASSISTANT INSPECTORS, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH FOR SCOTLAND.—A claim was made by the Society of Civil Servants that Assistant Inspectors in the Department of Health for Scotland should be granted additional remuneration in respect of extra hours of duty performed in connection with the bringing into operation of the Widows’, Orphans’ and Old Age Contributory Pensions Act, 1929.

The Court awarded additional remuneration to the Assistant Inspectors concerned on the following conditions:—(i) the additional remuneration to be assessed in seven four-weekly periods from 1st June to 13th December, 1930; (ii) the assessment to be based on the number of hours of duty of Assistant Inspectors as returned by them in their official diaries; (iii) to these hours of duty to be added for each day from Monday to Friday inclusive, for meal time, one hour if over six and up to eight hours, and one and a quarter hours if over eight hours, are worked; (iv) to these hours of duty to be added an allowance of seven hours for each day of leave; (v) no payment to be made unless in a four-weekly period there is a total of 200 hours or more; (vi) payment to be made for hours in excess of 184 in a four-weekly period at the rates laid down in Treasury Circular No. 2/27 dated 15th February, 1927, for officers conditioned to a 42-hour week.—Award No. 1567; issued 28th June, 1933.

* Volumes containing selected decisions of the Umpire are published annually by H.M. Stationery Office, the latest being a volume of selected decisions given during the year 1932 (price 7s. 6d. net). A volume containing a special selection of important decisions given by the Umpire prior to 19th April, 1928 (price 15s. net), and a volume containing selected decisions given from 19th April, 1928, to 12th March, 1930 (price 6s. net), have also been issued; also an analytical guide to decisions given before 13th March, 1930 (price 2s. 6d. net) and Supplement No. 1 thereto (price 1s. net). Selected decisions are also issued monthly in pamphlet form, and may be obtained, as and when issued, on payment of an annual subscription, the latest pamphlet being that for May, 1933.

† See Pamphlet No. 4/1933, Umpire’s selected decisions, page 39. ‡ See Pamphlet No. 4/1933, Umpire’s selected decisions, page 40.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

Workmen’s Compensation Act, 1925.

CLAIM OF ADOPTED CHILD AS A DEPENDANT.

THE Court of Appeal allowed an appeal from a decision of the Durham County Court that a workman’s adopted child was entitled to claim compensation as the workman’s dependant.

The workman in question was killed by an accident whilst at work on 3rd January, 1933. He left a widow and an adopted daughter, born in August, 1929, who had been adopted by himself and his wife jointly in accordance with the Adoption of Children Act, 1926. The decree of adoption was dated November, 1932. The County Court judge thought that by the provisions of the Adoption of Children Act, 1926, an adopted child was for all purposes to be the child of the adopting parents as though born in lawful wedlock. Against this decision the employers appealed.

The Master of the Rolls, in giving judgment, noted that by section 4 of the Workmen’s Compensation Act, 1925, the dependants of a workman were “such of the members of the workman’s family” as were dependent on him at his death, with a provision that illegitimacy of a child or grandchild dependant was not to be a bar. Section 4 (3) defined “member of a family” as “wife or husband, father, mother, grandfather, grandmother, stepfather, stepmother, son, daughter, grandson, granddaughter, stepson, stepdaughter, brother, sister, half-brother, half-sister.” Could it be said, in view of the above wide definition, that this adopted child was a member of the family? By section 5 of the Adoption of Children Act, all rights, duties, obligations and liabilities in relation to the custody of the child were vested in the adopting parent as though the child was a child born to the adopter in lawful wedlock. The section, however, did not say that the child would be deemed to be the child of the adopter for all purposes or with relation to third parties; it dealt specifically with the relation between the adopter and the adopted child. The child was still to be entitled to certain rights from its natural father by the provisions of section 5 (2); and the expressions “child,” “children” and “issue,” where used in any disposition, were not, unless a contrary intention appeared, to include an adopted child.

Section 5 (5) referred to the position of an adopted child with regard to statutes relating to friendly societies, collecting societies, and industrial assurance, but did not refer to the Workmen’s Compensation Act or state that an adopted child was to be regarded as a member of the workman’s family. This silence was significant in a section which dealt specifically with certain enactments and omitted others. The Court could not, therefore, take the view that the adopted child was a member of the workman’s family, and the appeal must be allowed.—Lord Justices Lawrence and Slesser also gave judgment allowing the appeal.—Ward v. Dorman, Long & Co., Ltd. Court of Appeal. 20th June, 1933.

Trade Boards Acts, 1909—1918.

READYMADE AND WHOLESALE BESPOKE TAILORING TRADE (GREAT BRITAIN).

A partner was charged with underpaying six male workers, and was fined £1 on each charge, with 26 15s. costs. Arrears of wages amounting to £3 18s. 9d. were ordered to be paid.—Rex v. Cecil Rosenberg, partner in the firm of The Roscoe Clothing Company. Leeds Police Court. 28th June, 1933.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTS.

1920—1933.

BANKING INDUSTRY SPECIAL SCHEME.

Notice of Proposal to make a Special Order varying and amending the Special Scheme of Unemployment Insurance for the Banking Industry.

The Minister of Labour gave notice, on 28th June, 1933, that he proposes, by virtue of the powers conferred upon him by Section 18 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, and all other powers on that behalf, to make a Special Order further varying and amending the Banking Industry Special Scheme.

Copies of the draft Special Order may be obtained on application in writing to the Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Labour, Insurance Department, Montagu House, Whitehall, London, S.W.1.

Objections to the draft Special Order must be sent to the above address within twenty-one days from 30th June, 1933. Every objection must be in writing and must state:—(a) the draft Order or portions of the draft Order objected to; (b) the specific grounds of objection; and (c) the omissions, additions, or modifications asked for.

RAILWAYS ACT, 1921. NATIONAL WAGES BOARD.

THE National Wages Board, presided over by Sir Harold Morris, K.C., issued findings on 22nd June, 1933, in the following cases:—

REFERRED BY THE ASSOCIATED SOCIETY OF LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEERS AND FIREMEN.

Fireman "put back" W. Smith, Eastfield, London and North Eastern Railway.—Claim for payment of 11s. rate as from 21st March 1931.—Smith was a fireman rated at 10s. 6d. a day as from 21st March 1929. He would normally have received 11s. a day as from 21st March, 1931; but on 8th September, 1930, he was "put back" to cleaning work, from which date, in accordance with the national agreements, he was paid 9s. 6d. a day when cleaning and 10s. 6d. a day when temporarily performing firing duties. He was reappointed as fireman on 22nd June, 1931, and was granted the rate of 11s. a day on 18th August, 1931, credit being given to him for the temporary firing turns performed during the period he had been "put back."

The Society claimed that Smith should have received the rate of 11s. as from 21st March, 1931. They submitted that a man "put back" is not de-graded, but is acting or working in a lower grade. They also pointed out that although "put back" on 8th September, 1930, Smith performed firing duties until 20th October, 1930, and then again from 22nd March, 1931, onwards; and they contended that the terms of the Board's Decision No. 22, which provides that a driver or fireman temporarily acting in a lower grade who is reinstated within a period of six months should be allowed credit for future pay and seniority as though his service had been continuous in his appointed grade, had not been correctly applied in this case. The Company opposed the claim, and contended that a fireman "put back" loses his post as fireman, but is treated specially in so far as rate of pay is concerned when employed on lower-grade work. They maintained that Smith lost his appointed post from 8th September, 1930, to 22nd June, 1931, which is a period in excess of the six months specified in the Board's Decision No. 22. The Board's finding was that the claim had not been established; four members of the Board did not concur in the finding.

Fireman "put back" J. E. Scott, Heaton, London and North Eastern Railway.—Claim to be paid as for a firing turn of duty for 15th April, 1931.—Scott was a fireman who had been "put back" to cleaning duties. On 15th April, 1931, he was called upon to act as fireman for 1 hour 40 minutes, and was paid at his fireman's rate for this period and at his special cleaner's rate for the rest of his period of duty on that day.

The Society claimed that he should have been paid at his fireman's rate for the whole of his period of duty under clause 1 of Railway Executive Committee Circular Letter No. 1937, which provides *inter alia* that the rate for a fireman in his fifth year and onwards shall be 11s. a day. The Company contended that Scott's case was governed by clause 10 of the memorandum of agreement dated 28th July, 1920, which provides that a cleaner who during a turn of duty works as a fireman for two hours or over shall be paid at the fireman's rate for the whole of the turn; but that, if the time so occupied is less than two hours, payment at the fireman's rate shall be for the actual work performed. The Society, however, contended that this clause applied only to unappointed cleaners, and not to a fireman "put back" to cleaner.

The Board by a majority found against the claim.

Fireman Dudley, New Cross Gate, Southern Railway.—Payment in respect of mileage turn of duty, week ended 16th May, 1931.—The Society claimed that fireman Dudley, in addition to mileage payment, should be paid for the time engaged travelling passenger from New Cross to London Bridge before commencing his mileage turn, and also for travelling passenger from Victoria to New Cross at the completion of his mileage turn during the week ended 16th May, 1931. The Society based their claim on clause 9 (d) of the enclosure to Railway Executive Committee Circular Letter No. 1937, which provides that a man paid on mileage, who finishes the latter part of the day's work travelling passenger on account of the hours of duty, shall be paid the mileage rate up to the time he gives up his engine, plus the time for the hours occupied travelling passenger, less any marginal time for the disposal of his engine. They further contended that, by analogy, under the terms of this clause, fireman Dudley should also be paid for the time occupied travelling passenger before the commencement of the mileage duty. The Company opposed the claim, and pointed out that the clause 9 (d), referred to above, makes no reference to men travelling passenger before commencing a mileage turn, and, so far as travelling at the end of a mileage turn is concerned, relates only to cases in which men travel passenger "on account of the hours of duty."

The Board found that fireman Dudley was entitled to the time occupied travelling passenger at the completion of his mileage turn, but found against the claim for payment for time occupied before commencing the mileage turn; six members of the Board did not concur in this finding.

Clause 12 of Railway Executive Committee Circular Letter No. 1858 of 19th June, 1919.—Interpretation.—Clause 6 of Railway Executive Committee Circular Letter No. 1786 of 3rd April, 1919, and clause 12 of Railway Executive Committee Circular Letter No. 1858 of 19th June, 1919, make provisions in respect of rest periods for staff in conciliation grades. Clause 6 requires that the roster shall provide for a period of twelve hours rest being shown in the case of all regular duties for men when at their home station, and in all other cases a

minimum of nine hours from the time of signing off for one turn of duty to signing on for the next turn of duty. Clause 12 provides for certain variations to be made in regard to clause 6 on account of emergencies such as fogs, breakdowns, etc., or in other circumstances set out in the clause. Arising out of the case of motorman W. G. Walters, Victoria Central, Southern Railway, the Society sought an interpretation of clause 12. During the hearing, it was agreed by the parties that the interpretation of clause 12 did not cover the real point in issue between them. The Board were of opinion that the question in issue was whether, in the case of trainmen, it is the true construction of clause 6 that, as regards all regular duties for men when at their home station, the period of rest of twelve hours should be effective in all cases. The Board accordingly referred the case back to the Central Wages Board, in order that it could be reconsidered by that Board.

Clause 6 of Appendix C to Railway Executive Committee Circular Letter No. 1937 of 29th August, 1919.—Interpretation.—This case, which arose out of the appointment at Ferndale, Great Western Railway, of a clause 6 engineman to fill a vacant post, raised a question as to the meaning of the provision in clause 6 which requires that the shed enginemen defined therein shall be superseded in due course by qualified drivers and firemen.

The Board found that clause 6 defines men, and does not apply to posts, and that such men can be superseded at once under the circumstances set out in clause 8 of the agreement of July, 1920, relating to enginemen in the line of promotion put back owing to defective eyesight or physical disability. Apart from this, the words "superseded in due course" mean that, where employment in "shed work such as shed relieving, turning, stabling and preparing engines" is vacant, and no man coming under clause 6 is available, a driver or fireman should be appointed. Two members of the Board did not concur in this finding.

Preparation of double-shifted engines.—Marginal time allowance.—Footplate staff, Dairycoates, Hull, London and North Eastern Railway.—The Society claimed that, when engines are employed on double-shift working, the set of enginemen who take over the engine for the second shift, or who are called upon to work a turn of duty with a double-shifted engine, should be granted the marginal time allowances for the preparation of the second engine, as laid down in clause 4 (c) of Railway Executive Committee Circular Letter No. 1937 of 29th August, 1919.

The Board, in their finding, stated that the jurisdiction of the National Wages Board is to consider appeals from decisions of the Central Wages Board. The claim before the Central Wages Board in the present case was in reference to the working of a particular turn at Dairycoates, Hull; and the Central Wages Board gave their decision on that claim. The claim submitted to the National Wages Board was one of a general character which had never been before the Central Wages Board, and the National Wages Board were of opinion and found that they had no jurisdiction to entertain the claim.

Driver T. Haldane, Edinburgh (St. Margaret's), London and North Eastern Railway.—Attendance at medical examination.—Claim for payment as for continuous duty.—Driver Haldane was instructed to attend for medical examination by the Company's doctor at Waterloo Place, Edinburgh, at 9.30 a.m., on September 25th, 1931. Before doing so he signed on duty at the locomotive depot at St. Margaret's at 9 a.m. He was free from the medical examination about 11 a.m., and he afterwards returned to the locomotive shed and worked his rostered turn of duty from 12.55 p.m. to 8.55 p.m. Payment was made by the Company as for two hours for the time occupied in connection with the medical examination, and a standard day's pay for the rostered turn of duty.

The Society contended that an employee who is attending medical examination in accordance with the instructions of the Company is considered as having booked on duty within the provisions of the national agreement, and they claimed that he should be paid as for continuous duty from 9.30 a.m. to 8.55 p.m., viz., the first eight hours at ordinary time rate, and all time over such eight hours at the appropriate overtime rates. The claim was opposed by the Company, who contended that the particular clause in the agreement on which the Society relied related only to the method of payment of trainmen signing on for actual work, and has no bearing on the payment to be made to men in respect of time occupied in connection with examinations.

The Board by a majority found that the claim was not established.

REFERRED BY THE NATIONAL UNION OF RAILWAYMEN.

Signalmen.—Closing of signal boxes for short periods on Sundays.—The Union claimed that, in the case of signalmen, where the periods between effective duties on Sunday are of one hour or less, they should be paid as for continuous duty. It was admitted that the companies are in order in bringing signalmen out for two or three short turns of duty, and that this involves their being booked off in between such turns; the Union submitted, however, that men are booked off for periods varying from thirty minutes to an hour, and that such intervals are of no value to them. The claim was opposed by the companies, who pointed out that the Board's Decision No. 12 laid down the basis of payment to signalmen who are booked on duty for several short turns on Sundays, and further submitted that the claim was, in effect, a claim for payment for work not performed.

The Board found that a signalman required to come on duty on Sunday for two turns shall be paid as for continuous duty if the period between the two turns is less than one hour; the existing provisions with regard to signalmen required to come on duty on Sunday for three turns or more to remain unaltered.

TRADE BOARDS ACTS.

Orders, Notices, etc., Recently Issued.

CONFIRMING ORDERS.

Lace Finishing Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order L. (14), dated 22nd June, 1933, confirming the variation and cancellation of certain minimum rates of wages, and specifying 3rd July, 1933, as the date from which such rates should become effective.

Paper Box Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order B. (19), dated 14th June, 1933, confirming the variation of minimum rates of wages for certain classes of male and female workers, and specifying 19th June, 1933, as the date from which such rates should become effective.

NOTICE OF PROPOSAL.

Jute Trade Board (Great Britain).

Proposal J. (57), dated 12th June, 1933, to fix general minimum piece-rates and guaranteed time-rates, and to vary the overtime rates for female piece-workers on hessian weaving. Objection period expires 30th July, 1933.

REGULATIONS.

Aerated Waters Trade Board (England and Wales).

Regulations dated 16th June, 1933, issued by the Minister of Labour under section 11 of the Trade Boards Act, 1909, with respect to the constitution and proceedings of the Aerated Waters Trade Board (England and Wales).

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.

Proposed New Cellulose Solutions Regulations.

It is stated by the Factory Department of the Home Office that their experience shows that there are various risks of fire and explosion arising in connection with the manufacture and use of cellulose solutions; and their rapidly extended use in different classes of factories and workshops has accentuated the need for general Regulations requiring proper precautions to be taken. Moreover, the workers are liable to be affected by the inhalation of fumes from such solutions, though such effects are generally temporary; and in the case of solutions containing benzene there is danger of injury to health, especially in the case of young persons.

The precautions which ought to be adopted have been dealt with in the "Memorandum on the Manufacture, Use and Storage of Cellulose Solutions" issued by the Factory Department. The Chief Inspector of Factories reports that the recommendations contained in the memorandum are now largely carried out in most factories and workshops where cellulose solutions are manufactured or used; but there have within the last few years been a number of fires attributable to the use of cellulose solutions, causing in some cases death or serious injury, and, in the absence of Regulations, there is no power to require the necessary precautions. Accordingly, after consultation with the Engineering and Allied Employers' Federation, the National Federation of Associated Paint, Colour and Varnish Manufacturers of the United Kingdom, and certain other employers' organisations, the Chief Inspector recommends that the matter should now be dealt with by means of Regulations.

The Home Secretary concurs in this proposal. He has accordingly, as required by section 79 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, certified as dangerous the manufacture, use and storage of cellulose solutions; and he issued on 23rd June, 1933, a notice under section 80 of the same Act, to the effect that he proposes to make Regulations dealing with the manufacture, use and storage of cellulose solutions. Copies of the draft Regulations may be obtained on application to the Factory Department, Home Office, London, S.W.1; and any objection with respect to the draft Regulations by or on behalf of any person affected thereby must be sent to the Secretary of State within 40 days of that date. Every such objection must be in writing, and must state (a) the draft Regulations or portions of draft Regulations objected to; (b) the specific grounds of objection; and (c) the omissions, additions, or modifications asked for.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

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

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS.—*Agricultural Statistics, 1932. Vol. LXVII. Part I. Report on the acreage and production of crops and number of live stock in England and Wales, with summaries for Great Britain and the United Kingdom.* (S.O. publication; price 1s. 6d.)

CENSUS.—*Census of England and Wales, 1931. County of Somerset. Part I. County of Wilts. Part I. County of Devon. Part I. County of Dorset. Part I. County of Cornwall. Part I. Counties of Anglesey and Caernarvon. Part I. Cardigan and Pembroke. Part I. S.O. publications; price 3s., 2s. 6d., 3s. 6d., 2s. 6d., 3s., 3s. and 3s., respectively.)*

* H.M. Stationery Office; price 6d. net (7d. post free).

Ticket Collector W. Small, Paisley (Gilmour Street), London, Midland and Scottish Railway.—Application to be regraded as foreman ticket collector.—The Union claimed that, under the provisions of Appendix G to the agreement of 20th March, 1920, which dealt with elimination of existing grades and absorption into standard grades, ticket collector W. Small should be regraded as foreman ticket collector. They submitted that, under this agreement, the senior ticket collector at that time was correctly regraded as a foreman ticket collector, because of the number of ticket collecting staff at the station; and, as the number of ticket collecting staff had not been reduced below the figure mentioned in the 1920 agreement, the present senior ticket collector should be graded as foreman. The claim was opposed by the Company, who submitted that no formula is laid down to determine the circumstances which would justify the employment of a foreman ticket collector, and there is no obligation upon the companies to employ a foreman ticket collector in circumstances in which they do not consider this necessary. The Board decided against the claim.

Permanent Way, Signal and Telegraph Department Staff.—Application for payment of special allowance for exceptionally dirty work.—The Union claimed that, when men are employed on work of an exceptionally dirty and objectionable nature, they should become entitled to receive payment of a special allowance. The companies opposed the claim, and pointed out that, when the rates of pay of the men concerned were agreed in 1920, they were fixed with a full knowledge of the duties of the grades, and on the distinct understanding that special allowances for work of an exceptionally dirty character were to be discontinued. They submitted that there had been no change of circumstances since the date of the agreement which would justify the claim now put forward.

The Board found that the claim was not established; four members of the Board did not concur in this finding.

T. McLuggage and J. Winton, Labellers and Recorders, Glasgow (Buchanan Street), London, Midland and Scottish Railway.—Claim to be graded as number takers.—The Union claimed that the men concerned, who are paid as goods porters, should be graded as number takers, and paid accordingly. They contended that the duties which the men were required to undertake are commensurate in importance with those usually undertaken by men at other centres who are graded as number takers. The Company opposed the claim, and pointed out that a detailed analysis of the men's work showed that the duties which are strictly number takers' work occupy a small percentage of their time, and that the bulk of their time is occupied on duties coming clearly within those applicable to truck labellers, ticket or invoice affixers, for whom the correct rate is that paid to goods porter.

The Board by a majority found that the claim was not established.

Foreman A. Legge and eleven others, Stranraer Harbour, London, Midland and Scottish Railway.—Payment in respect of certain short turns worked between August, 1930, and September, 1931.—This case raised two questions, the first as to the proper payment for a short turn of duty of three hours worked on Monday, and the second as to the proper payment for a seventh turn of six hours worked on Saturday/Sunday. The Company had paid the Monday morning turn as for three hours at ordinary rate as part of the guaranteed week, and the seventh turn of six hours at overtime or Sunday rates. The Union asked that a guaranteed day of eight hours should be paid for the Monday morning turn, and a guaranteed day of eight hours at overtime rates for the seventh turn.

The Board, by a majority, decided against the claim. In the course of their decision, the Board re-stated their view that a short turn may be worked on any week-day although as a general practice the short turn is worked on Saturday, and that a man cannot be paid as for a guaranteed day at overtime rates.

Signalman W. Hartburn, South Shields, London and North Eastern Railway.—Claim for payment as for continuous duty from 1.25 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. on Monday, 21st December, 1931.—Hartburn was required to open his box at 1.25 a.m., and the box was open until 2.52 a.m. It was then closed, and Hartburn returned at 4.30 a.m. to re-open his box for his normal rostered turn of duty, 4.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. For the period 1.25 a.m. to 2.52 a.m. he was paid as for two hours, calculated at night overtime rate. The Union claimed that he should be paid as for continuous duty in respect of these two periods, and based their claim by analogy with the Board's decision No. 33, which provides for continuous duty pay if a man is required to return to duty within a period not exceeding two hours of the completion of his rostered turn. The claim was opposed by the Company, who submitted that it was in effect a claim for payment for time not worked, that it was not supported by any existing agreement or decision, and was unjustified.

The Board, by a majority, held the view that the claim in question was not established under any agreement or decision, but that, by analogy with the Board's Decision No. 33, where a man is required for a special duty on week-days which ends within a period not exceeding two hours of the beginning of his rostered turn, the additional duty should be treated as continuous with the rostered turn.

REFERRED BY THE RAILWAY CLERKS' ASSOCIATION.

Clerks T. E. Birch, Permanent Way Inspectors' Office, Longsight, and H. Smith, Permanent Way Inspectors' Office, Rochdale, London, Midland and Scottish Railway.—Claim for expenses.—At the hearing before the Board, after discussion, it was agreed that the question in issue in the case should be further considered by the parties with a view to settlement, and that the claim should accordingly be withdrawn. The Board approved.

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