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

EMPLOYMENT.

EMPLOYMENT in November continued bad, though there was some improvement on the whole during the latter part of the month. It was still seriously affected by the results of the coal-mining stoppage, particularly in the iron-mining, iron and steel, tinplate, heavy engineering and shipbuilding industries. A further seasonal decline occurred in the building trades.

Among the workpeople (numbering approximately 12,000,000) insured against unemployment under the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the percentage unemployed at 22nd November, 1926, was 13·5,* as compared with 13·6* at 25th October, 1926, and 11·0 at 23rd November, 1925. Among the members of those trade unions from which returns were received, the percentage unemployed was 13·2 at the end of November, 1926, as compared with 13·6 at the end of October, 1926, and with 11·0 at the end of November, 1925. The total number of applicants for employment registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 29th November, 1926, was approximately 1,545,000, of whom 1,206,000 were men and 265,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls; at 1st November, 1926, it was 1,610,000, of whom 1,234,000 were men and 292,000 were women; and at 30th November, 1925, it was 1,227,000, of whom 974,000 were men and 196,000 were women. The figures relating to 1st November, 1926, and those for 29th November, 1926, are exclusive of workpeople in the coal-mining industry who were disqualified for unemployment benefit on account of the dispute.

WAGES.

In the industries for which statistics are regularly compiled by the Department, the changes in wages reported to have come into operation during November, and, in the case of coal miners, in the early part of December, resulted in an increase of about £119,000 in the weekly full-time wages of over 450,000 workpeople, and in a reduction of nearly £44,000 in those of about 230,000 workpeople.

The largest groups of workpeople included in these figures are coal miners, steel smelters and millmen, and boot and shoe operatives. In the case of coal miners increases have been reported in the percentage additions to basis rates in Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Warwickshire, Cannock Chase and North Staffordshire, and reductions in Northumberland, Durham, Cumberland and the Radstock area. Workpeople

* These percentages include coal mining, but in respect of that industry only those unemployed persons who were not disqualified for benefit under the Unemployment Insurance Acts by reason of the dispute are taken into account. In other industries (excluding coal mining) the percentage of unemployment at 22nd November was 14·1, the same as at 25th October, 1926.

employed in steel-smelting shops and rolling mills in various districts in England and Scotland, with the exception of lower-paid men, had their wages increased, and workpeople employed in boot and shoe manufacture also received increases.

During the eleven completed months of 1926 the changes reported to the Department (including the effect of certain coal-mining changes occurring in December) have resulted in net increases amounting to over £111,000 in the weekly full-time wages of 350,000 workpeople, and in net reductions of nearly £89,000 in those of 813,000 workpeople. In the first eleven months of 1925 there were net increases of £79,000 in the weekly full-time wages of 850,000 workpeople and net reductions of £157,000 in those of a similar number of workpeople.

COST OF LIVING.

At 1st December the average level of retail prices of all the commodities taken into account in the statistics compiled by the Ministry of Labour (including food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, and miscellaneous items) was approximately the same as a month earlier and 79 per cent. above that of July, 1914. The corresponding figure for 1st December, 1925, was 77 per cent. For food alone, the average percentage increase at 1st December, 1926, was also about the same as a month earlier, viz., 69 per cent. above the pre-war level, but was lower than a year earlier, when the percentage increase was 74.

These statistics are designed to indicate the average increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the pre-war standard of living of working-class families, and accordingly, in making the calculations, the changes in the prices of the various items included are combined in proportions corresponding with the relative importance of those items in pre-war working-class family expenditure.

TRADE DISPUTES.

At the beginning of November about 800,000 workpeople in the coal-mining industry continued to be involved in the stoppage of work which began on 1st May. By 27th November this number had been reduced to about 650,000, and by the end of the following week the majority of the miners in most districts had resumed work, the date of resumption varying in different cases. The aggregate number of working days lost by workpeople taking part in the dispute was about 16 million in November, and the total number of days lost during the entire period of the stoppage was about 143 million.

Apart from the coal-mining dispute, the number of trade disputes, involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as in progress in November was 16. The total number of workpeople involved in these disputes (including those thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, though not themselves parties to the disputes) was about 1,000, and the estimated aggregate duration of such disputes in November was about 7,000 working days.

Juvenile unemployment centres conducted by Local Education Authorities under the supervision of the Ministry of Labour and attended by boys and girls during periods of unemployment are valuable, and a permanent scheme for these centres should be brought into operation...

While the raising of the school-leaving age to 15 and ultimately to 16 would remove the existing difficulties as regards unemployed juveniles of 14 and 15, the change, if made, should be made for educational and social rather than industrial reasons.

A system of working certificates should be introduced, under which it would be a statutory obligation on employers before engaging juveniles, who are exempt from obligation to attend school and are below the age of entry into unemployment insurance...

The Ministry of Labour should undertake an enquiry into the subject of casual juvenile labour.

The Ministry should confer with industrial organisations and with Local Education Authorities and Juvenile Advisory Committees, so far as they are concerned, in regard to questions of retention of employment and should use their influence to secure the satisfactory absorption of juveniles in adult occupations.

EARNINGS AND HOURS IN THE PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES.*

In the following Tables particulars are given of the earnings and hours of labour in certain public utility services in 1924, as shown by the returns received from employers in response to the general enquiry instituted last year by the Ministry of Labour.

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

The number of returns received, giving information regarding earnings, and the average number of workpeople covered, as shown by the average of the numbers in the four weeks specified above, in these services, are as shown below:—

Table with 3 columns: Service, Returns received, Workpeople covered. Lists services like Local Authority Non-Trading Services, Gas Supply, Electricity Supply, etc.

The following Table shows the total number of workpeople, including adults and juveniles, covered by returns from employers who furnished particulars as to earnings, in each of the four specified weeks of 1924, together with the proportions of males and females employed, as shown by the averages of the numbers in the four weeks.

* Particulars relating to the Textile Industries were given in the June issue of this GAZETTE, to the Pottery, Brick, Glass, Chemical, etc., Industries in the July issue, to the Iron and Steel, Engineering, Shipbuilding and other metal Industries in the August and September issues, to the Paper, Printing and Woodworking Industries in the October issue, and to the Clothing Industries in the November issue.

Table with 6 columns: Service, 19th Jan, 12th Apr, 12th July, 18th Oct, Males, Females. Lists services like Local Authority Non-Trading Services, Gas Supply, etc.

II.—AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS.

The following Table shows the average actual earnings per head, in the four specified weeks, of the workpeople returned, together with the average earnings of males and of females, as shown by those returns which gave separate particulars.

Table with 5 columns: Service, 19th Jan, 12th Apr, 12th July, 18th Oct, Average of the Earnings in the four weeks.

(A) ALL WORKPEOPLE.

Table with 6 columns: Service, s. d., s. d., s. d., s. d., s. d. Lists services like Local Authority Non-Trading Services, Gas Supply, etc.

(B) MALES.

Table with 6 columns: Service, s. d., s. d., s. d., s. d., s. d. Lists services like Local Authority Non-Trading Services, Gas Supply, etc.

(C) FEMALES.

Table with 6 columns: Service, s. d., s. d., s. d., s. d., s. d. Lists services like Local Authority Non-Trading Services, Gas Supply, etc.

* Certain companies, employing in all about 25,000 workpeople, were unable to furnish particulars for January and July and particulars in respect of such companies for those two months have been interpolated on the basis of the details supplied for April and October, taken in conjunction with the variations in numbers employed and wages paid at the different dates shown by the returns from other undertakings.

Owing to the fact that certain employers were unable to separate the wages paid to males and females respectively, the numbers of males and females for whom particulars are given separately in Sections (B) and (C) of the above Table add to less than the total numbers given in Section (A) of the Table.

The relative levels of average earnings shown for the different services are, of course, affected by the variations in the proportions of males and females, and of adults and juveniles employed.

III.—NORMAL HOURS OF LABOUR.

A.—ALL WORKPEOPLE.

The following Table shows the proportion of the workpeople shown by returns on this subject, whose normal weekly hours, exclusive of meal-times, in a week in October, 1924 (usually that ended 18th October) fell within the limits stated, and the average normal hours:—

Table with 7 columns: Service, Number of Workpeople covered, Percentage of employees whose normal weekly hours were, Average weekly normal hours. Lists services like Local Authority Non-Trading Services, Gas Supply, etc.

In the case of gas supply, the high percentage of employees with a week of over 48 hours is mainly accounted for by the inclusion of a considerable number of men working 7 shifts of 8 hours.

B.—SHIFT-WORKERS.

In the electricity and gas industries substantial proportions of the workers were employed on continuous shift systems.

Electricity Supply.—In this industry 7,974 workpeople out of the total of 40,257 covered by the returns were working on continuous shift systems, practically the whole being employed on a system of 5-shifts in each 24 hours.

Gas Supply.—In this industry 19,888 workpeople out of the total of 95,726 covered by the returns were working on continuous shift systems, practically the whole being employed on a system of 3 shifts in each 24 hours.

IV.—HOURS ACTUALLY WORKED.

The following Table shows the average number of hours actually worked by the workpeople covered by the returns received from those employers who were able to supply these particulars:—

Table with 6 columns: Service, Number of Workpeople covered, Average Hours worked in the week ended, Average Hours worked in the four weeks. Lists services like Local Authority Non-Trading Services, Gas Supply, etc.

V.—AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS.

The following Table shows the average earnings per hour of those workpeople covered by returns which showed the number of hours actually worked. As some employers were unable to state the total hours worked, the average weekly earnings obtained by multiplying

* Except in the case of those shift-workers for whom no definite meal interval was agreed upon.

† Averages of the numbers employed in the four weeks.

‡ The information received is insufficient to admit of representative averages being calculated.

The average hourly earnings shown below by the average hours shown in Section IV do not correspond with the average weekly earnings shown in Section II. Comparisons of the average earnings shown for different services are, of course, affected by the different proportions of males and females and of adults and juveniles employed as between one service and another.

Table with 6 columns: Service, Number of Workpeople covered, Average Hourly Earnings in the week ended, Average Hourly Earnings in the four weeks. Lists services like Local Authority Non-Trading Services, Gas Supply, etc.

VI.—EXTENT OF SHORT TIME.

The following Table shows the proportion of workpeople covered by returns on the subject who were reported to be working less than full time, together with the average number of hours lost per week by such workpeople, and the average time lost by all the workpeople covered.

Table with 5 columns: Service, Number of Workpeople covered, Proportion of Workpeople on Short Time in the week ended. Lists services like Local Authority Non-Trading Services, Gas Supply, etc.

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

Table with 8 columns: 19th Jan, 12th Apr, 12th July, 18th Oct, (a), (b), (a), (b). Lists services like Local Authority Non-Trading Services, Gas Supply, etc.

EMPLOYMENT OF DISABLED EX-SERVICE MEN.

The latest returns show that there are approximately 27,500 firms on the King's National Roll. The number of disabled ex-Service men employed by these firms is approximately 375,000.

At 30th November, 1926, the number of men in training was 531, and the number awaiting training, 74. Since August, 1919, 99,627 men have terminated training.

* See footnote † in previous column. † Averages of the numbers employed in the four weeks. ‡ The average for all the workers covered is less than 0.05 per cent.

NUMBERS INSURED AND PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED.

Table with columns for Industry, Estimated Number of Insured Persons at July 1926, Percentage Unemployed at 22nd November 1926 (Wholly Unemployed, Temporary Stoppages, Total), and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Total Percentages as compared with 25th Oct., 23rd Nov., and 24th Nov. 1926. Includes sub-sections like Fishing, Mining, Non-Metalliferous Mining Products, Ammunition, Metal Manufacture, Engineering, Construction, Shipbuilding, Metal Trades, Textile Trades, and Leather Goods.

* These figures include only those persons who were not disqualified for benefit under the Unemployment Insurance Acts by reason of the dispute.

Table for GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND showing Industry, Estimated Number of Insured Persons at July 1926, Percentage Unemployed at 22nd November 1926 (Wholly Unemployed, Temporary Stoppages, Total), and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Total Percentages as compared with 25th Oct., 23rd Nov., and 24th Nov. 1926. Includes sub-sections like Food, Drink and Tobacco, Sawmilling, Furniture and Woodwork, Printing and Paper Trades, Building and Construction of Works, Other Manufacturing Industries, Gas, Water and Electricity Supply, Transport and Communication, Commerce, Banking, Insurance and Finance, and Miscellaneous Trades and Services.

* These percentages include coal-mining, but in respect of that industry only those unemployed persons who were not disqualified for benefit under the Unemployment Insurance Acts by reason of the dispute are taken into account.

WORK OF EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES.*

At 29th November, 1926, the total number of persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain was 1,496,067; in Great Britain and Northern Ireland it was 1,545,358.

The following Table gives particulars relating to certain branches of the work of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland during the five weeks ended 29th November, 1926. Of the 109,509 vacancies filled, 56,040 were for men, 30,984 for women, and 22,485 for juveniles:—

Table showing comparative figures for men, boys, women and girls, separately, for 25th October and 29th November. Columns include 25th Oct., 1926, 29th November, 1926, and Total. Sub-sections for Men, Boys, Women, Girls, and Total.

Table showing Applications from Employers, Vacancies Filled, and Number of Work-people on Registers. Columns include Week ended, Applications from Employers (During Week, At end of Week), Vacancies Filled, and Number of Work-people on Registers. Sub-sections for 25th Oct., 1926, 1st Nov., 1926, 15th, 22nd, 29th, and Total (5 weeks).

* 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.

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

‡ "Vacancies filled" include certain types of cases (described as Class B placements) in which the work of the Exchanges was limited; for instance, obtaining for an employer former employees, or placing the same men on relief weeks in alternate weeks. During the five weeks ended 25th October 1926, the average number of such placements was 5,501 per week. The average number of placements of casual workers, such as dock labourers and coal porters, during the five weeks ended 29th November, 1926, was 900 per week.

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

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
MINING AND QUARRYING.				
Coal Mining	Northumberland ...	29 Nov.*	Workpeople employed in and about coal mines other than those whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries.	Decrease of 20 per cent. on basis rates of 1879, leaving wages 80 per cent. above base, with a provision that the County standard basis rates of heavers are increased by amounts varying from 2d. to 8½d. per shift to 5s. 6d. at steam coal collieries and to 5s. 4d. at soft coal collieries, and those for fillers by 2d. per shift to 5s. 10d. Substantive wage reduced from 7s. 7-69d. per day to 6s. 9½d.*
	Durham ...	1 Dec.*		Decrease of 21 per cent. on basis rates of 1879, leaving wages 89 per cent. above base, with a provision that the County standard basis rates are increased from 4s. 2d. per shift to 4s. 8d. for heavers, and from 4s. 6d. per shift to 4s. 8d. for fillers. Substantive wage reduced from 7s. 6-56d. per day to 6s. 8½d.*
	Cumberland...	1 Dec.*		Decrease of 9-44 per cent. on basis rates of 1921, leaving wages 35 per cent. above base. Substantive wage reduced from 7s. 5-44d. per day to 6s. 10d. for men 21 years of age and over.*
	Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire (other than South Derbyshire)	1 Dec.*		Increase of 43-33 per cent. on basis rates of 1911, making wages 90 per cent. above base, with a provision that no adult able-bodied day-wage worker shall be paid a gross rate (including subsistence allowance) of less than 7s. 11d. per shift.*
	South Derbyshire ...	1 Dec.*		Increase of 18-33 per cent. on basis rates of 1911, making wages 65 per cent. above base.*
	Leicestershire ...	1 Dec.*		Increase of 28-33 per cent. on basis rates of 1911, making wages 75 per cent. above base.*
	Cannock Chase ...	2 Dec.*		Increase of 25-85 per cent. on basis rates of 1911, making wages 72-5 per cent. above base.*
	Warwickshire ...	†		Increase of 18-33 per cent. on basis rates of 1911, making wages 65 per cent. above base.*
	North Staffordshire	†		Increase of 8-33 per cent. on basis rates of 1911, making wages 55 per cent. above base.*
	Radstock ...	†		Decrease to 35-5 per cent.† above basis rates of 1918, except in the case of the lowest-paid day-wage workers, who are to receive 40 per cent. above base rate.*
Iron Mining	Cumberland...	8 Nov.	Workpeople employed at iron ore mines.	Increase of 9d. per shift in the bargain price, of 6½d. per shift for winding enginemen, of 4½d. per shift for other underground and surface workers, and of 2½d. per shift for boys under 16 years; also temporary increase previously granted decreased by 5d. per shift in the miner's minimum wage, by 3½d. per shift for winding enginemen, by 2½d. per shift for other men, and by 1½d. per shift for boys under 16 years. Inclusive rates after change: miner's bargain price, 9s. 2d. per shift; miner's minimum wage, 8s. 3d.; winding enginemen, 9s. 10½d.; underground 1st class or leading labourers, 7s. 8½d.
	Furness District ...	8 Nov.	Iron ore miners and surfacemen (except blacksmiths and fitters whose wages are not regulated by sliding scale arrangements).	Increase of 3d. per shift in the bargain price (7s. 6d. to 7s. 9d.), of 3d. per shift in the minimum wage (6s. 3d. to 7s.), of 3½d. per shift for surfacemen and of 1½d. per shift for boys.
Lead Mining	North Lincolnshire...	7 Nov.	Ironstone miners and quarrymen	Increase of 2 per cent. on standard rates of 1909, making wages 34 per cent. above the standard, plus 1s. 1d. per shift; also the additional bonuses, varying from 2d. to 6d. per shift, previously paid to men on base earnings of not more than 4s. 6d. per shift reduced by 1d. per shift. Rate after change for labourers, 3s. 8d. per shift, plus 34 per cent., plus 1s. 1d. per shift, plus 5d. per shift.
	Wearhead and Alledale.	25 Oct.	Underground and surface workers	Decrease in bonuses of 1d. or 1d. per shift for lead ore dressers, and of 1d. per shift for enginemen, surface labourers and other classes. Inclusive rates after change for labourers:—underground, 8s. 3d. per shift; surface, 7s. 1d.
Quarrying	West Cumberland ...	8 Nov.	Limestone quarry workers...	Increase of 4½d. per shift for blacksmiths and joiners, of 6½d. per shift for other men, and of 3½d. per shift for boys under 16 years.
	Aberdeen and Kemnay.	1st pay after 17 Nov.	Settmakers employed in granite quarries.	Increase of 4d. per ton on the making price of setts.
Pig Iron Manufacture	Certain districts in North Wales.†	13 Nov.	Settmakers and blockers employed in granite quarries.	Decrease of 10 per cent. on piecework rates.
	West Cumberland and North Lancashire.	2nd full pay in Nov.	Workpeople (excluding skilled craftsmen and bricklayers on maintenance work, and also labourers) employed at blast-furnaces.	Increase of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 18½ per cent. above the standard, plus, in some cases, an output bonus; also increases in bonuses of amounts varying, according to base rates, from 2-6d. to 7d. per week, making total amount of bonuses from 2s. 8-7d. to 6s. 11-5d. per week.
Iron and Steel Manufacture.	North Lincolnshire and certain firms in the Leeds District.	7 Nov.	Blastfurnacemen ...	Increase of 2 per cent. on datal basis rates, making wages 34 per cent. above the standard, plus 1s. 1d. per shift, and the percentage payable on output bonus earnings increased from 27 to 34; also the additional bonuses, varying from 2d. to 6d. per shift, previously paid to men on base earnings of not more than 4s. 6d. per shift, reduced by 1d. per shift. Minimum rate after change for labourers: 3s. 8d. per shift, plus 34 per cent., plus 1s. 1d. per shift, plus 5d. per shift.
	North Lincolnshire...	7 Nov.	Engineers, electricians, apprentices, improvers, etc., employed on maintenance work at blast-furnaces and in steel works.	Increase of 1 per cent. on standard rates, making wages 26 per cent. above the standard, plus a tonnage bonus. Rates after change: patternmakers, 44s. per week; boiler-smiths, 43s.; fitters, turners, smiths, electricians, and armature winders, 42s.; plus, in each case, 26 per cent., and a tonnage bonus.
Iron and Steel Manufacture.	England†† and West of Scotland.	7 Nov.	Men employed in steel-melting shops:— Melters, pitmen, slagmen, ladle-men, furnace helpers, etc., and gas producermen and charge wheelers (excluding adult workers in receipt of base rates from 3s. 10d. to 7s. per shift).	Increase of 5 per cent. on the standard of 1905, making wages 26½ per cent. (basic process) and 1½ per cent. (acid process) above the standard.

* See also under Changes in Hours of Labour on p. 461. The various changes summarised above and on p. 461 are those which have been reported to the Ministry of Labour to have taken place in the principal coalfields following the resumption of work. The dates quoted are those on which work is reported to have been generally resumed under the new conditions, but in some districts a proportion of the workpeople returned to work at earlier dates under similar conditions. In some districts, including Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Warwickshire and Cannock Chase, interim advances had been granted of smaller amounts than those mentioned above, and in the case of those workpeople who resumed work at earlier dates and who received these increases, the actual increases when the above percentages came into operation were consequently smaller than those described. Except where otherwise stated, the substantive wages and allowances in force previous to last May remain unaltered at the present time. The percentage payable on basis rates remained unaltered in Lancashire and Cheshire, Yorkshire, Shropshire, South Wales and Monmouthshire, and Scotland. In West Yorkshire, however, the special increases, varying from about 1d. to 5d. per shift granted in July, 1925, to the lowest-paid day-wage men, under Clause 6 of the National Agreement of 1924, became inoperative, this clause being omitted from the new district agreement. Provision was made for the continuation of payments to low-paid workers under Clause 6 of the 1924 Agreement in the Lancashire and Cheshire agreement. In certain of the districts no final agreement has yet been reached, but the conditions described are those under which work is reported to have been resumed. Further particulars relating to the terms of the agreements so far reported are given on p. 434.

† The terms quoted are those on which work is understood to have been resumed at various dates since October.

‡ The percentage payable immediately before the stoppage was 44-01. The result of a subsequent ascertainment reduced it to 41-77.

§ Under selling-price sliding-scale arrangements.

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

** The percentage on bonus earnings paid to keepers, slaggers, fillers, enginemen, etc., was increased from 47½ to 56 in the Workington area, and from 42½ to 51 in the Furness area.

†† Principally North-East Coast, Cumberland, Lancashire, South and West Yorkshire, Lincolnshire and the Midlands.

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

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRIES (continued).				
Iron and Steel Manufacture (contd.)	England and West of Scotland (contd.)	7 Nov.	Men employed in steel-melting shops—contd. Semi-skilled workers and labourers on 8-hour shifts (excluding adult workers in receipt of base rates from 3s. 10d. to 7s. per shift).†	Increase* of 5 per cent. on standard rates, making wages 25½ per cent. above the standard.
	North of England ...	7 Nov.	Semi-skilled workers and labourers whose wages are based on a 47-hour week (excluding adult workers in receipt of base rates from 3s. 10d. to 7s. per shift);† also youths and boys under 21 years of age.	Increase* of 1½ of the total advance in wages given between August, 1914, and 30th April, 1921, leaving a total net decrease since 1st May, 1921, of 1½ of such advance.
	North of England ...	29 Nov.	Iron puddlers ...	Increase* of 5 per cent. on standard rates, making wages 49½ per cent. above the standard.
	North - East Coast Area (except certain men employed at Newburn, West Hartlepool and Gateshead).	7 Nov.	Men on direct production in steel rolling mills (excluding those in receipt of base rates from 3s. 10d. to 7s. per shift).	Increase* of 5 per cent. on standard rates, making wages 26½ per cent. above the standard.
	Workington ...	7 Nov.	Steel millmen (excluding those on base rates of 7s. per shift or less).	Increase* of 5 per cent. on standard rates.
	Scunthorpe ...	7 Nov.	Steel millmen, wagon-builders, and repairers, engineers' labourers and general labourers (excluding those in receipt of base rates from 3s. 10d. to 7s. per shift).	Increase* of 5 per cent. on standard rates, making wages 25½ per cent. above the standard.
	South and West Wales.	7 Nov.	Workpeople (excluding maintenance men) employed in Siemens steel manufacture.	Sliding-scale percentage on base rates increased* from 10 to 16½, and the bonus paid to men on base rates up to 30s. per week reduced from 40 per cent. to 33½ for men and from 10 per cent. to 3½ for boys under 18, leaving the same total wages as previously (viz., 30s. per week, plus 50 per cent., for labourers, and base rates plus 20 per cent., plus 3d. per shift, for boys). Bonuses paid to men rated over 30s. up to 50s. to remain as previously (6d. per shift for those rated at 30s. 1d. to 40s., and 4d. per shift for those at 40s. 1d. to 50s.), subject to the proviso that men on base rates from 30s. 1d. to 36s. 2d. are to have their bonus made up so that they receive the same gross earnings (viz., 45s.) as men with a base rate of 30s.
	West of Scotland ...	29 Nov.	Iron puddlers and millmen ... Iron and steel sheet millmen ...	Increase* of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 55 per cent. above the standard. Increase* of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 62½ per cent. above the standard.
	West of Scotland ...	7 Nov.	Men employed in steel rolling mills (excluding adult workers in receipt of base rates of from 3s. 10d. to 7s. per shift):— Millmen, gas producermen, enginemen, crane-men, firemen and mill labourers.	Increase* of 5 per cent. on standard rates, making wages 26½ per cent. above the standard.
	Engineering, etc.	Bolton and Leigh ...	1st full pay week after 13 Nov.	Maintenance mechanics ...
South Wales and Monmouthshire.		6 Nov.	Workpeople employed in tinplate manufacture, (excluding maintenance craftsmen, and all workers in receipt of a base rate of 5s. 6d. or less per day).	Temporary allowance of 7½ per cent. previously paid on basis rates (which include the 25 per cent. bonus consolidated in 1920) reduced to 3½ per cent. (Rate for labourers remains at 5s. 6d. per day, plus 25 per cent., plus 7½ per cent. on total, or 44s. 5d. per week.)
Chain, etc. Manufacture.	Great Britain ...	1 Nov.	Workpeople employed in making hand-hammered chain from iron up to and including ½ inch diameter. Workpeople employed in making dolled and tommed chain from iron No. 6 I.S.W.G. up to and including ½ inch diameter, and hand-hammered chain from iron ½ inch up to and including ½ inch diameter.	Increase of 5 per cent. on the general minimum time rates as fixed under Trade Boards Acts at 1st November, 1925, and on piecework rates as amended under Trade Boards Acts at 26th February, 1925. (See p. 429 of November GAZETTE.) Increase of 5 per cent. on the general minimum time and piecework rates as varied under Trade Boards Acts at 1st February, 1924, and on piecework rates as fixed, varied or extended under Trade Boards Acts at 16th August, 1926. (See p. 429 of November GAZETTE.)
	Cradley Heath and District and Pontypridd.	1st pay in Nov.	Commercial end-welded, dolled and tommed chain makers (except those whose wages are regulated by the Chain Trade Board) and cable shackle makers.	Increase of 5 per cent. on list prices.
Laminated Spring Manufacture	Sheffield ...	1st full pay after 18 Nov.	Side-welded chain makers ... Anchor and grapple makers ... Laminated spring fitters and vice-men, smiths and strikers	Increase of amounts varying from 2d. to 4½d. per cwt., according to size. Increase of 3d. per cwt. Increase of 1s. per week in flat-rate bonus (8s. to 9s.).
	Birmingham and District.	Pay day following 1 Nov.	Male timeworkers over 21 years of age. Male timeworkers under 21 years of age. Apprentices ... Female dayworkers and learners ... Female pieceworkers ...	Increase of 1s. 4d. per week for skilled men and charge hands, and of 1s. per week for others. General minimum rate after change, 49s. Increase of amounts varying, according to age, from 3d. to 9d. per week. Increase of amounts varying, according to age, from 2d. to 6d. per week. Increase of amounts varying, according to age, from 2d. to 5d. per week. Rate after change for dayworkers 18 years and over, 24s. 8d. per week. Increase of 5d. per week in the basic piecework rate (25s. 9d. to 26s. 2d.).

* Under selling-price sliding-scale arrangements.

† The men on 8-hour shifts referred to are those who do not receive allowance hours and/or extra payment for night shift during the normal week. The men whose wages are based on a 47-hour week are mainly men employed in engineering shops or working with craftsmen who receive the allowances or extra payments mentioned.

‡ That is fully qualified skilled mechanics, who are capable of dismantling, repairing and re-erecting every type of machinery and plant installed or used in the engineering establishment in which they are employed.

§ Under cost-of-living sliding scale arrangements.

TRADE DISPUTES.*

(1) COAL-MINING DISPUTE.

At the beginning of November, about 800,000 workpeople in the coal-mining industry continued to be involved in the general dispute in that industry which began on 1st May. By 27th November this number had been reduced to about 650,000, and by the end of the following week the majority of the miners in most districts had resumed work, the date of resumption varying in different cases. The aggregate number of working days lost by workpeople taking part in this dispute was about 16 million in November, making a total of 143 million since the beginning of the stoppage. A special article on the subject of this dispute, in continuation of articles in previous issues of this GAZETTE, appears on page 434 of the current issue.

(2) OTHER DISPUTES.

The other disputes in progress in November involved only small numbers of workpeople. A statistical summary relating to these other disputes is given below, the corresponding figures for a month earlier and a year earlier also being given.

Table with columns: Month, Number of Disputes in progress in Month, Number of Work-people involved in all Disputes in progress in Month, Aggregate Duration of all Disputes in progress in Month. Rows for November 1926, October 1926, and November 1925.

Causes.—Of the twelve disputes beginning in November, four, directly involving 300 workpeople, arose on wages questions, two, directly involving 400 workpeople, on questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons, and six, directly involving 300 workpeople, on other questions.

Results.—In the coal-mining industry work was resumed by the majority of the miners, either in accordance with the terms of agreements or pending formal settlements. In other industries, settlements were effected during the month in the case of eight new and old disputes, involving in all about 600 workpeople. Of these disputes, one was settled in favour of the workpeople, five were settled in favour of the employers, and two were compromised.

(3) TOTALS FOR FIRST ELEVEN MONTHS OF 1925 AND 1926.†

The following Table summarises the figures for Great Britain and Northern Ireland for the first eleven months of 1926, as compared with the corresponding period of 1925:—

Table comparing January to Nov., 1925 and January to Nov., 1926. Columns include Groups of Industries, No. of Disputes, Number of Work-people involved, Aggregate Duration in Working Days, No. of Disputes, Number of Work-people involved, Aggregate Duration in Working Days.

[The usual tabular statement of principal disputes is omitted, as, apart from the coal-mining stoppage, there were no disputes in November involving large numbers of workpeople.]

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

† In making up the totals for the several months of the year, the figures have been amended in accordance with the most recent information. Work-people involved in more than one dispute are counted more than once in the totals; the amount of such duplication is, however, not very considerable, except in the mining and quarrying group in 1925, when about 44,000 work-people were involved in more than one dispute, and in the case of industries involved in the General Strike in May.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.

The total number of cases* of poisoning, anthrax, and epitheliomatous and chrome ulceration in Great Britain and Northern Ireland reported under the Factory and Workshop Act during November, 1926, was 51. Nine deaths* were reported during the month, five due to lead poisoning and four due to epitheliomatous ulceration. In addition, seven cases of lead poisoning among house painters and one case (fatal) among house plumbers came to the knowledge of the Home Office during November, but notification of these cases is not obligatory.

Table of Diseases of Occupations. (a) CASES OF LEAD POISONING. (b) CASES OF OTHER FORMS OF POISONING. (c) CASES OF ANTHRAX. (d) CASES OF EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCERATION. (e) CASES OF CHROME ULCERATION.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

The number of workpeople, other than seamen, reported as killed in the course of their employment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland during November, 1926, was 143, as compared with 117 in the previous month and with 201 in November, 1925. Fatal accidents to seamen numbered 44 in November, 1926, as compared with 73 in the previous month, and with 52 a year ago.

Table of Fatal Industrial Accidents. Categories include Railway Service, Factories and Workshops, Mines, Quarries, and Seamen.

* 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. † Of the three persons affected in the Pottery industry one was a female.

POOR LAW RELIEF IN GREAT BRITAIN.

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

The number of persons* relieved on one day† in November, 1926, in the thirty-one selected areas named below was 1,031,750, or 2.2 per cent. less than in the previous month, but 28.8 per cent. more than in November, 1925. The numbers relieved at these three dates were equivalent, respectively, to rates of 577, 589 and 449† per 10,000 of the estimated population.

Table of Poor Law Relief in Great Britain. Columns include Selected Urban Areas, Indoor, Outdoor, Total, Number of persons* in receipt of Poor Law Relief on one day† in November, 1926, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with a, Month ago, Year ago.

ASSISTED PASSAGES UNDER THE EMPIRE SETTLEMENT ACT, 1922.

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

Table of Assisted Passages Under the Empire Settlement Act, 1922. Columns include Assisted Passage Schemes, Assisted Passages Granted, Total Assisted Passages Granted, Departures in Nov., 1926, Total Departures.

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

* The figures include dependants, but exclude casuals, lunatics in asylums registered hospitals and licensed houses, and persons receiving out-door medical relief only. † The figures for England and Wales relate to 27th November, and those for Scotland to 15th November. ‡ The rates previously published have been revised in accordance with more recent estimates of the population of the six Scottish districts. § Revised figures.

RETAIL PRICES OVERSEAS.

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

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

Table of Retail Prices Overseas (I.—FOOD). Columns include Country, July, 1923, July, 1924, July, 1925, July, 1926, 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 of Retail Prices Overseas (II.—ALL ITEMS). Columns include Country, Items on which Computation is based, July, 1923, July, 1924, July, 1925, July, 1926, Latest figures available, Rise, Date.

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

Walkers, Parker & Co., London, S.E.; Grey & Marten, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Lighters**: J. Pollock, Sons & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Locomotives Spares**: Vulcan Foundry Co., Ltd., Newton-le-Willows, Lancs.—**Lorry**: Robey & Co., Ltd., Lincoln.—**Lux Cells**: Chloride Elec. Storage Co., London, S.W.—**Metal**: Phosphor Bronze Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Meters**: Manchester Water Meter Co., Ardwick, Manchester; Tylors (W. & S.) Ltd., London, N.—**Packing Plant**: Taylor & Challen, London, S.W.—**Paint**: Torbay Paint Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Petrol and Mobiloil**: F. A. Swanzy, Ltd., London, W.C.—**Pipes**: Staveley Coal & Iron Co., Ltd., Nr. Chesterfield.—**Propellers**: Ferguson Bros. (Port Glasgow) Ltd., Pt. Glasgow.—**Pumps**: Tangyes, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Pump and Hose**: Merryweather & Sons, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Rails and Fishplates**: Bolckow Vaughan & Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Railway Track, etc.**: F. Theakston, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Refuse Destructor**: Heenan & Froude, Ltd., Worcester.—**Rollers**: Aveling & Porter, Ltd., Rochester, Kent.—**Rope**: J. & E. Wright, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Saddlery**: Barrow Hepburn & Gale, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Santonine**: Eastern & Russian Trading Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Sheets**: Wolverhampton C. I. Co., Ellesmere Pt., Birkenhead.—**Signalling Material**: Tyer & Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Spares for Dredger**: Lobnitz & Co., Ltd., Renfrew, N.B.—**Steel**: P. & W. Maclellan, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Steelwork**: Sir Wm. Arrol & Co., Ltd., Glasgow; F. Braby & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; The Tees Side Bridge & Engineering Works, Middlesbrough; A. & J. Main & Co., Ltd., London, W.C.; Head Wrightson & Co., Ltd., Thornaby-on-Tees; Horseley Bridge & Engg. Co., Tipton, Staffs.—**Steel Frames**: H. Hope & Sons, Ltd., Smethwick, Birmingham.—**Steel Pile Driving Plant**: Ransome Machinery Co. (1920), London, S.W.—**Surgical Instruments**: Down Bros., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Survey Instruments**: Cooke, Troughton & Simms, London, S.W.—**Tank**: T. Piggott & Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Telegraph Line Materials**: Bullers, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Telegraph Poles**: J. Spencer, Ltd., Wednesbury.—**Telephones, etc.**: Peell-Conner Telephone Works, Stoke, Coventry; Ericsson Telephones, Ltd., London, W.C.—**Telegraph Ironworks, etc.**: Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Tents**: Silver & Edgington, Ltd., London, S.E.; T. Briggs (London) Ltd., London, E.C.—**Timber**: C. Leary & Co., London, E.C.—**Train Lighting Equipment**: J. Stone & Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Trolleys**: D. Wickham & Co., Ltd., Ware, Herts.—**Tubes**: Howell & Co., Sheffield.—**Underframes**: Birmingham Rly. Carriage & Wagon Co., Ltd., Smethwick, Birmingham.—**Varnish**: R. Kearsley & Co., Ltd., Ripon.—**Waterproof Coats**: A. Talwith & Co., London, N.—**Waterworks Material**: Stanton Ironworks Co., Nr. Nottingham; Stewarts & Lloyds, Ltd., Glasgow; Cochran & Co., Ltd., Middlesbrough-on-Tees.—**Wire**: Shropshire Iron Co., Ltd., Hadley, Salop; Elliott's Metal Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Rylands Bros., Ltd., Warrington.—**Wireless Apparatus**: Radio Communication Co., London, W.C.—**X-ray Equipment**: Newton & Wright, Ltd., London, N.

H.M. OFFICE OF WORKS.

Building Works: "Archway" Telephone Exchange, N.—Asphalt: Permanite, Ltd., London, E. Steelwork: A. D. Dawnay & Sons, Ltd., London, S.W. Armley, Leeds, Employment Exchange—Erection: Appleyard Bros., Leeds. Clitheroe P.O., etc.—Erection: W. J. Woof Cronshaw, Blackburn. Colne P.O., etc.—Carpenter, etc.: Wm. Boothman & Sons, Nelson. Mason: Mullen & Durkin, Ltd., Burnley. Plasterer: R. Rawlinson & Sons, Burnley. Plumber, etc.: Joseph Brierley & Son, Ltd., Oldham. Slater: Wm. Schofield & Son, Burnley. Croydon Employment Exchange—Erection: C. H. Gibson, Ltd., Croydon. Asphalt d.c.: Engert & Rolfe, Ltd., London, E. Dagenham Branch P.O.—Erection: Jones Bros., London, S.W. Darlaston Employment Exchange—Erection: John Dallow & Sons, Birmingham. Garston Telephone Exchange—Stone Steps, etc.: Pearson Bros. & Campbell, Ltd., Liverpool. Glasgow, Charing Cross P.O.—Adaptations: A. Bennie, Glasgow. Glasgow, South Side Employment Exchange—Excavator, etc.: T. Stevenson, Glasgow. Glazier: J. McPhee, Glasgow. Painter: P. McKerracher, Glasgow. Plasterer: A. Calder & Son, Glasgow. Plumber: T. Porter & Son, Glasgow. Great Yarmouth Employment Exchange—Asphalter: Engert & Rolfe, Ltd., London, E. Harrow Telephone Exchange—Patent Stone: The Alexandra Paving Stone Co., Ltd., London, W.C. Hatch End Telephone Exchange—Bitumastic Roofing: Permanite, Ltd., London, E. Hitchin Sorting Office—Erection: Francis

Newton, Hitchin. Kensington, S.W., Science Museum—Alterations to Eaves: J. Mowlem & Co., Ltd., London, S.W. Slater: E. Parkinson (London), Ltd., London, N. "Kensington" Telephone Exchange, S.W.—Asphalt: Ragusa Asphalte Paving Co., Ltd., London, W. Patent Stone, etc.: Malcolm McLeod & Co., London, E.C. Steelwork: Dorman, Long & Co., Ltd., London, S.W. Maintenance Work—Durham (Plumber): J. Heron & Son, Durham; Eastbourne: James Bodle, Ltd., Eastbourne; Hastings: J. Lester & Son, Hastings; Middlesbrough (Painter): Edwin Turner, Ltd., Middlesbrough; Northampton: Jordans, Northampton; Shrewsbury: J. Pritchard, Shrewsbury; Walthamstow, etc.: A. G. Barton & Sons, London, E. "Metropolitan" Telephone Exchange, E.C.—Superstructure: Galbraith Bros., Ltd., London, S.E. Asphalt: London Asphalte Co., Ltd., London, E.C. Portland Stone: Trollope & Colls, Ltd., London, S.E. Newcastle-on-Tyne, Central Telephone Exchange—Erection: Alex. Pringle, Ltd., Gateshead. St. Albans, Lattimore Road—Alterations, etc.: C. W. Dumpleton, St. Albans. Stourbridge Telephone Exchange—Asphalter: Val de Travers Asphalte Paving Co., Ltd., London, E.C. Strood Telephone Exchange—Staircase, etc.: Bateman's Concrete Works, Ltd., London, S.W. Steelwork: Sanders & Forster, Ltd., Barking. Teddington, National Physical Laboratory—Extension: F. F. Foster & Co., London, S.E. Wanstead Telephone Exchange—Asphalt, etc.: Permanite, Ltd., London, E.; Patent Stone: Beacon Stone Co., Ltd., West Thurrocks. Willenhall Employment Exchange—Steelwork: Charles Wade & Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Engineering Service**: Bermondsey Telephone Exchange—Heating: The Brightside Foundry & Engineering Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Painting**: M. Greenwood & Son, Ltd., London, N.W.; Hammond & Barr, Ltd., London, S.W.; Harrods, Ltd., London, S.W.; S. H. Rushen, Swindon.—**Miscellaneous**: Casements, etc. (steel): Humphries, Jackson & Ambler, Ltd., Manchester. Chairs: T. Glenister, Ltd., High Wycombe. Chests of Drawers (steel): Roneo, Ltd., London, E.C. Curtain Material: W. O'Hanlon & Co., Ltd., Manchester. Door Springs: Archibald Kenrick & Sons, Ltd., West Bromwich. Linoleum: The Linoleum Manufacturing Co., Ltd., London, E.C. Partitions (plastered): Telling Bros., Ltd., London, S.E. Pyjamas: Kelsall & Kemp, Ltd., Rochdale. Soap, etc.: E. Cook & Co., Ltd., London, E.; M. P. Hunt & Co., London, E.; Pavitt & Co., Ltd., London, S.E. Wall and Notice Boards: Boulton & Paul, Ltd., London, E.C.; The Canonbury Construction Co., Ltd., London, N.; W. E. Chivers & Sons, Ltd., Devizes.

METROPOLITAN POLICE.

Forage Contract, 1926-27: Wm. Mayes & Sons, Ltd., London, S.W.; Anstee & Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Motor Tyres etc. Contract, 1926-27**: The Dunlop Rubber Co., Ltd., London, N.W.

H.M. CUSTOMS AND EXCISE.

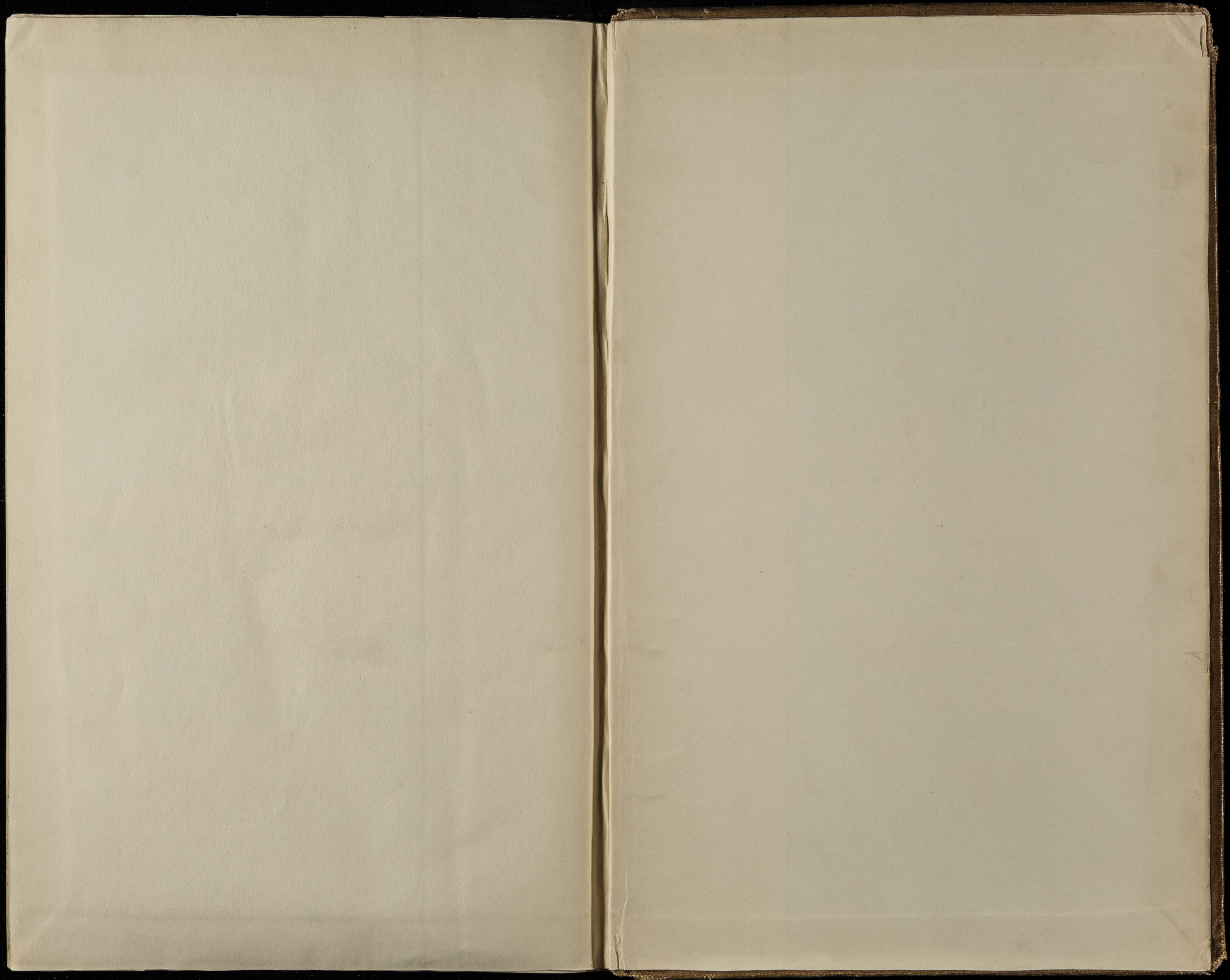
Supply of Uniform Clothing: Compton Sons and Webb, Ltd., London, E.—**Supply of Blue Serge Cloth**: Reuben Gaunt & Sons, Farsley, Leeds.

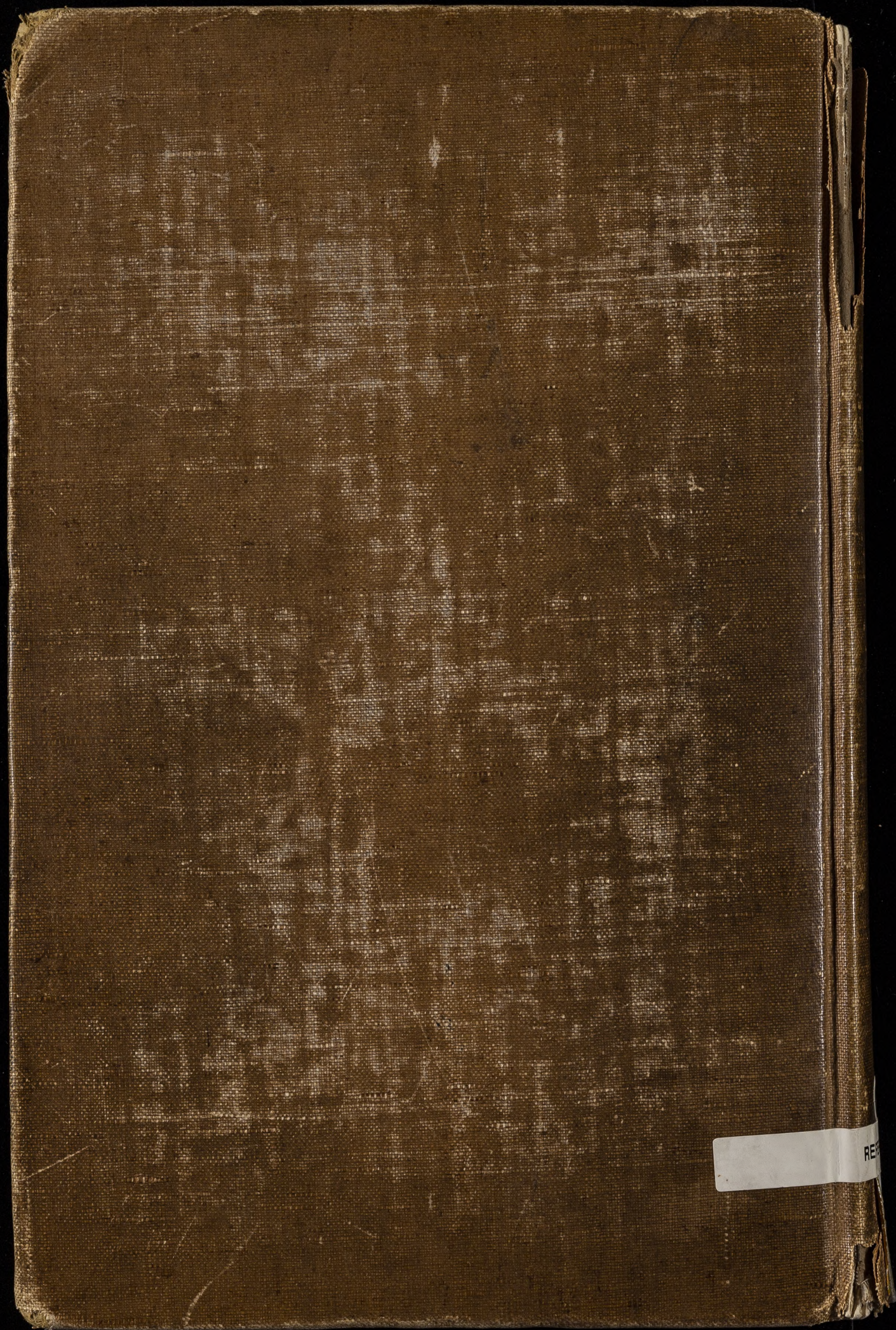
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