

THE LABOUR GAZETTE

PREPARED AND EDITED AT THE OFFICES OF
THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR, WHITEHALL, LONDON, S.W.1.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

VOL. XXX.—No. 1.]

JANUARY, 1922.

[PRICE SIXPENCE NET.

EMPLOYMENT, WAGES, DISPUTES, AND PRICES IN DECEMBER.*

EMPLOYMENT.

EMPLOYMENT continued bad during December. There was much short-time working, and extended holidays at Christmas were general. In some industries, including coal mining, hosiery manufacture, and leather tanning and currying, there was an improvement; but in others, including iron mining, the heavy iron and steel trades, and boot and shoe manufacture there was a decline. There was also a seasonal falling-off in the building and brickmaking trades.

The percentage unemployed among members of trade unions from which returns are received was 16·5 at the end of December, compared with 15·9 at the end of November. The percentage of unemployed among workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Act was 16·2 on 30th December, as compared with 15·7 on 2nd December. The percentages for males and females at 30th December were 18·2 and 11·3 respectively.

The total number of workpeople registered at the Employment Exchanges as unemployed at 30th December was approximately 1,886,000, of whom 1,451,000 were men and 334,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls. At 2nd December the number on the live register was 1,834,000, of whom 1,415,000 were men and 318,000 were women.

In addition to those unemployed, 178,000 males and 137,000 females were registered on 30th December as working systematic short time in such a manner as to entitle them to benefit under the Unemployment Insurance Act. At 2nd December the corresponding figures were 155,000 males and 113,000 females.

The number of vacancies notified by employers to Exchanges and unfilled at the 30th of December was 19,200, of which 4,700 were for men and 12,200 for women, compared with 18,100 at 2nd December.

WAGES.

Changes in rates of wages reported as having come into operation in December, in the industries for which statistics are compiled by the Department, resulted in a total reduction of over £400,000 in the weekly full-time wages of nearly 3,600,000 workpeople.

Coal miners in most of the principal districts sustained reductions, varying from under 1 per cent. on current wages in Yorkshire, the East Midlands, and South Wales, to over 12 per cent. in South Staffordshire and Shropshire. The bonus paid to workmen in the engineering, shipbuilding, and various other metal trades, which had already been reduced, in November, from 12½ per cent. (time-workers) and 7½ per cent. (piece-workers) to 8½ per cent. and 5 per cent., respectively, was further reduced to 4½ per cent. and 2½ per cent.; and in the shipbuilding trade a second instalment of the advances paid to certain classes of piece and lieu workers in shipyards under the "Standard Ship Cycle" of awards was also withdrawn. Cotton operatives had their wages reduced, generally by 10 per cent. on standard list prices (equal to about 4 per cent. on current wages); the bonus paid to hosiery workers in the Midlands was reduced from 11d. to 10d. on each shilling of earnings; the wages of

puddlers and millmen in the Midlands were reduced by amounts equivalent to nearly 3½ per cent. on current rates; and pottery workers sustained a decrease equivalent to 10 per cent. of current wages. Other important groups of workpeople affected by reductions in December included female workers in laundries, papermakers, soap and candle makers, and cocoa and chocolate makers.

Changes in wages reported during 1921 resulted in a net reduction of about £6,000,000 per week in the rates of wages of over 7,000,000 workpeople.

TRADE DISPUTES.

The number of trade disputes involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as beginning in December, was 35. In addition, 50 disputes, which began before December, were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The total number of workpeople involved in all disputes in progress at any time in December (including those thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, though not themselves parties to the disputes) was nearly 15,000, as compared with 36,000 in the previous month, and 77,000 in December, 1920 (when disputes were in progress involving 10,000 joiners and carpenters in shipyards throughout Great Britain, and 45,000 coal miners in South Wales). The estimated aggregate duration of all disputes during December was about 127,000 working days, as compared with 252,000 days in November, 1921, and 529,000 days in December, 1920.

The figures for December, 1921, as regards both the number of workpeople involved in disputes, and the aggregate number of working days lost, are the lowest recorded by the Department for any month since the early part of 1917.

The estimated aggregate duration of all disputes reported as in progress during 1921 was about 86,000,000 working days. The total number of workpeople involved in these disputes was about 1,800,000. In the previous year, approximately 2,000,000 workpeople were involved in disputes having an aggregate duration of approximately 27,000,000 working days.

RETAIL PRICES.

At 31st December the average level of retail prices of all the commodities taken into account in the statistics prepared by the Ministry of Labour (including food, rent, clothing, fuel, light and miscellaneous items) was about 92 per cent. above that of July, 1914. This figure is the lowest recorded since March, 1918. The corresponding figure for 1st December, 1921, was 99 per cent., and that for 1st January, 1921, was 165 per cent. The decrease in the percentage since 1st December is mainly due to reductions in the prices of some of the principal articles of food, including bread, flour, meat, butter, and eggs. For further particulars reference should be made to the article on page 10.

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

*A special article on the course of Employment, Wages, Disputes and Prices during 1921 is given on pages 2 to 6.

EMPLOYMENT, RETAIL PRICES, WAGES, AND TRADE DISPUTES IN 1921.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

THE decline in employment, which was in progress at the end of 1920, continued during the first quarter of 1921, and by the end of March employment in most of the principal industries was bad. The prolonged dispute in the coal mining industry, causing a general stoppage of work at the pits from the beginning of April until the first week in July, resulted in a scarcity of fuel which greatly accentuated the effects of the depression in trade; and at the beginning of July, of nearly 11 million workpeople in industries insured against unemployment other than coal mining, 19 per cent. were unemployed, and large numbers of others were on short time. In some important industries, including iron and steel smelting and manufacture, the tinplate trade and the pottery trade, work was almost completely suspended. The settlement of the coal mining dispute was followed by a general improvement in employment during July and August, but not, in most cases, to even the relatively low level of March; and although a few industries showed a further recovery in the later months of the year, employment generally continued bad. At the end of the year the proportion unemployed in industries covered by the Unemployment Insurance Act was over 16 per cent., compared with approximately 6 per cent. at the beginning of January.

The general level of retail prices, which had reached its highest point about the beginning of November, 1920, and had shown a decline in the last two months of that year, continued to fall during the first half of 1921; and although, owing to the effects of the drought on the prices of some foodstuffs, the downward movement was checked in the summer, the fall was resumed in the autumn, and continued until the end of the year. At 31st December, 1921, the cost of maintaining unchanged the pre-war standard of living of working-class families, as indicated by the statistics regularly compiled by the Department, was about 92 per cent. above the level of July, 1914, as compared with 165 per cent. at the beginning of the year.

The end of the year 1920 also marked the termination of the long rise in wages which had been in progress since the early part of 1915. In 1921 the decline in employment and the fall in retail prices were accompanied by reductions in rates of wages which, beginning in January in the coal mining and wool textile industries, subsequently affected nearly all other industries. The changes in rates of wages reported during 1921, in those industries* for which statistics are regularly compiled by the Department, resulted in a net reduction of about £6,000,000 in the weekly full-time wages of over 7,000,000 workpeople. In 1920 a net advance of about £4,800,000 in the weekly wages of 7,700,000 workpeople was reported.

The number of trade disputes causing a stoppage of work, reported to have begun in 1921, was 800. The total number of workpeople involved in these disputes (including those thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred) was nearly 1,800,000, and a further 30,000 were involved in disputes in progress in 1921 which began in 1920. The aggregate loss of working days in all disputes in 1921 was about 86,000,000. The total number of disputes reported was less than one-half of the total for 1920, and much below the totals for either 1918 or 1919. Owing, however, to the magnitude of the coal mining dispute, the number of workpeople involved in disputes in 1921 was little less than in 1920, and greater than in any previous year except 1919; and the aggregate loss of time through disputes in 1921 was much in excess of any hitherto recorded.

Detailed particulars with regard to employment, retail prices, rates of wages, and trade disputes are given below.

EMPLOYMENT.

The decline in employment, which began in the summer of 1920 and was still in progress at the end of that year, continued at a rapid pace during the early months of 1921, and at the end of March there was serious depression in most of the principal industries. Of the 12 million workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Act, the proportion unemployed rose from 6 per cent. at the beginning of the year to 11 per cent. at the end of March, and the proportion working systematic short time in such a manner as to entitle them to benefit rose from 4 per cent. to 7 per cent. During the same period the proportion unemployed among certain Trade Unions (mainly of skilled workpeople) which pay unemployment benefit to their members and make returns to the Department rose from 6 per cent. to 10 per cent. In April the effects of the general slackness in trade were rendered much more acute by the stoppage of work at the coal mines, which began on 1st April and continued for three months. The great coal-using industries were quickly affected by the increasing scarcity of fuel, and in May and June employment was bad in nearly all the principal manufacturing trades. In some industries, notably the heavy iron and steel trades, tinplate manufacture, and the pottery trade, work was almost completely suspended. At the end of June the proportion of unemployed, apart from the coal mining industry, had risen to 19 per cent. among insured workpeople and to 23 per cent. among members of

those Trade Unions making returns. These figures are the highest ever recorded by the Department.

After the resumption of work at the coal mines, employment, though still bad generally, showed an improvement, the proportion of workpeople unemployed falling by the end of July to 15 per cent. among insured workpeople and to less than 17 per cent. among members of the Trade Unions making returns. A slight further improvement during August and September was neutralised by an almost equivalent decline during the last three months of the year, and at the end of December employment was generally bad, the percentages unemployed being approximately 16 in the insured industries and 16.5 among the Trade Unions making returns. The number of insured persons working systematic short time in such a way as to entitle them to benefit under the Act was about 3 per cent. at the end of the year, compared with 4 per cent. at the beginning of the year, and with 8 per cent. at the end of June. The total number on the Live Registers of the Employment Exchanges at 30th December, 1921, was 1,886,000, of whom 1,451,000 were men and 334,000 were women, the remainder being boys or girls. At 31st December, 1920, the corresponding total was 757,000, of whom 508,000 were men and 188,000 were women.

The following Table shows for the end of each month the percentage of unemployment among the workpeople (numbering approximately 12 millions in all, and working in practically every industry except agriculture and private domestic service) covered by the Unemployment Insurance Act. Figures are also given showing the proportion of workpeople unemployed in those Trade Unions (with an aggregate membership of about 1½ millions, mainly skilled workers) from which returns are obtained. As one of the marked features of the depression has been a widespread resort to various forms of short-time working, with a view to minimising the number of workpeople actually discharged, figures have also been given showing the percentages of workpeople working systematic short time of such a nature as to qualify them to obtain benefit under the Insurance Act (see page 25). It should be noted, however, that these figures do not provide a measure of the total amount of short time at any date; for example, persons working a few hours short each day, or losing one day in each week, or working irregular amounts of short time, would not be included.

Date (End of Month).	Unemployment in Insured Trades.				Percentage of Insured Persons claiming benefit in respect of Systematic Short Time.	Percentage Unemployed in Trade Unions making returns.
	Percentage of Unemployment Boos (or Out-of-Work Donation Policies) remaining lodged.*		Percentage of Insured Persons claiming benefit in respect of Systematic Short Time.			
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Total.		
1920.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
December	6	6	6	4	6.0	6.0
1921.						
January	8	9	8	5	6.9	6.9
February	9	10	10	6	8.6	8.6
March	11	12	11	7	10.0	10.0
April†	17	15	16	10	17.6	17.6
May†	19	17	18	11	22.2	22.2
June†	20	16	19	11	25.1	25.1
July	16	11	15	4	16.7	16.7
August	14†	10†	13†	3	16.3	16.3
September	14†	9†	12†	3	14.8	14.8
October‡	17	10	15	2	15.6	15.6
November	18	11	16	2	15.9	15.9
December	18	11	16	2	16.5	16.5

The following Table gives comparative figures for the period 1900-1921 of the percentages of members unemployed in Trade Unions making returns, showing separately (a) the mean of the twelve monthly percentages for each year and (b) the percentage for the end of December in each year:—

Year.	Percentage Unemployed.		Year.	Percentage Unemployed.	
	Mean for Year.	End of December.		Mean for Year.	End of December.
1900	2.5	3.5	1911	3.0	3.1
1901	3.3	4.2	1912	3.2	2.3
1902	4.0	5.0	1913	2.1	2.5
1903	4.7	6.3	1914	3.3	2.5
1904	6.0	7.1	1915	1.1	0.6
1905	5.0	4.5	1916	0.4	0.3
1906	3.6	4.4	1917	0.7	1.4
1907	3.7	5.6	1918	0.8	1.2
1908	7.8	9.1	1919	2.4	3.2
1909	7.7	6.6	1920	2.4	6.0†
1910	4.7	5.0	1921	15.3	16.5

* Payment of unemployment benefit or out-of-work donation is conditional on the "lodging" of an unemployed person's insurance book or donation policy.

† For April, May and June the figures given in the Table relate to industries other than coal mining, a general stoppage of work having been in progress in this industry. The unemployment figures given as for the end of June relate to 1st July in the case of the "insured" trades.

‡ This figure is affected by the unavoidable exclusion of those unemployed insured persons who had removed their insurance books from the Employment Exchanges after the exhaustion of their right to benefit.

§ The figures given for October, for the "insured" trades, relate to 5th November, when those insured persons who had previously exhausted their right to benefit had become eligible for a further period of benefit.

|| Revised figure.

* See † footnote to second column on page 4. If complete statistics were available the figures given would be substantially greater.

The mean percentage for 1921 is the highest recorded for any year in the whole period of about 70 years for which similar records are available.

As will be seen from the Table given on page 13, returns received from firms in the textile trades, with over 226,000 workpeople in the week ended 17th December, 1921, showed that these firms employed in that week 7.7 per cent. fewer workpeople than in the corresponding week of 1920. Similar returns received from firms employing 200,000 workpeople in various other industries (including, *inter alia*, the boot and shoe, tailoring, paper, printing, pottery, glass, brick, cement, and certain food industries) show a reduction of 8.3 per cent. in the total number employed.

RETAIL PRICES.

(a) Food.

During 1921 there was a rapid fall in the retail prices of food, only temporarily interrupted, in the summer, by the effect of the drought. The average percentage increase, as compared with July, 1914, in the retail prices of the principal articles of food, as indicated by the cost of maintaining unchanged the pre-war working-class dietary, fell from 178 per cent. on 1st January to 85 per cent. on 31st December. The movement from month to month is shown by the following figures:—

Prices of Food: Average Increase over July, 1914.

1921.	Per cent.	1921.	Per cent.
January 1st	178	August 2nd	126
February 1st	163	September 1st	125
March 1st	149	October 1st	110
April 1st	138	November 1st	100
April 30th	132	December 1st	95
June 1st	118	December 31st	85
July 1st	120		

It should be noted that the percentages given in this article represent in all cases fluctuations in prices on the assumption of a uniform consumption, no allowance being made for possible alterations in consumption which may have modified the actual expenditure on the articles included, in regard to which statistics are not available.

The following Table shows the average prices of the separate articles of food included in the statistics at 1st January, 1921, and 31st December, 1921, together with the average percentage increases, as compared with July, 1914, at both of these dates:—

Article.	Average Price (per lb. unless otherwise indicated).			Average Percentage Increase as compared with July, 1914.	
	1st January, 1921.	31st December, 1921.	Decrease during year.	1st January, 1921.	31st December, 1921.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Beef, British—					
Ribs	2 0½	1 6	0 6½	151	81
Thin Flank .. .	1 5½	0 11	0 6½	168	66
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—					
Ribs	1 3½	0 11	0 4½	116	52
Thin Flank .. .	0 9½	0 6½	0 3½	102	32
Mutton, British—					
Legs	2 3½	1 6	0 9½	168	74
Breast	1 6½	0 10½	0 7½	181	60
Mutton, Frozen—					
Legs	1 3½	0 11½	0 4½	126	62
Breast	0 7	0 4½	0 2½	72	38
Bacon (streaky)*	2 9½	1 9½	1 0	197	91
Fish				133	146
Flour per 7 lb.	2 5½	1 6	0 11½	181	69
Bread per 4 lb.	1 3½	0 10	0 5½	172	72
Tea	2 8½	2 6½	0 2½	76	63
Sugar (granulated) ..	0 9½	0 5½	0 4	376	176
Milk per quart	0 10½	0 8	0 2½	202	132
Butter—					
Fresh	3 3½†	1 10½	1 5	174	57
Salt	3 3½†	1 7½	1 8½	181	39
Cheese (Canadian or U.S.)*	1 9	1 2	0 7	142	62
Margarine	1 1½	0 8	0 5½	87	10
Eggs (fresh) each	0 5½	0 4	0 1½	359	238
Potatoes per 7 lb.	0 11½	0 8	0 3½	133	69

All above articles of Food (weighted Percentage Increase) 178 85

Prices at the end of December were in all cases much lower than at the beginning of the year and were also the lowest recorded during the year, except for milk, eggs and fish, which were affected by seasonal influences, and tea, of which the average price rose slightly towards the end of the year, though not to the level prevailing at the beginning.

(b) ITEMS OTHER THAN FOOD.

At the beginning of 1921 the average increase above the pre-war level in the rents of working-class dwellings was about 42 per cent. During the year there were increases on account of rates and water charges, and also on account of the further increase of 10 per cent. on pre-war net rents (excluding rates), provided for in the Rents Act of 1920, with the result that at the end of the year rents (including rates) of working-class dwellings averaged about 55 per cent. higher than in July, 1914.

Retail prices of clothing fell rapidly in the early months of 1921, and the downward movement continued, though subse-

* If this kind is seldom dealt with in a locality, the Returns quote the price for another kind locally representative.

† Government Butter, except in Ireland.

quently at a much slower rate, throughout the year. For goods of the kinds purchased by the working classes the average increase in retail prices, as compared with July, 1914, was about 290 per cent. at the beginning of 1921 and about 150 per cent. at the end of the year, taking as far as possible the same qualities of goods at each date. Nearly one-half of the decrease occurred in the first three months of the year. For the six main groups into which the articles taken for comparison are classified, the average percentage increases at 1st January and 31st December, 1921, over the pre-war level of prices, comparing like qualities, were as follows:—

GROUP.	Average Percentage Increase over pre-war level	
	1st Jan., 1921.	31st Dec., 1921.
(1) Men's Suits and Overcoats .. .	230	130
(2) Woollen Material for Women's Outer Garments .. .	400	180
(3) Woollen Underclothing and Hosiery .. .	350	170
(4) Cotton Material for Women's Outer Garments .. .	330	240
(5) Cotton Underclothing Material and Hosiery .. .	350	170
(6) Boots	210	130

The foregoing figures relating to the prices of clothing are necessarily in the nature of approximations, since the wide range of quotations, changes in stocks, and variations in the extent to which different articles and qualities have been affected by changes in prices make the exact ascertainment of the changes in the prices of clothing a matter of special difficulty.

The average retail price of household coal, at the beginning of 1921, was between 145 and 150 per cent. above the pre-war level. The stoppage of work at the mines led to a further rise in prices, but there was a fall subsequently, and at the end of the year the average increase over the pre-war level was about 125 per cent. For gas the average increase, as compared with July, 1914, rose from over 90 per cent. on 1st January to about 115 per cent. at the beginning of October, but subsequently fell to about 105 per cent. at the end of the year. Of the other items included in the statistics the prices of lamp oil, candles, soap, ironmongery, brushware and pottery showed considerable decreases during the year, while those of matches, soda, newspapers, tobacco and fares showed little change.

(c) ALL ITEMS.

When the average increases for all the items included in the statistics are combined in accordance with their relative importance in pre-war working-class family expenditure, the following figures are obtained, representing the average increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the pre-war standard of living of working-class families month by month during 1921:—

All Items: Average Increase over July, 1914.

1921.	Per cent.	1921.	Per cent.
January 1st	165	August 2nd	122
February 1st	151	September 1st	120
March 1st	141	October 1st	110
April 1st	133	November 1st	103
April 30th	128	December 1st	99
June 1st	119	December 31st	92
July 1st	119		

Of the 73 points of decrease between 1st January and 31st December 56 were accounted for by reductions in the prices of food, and 17 by the fall in the prices of clothing, changes in the prices of other items counter-balancing.

TRADE DISPUTES.

The number of trade disputes causing a stoppage of work, reported to the Department as beginning in 1921, was 800. In these disputes about 1,773,000 workpeople were directly involved and 21,000 indirectly involved* (i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, though not themselves parties to the disputes). In addition, about 30,000 workpeople were involved in disputes which began in 1920 and continued into the following year. The total number of workpeople involved in all disputes in 1921 was thus approximately 1,824,000. The aggregate number of working days lost by these workpeople in the disputes was about 86,000,000. Of this total over 70,000,000 working days were lost in the general dispute in the coal mining industry, which involved over 1,100,000 workpeople and lasted three months. In 1920 the number of disputes reported as having begun in the year was 1,715; the number of workpeople involved in all disputes in progress was about 2,024,000, and the total loss of time in these disputes was 27,000,000 working days.

It should be noted that these statistics do not cover time lost in establishments or industries other than those where the disputes actually occurred. Thus, in the case of the coal mining dispute the figures relate exclusively to working days lost at the collieries themselves, and do not include time lost in other industries as a result of the stoppage of the pits.

* Workpeople involved in more than one dispute during the year are counted more than once in the totals for the year. The extent of such duplication is not very considerable except in the coal mining group in 1921, 1920, 1919 and 1912, in which about 80,000 workpeople in 1921, 314,000 workpeople in 1920, 150,000 workpeople in 1919, and 108,000 workpeople in 1912 were involved in more than one dispute. Disputes involving less than ten workpeople and those which lasted less than one day have, as usual, been omitted from the statistics, except when the duration (i.e., number of workpeople multiplied by number of working days, allowing for workpeople replaced by others, etc.) exceeded 100 days.

The following Table summarises by trades the number of disputes reported as beginning in 1920 and 1921, the number of workpeople involved in all disputes in progress in each of these years, and the aggregate duration of all disputes in working days for 1920 and 1921 respectively. The figures are preliminary and subject to correction.

Groups of Trades.	1920.			1921.		
	No. of Disputes begun in 1920.	No. of Work-people involved in all Disputes in progress.*	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.	No. of Disputes begun in 1921.	No. of Work-people involved in all Disputes in progress.*	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.
Building	247	48,000	896,000	134	26,000	537,000
Coal Mining .. .	210	1,414,000	17,424,000	115	1,230,000	17,638,000
Other Mining and Quarrying .. .	32	5,500	108,000	24	5,000	256,000
Engineering and Shipbuilding .. .	230	156,000	2,640,000	90	77,000	4,164,000
Other Metal .. .	114	75,000	843,000	61	12,000	289,000
Textile .. .	127	79,000	1,441,000	30	380,000	6,942,000
Clothing .. .	74	38,000	749,000	35	5,000	82,000
Transport .. .	149	72,000	578,000	56	32,000	350,000
Agriculture and Fishing .. .	17	9,500	125,000	19	7,000	185,000
Printing, Paper, etc. .. .	23	6,000	144,000	9	3,500	6,000
Woodworking and Furnishing .. .	100	31,000	978,000	43	6,500	139,000
Chemical, Brick, Glass, Pottery, etc. .. .	52	16,000	268,000	29	5,500	129,000
Food, Drink, and Tobacco .. .	65	13,000	238,000	27	2,500	28,000
Shop Assistants, Clerks, Agents, etc. .. .	43	17,000	220,000	25	10,500	48,000
Other Trades .. .	106	16,000	210,000	58	13,000	192,000
Employees of Public Authorities .. .	126	28,000	249,000	45	8,500	69,000
Total .. .	1,715	2,024,000	27,111,000	800	1,824,000	386,054,000

The majority of disputes beginning in 1921 were occasioned by wages questions, nearly one-half of all the disputes arising out of proposed reductions in wages. Of the remaining disputes the causes most frequently occurring were questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons.

By far the most important dispute of the year was that referred to above, involving over 1,100,000 workpeople in the coal mining industry, which arose out of dissatisfaction with district rates of wages proposed by the employers, following the withdrawal of Government control of the industry. The stoppage of work began on 1st April and a settlement was not reached until 1st July; the agreement then arrived at provided, *inter alia*, for the periodical adjustment of wages on the basis of the proceeds of the industry in each of thirteen districts, subject to a minimum wage 20 per cent. above the pre-war level, and to the maintenance of a subsistence wage for low-paid day workers, and the granting of a temporary Government subsidy in aid of wages.

A general stoppage of work took place in June in the cotton industry, arising out of the demand of the employers for a reduction, in the percentage added to standard rates of wages, greater than that which the workpeople were prepared to accept. The dispute is estimated to have involved approximately 375,000 workpeople, and after a stoppage of work of nearly three weeks a compromise was effected.

The dispute affecting about 10,000 joiners in shipyards throughout Great Britain, who ceased work in 1st December, 1920, to resist a proposed withdrawal of a special advance in wages, continued until August, 1921, by which time a large number of other shipyard workers had been rendered idle owing to the dispute, although many of the joiners themselves had found work elsewhere. By the terms of settlement the bulk of the special advance was withdrawn in two instalments, the balance of the advance being referred to further negotiation at a subsequent date.

The following Table shows the total number of disputes (involving a stoppage of work) reported to the Department as beginning in each of the years 1907-1921, together with the total number of workpeople directly or indirectly involved in these disputes, and the aggregate number of working days lost in all disputes in progress during the year (irrespective of the date of commencement) at the establishments where the disputes occurred:—

Year.	Number of disputes beginning in year.	Number of Work-people involved in disputes beginning in year.*	Aggregate duration in working days of all disputes in progress during year.
1907	601	147,000	2,162,000
1908	399	296,000	10,834,000
1909	436	301,000	2,774,000
1910	531	515,000	9,885,000
1911	903	922,000	10,320,000
1912	857	1,463,000	40,915,000
1913	1,497	689,000	11,631,000
1914	999	449,000	10,111,000
1915	707	453,000	3,040,000
1916	578	281,000	2,681,000
1917	803	885,000	5,939,000
1918	1,300	1,142,000	6,332,000
1919	1,413	2,575,000	34,993,000
1920	1,715	1,937,000	27,111,000
1921	800	1,794,000	86,000,000

* See note to second column on page 3.
† Revised figure.

The number of disputes beginning in 1921 was less than one-half of that in the previous year, and was smaller than in any year since 1916. Owing, however, to the magnitude of the coal-mining dispute, the total number of workpeople involved in disputes in progress in the year was little less than in 1920, while the aggregate time lost through the disputes was greatly in excess of that in the previous year, and was more than double that in 1912, the highest figure hitherto recorded. It may be added that general disputes in the coal-mining industry occurred also in 1920 and 1921, and largely account for the exceptional numbers of workpeople involved and working days lost in those years.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES.*

After rising continuously since the early part of 1915, full-time rates of wages, in the United Kingdom generally, reached their highest level about the end of 1920. In January, 1921, a decline began, and although, in a few trades, further slight increases occurred during the early part of the year, these were overshadowed by the reductions, which gradually spread to nearly all the important industries. By the end of the year there were few industries in which wage rates had not been reduced, and in many of the principal trades two or more separate reductions had been made.

The changes in rates of wages reported as having taken effect in 1921, in the trades† for which statistics of numbers affected by such changes are compiled by the Department, resulted in an aggregate net reduction of about £6,000,000 in the weekly wages of over 7,000,000 workpeople. The number of workpeople reported to have obtained a net increase in wages during the year was only about 80,000. In 1920, when the advances in wages were greater than in any previous year, 7,700,000 workpeople were reported as obtaining increases amounting to about £4,800,000 a week. In 1919 there was an increase of £2,400,000 in the weekly wages of 6,200,000 workpeople.

It will thus be seen that the amount of reduction in 1921 was greater than that of the increase in 1920 (the largest ever recorded by the Department) and not very greatly below the total amount of increase in the two years 1919-1920. Owing to the serious decline in employment, particulars of which are given on page 2, actual earnings fell during 1921 even more than full-time rates of wages.

The following Table shows both for 1920 and 1921 the numbers of workpeople affected by the changes reported, and the total amounts of net increase or decrease in weekly rates of wages, in each of the principal groups of trades. In comparing the figures for different trades, it is necessary to bear in mind that the changes in the wages of adult men have usually been greater than those affecting women, boys and girls, and that the average amounts of increase and decrease per head are affected, therefore, by the varying proportions of men, women and juveniles employed in different trades. It should also be noted that the changes reported consist mainly of those arranged between organised groups of workpeople and employers, and that many changes among unorganised workers, especially those affecting only the employees of individual firms, are not reported.

Group of Trades.	Approximate number of workpeople whose rates of wages were reported as changed‡ in		Total Net Increase or Net Decrease in the weekly wages of those affected.	
	1920.	1921.	1920.	1921.
Building .. .	400,000	450,000	(Increase) 361,000	(Decrease) 304,000
Mining and Quarrying .. .	1,280,000	1,290,000	1,329,000	2,588,000
Iron and Steel Smelting and Manufacture .. .	240,000	240,000	504,000	475,000
Engineering, Shipbuilding, and Other Metal .. .	1,620,000	1,730,000	637,000	1,054,000
Textile .. .	1,090,000	1,010,000	646,000	651,000
Clothing .. .	730,000	230,000	230,000	48,000
Transport (excluding Tramways) .. .	900,000	910,000	574,000	388,000
Paper, Printing, &c. .. .	200,000	200,000	122,000	54,000
Chemical, Glass, Brick, Pottery, &c. .. .	270,000	280,000	122,000	139,000
Other Trades .. .	640,000	420,000	301,000	171,000
Public Utility Services§ .. .	380,000	34,000	171,000	134,000
Total .. .	7,720,000	7,100,000	4,797,000	6,036,000†

In the building trade the rates of wages of all classes of workers were reduced in May by 2d. per hour, and there were further reductions of 1d. per hour in August and ½d. per hour in September. Labourers sustained additional reductions of 1d. per hour in July and ½d. or 1d. in the higher-paid districts in September. The total reductions during the year in nearly all the principal districts were thus 3½d. per hour (equivalent to 12s. 10d. for the normal week of 44 hours) in the case of skilled men and 4½d. to 5½d. per hour (16s. 6d. to 20s. 2d. per week) in the case of labourers, equivalent to about 12 to 16 per cent., in the case of skilled men, and 19 to 23 per cent., in the case of labourers, of the rates prevailing in January.

* The figures given throughout are preliminary and subject to revision. Those for 1920 have been revised in accordance with the latest information available.

† These statistics are exclusive of changes affecting agricultural labourers, police, Government employees, domestic servants, shop assistants and clerks.

‡ The figures for 1921 represent the numbers who sustained net reductions in wages. In addition, about 80,000 workpeople are reported to have received a net increase during the year of nearly £15,000 per week. In 1920 no workpeople were reported as sustaining a net reduction in wages.

§ Including tramways, gas, electricity and water undertakings (both of local authorities and private companies) and the road, sanitary and other services of local authorities.

In the coal-mining industry rates of wages at the beginning of 1921 were regulated in accordance with the terms of settlement of the dispute of October-November, 1920—i.e., on the basis of the proceeds of export coal. Under this arrangement there was an increase of 1s. 6d. a shift on 3rd January, followed at intervals of four weeks by two reductions of 2s. and 1s. 6d. a shift, which left wages at the same level as prior to the dispute. The terms of settlement of the further dispute, which occurred in 1921, provided that wages should be adjusted periodically on the basis of the proceeds of the industry in each of thirteen districts, but should not in any case fall below a point 20 per cent. above the pre-war level. By the end of the year rates of wages had been reduced in all districts. The amount of reduction varies considerably in different coalfields, and it is estimated that the total net reduction in 1921 (calculated on the basis of the wages paid at 31st December, 1920) ranges between 20 and 50 per cent. in the case of hewers and between 30 and 60 per cent. in the case of underground labourers, according to district.

In the case of workers at blastfurnaces, whose wages move in accordance with the selling price of pig iron, there were slight increases in rates of wages in certain districts early in the year, but these were followed by considerable reductions in all districts. The net reductions in the year ranged from 86 to 165 per cent. on standard rates, equivalent to 33 to 46 per cent. on the rates prevailing at the end of 1920. In the case of processmen engaged in iron and steel manufacture the net reductions in rates of wages, based on the selling prices of iron and steel, ranged in the principal districts from 95 to 155 per cent. on standard rates, equivalent to 33 to 45 per cent. on the rates prevailing at December, 1920. The rates of wages of labourers in this industry were reduced by amounts ranging generally from about 30 to 45 per cent. of the rates at December, 1920.

In the engineering and shipbuilding industries the basis rates of wages of adult workmen were reduced by 6s. per week or 1½d. per hour in the case of time-workers, and by 15 per cent. in the case of piece-workers, in two equal instalments between May and August. Later in the year the bonus on total earnings of 12½ per cent. (time-workers) and 7½ per cent. (piece-workers) was withdrawn in three equal instalments, as from 1st November, 1st December and 1st January, 1922, respectively. In shipyards there were also reductions, ranging from 2½ to 22½ per cent. on piece rates, resulting from the withdrawal of two instalments of the "Standard Ship Cycle" of advances granted during the war. On the basis of the average of the recognised time rates of wages at the principal centres it is estimated that in the case of skilled men on time work the total reductions in 1921 amounted to about 14 to 15 per cent. of the rates paid at the end of 1920, and in the case of labourers to 16 per cent. If the effect of the withdrawal of the final instalment of the bonus, on 1st January, 1922, is included, the percentage reductions amount to 17 to 18 per cent. and nearly 20 per cent. in the case of skilled men and labourers respectively.

In the cotton industry rates of wages were reduced by 60 per cent. on list prices in June and by a further 10 per cent. in December, the total reduction being equivalent to about 22 per cent. on the rates of wages current at the end of 1920. In the wool textile industry the "cost of living wage" was reduced in four instalments, in the first four months of the year, from 175 to 135 per cent. on basis rates in the case of time-workers, with corresponding reductions in the case of piece-workers. In July the "cost of living wage" was further reduced to 105 per cent. in the case of time workers, and the basis rates on which it is calculated were reduced by 5/115ths. The effect of all the reductions was to reduce the rates of wages prevailing at the end of 1920 by about 29 per cent. in the case of time workers and by about 27 and 28 per cent. in the case of male and female piece-workers respectively.

In the textile bleaching, dyeing, printing and finishing trades in Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire, and Scotland, a slight increase in rates of wages in January was followed by reductions in April, July and October. In Yorkshire the net effect of the changes was to reduce the "cost of living wage" from 164 per cent. on basis rates to 110 per cent. in the case of time workers and from 131½ per cent. to 83 per cent. in the case of piece workers*, the percentage reductions on the rates at the end of 1920 being 20 and 19 respectively. In Lancashire and Cheshire the "cost of living wage" was reduced from 49s. 7d. to 33s. 3d. per week and from 29s. 6d. to 19s. 10d. in the case of adult males and females respectively. These reductions represent 21 per cent. (for males) and 20 per cent. (for females) on the minimum rates of wages prevailing at the end of 1920. In the hosiery trade in the Midlands a bonus of 1s. 3d. in the shilling on earnings was paid at the end of 1920. Under the operation of a cost of living sliding scale this had been reduced by the end of 1921 to 10d. in the shilling, a reduction of 19 per cent.

In the clothing trades the principal changes took place as a result of Orders issued under the Trade Boards Acts. The minimum rates fixed under these Acts were reduced during the year in the case of females in the ready-made, wholesale bespoke and retail bespoke tailoring trades, and both males and females in the corset trade. In the case of females in the wholesale mantle and costume and laundry trades there were increases and decreases which left the minimum rates at the same level at the end as at the beginning of the year. No change occurred for adults in the hat, cap and millinery, and the shirt-making trades, nor in the case of males in the laundry trade. In the

* Except pressers, whose "cost of living wage" was reduced from 98½ to 66 per cent.

dressmaking and women's light clothing trades certain classes of women received an increase, whilst other classes of adults had no change. In the boot and shoe manufacturing industry no change in rates of wages occurred in 1921, but negotiations were in progress at the end of the year for a reduction early in 1922.

In the transport trades men employed in the railway traffic grades received an increase of 1s. per week, under their cost of living sliding scale, on 1st January, and sustained reductions of 4s. and 5s. per week on 1st April and 1st July respectively. The net reduction of 8s. per week represents a percentage decrease on the wages prevailing at the end of 1920 ranging from 7½ to 9 per cent. in the case of engine drivers to 11 or 12 per cent. in the case of porters. A further reduction of generally 4s. per week operated from 1st January, 1922, raising the percentage reductions to 11 to 14, and 17 or 18, in the case of engine drivers and porters respectively.

Dock labourers sustained a reduction in August of 2s. a day at all the ports in the country, and a further reduction of 1s. a day was arranged to operate early in 1922. The reduction of 2s. a day was equivalent to 12 or 13 per cent. on the rates of 31st December, 1920. The rates of wages of seamen were reduced under a decision of the National Maritime Board in May by £2 10s. per month in the case of men on monthly articles and by 8s. 6d. a week in the case of men on weekly articles. This reduction represented from 17 to 27 per cent. on the monthly rates and from 10 to 14 per cent. on the weekly rates prevailing at the end of 1920 for able seamen, ordinary seamen, firemen and deckhands.

The principal classes of male workers in the printing and book-binding trades, except those engaged in newspaper printing in London, sustained a reduction of 5s. per week in August or September. In addition, bookbinders and machine rulers and some sections of packers, warehousemen, etc., sustained a further reduction of 2s. 6d. per week, a corresponding reduction for some other sections being arranged to operate early in 1922. Women and girls employed in the printing and binding trades had their wages reduced by 2s. per week in August and by 1s. per week in September. On the basis of the recognised time rates of wages at the end of December, 1920, it is estimated that the reductions referred to range from 5 to 6 per cent. in the case of hand compositors, from 7½ to 9 per cent. in the case of bookbinders, and from 6 to 8 per cent. in the case of women. No reduction was made in the rates of wages of newspaper printers in London.

In the furniture trades the reductions during the year varied in the principal centres from 2d. to 5½d. per hour, the average reduction in the large towns in the case of cabinet makers, upholsterers and french polishers being about 12 or 13 per cent. on the rates prevailing at December, 1920. Pottery workers in North Staffordshire sustained a reduction of about 10 per cent. on their current rates of wages. In the case of heavy chemical workers rates of wages were reduced generally by 4d. per hour, equivalent to about 19 to 21 per cent. of the rates prevailing before the reductions were made.

In trades (apart from the clothing trades, referred to above) covered by the Trade Boards Acts the minimum rates of wages were reduced in a number of cases, including the flax and hemp, jute, hollow-ware, paper bag, pin, hook and eye and snap fastener, stamped and pressed metal ware, rope, twine and net, button, sugar confectionery and food preserving and tin box trades. In other cases, including the aerated water, chain, fur, milk distribution, and tobacco trades, no general change occurred during the year.

Amongst those groups of workpeople who are not included in the statistics given in the foregoing Table, agricultural labourers in England and Wales had their minimum rates of wages reduced in September under an Order of the Agricultural Wages Board by amounts ranging from 4s. to 6s. per week. On 1st October the decisions of the Wages Board ceased to be statutorily enforceable, and since that date revised rates of wages have been agreed upon, for the majority of districts in England and Wales by local Conciliation Committees. These rates show varying reductions ranging up to 12s. per week, on the rates in force at the end of December, 1920.

Summary of Changes in Wages.

It will be seen from an examination of the details given above that the amount of the reduction in rates of wages effected during 1921 varied considerably in different industries and occupations. In some exceptional cases—e.g., boot and shoe manufacture, newspaper printing (London), shirt-making, and tobacco manufacture—no general reduction in rates of wages was reported to the Department. On the other hand, reductions equivalent to as much as 40 or 50 per cent. of the rates in force at the beginning of 1921 were reported in some cases, e.g., among certain classes of workpeople in some districts in the coal-mining industry and the iron and steel trades. Apart from such exceptional cases, the general range of the reductions reported is between 10 per cent. and 30 per cent. of the rates at 1st January, 1921, and if allowance is made for the relative importance of the various industries represented the general average would appear to be in the neighbourhood of 20 per cent. As previously indicated, these figures relate in the main to organised industries and to rates of wages for a full week. Owing to the general decline in employment during 1921, the average reduction in actual weekly earnings must have been considerably greater than the reduction in full-time rates of wages.

Methods by which Changes in Wages were Arranged.

As indicated above, the reductions in wages in 1921 were preceded in some industries by increases in the early part of the year. The total amount of all the increases granted was about £700,000 and that of the decreases was about £6,700,000, the net reduction being thus about £6,000,000 per week. The bulk of the increase of £700,000 took effect under sliding scale arrangements dependent on sales or selling prices.

Of the total reduction in rates of wages reported to the Department in 1921 in the trades covered by the statistics, amounting to approximately £6,700,000 per week, reductions amounting to nearly £3,000,000 took effect under sliding scale arrangements dependent either on the proceeds of the industry (as in coal-mining) or on the selling prices of finished or partly finished products (as in the iron and steel trades); about £2,700,000 as the result of negotiation between employers and workpeople (£1,000,000 after disputes involving stoppage of work and £1,700,000 without such stoppage); about £750,000 under cost of living sliding scales; and the remainder (about £250,000) under Trade Board Orders, arbitration awards, etc. It is estimated that the gross aggregate number of workpeople affected by changes during the year, counting individuals as often as their wages were changed, was nearly 25,000,000, of whom less than 1,800,000 were affected by changes in wages following directly upon stoppages of work.

CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR.*

The changes in normal weekly full-time hours of labour taking effect in 1921 in the trades † for which statistics are compiled by the Department affected only about 44,000 workpeople. Of these, 13,000 had their hours reduced by 34,000 per week, and in the case of the remaining 31,000 the hours were increased by 46,000 per week. The principal increases affected civil engineering construction workers generally and rubber workers in Lancashire.

In 1920, 560,000 workpeople had their hours reduced by 2,085,000 per week, and in 1919 the hours of 6,461,000 workpeople were reduced by 41,755,000 per week.

ADAPTATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTS TO NORTHERN IRELAND.

By an Order in Council dated 9th November, 1921, made under the Government of Ireland Act, 1920, the 1st January, 1922, was fixed as the appointed day for the transfer to the Government of Northern Ireland of Irish services in Northern Ireland in connection with Unemployment Insurance. On the 30th December, 1921, notice was given in the *London Gazette* that after the expiration of 40 days from that date it is proposed to submit to His Majesty in Council the draft of the Government of Ireland (Adaptation of Unemployment Insurance Acts) Order, 1921, under Section 69 of the Government of Ireland Act, 1920. Copies of the draft Order can be obtained by any public body, within 40 days from the date of the notice, from the Privy Council Office, Whitehall, London, S.W.1.

In the meantime, in view of the near approach of the appointed day, the Government of Ireland (Adaptation of Unemployment Insurance Acts) Order, 1921, dated 22nd December, 1921, came into operation provisionally as from that date, and prescribes the modifications and adaptations subject to which the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 and 1921, and the Unemployed Workers' Dependents (Temporary Provision) Act, 1921, have effect in Northern Ireland as from the appointed day (1st January, 1922). The modifications and adaptations effected by the Order apply to any order, scheme, rule, regulation or instrument made or issued under these enactments in like manner as they apply to the enactments.

The following are the main modifications and adaptations contained in the Order:—(1) The Minister of Labour and the Ministry of Labour for Northern Ireland are given power, with the consent of the Treasury and the Ministry of Finance for Northern Ireland respectively, to enter into agreements for enabling contributions and benefit paid in either country to be taken into account in the other country for any purpose for which they would have been taken into account had they been paid in that country; (2) provision is made for the apportionment of the assets and liabilities of the unemployment fund and the unemployed workers' dependents' fund (other than the right to receive contributions and the liability to pay benefit) between these funds and the corresponding Northern Irish funds; (3) the employed persons in respect of whom contributions are, after the appointed day, payable to the Northern Irish Funds are defined; (4) provision is made for the apportionment between the funds of the two countries of sums payable out of moneys provided by Parliament, by way of employers' and employed persons' contributions in respect of discharged seamen, marines, soldiers and airmen; (5) arrangements made by the Minister of Labour with societies or associations, under which they pay out State benefit or dependents' grants, continue in force in Northern Ireland as if made by the Ministry of Labour for Northern Ireland.

* The figures given are preliminary and subject to revision.

† See † note in second column on page 4.

JOINT INDUSTRIAL COUNCILS AND INTERIM INDUSTRIAL RECONSTRUCTION COMMITTEES.

BETWEEN 4th and 31st December, 1921, twenty meetings of Joint Industrial Councils and four meetings of Interim Industrial Reconstruction Committees were reported to the Department. Meetings of District and Provincial Councils and of various Sub-Committees have also taken place.

WAGES.

An increase in the basic rates of wages payable in the *Cooperage Industry* has been negotiated for certain districts in the Midlands. The *Joint Industrial Council for the Asbestos Industry* has negotiated a reduction in wages and a further reduction is now under consideration. These reductions are in substitution of the reductions due under the Sliding Scale. Reductions have also been agreed by the *North Midlands Area District Council for Brewery Workers*. Discussions regarding reductions in wages have taken place at meetings of the *Lead Manufacturing Industry* and the *Quarrying Industry Joint Industrial Councils* and of the *Interim Industrial Reconstruction Committee for the Furniture Warehousing and Removing Industry*.

HOURS AND HOLIDAYS.

A sub-Committee of the *National Wool (and Allied) Textile Industry Joint Industrial Council* has re-affirmed the principle of the 48 hours' week. Firms now working overtime may continue to do so until 21st January, 1922. After that date applications for permission to work overtime are to be submitted to the Council's Emergency Committee, which is empowered to grant or refuse the extension of hours in whole or in part.

The employers' side of the *Midlands Hosiery, Bleaching, Dyeing and Finishing Industry District Council* on 1st December proposed that the working week be increased from 48 hours to 56 hours so that they might take advantage of the increase of orders without adding to the cost of production by extra payment for overtime up to 56 hours. No decision was arrived at, and the question will be discussed further at the next meeting.

The question of holidays with pay has been under consideration by several of the Joint Industrial Councils. The employers in the *Cooperage Industry* in the London District have refused to agree to the principle of the compulsory payment for holidays until such time as the other districts of the country come into line. In the *Glove Manufacturing Industry* the employers were, in view of the present trade depression, unable to agree to a joint contributory holiday scheme.

The *Asbestos Joint Industrial Council* and the *Local Authorities' Non-Trading Services (Manual Workers) District Council for the Administrative County of London* have revised their holiday schemes. In the former case the new scheme allows a holiday with pay equivalent to the length of one average factory week less time lost by the worker during the year, no allowance at all being made in the event of the average factory week being less than 36 hours. In the latter case all employees with more than two years' service are to be allowed one day's holiday for every year of service beyond two in addition to the six days already granted, up to a maximum of 12 consecutive days per annum in all, apart from the public holidays.

OTHER TOPICS.

A joint conference of representatives of the *Joint Industrial Councils of the Electrical Cable Making Industry, the Electricity Supply Industry and the Electrical Contracting Industry*, together with representatives of the British Electrical and Allied Manufacturers' Association, the Electrical Wholesalers' Federation, and the British Electrical Development Association has held four meetings. The Conference is desirous that the Government should define, as early as possible, their policy regarding future control of the Electricity Supply Industry, and should remove the uncertainties felt as to the effect of the proposed grouping of the railway companies on their respective capital accounts, so that the projects for the electrification of various railways may be expedited. The question of the alleviation of unemployment has been discussed, and resolutions passed urging the Government to put into operation schemes which, it is understood, have been prepared for the extension of the telephone system, and to give financial assistance to schemes for the extension of tubes and the electrification of railways. The Conference has protested against proposals made by certain financiers that reparations should be paid partly in kind by the use of German electrical goods and installations in carrying out large electrification schemes. It is proposed to make this Joint Conference permanent, and a committee has been appointed to draw up a skeleton constitution.

The *Basket Making Interim Industrial Reconstruction Committee* at its quarterly meeting on 6th December decided again to approach the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, requesting that authority may be given to Weights and Measures Officers to mark fishing cran baskets in the district of manufacture, instead of at the three ports now authorised.

A proposal to approach the Board of Trade to have leather gloves scheduled under the safeguarding of Industries Act was approved by the *Glove Manufacturing Industry Joint Industrial Council*. At the same time the Council passed a resolution supporting the Fabric Association's claim to have the fabric glove section placed under the Act.

At a meeting of the *Match Manufacturing Industry Joint In-*

dustrial Council, on 15th December, it was agreed, on the recommendation of the Unemployment Committee, that, although certain unions had discontinued payment of unemployment benefit to their members, the payment of the employers' benefit under the Supplementary Voluntary Unemployment Benefit Scheme to all employees who are financial members of their unions, and who continue or resume their payments of not less than 2d. per week should be continued until 31st March, 1922, or until such previous time as the unions have been able to formulate or reorganise their unemployment benefits.

Draft rules providing for safety in quarries have been submitted by the Mines Department of the Board of Trade to the *Quarrying Joint Industrial Council*. These have been referred to the various Sectional Councils, and their views will be considered by the Safety and Welfare Committee in February.

An attempt is being made to form a Provincial Council for Non-Trading Services (Manual Workers) in the county of Middlesex. Representatives of the Local Authorities concerned met on 2nd December, when it was decided that each Local Authority should be asked to give a further indication of its attitude in the matter.

An interesting proposal was made at the meeting of the *Waterworks National Joint Industrial Council*, on 16th December, that, should the business to come before the next meeting of the Council be unimportant, the chairman of the employers' side should raise some subject of mutual interest to the industry as a whole for debate. This proposal was agreed to.

APPOINTMENT OF EX-SERVICE MEN TO POSTS IN THE CIVIL SERVICE.

THE most recent statement relating to the employment of ex-Service men in Government Offices, compiled from returns furnished to the Treasury,* shows the numbers of the permanent staff and also of the temporary staff employed in each Department on the 1st December, 1921, and records how many of these in each case are (a) disabled ex-Service men, and (b) ex-Service men not disabled. The following are the total figures for all Departments:—

	Permanent.	Temporary.	Total.
Male Staff	200,788	56,593	257,381
Female Staff	60,340	35,721	96,061
Total Staff (Male and Female) ..	261,128	92,314	353,442
Included in the above are:—			
Disabled Ex-Service Men	25,302	20,294	45,596
Other Ex-Service Men	71,968	30,314	102,282
Total Ex-Service Men	97,270	50,608	147,878

It will be seen that the disabled ex-Service men were 12.90 per cent. of the total staff on the 1st December, 1921; and that ex-Service men of both classes were 41.84 per cent. of the total staff.

PERMANENT STAFF.

In the case of the *permanent staff* the figures may be compared with those given for January, 1920, and for June, 1921, in the third interim report of the Committee appointed by the Treasury in July, 1920, to consider the arrangements for the appointment of ex-Service men to posts in H.M. Civil Service.† It will be seen that the number of ex-Service men (disabled and others) holding permanent appointments has increased from 73,022 in January, 1920, and 90,585 in June, 1921, to 97,270 on 1st December, 1921; a total increase of 24,248 during a period of less than two years. Similarly the number of disabled ex-Service men (included in those figures) has increased from 12,645 in January, 1920, and 22,564 in June, 1921, to 25,302 on 1st December, 1921; an increase of 12,657, or over 100 per cent. Of the ex-Service men holding permanent appointments in January, 1920, 17.32 per cent. were disabled, but the proportion had increased to 26.01 per cent. in December, 1921.

TEMPORARY STAFF.

In the case of the *temporary staff* the figures may be compared with those given for 1st July, 1919, and for 1st July, 1920, in the first interim report of the same Committee.‡ (The former are included for purposes of comparison in the statement recently issued.) The number of ex-Service men holding temporary appointments has increased from 24,271 on 1st July, 1919, and 42,919 on 1st July, 1920, to 50,608 on 1st December, 1921; a total increase of 26,337, or 108.59 per cent., in a period of two years and five months. Of the total temporary staff on 1st July, 1919, 14.00 per cent., and on 1st December, 1921, 54.82 per cent. were ex-Service men. Of the temporary ex-Service men employed on 1st December, 1921, 40.10 per cent. were disabled.

* Statement relating to the employment of ex-Service men in Government Offices on 1st July, 1919, and 1st December, 1921, compiled from Returns furnished to the Treasury. (Cmd. 1568.) Price 2d. net.

† See LABOUR GAZETTE for August, 1921, page 393.

‡ See LABOUR GAZETTE for September, 1920, page 481.

EMPLOYMENT OF EX-SERVICE MEN.

NATIONAL SCHEME.

Up to and including the 31st December, 1921, 29,469 employers had enrolled under the National Scheme, and their names are inscribed on the King's National Roll. The undertakings given by these employers cover 367,165 disabled ex-Service Men.

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING.

At the 3rd January, 1922, the number of men in training was 23,152, and the number of men awaiting training was 35,059. Since 1st August, 1919, 47,095 men have terminated training. At the end of November of the total men in training 17 per cent. were being trained in Building, 11 per cent. in Tailoring, 10 per cent. in Furniture Making and 8 per cent. in Vehicle Building.

INTERRUPTED APPRENTICESHIPS.

Up to 28th December, 1921, 44,591 apprentices had been accepted for training with 17,779 employers, as compared with 44,586 apprentices with 17,762 employers on 30th November. Of the 5 apprentices accepted during the four weeks ended 28th December, 2 were for the Building trades. The apprentices rejected up to 28th December numbered 2,147, the same total as on 30th November. Of those accepted 34,987 terminated training and 9,604 were still in training. The corresponding numbers on 30th November were 34,092 and 10,494 respectively. The number of apprentices who have received Institutional Training has been increased during the four weeks from 1,820 to 1,930.

DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONERS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1920-21.*

In their Report for the year ended 31st March, 1921, the Development Commissioners give an account of advances from the Development Fund recommended during the year for the assistance of agriculture and fisheries, the promotion of rural industries, the reclamation and drainage of land, and the development of harbours. Advances towards these objects, amounting to £636,467 (as compared with £825,313 in the preceding year), were recommended, as follows:—

	Grants.	Loans.
	£	£
Agriculture and rural industries ..	316,655	49,607
Reclamation and drainage of land...	6,000	6,500
Harbours	38,456	81,475
Fisheries... .. .	133,274	4,500
	£494,385	£142,092

The advances in aid of agricultural and rural industries were mainly for agricultural research, experiments, advisory work, etc., but the Commissioners also attached considerable importance to the organisation of agricultural co-operation and to encouraging the establishment of women's institutes and village clubs. Under this head a grant of £23,000 to the Agricultural Organisation Society (England and Wales), and smaller grants to the Scottish and Irish Agricultural Organisation Societies, were recommended. A grant of £10,000 for the National Federation of Women's Institutes, and one of £5,542 to the Village Clubs' Association were recommended. The main conditions of each of the two last-mentioned grants are that co-operation should continue between the Federation and the Association, and that the use of the grants should be confined to propaganda work and organisation. The grants are intended to enable the work of the two organisations to become firmly established; but both are being urged to make every effort to become self-supporting as soon as possible.

Other schemes described in some detail in the Report are the Hereford Rural Electric Power scheme, and the Enham Village Centre. The importance of the Hereford scheme lies in the fact that it will provide for the first time a test of whether electric power for agriculture and rural industries can be applied and worked as a business undertaking. At present it is uncertain to what extent agriculturalists would use power if it were available, and whether it would pay the producer to supply them. The Enham Village Centre is a settlement for disabled ex-Service men.

Nearly half of the Report is occupied with an account of the work done in connection with fishery research. The Report contains, for the first time, a description of the work of Marine Research Institutes.

In the introduction to the Report the Commissioners explain their position with regard to assisting works designed for the relief of unemployment. They point out that, under Section 18 of the Development and Road Improvement Funds Act, 1909, it is provided that, in making advances in respect of the execution of any work under the Act involving the employment of labour on a considerable scale, regard shall be had, so far as is reasonably practicable, to the general state and prospects of employment. This provision, however, does not over-ride either the various statutory limitations on the advances or the general provision in the earlier part of the Act that advances are to be

* Development Commission. Eleventh Report of the Development Commissioners for the year ended the 31st March, 1921. Published by H.M. Stationery Office. Price 5s. net.

for purposes to promote the "economic development of the United Kingdom." The Development Commissioners accordingly could not recommend assistance for relief schemes of an uneconomic nature for the purpose of relieving unemployment, but they can take into consideration the need of employment when deciding whether to recommend assistance to schemes of economic development. Acting on this principle, they have submitted to the Treasury a list of schemes for the improvement of fishery harbours, and schemes of land reclamation and land drainage. Other schemes which they had in preparation during the war, connected with afforestation, inland navigation and light railways, are no longer under their jurisdiction, these services having been transferred to the Forestry Commission under the Forestry Act, 1919, and to the Minister of Transport under the Ministry of Transport Act, 1919, respectively.

The Commissioners emphasize their view that schemes of economic development which they are authorized to assist are more cheaply executed, with a less demoralizing effect and with no less absorption of the unemployed, if they are undertaken in the ordinary way, with no other object than the double one of securing the improvements aimed at and temporarily increasing the aggregate demand for labour. The Commissioners consider that the contractor, or the Authorities concerned, should be left to select the best available men for the work wherever they are to be found, at the standard rates for the particular crafts at which they are to be employed, without requiring that the unemployed of any particular place or in any particular group should be taken on because they are unemployed.

WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.

MEMORANDUM ISSUED BY THE TRADES UNION CONGRESS GENERAL COUNCIL.

THE General Council of the Trades Union Congress have issued a memorandum* on Wages and Hours of Labour, in which they refer to what they describe as "the alarming tendency towards drastic reductions of Labour conditions." They express the opinion that there is "a widespread and carefully organised conspiracy" to secure (a) unreasonable reductions in wages; and (b) a drastic extension of the normal working week; and they warn employers against the consequences of such a policy. "Stability in industrial organisation would be quite impossible, and a policy of attack and counter-attack . . . would take the place of negotiation, the signing of joint agreements, and the fixing of labour standards, by the accredited representatives of the employers and the Trade Unions."

The greater part of the memorandum is occupied with an estimate of the reductions in wages already sustained by the workers during the current year, and by an argument that undue reductions in wages are positively detrimental to industry; while, as regards working hours, it is maintained that no increase is necessary, reduced hours having been shown to be consistent with undiminished output.

Wages.—The General Council estimate the total reduction in the yearly wage bill of the country during the year 1921 at £286,000,000. Substantial reductions which have taken place in some industries (e.g., engineering and mining) have not, according to the memorandum, produced any marked revival in those industries. The General Council argue that reductions in wages which lower the worker's standard of living reduce his efficiency and tend to create serious discontent, both of which are detrimental to industry. Low wages offer no guarantee of business prosperity, being neutralised by price-cutting competition at home, and in other countries by corresponding wage reductions, with consequent intensified foreign competition. In the main, low-wage industries and low-wage countries have not been distinguished either for efficiency or for prosperity. Low wages tend to perpetuate obsolete methods of production, out-of-date machinery, and badly organised factories; and, finally, a drastic reduction of wages means reduced purchasing power, and consequently a reduced home demand for the products of manufacture.

Hours of Labour.—The memorandum quotes the "Second Interim Report on an Investigation of Industrial Fatigue by Physiological Methods,"† by Professor A. F. Stanley Kent, issued by the Home Office in 1916. The following conclusions, quoted by the General Council, appear in the section of the Report dealing with the influence of fatigue and of overtime upon output:—

A worker employed for ten hours per day may produce a greater output than when employed for twelve hours, the extra rest being more than sufficient to compensate for the loss of time.

A worker employed for eight hours per day may produce a greater output than another of equal capacity working twelve hours per day.

A group of workers showed an absolute increase of over 5 per cent. of output as a result of a diminution of 16½ per cent. in the length of the working day.

Another group increased their average rate of output from 262 to 276 as a result of shortening the day from twelve hours to ten, and to 316 on a further shortening of two hours.

A group of piece-workers increased their earnings considerably as a result of a diminution in the length of the working day.

Similarly the Health of Munition Workers' Committee* reported that "amongst those in favour of shorter hours are employers who have given the most careful study to the question of industrial fatigue and scientific management; and it is at least significant that, so far as the Committee can learn, no employer who has once adopted the shorter scale of hours ever desires to return to a longer period."

The memorandum quotes many statements from Home Office Reports in support of the General Council's contention.

The memorandum concludes by asserting, "in the name of organised Labour, that, even if employers could prove that reduced wages and increased hours would lead to industrial prosperity, we should still be opposed to the suggestion that the workers' standard of life should be lowered as the only way to secure this object. The worker has a moral right to claim improvement in working conditions. . . ."

"Organised labour will refuse to accept the theory that the proper function of industry is to provide a bare living for the worker, and an opportunity for wealth accumulation for the employer. We declare that our industries are social necessities, created by social need, built up by generations of social effort, and should only be maintained so long as they meet the demand of those employed in them for a standard of life in accordance with the potentialities represented by the modern powers of wealth production. . . . We refuse to accept the present standard of life, the degree of physical and mental development of the workers already attained, as the highest standard possible."

LABOUR LEGISLATION IN 1921.

CORRECTION.

IN the review of Labour Legislation during the year 1921, given in the LABOUR GAZETTE for December, 1921 (p. 624), reference was made to the continuance, under the Expiring Laws Continuance Act, of the Workmen's Compensation (War Addition) Act, 1917. It was there stated that the effect of that Act was to increase by one-fourth the weekly payments payable by way of compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906, during total incapacity. It should further have been stated that by the Workmen's Compensation (War Addition) Amendment Act, 1919, which is also continued, an increase of three-fourths in the weekly rates of compensation during total incapacity was substituted for the increase of one-fourth introduced in 1917, and it is accordingly the larger increase that has been continued. The War Addition Act of 1919 also made the increase applicable to workmen entitled during total incapacity to weekly payments under the Workmen's Compensation Acts, 1897 and 1900, whereas the War Addition Act of 1917 applied only to similar cases under the Act of 1906.

REDUCTION IN AGRICULTURAL WAGES IN THE UNITED STATES.†

AN investigation recently carried out by the Federal Department of Agriculture shows that in the United States farm wages, with board, averaged 29.48 dollars per month in 1921, or 37 per cent. below the average (46.89 dollars) for the previous year. The 1920 figure was the highest ever recorded in the country. In 1916, the year before the United States entered the war, the rate was 23.25 dollars.

Monthly wages without board declined from 64.95 dollars, the highest point, to 42.65 dollars in 1921, or by 34 per cent. The average for 1916 was 52.83 dollars.

Harvest wages by the day, states the report, declined nearly as much between 1920 and 1921, viz., from 3.60 dollars to 2.12 dollars, as they gained in the four years 1916 to 1920 (1.69 to 3.60 dollars). Harvest wages, exclusive of board, shared in the general marked upward movement, and rose from 2.07 dollars in 1916 to 4.36 dollars in 1920, followed by a decline to 2.80 dollars in 1921.

COMPULSORY EMPLOYMENT OF DISABLED MEN IN POLAND.‡

UNDER the provisions of an Act dated 13th March, 1921, relating to relief for disabled soldiers, employers in industry, commerce, agriculture and transport in Poland are required to give employment to at least one seriously disabled man for every fifty work-people employed by them. The administrative regulations for carrying out Section 55 of this Act are contained in a decree of 15th November, 1921. These define serious disability as a diminution of at least 45 per cent. in the working capacity of the ex-soldier.

Employers are required to submit lists to the State Labour Offices showing their total staffs and the number of disabled men employed; if the latter number falls short of the minimum laid down in the law, the nature of the work employers can offer to other disabled men must be stated. Employers may themselves engage the disabled men, or may select them from lists of candidates submitted by the State Labour Offices.

* See Health of Munition Workers' Committee, Memorandum No. 5 (Cd. 8186, 1916).

† Monthly Labour Review, November, 1921, Washington.

‡ Daily Intelligence, 23rd December, 1921, International Labour Office, Geneva.

PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES IN POLAND: NEW LAW.*

THE activities of private employment agencies in Poland carried on for profit are now regulated by an Act dated 21st October, 1921.† Such agencies can only be carried on under special permit issued by the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, and they may deal only with employment within the country. The placing of Polish workers outside the Republic is exclusively reserved to the national employment exchanges. Authority to operate an employment agency is only to be granted to persons of Polish nationality who were already keeping one at the date when the law came into operation. A permit is granted for one year only, but may be renewed. It will be refused if there is already a national employment exchange in the district, or any other free employment exchange which is working satisfactorily. The law explicitly provides for the abolition of all private employment agencies for domestic servants within a period of five years.

Authorisation to keep an employment agency will be refused to persons whose personal conduct or the conduct of whose family fails to guarantee that the work will be carried on in accordance with the requirements of law and morality. The proprietor of an employment agency and the persons belonging to his household may not be proprietors or managers of restaurants, wine-shops, lodging houses, clothing or food stores, offices for the sale of lottery tickets or tickets for overseas journeys, money-changing offices or pawnbrokers' shops.

The scale of charges is fixed by the Ministry. No charge or deposit may be asked of an applicant for work before an agreement with an employer has been definitely concluded through the medium of the agency. The charge is not to be borne exclusively by the applicant for work.

The carrying on of an employment agency without authorisation or in other localities or for other industries than those specified in the permit renders the offender liable to a penalty of imprisonment for a term of from one to six months, or to heavy fines, or to both. The breach of other regulations under the law is also punishable by fine or imprisonment.

NEW DANISH LAW ON EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES AND UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

THE system of subventions to recognised Unemployment Societies by the State and communal authorities was initiated by an Act dated April 9th, 1907, amended by two later laws, dated respectively April 8th, 1914,‡ and January 5th, 1920.§ These societies had to conform to certain requirements as regards their statutes, etc., and their supervision was entrusted to an Inspector of Unemployment. In 1913 a system of State subsidised municipal employment exchanges was established.

In December, 1921, an Act was passed which provides for the co-ordination of Unemployment Societies, Employment Exchanges and Emergency Works under a single official, to be termed the Director of Labour.¶

The new law retains a clause first included in the Act of 1920 to the effect that unemployed pay is not to be granted to workers who refuse on inadequate grounds to undertake work indicated to them. A new provision states that it shall not be regarded as adequate grounds for refusing work that the wages for such work are lower than those which the worker in question has hitherto received, provided that the wages are not less than those usually paid in the industry and district for similar work.

The Act of 1914 provided that an Unemployment Society might form a special fund to be used for granting benefit beyond the ordinary period, during times of exceptional unemployment. The special benefit was to be paid only to persons belonging to a trade which was declared by the Minister of the Interior to be suffering from exceptional unemployment. Societies which formed such funds received a further subsidy from the State. The new Act provides for the formation of an emergency fund for dealing with relief works during exceptional unemployment. The State is to contribute seven million kroner, and the employers are to make an average contribution of nine kroner per insured whole-year worker. Further, the Unemployment Societies are to pay into the fund at the end of each quarter 5 per cent. of the amount of subscriptions received from their members. When the total of the emergency fund amounts to more than fifty million kroner the contributions of the employers and work-people are to be reduced.

A Committee of the Rigsdag is to decide when a state of extraordinary unemployment exists. The emergency fund is to be managed by a Works Board of the Ministry of the Interior, which is also to prepare plans for public works to be undertaken as emergency works. When the latter have been commenced, payment of unemployment benefit is to be made conditional on the production of evidence that the person in question has not been able to obtain employment on such work. The conditions of labour on emergency works are to be determined in such a manner that the greatest possible number of unemployed can thereby find employment, and that on the one hand it will be more advantageous to obtain work on emergency

* Daily Intelligence, 30th December, 1921. International Labour Office. † Public Employment Exchanges under the Polish Ministry of Labour were established in the chief towns by a Decree of 29th January, 1919.

‡ See LABOUR GAZETTE, April, 1915, p. 120.

§ See LABOUR GAZETTE, May, 1920, p. 231.

¶ According to a despatch from H.M. Representative at Copenhagen.

‡ That is per 300 man-days of work performed.

works than to secure unemployment pay, while on the other hand it will still remain of interest for the unemployed person to obtain other employment. The new Act came into operation on 1st January, 1922.

INDUSTRIAL WAGES IN CZECHO-SLOVAKIA.*

ACCORDING to a report submitted on 13th September, 1921, to the delegates of the Central Federation of Czechoslovak Manufacturers, wages fixed by collective agreements have during 1921 tended on the whole towards stability. Reductions have been made in a number of cases, and there were also agreements by which workers undertook to increase their output on condition that wages should not be reduced. Increases in wages have taken place in certain cases, but the report considers them justified.

In the Provinces of Slovakia and Carpathian Ruthenia wages in 1919 and 1920 were higher than in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia, and it was, therefore, easier to effect reductions. At the end of August, 1921, wages in Carpathian Ruthenia paid by the Federation of Czechoslovak Manufacturers were reduced without opposition on the part of the workers. In the chemical industry the reduction amounted to 15 per cent.

In Slovakia, workers in certain industries, including the textile industry and iron mining, undertook to increase output by 20 per cent. on condition that wages should not be reduced. In sawmills and in the building material industry wages were reduced by from 15 to 20 per cent. In sugar refineries, the chemical industry and the food industry, no change was made from the preceding year. In the hides and leather working industry either the same rate of wages was maintained or piece-work was introduced.

In Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia wages were increased by 10 per cent. in the sugar refineries and in the malt and bakery industries; and by 15 per cent. in the wood industry. No change took place in flour-mills, the hides and leather industry, or in alcohol distilleries. In the chemical industry the majority of the factories kept to the wages of the previous year. In the glass industry a reduction was made, owing to the large amount of unemployment prevailing. In the pottery and building material industries piece-work has been introduced or wages have been reduced by 8 or 10 per cent.; in the tile-making industry a collective agreement for all three provinces was concluded for the summer season of 1921, whereby wages were reduced 20 per cent. In the cement industry of Central Bohemia a collective agreement was concluded, valid until 30th April, 1922; wages were fixed for each factory separately, but a minimum output was determined based on the output registered in 1914.

STATUTORY JOINT COMMITTEES IN ESTHONIAN AGRICULTURE.†

AN Esthonian Act of 21st October, 1921, provides for the creation of provincial joint committees and a National Joint Committee of agricultural employers and workers. The provincial committees are elected separately for employers and workers in the various communes. Their functions are to fix minimum rates of wages, standards of daily output, the length of the working day for the different months of the year, to regulate overtime and to fix annual holidays. They have also power to prepare schemes for improving the general conditions of agricultural workers. They are to meet at latest in December of each year, and are expected to submit completed plans to the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare by the 15th January following.

The National Joint Committee consists of two members elected by each of the provincial committees from the employers' and workers' sections respectively. Its function is to examine and co-ordinate the proposals of the provincial committees. It must submit its proposals to the Ministry of Labour by 15th February, so that they may be promulgated before the beginning of the financial year on 1st May. Schemes published in the *Esthonian Official Gazette* have the force of law, and remain in operation till the decisions of the following year are published. The National Committee is also empowered to give its opinion to the Government on measures for improving the position of agricultural workers.

Local conditions of work are to be elaborated in detail by the provincial committees, but the Act itself contains certain provisions of a general character. Thus, for example, the minimum rates fixed by the committees must not be reduced even with the consent of the workers, and the money value of payments in kind is to be fixed by the Ministry of Labour at least twice a year. The Act also provides for written duplicate contracts and for work-books or wages-books, which must show not only the wages paid out, in money and kind, but also the output of the workers in so far as it exceeds or falls below the standard.

The working hours fixed must not exceed an average of 9 per day throughout the year. Overtime is to be paid at time-and-a-half. Certain holidays are to be granted. Agricultural workers are placed on an equality with industrial workers in the matter of compensation for accidents. The work of children and young persons is regulated.

Responsibility for enforcing the Act rests with the Ministry of Labour, assisted by certain local bodies and inspectors. Disputes which these bodies are unable to settle are brought before the justice of the peace.

* Daily Intelligence, 14th November, 1921. International Labour Office.

† Daily Intelligence, 25th November, 1921. International Labour Office.

* Wages and the Hours of Labour: Trades Union Congress General Council, 32, Euston Square, London, S.W. 1. † Cd. 8335, 1916.

STATISTICS OF RETAIL PRICES.

RETAIL PRICES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

STATISTICS FOR 31st DECEMBER, 1921.*

SUMMARY: AVERAGE INCREASES SINCE JULY, 1914.

All Items	92%
Food only	85%

FOOD.

At 31st December the average increase since July, 1914, in the cost of the pre-war working-class dietary was about 85 per cent., as compared with about 95 per cent. at 1st December. The decline during the month was mainly due to reductions in the prices of bread, flour, meat, butter, and eggs. Fish was much dearer at the end of the month than at the beginning, owing to stormy weather.

In the following Table is given a comparison of average prices of the articles of food included in these statistics in July, 1914, and on 1st December and 31st December, 1921 :-

Article.	Average Price (per lb. unless otherwise indicated).			Average Inc (+) or Dec. (-) at 31st Dec., 1921, as compared with	
	July, 1914.	1st Dec., 1921.	31st Dec., 1921.	July, 1914.	1st Dec., 1921.
Beef, British—	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Ribs	0 9½	1 6	1 6	+ 0 8½	- 0 0¼
Thin Flank ..	0 6½	0 11½	0 11	+ 0 4½	- 0 0½
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—					
Ribs	0 7½	0 11½	0 11	+ 0 3½	- 0 0¼
Thin Flank ..	0 4½	0 6½	0 6½	+ 0 1½	- 0 0¼
Mutton, British—					
Legs	0 10½	1 6½	1 6	+ 0 7½	- 0 0¼
Breast	0 6½	0 10½	0 10½	+ 0 4	- 0 0¼
Mutton, Frozen—					
Legs	0 6½	0 11½	0 11½	+ 0 4½	- 0 0¼
Breast	0 4	0 5	0 4½	+ 0 0½	- 0 0¼
Bacon (streaky)†	0 11½	1 9½	1 9½	+ 0 10	- 0 0½
Flour .. per 7 lb.	0 10½	1 6½	1 6	+ 0 7½	- 0 0½
Bread .. per 4 lb.	0 5½	0 10½	0 10	+ 0 4½	- 0 0½
Tea	1 5½	2 6½	2 6½	+ 0 11½	—
Sugar (granulated)	0 2	0 5½	0 5½	+ 0 3½	—
Milk .. per quart	0 3½	0 8	0 8	+ 0 4½	—
Butter—					
Fresh	1 2½	2 2½	1 10½	+ 0 8½	- 0 4
Salt	1 2	2 1	1 7½	+ 0 5½	- 0 5½
Cheese (Canadian or U.S.)†	0 8½	1 2½	1 2	+ 0 5½	- 0 0¼
Margarine	0 7½	0 8	0 8	+ 0 0½	—
Eggs (fresh) .. each	0 1½	0 4½	0 4	+ 0 2½	- 0 0½
Potatoes .. per 7 lb.	0 4½	0 8½	0 8	+ 0 3½	- 0 0¼

The following Table gives a percentage comparison of the level of prices at 31st December in relation to the prices of July, 1914, and 1st December, 1921 :-

Article.	Average Percentage Increase at 31st December, 1921, as compared with July, 1914.			Corresponding figure for United Kingdom at 1st Dec., 1921.
	Large Towns (Populations over 50,000).	Small Towns and Villages.	United Kingdom.	
Beef, British—	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Ribs	81	81	81	85
Thin Flank ..	63	68	66	73
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—				
Ribs	55	49	52	56
Thin Flank ..	31	34	32	37
Mutton, British—				
Legs	73	74	74	78
Breast	62	58	60	65
Mutton, Frozen—				
Legs	64	61	62	66
Breast	19	17	18	21
Bacon (streaky)†	99	82	91	96
Fish	162	130	146	96
Flour	64	75	69	77
Bread	71	73	72	80
Tea	61	66	63	63
Sugar (granulated)	181	171	176	181
Milk	128	135	132	133
Butter—				
Fresh	45	69	57	84
Salt	35	32	39	78
Cheese (Canadian or U.S.)†	59	64	62	63
Margarine	11	10	10	14
Eggs (fresh) .. each	248	228	238	230
Potatoes	93	45	69	73
All above articles of Food (Weighted Percentage Increase).	86	84	85	95

* As 1st January fell on Sunday, the statistics relate to 31st December. † If this kind is seldom dealt with in a locality, the Returns quote the price for another kind locally representative.

RENT, CLOTHING, FUEL AND LIGHT.

As regards rents, special enquiries have been made into the increases which have taken effect under the operation of the Increase of Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Act, 1920, and from the results of these enquiries it is estimated that the average increase in rents of working-class dwellings between July, 1914, and 31st December, 1921, was about 55 per cent. Of the total increase about one-half is accounted for by increases in rates and water charges, and one-third is on account of the landlord's responsibility for repairs, increases on account of the higher level of mortgage interest permitted by the Act falling within the remaining one-sixth.

As regards clothing, owing to the wide range of quotations, both now and before the war, to changes in qualities, and in stocks held by retailers, and to variations in the extent to which different articles and qualities have been affected by price changes, it is impossible to make an exact calculation of the increase in prices; but information as to the movements of prices of men's suits and overcoats, underclothing and hosiery, textile materials and boots, received from retailers in the principal towns, indicates that at 31st December the level of retail prices of clothing, quality for quality, taking goods of the kind purchased by the working classes, averaged about 150 per cent. higher than in July, 1914, prices showing a slight reduction, on the average, since 1st December.

In the fuel and light group, the average increase in the retail prices of coal, as compared with July, 1914, was about 125 per cent. at 31st December. For gas the increase was about 105 per cent., for lamp oil 100 per cent., and for candles (cheap kinds) 90 per cent. Matches show a much greater increase. Taking the group as a whole, the average increase was between 120 and 125 per cent. at 31st December, as compared with about 130 per cent. a month earlier.

ALL ITEMS.

If the average increases in the cost of all the foregoing items are combined in accordance with their relative importance in pre-war working-class family expenditure, allowance being also made for the increase in the prices of soap, soda, domestic ironmongery, brushware and pottery, tobacco, fares and newspapers (estimated at an average of about 100 per cent.), the resultant figure for 31st December, 1921, is about 92 per cent. over the pre-war level as compared with 99 per cent. for 1st December.

The result of this calculation (in which the same quantities and, as far as possible, the same qualities of each item are taken in 1921 as in 1914) is to show the average increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the pre-war standard of living of working-class families (i.e., the standard actually prevailing in working-class families before the war, irrespective of whether such standard was adequate or not). Owing to the variations in the amounts of increase in the prices of different commodities it is probable that economies or re-adjustments in expenditure have been effected in many families, especially in those cases where incomes have not increased so much as prices. On the other hand, it is probable that the standard of living has been raised in some families in which wages have been increased in greater proportion than prices. No allowance is made in the figures for any such alterations in the standard of living, as to which trustworthy statistics are not available.

SUMMARY TABLE: 1915 TO 1922.

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

Month (beginning of)	Average Percentage Increase since July, 1914—All Items. (Food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, &c.)						
	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.
January ..	10-15	35	65	85-90	120	125	165
February ..	15	35	65-70	90	120	130	151
March ..	15-20	35-40	70	90	115	130	141
April ..	15-20	35-40	70-75	90-95	110	132	135
May ..	20	40-45	75	95-100	105	141	128
June ..	25	45	75-80	100	105	150	119
July ..	25	45-50	80	100-105	105-110	152	119
August ..	25	45-50	80	110	115	155	122
September ..	25	50	80-85	110	115	161	120
October ..	30	50-55	75-80	115-120	120	164	110
November ..	30-35	60	85	120-125	125	178	103
December ..	35	65	85	123	125	169	99

NOTE.

THE LABOUR GAZETTE for February, 1921, contained a full account of the scope and method of compilation of the above statistics.

* If the amount of increased taxation on commodities is deducted, the average increase at 31st December, 1921, was about 6 per cent. less. † As 1st January fell on Sunday, the statistics relate to 31st December.

RETAIL PRICES OVERSEAS.

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

FRANCE.*

The index number representing the general level of retail prices of food, fuel and lighting in French provincial towns with over 10,000 inhabitants during the fourth quarter of 1921 shows a decrease of 0.5 per cent. as compared with the preceding quarter, but is 249 per cent. above the figure for the third quarter of 1914.

As regards Paris, the latest data refer to December, when the level of retail prices of food, fuel and lighting was 0.9 per cent. lower than in the preceding month, but 223 per cent. higher than that for July, 1914. In both cases the computation of the movement of the general prices level is based on the pre-war budget of a typical Parisian family of the working class.

BELGIUM.†

The index number of the cost of food required by families whose incomes (in 1910) fell below 5 francs per day, at the prices prevailing on the 15th November, 1921, was 342 per cent. greater than on 15th April, 1914. The corresponding expenditure by families whose incomes ranged from 5 to 8 francs and also by families in the highest income class (8 francs and over) showed a rise of 334 per cent. In the computation of the general index numbers allowance is made for the relative expenditure upon the various items of food entering into the dietary of the standard families considered.

The general level (unweighted) of retail prices of food and other necessities on 15th November, 1921, as computed from returns of retail prices in 59 localities, shows an increase of 0.8 per cent. as compared with 15th October, 1921, and of 294 per cent. as compared with 15th April, 1914.

ITALY (MILAN)‡

The weekly cost of maintaining the pre-war standard of living in Milan in the case of a family consisting of five persons, at the prices current in December, shows, as regards food alone, a decrease of 0.6 per cent. when compared with the preceding month, but an increase of 467 per cent. as compared with the first half of 1914. The total family expenditure, including also the cost of clothing, rent, fuel and lighting, shows in December a decrease of 0.4 per cent. as compared with November, but is 439 per cent. higher than in 1914.

GERMANY.§

The official index number for December representing the cost of necessities assumed to be required by a family of five persons, represents an increase of 11 per cent. as compared with the preceding month, and of 1450 per cent. as compared with the average of 1913-14. The standard budget of this family includes food, the rent of two rooms and a kitchen, and the cost of fuel and lighting. The increase in the cost of food alone in December was 9.1 per cent. as compared with November, and 1988 per cent. as compared with the figure for 1913-14.

SWITZERLAND.¶

According to figures compiled by the Union of Swiss Co-operative Societies on the basis of returns from twenty-three Swiss towns, the general level of retail prices of food on 1st December was 3.6 per cent. lower than in the preceding month, but 89 per cent. above the level of June, 1914. If the computation be extended to include fuel, lighting and soap, the index number for 1st December shows a decrease of 3.2 per cent. when compared with that of 1st November, but is 92 per cent. above the level of June, 1914.

SWEDEN.¶

At the prices prevailing in December the cost of maintaining the standard pre-war budget of a typical Swedish household in the matter of food, fuel and lighting represents a decrease of 4.3 per cent. upon the cost in the preceding month, but an increase of 102 per cent. in comparison with July, 1914. The family taken as the type is one consisting of a man and wife and two children, which had an expenditure (in 1914) of 2,000 kronor per annum.

The above computations are based on a comparison of expenditure upon articles of food, fuel and lighting only. The total family expenditure, including also the computed expenditure on rent, clothing, taxation and other items, at the prices

* Information supplied through the courtesy of the Director of the General Statistical Department of France.

† *Revue du Travail*, December, 1921. Brussels.

‡ Information supplied through the courtesy of the Municipal Labour Office, Milan.

§ Information supplied through the courtesy of the Federal Statistical Department, Berlin.

¶ *Schweizerischer Konsum-Verein*, 31st December 1921. Basle.

¶ Information supplied through the courtesy of the Director of the Department for Social Affairs, Stockholm.

current on 1st January, 1922, shows a decrease of 6.5 per cent. when compared with the last quarterly computation, viz., 1st October, 1921, but an increase of 116 per cent. as compared with July, 1914.

UNITED STATES.*

The general level of retail prices of food in the United States in November was 0.7 per cent. below that of the preceding month, and 21 per cent. below that of November, 1920, but was 49 per cent. above the level of July, 1914. In the computation of the general level each article of food is weighted according to its importance in household consumption.

CANADA.†

The estimated weekly expenditure upon food by a family of five in December, 1921, as computed from returns of retail prices prevailing in 60 towns in the Dominion, shows a decrease of 0.7 per cent. when compared with that of the preceding month, but an increase of 48 per cent. upon the expenditure in July, 1914. The total expenditure upon food, fuel, lighting and rent combined shows a decrease of 0.5 per cent. as compared with that for November, but a rise of 52 per cent. as compared with the cost in July, 1914.

INDIA (BOMBAY)‡

The index number compiled by the Bombay Labour Office shows a decrease of 0.6 per cent. in the general level of retail food prices in November as compared with the preceding month, but an increase of 79 per cent. as compared with July, 1914. If fuel and lighting, clothing and house rent be also taken into consideration (in addition to food) the general level of retail prices in November also shows a decrease of 0.6 per cent. as compared with the preceding month, but an increase of 82 per cent. as compared with July, 1914. In the computation of the general index numbers regard is had to the relative importance of the various groups of commodities in household consumption.

NEW ZEALAND.§

The index number of retail prices of food in December, based on returns relating to 25 representative towns in New Zealand, shows a decrease of 1.2 per cent. when compared with that for the preceding month, but is 50 per cent. above the level of July, 1914. In the computation of the general index number regard is had to the relative importance of the various groups of commodities in consumption.

* Information supplied through the courtesy of the Federal Commissioner of Labour Statistics, Washington. † Information supplied through the courtesy of the Canadian Department of Labour, Ottawa. ‡ Information supplied through the courtesy of the Director of the Bombay Labour Office. § Information supplied through the courtesy of the Government Statistician of New Zealand.

FOOD PRICES—GENERAL SUMMARY.

RETAIL PRICES OF FOOD.—PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES AT THE UNDERMENTIONED DATES, AS COMPARED WITH JULY, 1914.

Country.	Percentage Increase in Retail Food Prices since July, 1914.					Latest figures available.		
	July, 1917.	July, 1918.	July, 1919.	July, 1920.	July, 1921.			
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.		
UNITED KINGDOM ..	104	110	109	158	120	85*	31 Dec. 1921	
FOREIGN COUNTRIES.								
Austria (Vienna) ..	..	..	..	359	9,320	20,622	Oct. '21
Belgium .. .. .	..	..	..	..	310	342	Nov. '21
Czechoslovakia†	..	..	..	..	..	1,345	June '21
Denmark	66	87	112	153	136	136	July '21	
Finland .. .. .	..	..	..	..	882	1,178	Oct. '21
France (Paris)‡	83	106	161	273	206	223	Dec. '21	
„ (other Towns)‡	84§	144§	188§	288§	250§	249	4th Qr '21	
Germany .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1,036	1,174	Dec. '21
Holland (The Hague)	..	..	..	..	143	113	Sept. '21
„ (Amsterdam)	42	76	110	117	85	59	Nov. '21	
Italy (Rome)	37	103	106	218	302	359	Nov. '21	
„ (Milan)	225	345	406	Dec. '21
„ (Florence)	84	198	178	313	350	432	Dec. '21	
Norway	114¶	179	189	219	195	181	Nov. '21	
Poland (Warsaw)‡	..	..	..	..	7,615	23,232	May '21
Sweden	81	168	210	197	132	102	Dec. '21	
Switzerland	129	135	113	Dec. '21
United States ..	43	64	86	115	45	49	Nov. '21	
OVERSEAS DOMINIONS								
Australia	26	31	47	94	61	47	Nov. '21	
Canada	57	76	86	127	48	48	Dec. '21	
India (Bombay) ..	..	..	..	..	88	74	Nov. '21
New Zealand	27	39	44	67	64	60	Dec. '21	
South Africa	28	34	39	97	39	25	Dec. '21	

* It should be noted that these figures for the United Kingdom relate to food only. For all items the increase at 31st December, 1921, was 92 per cent. (see p. 10). † The increases shown are for families of the lowest income class; in November the increase for all working-class families ranged from 334 to 342 per cent. ‡ Fuel and lighting are also included in these figures. § Figures for 3rd Quarter. ¶ Figures for August. ¶ Figures for June.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

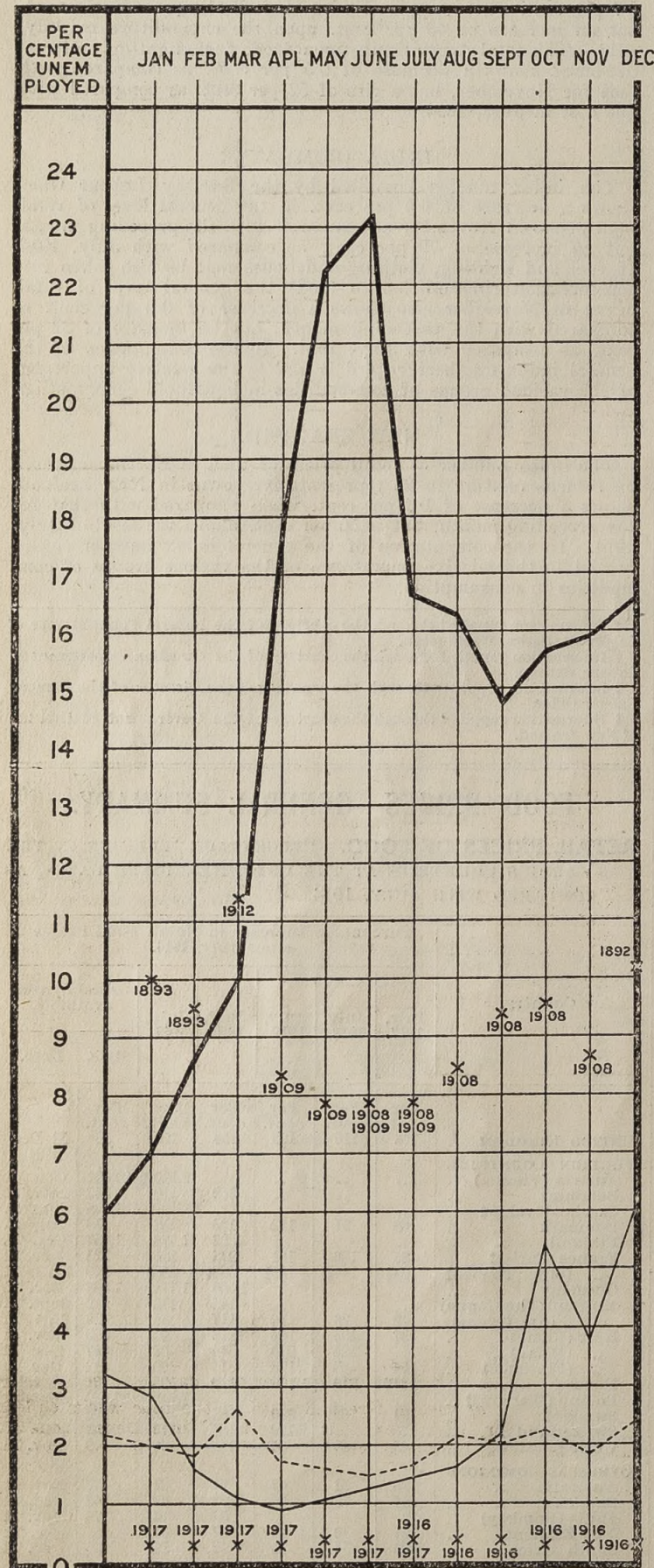
EMPLOYMENT CHART.*

SHOWING PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED OF MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS.

Thick Curve = 1921. Thin Curve = 1920.

Dotted Curve = Mean of 1911-20.

× The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages of unemployed, in the months named, during the years 1891-1920.



* The Chart is based on Returns furnished by various Trade Unions which pay unemployment benefit to their members. Persons on strike or locked out, sick, or superannuated, are excluded from the figures. Detailed figures are given on page 13.

EMPLOYMENT SUMMARY FOR DECEMBER.

EMPLOYMENT continued bad during December. There was much short time working and extended holidays at Christmas were general. In some industries, including coal mining, hosiery and silk manufacture, and leather tanning and currying, there was an improvement; but in others, including iron mining, the heavy iron and steel trades, and boot and shoe manufacture, there was a decline. There was also a seasonal falling off in the building and brick-making trades.

The percentage unemployed among members of trade unions from which returns were received was 16.5 at the end of December, compared with 15.9 at the end of November and 6.0 at the end of December, 1920.

Among the workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Act, numbering approximately 11,900,000, and working in practically every industry except agriculture and private domestic service, the percentage unemployed at 30th December was 16.2, compared with 15.7 at 2nd December. For males alone the percentage claiming benefit was 18.2 at 30th December, as compared with 17.7 at 2nd December; for females the corresponding figures were 11.3 and 10.6.

The number of workpeople on the Live Register of the Employment Exchanges at 30th December was approximately 1,886,000, of whom men numbered 1,451,000 and women 334,000, the remainder being boys and girls. The corresponding total for 2nd December was 1,834,000, of whom 1,415,000 were men and 318,000 were women. Some unemployed persons not insured under the Unemployment Insurance Act do not register at the Employment Exchanges, and the Live Register figures therefore do not indicate the total number unemployed.

In addition to those totally unemployed, large numbers of workpeople were registered as working short time in such a manner as to entitle them to benefit under the Unemployment Insurance Act. At 30th December these numbered 316,000, of whom 169,000 were men and 126,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls; the corresponding numbers on 2nd December were 268,000 (147,000 men and 103,000 women).

The total number of vacancies notified to the Employment Exchanges and unfilled at 30th December was 19,200, of which 4,700 were for men and 12,200 for women; the corresponding number at 2nd December was 18,100, of which 4,400 were for men and 11,800 for women.

Employment at coal mines showed a further improvement, and was fair on the whole. The total number of wage earners on the colliery books at 17th December was 1,069,726, an increase of 0.6 per cent. compared with a month ago and a decrease of 12.5 per cent. compared with a year ago. The average number of days worked by the pits during the fortnight ended 17th December was 5.18, compared with 4.97 in November, 1921, and 5.63 in December, 1920. At lead and zinc mines it continued bad, and at iron mines it again declined and was very bad; at tin mines work was almost entirely suspended. Employment at shale mines was good; at quarries it was moderate.

In the pig iron industry employment continued bad and was worse than in November. The number of furnaces in blast at the end of December was 77, compared with 85 at the end of November, 1921, and with 274 at the end of December, 1920. It was also bad at iron and steel works, except in Wales and Monmouth, where it was moderate. At tinplate and sheet steel works employment continued fair; the number of mills in operation at the end of December was 444, compared with 443 a month ago and 414 a year ago. In the engineering and shipbuilding trades employment was very bad, with extended Christmas holidays in many cases. There was a further improvement, however, in the motor trade, and the textile machinery trades were fairly busy. In practically all the other metal trades employment continued bad.

In the textile trades employment continued bad generally, with much unemployment and short time working. In the flannel trade, however, it was good, and full time was generally worked in the wool sorting and combing departments of the worsted trade, while some overtime was reported in the merino section. In the hosiery trade employment was fair, and some improvement was reported in the linen trade in Ireland. On the other hand employment showed a further decline in the cotton, jute and lace trades.

Employment in the clothing trades continued bad and the depression in the boot and shoe trades increased. In the corset trade employment was fair.

In the leather trades an improvement was reported and employment was fair on the whole. It was bad in the paper, printing and bookbinding trades, and in the glass and pottery trades. In the building and brickmaking trades there was a seasonal decline. In the food preparation trades employment remained moderate.

Among dock labourers and seamen employment continued slack. In agriculture good progress was made with the autumn cultivation and unemployment was generally confined to casual labour.

TRADE UNION PERCENTAGES OF UNEMPLOYED.

Trade.	Member-ship of Trade Unions making Returns at end of Dec., 1921.	Unemployed at end of December, 1921.*		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage Unemployed as compared with a	
		Num-ber.	Per-cent-age.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Building†	86,685	4,169	4.3	+ 0.1	+ 2.6
Coal Mining	181,961	26,250	13.9	- 3.0	+13.8
Engineering and Ship-building	535,477	146,395	27.3	+ 0.2	+21.1
Miscellaneous Metal	75,074	11,420	15.2	- 0.5	+ 8.3
Textiles—					
Cotton	72,440	7,335	10.1†	+ 2.0	+ 5.0
Woolen and Worsted	12,614	452	3.6	+ 1.8	- 6.1
Other	77,329	4,082	5.2	- 0.7	- 5.7
Printing, Bookbinding and Paper.	101,396	9,077	8.9	+ 0.5	+ 4.4
Furnishing	38,781	2,208	5.7		+ 0.7
Woodworking	51,475	5,476	10.6	+ 0.4	+ 7.1
Clothing—					
Boot and Shoe	77,830	3,728	4.8	+ 0.5	- 7.5
Other Clothing	69,797	3,563	6.0	- 0.2	- 6.8
Leather	10,220	1,043	10.2	- 1.5	- 0.2
Glass	1,272	51	4.0	- 0.6	+ 3.6
Pottery	34,700	10,500	30.3	+19.3	+39.0
Tobacco‡	4,779	285	28.6	+ 4.3	+ 1.5
Total	1,431,820	235,872	16.5	+ 3.6	+10.5

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED INDUSTRIES.

Detailed particulars will be found on pages 24 and 25.

SUMMARY OF EMPLOYERS' RETURNS.

(a) MINING AND OTHER METAL TRADES.

Trade.	Workpeople included in the Returns for Dec., 1921.	Dec., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	
			Month ago.	Year ago.
Coal Mining	1,069,726	5.18	+0.21	-0.50
Iron	5,475	3.74	-0.85	-2.06
Shale	3,078	5.95		+0.16
Pig Iron	12,652	Furnaces in Blast 487	Number -8	Number -197
Tinplate and Steel Sheet		Mills Working 444	+1	+30
Iron and Steel	69,546	Shifts Worked (one week) 336,433	Per cent. -3.3	Per cent. -48.3

(b) OTHER TRADES.

Trade.	Number of Workpeople.		Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.	
	Week ended 17th Dec., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended 17th Dec., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.
Textiles—				
Cotton	86,805	Per cent. -1.7	£ 178,450	Per cent. -3.4
Woolen	15,662	+ 1.0	32,117	+ 2.9
Worsted	28,845	+ 0.5	61,824	+ 0.7
Linen	24,892	+ 1.2	35,978	+ 2.1
Jute	13,593	- 1.0	21,314	- 2.9
Hosiery	15,363	+ 1.3	33,598	+ 6.5
Lace	4,135	- 1.9	7,844	- 2.4
Other Textiles	14,274	+ 0.9	27,783	+ 3.4
Bleaching, etc.	21,641	- 0.2	61,367	+ 0.7
Total Textiles	225,210	- 0.3	460,225	- 0.4
Boot and Shoe	51,287	- 0.5	116,617	- 1.3
Shirt and Collar	9,977	- 0.4	15,378	+ 0.8
Ready-made Tailoring	17,863	- 1.0	28,106	- 4.8
Paper	10,398	- 3.2	27,088	- 7.4
Printing and Book-binding	14,396	- 0.0	44,243	- 1.1
Pottery	12,356	- 2.0	26,306	-11.4
Glass	7,560	+ 2.1	21,876	- 2.7
Brick	7,817	- 1.7	21,376	- 4.7
Cement	6,429	- 3.3	21,947	- 4.5
Food Preparation	62,311	- 2.2	144,504	- 2.0
Grand Total	427,002	- 0.8	927,566	- 1.7

* Short time and broken time are not reflected in the figures. In the mining and textile industries a contraction in the demand for labour is generally met by short time working.

† The percentage is based on returns relating to carpenters and plumbers.

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

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

¶ See footnote * to article, "Pig Iron," on p. 14.

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

DETAILED REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

NOTE.—The numbers of workpeople given in the following Tables represent the numbers covered by the Returns received and (except as regards coal mining) not the total numbers employed in the various industries. The comparisons of numbers employed and wages paid at different dates 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 and females, of adults and juveniles, and of skilled and unskilled workers in the respective industries.

COAL MINING.

EMPLOYMENT during December was fair on the whole and showed a further improvement. Short time was worked, however, at collieries at which rather more than one-third of the workpeople were employed, and some pits were closed down.

The average weekly number of days (5.18) worked by the pits in the fortnight ended 17th December showed an increase of 0.21 days as compared with the fortnight ended 26th November, but a decrease of 0.50 days on a year ago. The total number of wage-earners on the colliery books at 17th December showed an increase of 6,363 (or 0.6 per cent.) compared with the number at 26th November, but a decrease of 152,807 (or 12.5 per cent.) on the number at 18th December, 1920; small numbers of workpeople employed at coal mines in raising or handling minerals other than coal are included in these totals.

The proportion of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 11.1 per cent. at 30th December, compared with 12.2 per cent. at 2nd December.

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

Districts.	Total Number of Wage Earners on Colliery Books.		Average Number of Days worked per Week by the Mines.*		
	Fortnight ended 17th Dec., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago.	Year ago.	Fort-night ended 17th Dec., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago.
ENGLAND AND WALES:					
Northumberland	55,460	+ 7.1	- 10.7	5.35	+ 0.33
Durham	145,294	- 0.0	- 15.3	4.95	+ 0.29
Cumberland and Westmorland	10,857	+ 0.4	- 5.8	5.14	+ 0.14
South Yorkshire	102,969	+ 0.7	- 1.8	5.48	+ 0.16
West Yorkshire	64,812	+ 0.3	- 4.9	5.18	+ 0.26
Lanc. and Cheshire	104,964	- 0.5	- 9.7	4.69	+ 0.10
Derbyshire	61,585	+ 0.3	- 6.0	5.13	+ 0.43
Notts. and Leicester	61,755	+ 1.3	- 5.9	4.98	+ 0.32
Staffordshire	62,135	- 0.1	- 11.4	4.99	+ 0.22
War. Wore. and Salop	27,002	- 0.7	- 21.1	4.78	+ 0.13
Glouc. and Somerset	14,002	- 8.4	- 23.8	5.01	- 0.68
Kent	1,803	+ 2.4	- 17.1	2.50	+ 0.27
North Wales	15,711	- 0.1	- 20.3	5.55	+ 0.20
South Wales and Mon.	214,349	- 0.1	- 20.3	5.55	+ 0.20
England and Wales	942,788	+ 0.5	- 12.1	5.17	+ 0.21
SCOTLAND:					
Mid & East Lothians	14,086	- 2.7	- 12.3	5.25	- 0.14
Fife and Clackmannan	27,646	+ 1.1	- 16.6	5.42	+ 0.22
Rest of Scotland	85,206	+ 1.7	- 15.7	5.14	+ 0.15
Scotland	126,938	+ 1.1	- 15.5	5.21	+ 0.13
Great Britain	1,069,726	+ 0.6	- 12.5	5.18	+ 0.21

The average weekly number of coal-winding days lost by the pits in the fortnight ended 17th December was 0.58 of a day, of which over one-half a day was due to want of trade and transport difficulties. In the fortnight ended 26th November the average time lost was 0.79 of a day, nearly the whole of which was due to want of trade and transport difficulties. In the fortnight ended 18th December, 1920, the average time lost was 0.08 days per week. The non-coal-winding time in each of these periods was about one quarter of a day per week.

The output of coal in Great Britain in the four weeks ended 24th December, 1921, was returned to the Mines Department at 19,544,500 tons, compared with 17,874,800 tons in the four weeks ended 26th November, 1921, and with 20,230,200 tons in the four weeks ended 25th December, 1920.

The exports of coal, coke and manufactured fuel during December, 1921, amounted to 4,535,916 tons, or 711,294 tons more than in November, 1921, but 1,990,391 tons less than in December, 1915.

* The figures in this and the following article only show the number of days (allowance being made in all the calculations for short days) on which coal, iron ore, shale or stone, etc., was got and drawn from the mines or open works included in the returns. It is not necessarily implied that all the persons employed worked every day mines or works were open.

IRON, SHALE AND OTHER MINING AND QUARRYING.

EMPLOYMENT declined at iron mines during December and was very bad on the whole. At shale mines it was good; at lead and zinc mines it was bad, while at tin mines work was again almost entirely suspended.

Employment at quarries was only moderate, on the whole, during December.

MINING.

Iron.—Employment at iron mines during December was very bad, and slightly worse than in the previous month. Mines covered by the returns received employed only about one-third of the number of workpeople employed by them a year earlier; a large number of the mines remained entirely closed during the month, while those which were open worked, on an average, only 3.74 days per week.*

The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished returns as to employment in the fortnight ended 17th December, 1921, in comparison with a month and a year earlier:—

Districts.	Number of Workpeople employed at Mines included in the Returns.			Average No. of Days worked per week by the Mines.*		
	Fortnight ended 17th Dec., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a		Fortnight ended 17th Dec., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Cleveland	1,689	+ 7.1	- 77.0	3.47	Days.	Days.
Cumberland and Lancashire	2,680	- 8.7	- 50.4	3.98	- 1.27	- 2.07
Other Districts	1,104	- 1.8	- 69.4	3.85	- 0.14	- 1.65
All Districts	5,473	- 2.9	- 66.5	3.74	- 0.85	- 2.06

Shale.—At shale mines employment was good. Returns received from firms employing 3,078 workpeople in the fortnight ended 17th December, 1921, showed an increase of 1.68 per cent. in the total number employed as compared with November, but a decrease of 7.32 per cent. as compared with December, 1920. The average number of days worked per week* by the mines was 5.95, the same as in the previous month, but an increase of 0.16 days compared with a year ago.

Tin.—As in November, work was practically suspended during the month.

Lead and Zinc.—Employment was generally bad at lead and zinc mines (including mines producing barytes, fluorspar, etc.), and some mines were again reported entirely idle.

QUARRYING.

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

	No. of Workpeople employed at Quarries included in the Returns.			Average No. of Days worked per week by the Quarries.*		
	Fortnight ended 17th Dec., 1921.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Fortnight ended 17th Dec., 1921.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Limestone	3,032	- 1.2	- 31.3	4.76	+ 0.14	- 1.00
Sandstone	1,091	- 7.0	- 13.5	4.78	+ 0.13	- 0.17
Granite	1,939	+ 1.4	+ 6.9	5.51	- 0.08	+ 0.03
Slate	2,867	+ 0.1	+ 9.3	5.94	+ 0.08	- 0.06
Basalt	1,103	+ 5.8	- 9.5	4.61	- 0.69	- 0.35
Whinstone	351	- 1.7	- 9.3	5.26	- 0.13	- 0.16
Total	10,443	- 0.3	- 11.5	5.23	..	- 0.36

Limestone.—Employment at quarries producing limestone for blast furnaces, iron and steel works, chemical works, etc., was very slack, and the majority of the quarries worked less than full time. Workpeople at quarries producing material for cement-making were well employed, but employment at other limestone quarries was only fair or moderate in the majority of districts.

Sandstone.—In consequence of trade depression employment declined generally at sandstone quarries, and taken as a whole was slack. Short time was worked at the majority of the quarries.

Granite (road materials, setts, etc.).—Employment at quarries producing granite for road-making varied widely as between different districts; at quarries employing over half of the total number of workpeople covered by the returns employment was reported good or fair, while at the majority of the remaining quarries it was stated to be moderate. Employment remained slack generally with quarrymen producing granite for setts, monumental work, etc.

* See note at foot of second column on page 13.

Slate.—Slate quarrymen were again fairly well employed during December.

Basalt and Whinstone (road materials).—At basalt quarries employment generally varied from fair to bad, although reported good in one or two instances. Employment at whinstone quarries was fairly good in the West of Scotland; in East Scotland it was slack and worse than in November, and the majority of quarries worked short time.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT in this industry continued bad during December, and was worse, on the whole, than in November.

The total number of furnaces in blast at the end of the month, as shown by returns collected by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, was 77*, compared with 85* at the end of November, 7 furnaces having been relit and 15 having gone out of blast during the month. Of the furnaces relit, 3 were on the North-East Coast, 2 in Lincolnshire, 1 in South Wales, and 1 in Lancashire. Of the furnaces going out of blast, 9 were in Scotland, 3 in Cumberland, 2 in Sheffield, and 1 in Derbyshire. Returns received by the Federation from 73 firms, employing 12,652 workpeople at the end of the month, showed a decrease of 13.5 per cent. in the number employed by these firms compared with the end of November.

The following Table shows the total number* of furnaces in blast at the end of December, 1921, November, 1921, and December, 1920, according to the returns collected by the Federation:—

District.	Total Number of Furnaces at Dec. 1921.	Number of Furnaces, in Blast at end of			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Dec. on a	
		Dec., 1921.	Nov., 1921.	Dec., 1920.	Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND AND WALES:—						
Durham and Cleveland	115	22	19	72	+ 3	- 50
Cumberland and N. Lancs.	46	4	7	25	- 3	- 21
Sheffield	10	2	4	7	- 2	- 5
Other parts of Lancs. and Yorks.	28	4	3	14	+ 1	- 10
Derby, Leicester, Notts. and Northants.	73	17	18	44	- 1	- 27
Lincolnshire	22	4	2	13	+ 2	- 9
Stafford, Shropshire, Worcester and Warwick.	58	9	30	..	..	- 21
South Wales and Monmouth.	33	6	5	8	+ 1	- 2
Total	385	68	67	213	+ 1	- 145
SCOTLAND	102	9	18	61	- 9	- 52
TOTAL	487	77	85	274	- 8	- 197

The production of pig iron in December, as returned to the Federation, amounted to 275,000 tons, compared with 271,800 tons in November and 682,500 tons in December, 1920. The total pig iron production for the year amounted to 2,611,400 tons, compared with 8,034,700 tons in 1920.

TINPLATE AND STEEL SHEET TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in these trades continued fair on the whole and showed little change from the previous month. At the end of December 444 mills were reported to be in operation, as compared with 443 at the end of November, and 414 a year ago. The number of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 4,979 at 30th December, as compared with 5,029 at 2nd December. In addition there were 233 claimants for benefit in respect of systematic short time working at 30th December, compared with 194 at 2nd December.

The following Table shows the number of works open and the number of mills in operation at the end of December, 1921:—

Works.	Number of Works open.		Number of Mills in operation.	
	At end of Dec., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	At end of Dec., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.
Tinplate	69	- 1	342	+ 1
Steel Sheet	12	+ 3	102	+ 33
TOTAL	81	+ 2	444	+ 30

The exports of tinned and galvanised plates and sheets in December, 1921, amounted to 75,511 tons, or 7,741 tons more than in November, 1921, but 23,053 tons less than in December, 1920.

* The figures given in this article, which have been placed at the disposal of the Department by the courtesy of the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, relate to the total number of furnaces in blast, and are not comparable with those published in previous issues of the "LABOUR GAZETTE," which related only to the furnaces in blast at those works in respect of which information was obtained by the Department.

† As information as to numbers of workpeople was not received from some firms, this does not represent the total number employed in the industry.

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

EMPLOYMENT at iron and steel works continued moderate in Wales and Monmouth, and bad elsewhere; it showed a decline on the whole as compared with the previous month, and was much worse than a year ago. There was, however, an improvement at puddling forges, due to some firms in Lancashire, Staffordshire and Warwickshire restarting forges which had been closed.

According to returns received from firms employing 69,546 workpeople, the volume of employment during the week ended 17th December, 1921 (as indicated by the number of workpeople employed at each works, multiplied by the number of shifts during which work was carried on), showed a decrease of 3.3 per cent. on the previous month and of 48.3 per cent. on a year ago.

The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished returns as to the number of workpeople employed and the number of shifts, in the week ended 17th December, 1921:—

DEPARTMENTS.	No. of Workpeople employed by firms making returns.		Aggregate number of Shifts.*	
	Week ended 17th Dec., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago.	Week ended 17th Dec., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago.
Open Hearth Melting Furnaces	7,375	+ 2.6	40,665	+ 2.7
Crucible Furnaces	250	+ 32.3	876	+ 27.3
Bessemer Converters	161	- 64.1	857	- 43.3
Puddling Forges	4,105	+ 32.0	16,542	+ 34.7
Rolling Mills	23,368	7.6	101,929	- 9.8
Forging and Pressing	2,635	- 9.7	11,906	- 9.1
Founding	7,879	- 4.8	38,371	- 3.2
Other Departments	7,025	- 3.5	37,042	+ 3.8
Mechanics, Labourers	16,748	- 3.6	88,245	- 4.7
Total	69,546	- 3.5	336,433	- 3.3

DISTRICTS.	No. of Workpeople employed by firms making returns.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Aggregate number of Shifts.*	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago.	Per cent.	Per cent.				
									Week ended 17th Dec., 1921.	Year ago.	Week ended 17th Dec., 1921.	Year ago.
Northumberland and Durham	6,272	- 18.4	- 53.2	29,699	- 24.7	- 60.0	- 60.0					
Cleveland	3,575	- 6.5	- 36.2	43,465	- 9.4	- 43.3	- 43.3					
Sheffield and Rotherham	15,731	- 5.4	- 41.3	72,064	- 1.1	- 49.8	- 49.8					
Leeds, Bradford, etc.	3,103	- 9.7	- 28.7	15,727	- 5.5	- 33.8	- 33.8					
Cumberland, Lancs. and Cheshire	8,071	+ 8.7	- 25.0	39,853	+ 11.3	- 31.6	- 31.6					
Staffordshire	5,195	+ 8.5	- 49.2	26,205	+ 4.0	- 52.1	- 52.1					
Other Midland Counties	2,931	+ 7.6	- 36.1	12,971	+ 7.1	- 49.4	- 49.4					
Wales and Monmouth	9,833	- 2.4	- 10.8	53,062	+ 2.9	- 4.3	- 4.3					
Total, England and Wales	59,711	- 3.6	- 36.9	293,048	- 2.8	- 42.8	- 42.8					
Scotland	9,835	- 2.8	- 60.4	43,387	- 6.6	- 68.6	- 68.6					
TOTAL	69,546	- 3.5	- 41.8	336,433	- 3.3	- 48.3	- 48.3					

The production of steel ingots and castings, as returned to the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, amounted to 381,000 tons, in December, 1921, compared with 442,800 tons in November, 1921.

SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in the shipbuilding and ship repairing trades continued bad in all districts, and at the Christmas and New Year holidays some of the yards were closed down for extended periods.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of workpeople claiming unemployment benefit at 30th December, 1921:—

Divisions.	Number of Unemployment Books remaining lodged at 30th Dec., 1921.	Percentage of Unemployment at 30th Dec., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage as compared with 2nd Dec., 1921.
London	5,579	34.0	+ 0.4
Northern Counties	32,145	42.1	+ 1.9
North Western	17,865	36.8	- 1.3
Yorkshire	4,236	40.4	+ 0.7
East Midlands	818	24.9	- 0.8
West Midlands	202	23.1	+ 2.4
S. Midlands and Eastern S. E. Counties	1,540	33.1	+ 3.1
South Western	1,082	16.1	+ 1.4
Wales	10,845	24.0	+ 1.9
Scotland	7,333	42.9	+ 2.2
Ireland	36,730	40.5	+ 3.8
UNION KINGDOM	122,204	29.7	+ 0.4
UNION KINGDOM	129,581	36.1	+ 1.6
Males	128,761	36.5	+ 1.7
Females	820	18.6	- 0.7

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

The percentage of persons claiming unemployment benefit in respect of systematic short-time working was 1.4 at 30th December, compared with 1.2 at 2nd December.

Employment continued bad on the Tyne and very bad on the Wear, especially with platers and platers' helpers. With ship joiners, however, it was fair on the Tyne, and some joiners from the Wear found employment at Wallsend on the building of new merchant vessels. On the Tees it was still bad, and at ports on the East and South coasts no general improvement was reported. At the Bristol Channel ports and at Barrow employment showed a decline, while on the Mersey there was little improvement.

On the Clyde employment continued bad, while at Dundee and Aberdeen there was a decline on the whole. At Belfast employment continued bad with most sections, but was fairly good with ship joiners.

SHIPBUILDING IN THE QUARTER ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1921.

According to Lloyd's Register Quarterly Shipbuilding Returns, the gross tonnage of merchant vessels under construction in the United Kingdom at the end of December, 1921, amounted to 2,640,319 tons, as compared with 3,282,972 tons at the end of September, 1921, 3,708,916 tons at the end of December, 1920, and 1,956,606 tons at the end of December, 1913. In comparing the present figures with those for earlier dates, it should be noted that the totals for 1921 include over 700,000 tons on which work had been suspended, and a certain number of vessels the completion of which had been postponed owing to abnormal causes.

The tonnage commenced during the quarter—viz., 55,290 tons—showed, for the first time since September, 1920, a slight increase. The tonnage launched amounted to 467,246 tons, an increase of about 159,000 tons, as compared with the previous quarter.

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

ENGINEERING TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in these trades was still very bad, showing no general improvement compared with the previous month, and in very many instances works were closed for extended periods at the Christmas holidays. The textile machinery and accessories trades, however, were fairly busy, and employment in the motor trade continued to show a slight improvement in some districts.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of workpeople claiming unemployment benefit at 30th December, 1921:—

Division.	Number of Unemployment Books remaining lodged at 30th Dec., 1921.	Percentage of Unemployment at 30th Dec., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage as compared with 2nd Dec., 1921.
London	29,602	21.2	+ 0.1
Northern Counties	29,486	33.5	+ 2.6
North Western	61,729	28.2	+ 2.0
Yorkshire	33,406	27.8	- 0.4
East Midlands	15,205	27.0	- 2.7
West Midlands	5,030	32.8	- 0.7
S. Midlands and Eastern S. E. Counties	16,094	21.6	+ 0.3
South Western	7,585	21.0	+ 1.2
Wales	9,889	18.2	- 2.6
Scotland	3,274	26.9	+ 0.8
Ireland	48,473	28.5	+ 0.6
Ireland	6,211	28.2	+ 0.6
UNION KINGDOM	310,984	27.2	+ 0.7
Males	298,533	28.1	+ 0.6
Females	12,451	15.0	+ 0.1

The proportion of persons claiming unemployment insurance benefit in respect of days of work lost owing to systematic short time was 4.4 per cent. of the insured workpeople at 30th December, compared with 4.1 per cent. at 2nd December.

On the Tyne, Wear and Tees employment was very bad, and rather worse than in November. In Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire firms specialising in textile machinery and accessories or in electrical engineering were less affected by depression than general engineering firms. At Bolton, where at large general engineering works the holidays were extended, it was reported that the textile machinery works were to be closed for normal holidays only, while at Oldham a general improvement was reported, full time being worked more commonly than short time, but at other towns in these counties there was no substantial improvement, employment remaining bad generally.

In the Midland counties employment was bad, little general change being observed. At Coventry there was a slight improvement, and at Derby rather less short time was worked, while at Nottingham short time working was more pronounced and general. In the remaining districts of England and in Wales, Scotland and Ireland employment continued bad at all the principal centres.

MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in these trades continued bad on the whole, much short time being worked by those remaining in employment.

Returns were received from trade unions covering 75,074 workpeople, of whom 15.2 per cent. were reported unemployed at the end of December, as compared with 15.7 per cent. at the end of November and 6.4 per cent. at the end of December, 1920.

Brasswork.—Employment was again reported as bad, but slightly better than in November. About 13 per cent. of the members of the principal trade union were unemployed, and nearly 19 per cent. of the remainder were on short time, and lost, on the average, about 24 hours per week.

Bedsteads.—Employment continued very slack with bedstead makers in the Birmingham district; there was much unemployment, and those workers who remained in employment were generally on short time, losing about 3 days per week.

Nuts, Bolts, Nails, etc.—At Blackheath and Halesowen employment was again reported as bad with makers of nuts, bolts, rivets and spikes, and at Darlaston it remained quiet with makers of best nuts and bolts. Bolt-makers in the Cwmbran district were fairly well employed. In the shoe rivet, wire nail and cut nail trades at Birmingham employment was again very slack, and worse than in the previous month; practically all the shops were stated to have been on short time, the average working week being 3 days.

Locks and Latches.—Employment in this trade continued very bad in the Wolverhampton and Willenhall area; most firms worked, on the average, about three days per week.

Cutlery, Tools, Bits, Stirrups.—Employment in the cutlery and file trades at Sheffield continued bad, and short time working was almost general. In the case of file forgers there was a slight improvement in employment during the month. With edge tool makers at Wednesbury it remained bad; with spade and shovel makers at Wolverhampton it continued fair. In the saddle and harness furniture and in the bit and stirrup making trades at Walsall employment was again reported as very bad.

Needles, etc.—Employment at Redditch was moderate in the needle and fish hook making trades; it was fair with makers of fishing tackle.

Tubes.—Employment with tube makers continued quiet at Wednesbury; it showed a slight improvement early in December at Birmingham, but declined again towards the end of the month. At Landore and Newport (Mon.) it improved to fair.

Chains, Anchors, Anvils, Axles, Springs, etc.—At Cradley Heath employment continued bad with anchor smiths, ship tackle, cable chain and block chain makers. It was again slack with anvil and vice makers at Dudley, and quiet in the axle and spring trade at Wednesbury.

Sheet Metal.—Employment remained bad on the whole, and much short time was worked. Some improvement was reported, however, at Manchester, Oldham, Bristol and Edinburgh, but at Birmingham there was a decline. With iron plate workers employment continued fair at Birmingham, and fairly good in the Lye district, but declined to slack in the Bilston, Dudley and Wolverhampton districts.

Wire.—Employment continued slack in most districts with much short time, although there was a slight improvement in certain centres. At Rogerstone (Mon.), Norwich and Halifax it was reported as fair.

Stoves, Grates, etc.—Employment was reported as very bad by the principal trade union, about 50 per cent. of whose members were on short time and about 16 per cent. wholly unemployed.

Jewellery, Plated-ware, etc.—At Birmingham seasonal trade resulted in a little overtime being worked early in the month, but towards the end of the month employment declined and became very bad and worse than in November; it was bad in London, but, on the whole, slightly better than during November.

Hollow-ware.—In the hollow-ware trades at Birmingham employment improved, and there was a decrease in short time working. At Wolverhampton employment continued slack with cast-iron hollow-ware makers, and quiet with tin and enamelled hollow-ware makers; with galvanised hollow-ware makers it was reported fair.

Farriers.—Employment was slack on the whole, and showed a decline in several districts. At Edinburgh, however, a slight improvement was reported.

COTTON TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT continued bad during December, and was even worse than in November. There was an increase in unemployment, short time and other forms of under-employment, and the Christmas holidays were extended in many cases. Spinning mills were, generally, working short time almost to the extent of reducing their production to half the normal, while in the weaving districts large numbers of looms continued idle.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 17.1 at the 30th December, as compared with 13.9 at the 2nd December. In addition, 13.9 per cent. of the workpeople were claiming benefit in respect of systematic short time, as compared with 9.0 per cent. at the 2nd December.

In the Oldham, Ashton, Stockport, and Rochdale districts employment was reported as bad, and considerably worse than in November. A few firms were on full time, but, speaking generally, short time and unemployment were prevalent, and the Christmas holidays were in many instances extended to ten days.

In the weaving section at Oldham employment was bad, and much worse than in November.

In the Bolton district a slight improvement was reported in the card-room and spinning sections, but employment with weavers continued bad.

In the principal weaving districts (Blackburn, Burnley, Preston, Darwen, Nelson, etc.) employment was bad, and showed a further decline. Some sheds were closed entirely, and many weavers who remained in employment were working only two or three looms instead of the usual four; some had their earnings further reduced by short time.

In Yorkshire short time and unemployment were still prevalent. The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished returns:—

DEPARTMENTS.	Number of Workpeople.		Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
	Week ended 17th Dec., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.	Week ended 17th Dec., 1921.					Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.
Total	86,805	- 1.7	- 5.4	178,450	- 3.4	- 8.0		

DISTRICTS.	Number of Workpeople.		Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
	Week ended 17th Dec., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.	Week ended 17th Dec., 1921.					Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.
Ashton	4,877	+ 3.4	- 4.1	9,726	- 3.4	- 13.4		
Stockport, Glossop and Hyde	5,219	- 5.9	- 8.2	9,034	- 10.7	- 2.0		
Oldham	8,515	- 1.3	- 8.6	20,187	- 5.0	+ 1.9		
Bolton and Leigh	14,232	- 0.0	- 4.8	29,629	+ 0.8	- 1.1		
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Walsden, and Todmorden	8,493	- 3.6	- 7.7	14,721	- 3.9	- 23.7		
Manchester	5,865	- 2.3	- 13.0	10,479	- 4.8	- 23.6		
Preston and Chorley	4,187	- 3.0	- 8.6	8,280	- 6.3	- 5.4		
Blackburn, Accrington and Darwen	10,060	+ 0.7	+ 7.8	22,326	- 0.3	+ 4.1		
Burnley, Padiham, Colne and Nelson	12,908	- 4.0	+ 0.6	30,762	- 3.7	- 8.2		
Other Lancashire Towns	2,999	- 7.5	- 32.3	5,440	- 14.0	- 40.3		
Yorkshire Towns	4,571	+ 1.4	+ 3.9	8,548	- 0.5	- 0.1		
Other Districts	4,879	+ 1.0	- 5.7	8,813	- 2.2	+ 0.4		
Total	86,805	- 1.7	- 5.4	178,450	- 3.4	- 8.0		

The imports (less re-exports) of raw cotton (including cotton linters) were 1,558,170 lbs. in December, 1921, compared with 1,838,052 lbs. in the previous month and 3,132,011 lbs. in December, 1913.

The exports of cotton yarn were 16,048,100 lbs. in December, 1921, compared with 20,619,000 lbs. in the previous month, and 71,207,100 lbs. in December, 1913; the exports of cotton piece goods were 330,273,400 square yards, as compared with 363,653,000 square yards in the previous month, and with 530,692,300 linear yards in December, 1913.

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

In these trades employment during December continued bad, except in the wool-sorting and combing and worsted-spinning departments, and in the flannel trade, in which the operatives were well employed. On the whole employment was slightly better than a month earlier.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 13.4 at the 30th December, as compared with 14.2 at the 2nd December. In addition, 4.2 per cent. of the workpeople were claiming benefit in respect of systematic short-time working at the 30th December, as compared with 4.8 per cent. at the 2nd December.

WOOLLEN TRADE.

Employment continued bad, except in the flannel trade, and was worse than a year ago, when employment was already very unsatisfactory.

In the Huddersfield district employment showed little change, and a large amount of short time was still being worked. In the heavy woollen district (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.) large numbers of operatives were unemployed or on short time, and employment was worse than in December, 1920. Some firms, however, both here and at Huddersfield, particularly in the blanket trade, were temporarily busy just before Christmas, some even working overtime.

In the Leeds district there was a slight improvement; but employment on the whole remained bad, and there was much short-time working. In the flannel trade at Rochdale employment was again good, and better than in November.

In Scotland employment continued bad, with much short time and unemployment, and was much worse than a year ago; on the whole, however, there was a slight improvement as compared with November.

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

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

DEPARTMENTS.	Number of Workpeople.		Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
	Week ended 17th Dec., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.	Week ended 17th Dec., 1921.					Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.
Wool Sorting	383	+ 1.9	- 2.5	£ 858	+ 2.9	- 18.8		
Spinning	3,443	+ 0.2	- 17.4	7,030	+ 0.6	- 24.8		
Weaving	6,169	+ 0.7	- 10.9	11,317	+ 4.1	- 26.6		
Other Departments	4,766	+ 2.5	- 11.8	10,600	+ 3.3	- 26.1		
Not Specified	901	- 1.5	- 17.0	2,312	+ 4.1	- 7.5		
TOTAL	15,662	+ 1.0	- 12.8	32,117	+ 2.9	- 24.7		

In the week ending 17th December about 51 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns were working short time, as compared with 59 per cent. at the end of November; the average amount of short time was about 18½ hours in December, as compared with 16 hours in November.

WORSTED TRADE.

Employment was still very slack in the weaving department; but the improvement in worsted spinning was maintained, and in the wool-sorting and combing departments practically all the mills were on full time, overtime being worked by some firms in the merino section of the trade. Employment in the wool-combing department was better than a year ago.

In the Bradford district there was an improvement in the worsted-spinning department, and some firms worked overtime to the extent of from 2 to 5½ hours a week; there was also a slight improvement in the weaving department, in which, however, short time still largely prevailed. At Halifax and at Huddersfield there was little change as compared with November; as compared with a year ago Halifax showed an improvement, and Huddersfield a marked decline.

DEPARTMENTS.	Number of Workpeople.		Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
	Week ended 17th Dec., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.	Week ended 17th Dec., 1921.					Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.
Wool Sorting and Combing	4,145	- 0.7	+ 5.3	12,853	+ 0.8	+ 15.6		
Spinning	14,677	- 0.7	- 3.7	26,549	- 0.5	- 4.3		
Weaving	4,990	+ 2.0	- 23.8	9,679	+ 2.0	- 45.4		
Other Departments	2,776	+ 2.5	- 12.4	7,730	+ 2.1	- 22.5		
Not Specified	2,257	+ 5.0	+ 2.4	5,013	+ 2.2	- 7.9		
Total	28,845	+ 0.5	- 7.2	61,824	+ 0.7	- 14.5		

In the week ending 17th December about 25 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns were working short time, as compared with about 22 per cent. at the end of November, the average amount of short time being about 16 hours per week in both periods.

The imports (less re-exports) of raw wool (sheep or lambs) were 565,483 lbs. in December, compared with 377,214 lbs. in November, 1921, and 231,479 lbs. in December, 1913.

The exports of woollen and worsted tissues were 11,465,500 square yards, compared with 10,978,400 square yards in November, 1921, and 15,364,000 linear yards in December, 1913.

The exports of blankets were 39,587 pairs, 37,907 pairs, and 72,011 pairs in December, 1921, November, 1921, and December, 1913 respectively.

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

HOSIERY TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT in the hosiery trade during December was fair on the whole, and showed a further improvement on a month ago.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed in the hosiery trade, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges was 4.2 at 30th December, as compared with 5.1 at 2nd December. In addition 1.3 per cent. of the workpeople were claiming benefit in respect of systematic short-time working at 30th December, as compared with 2.1 per cent. at 2nd December.

The following Table summarises the information received from employers who furnished returns showing the numbers employed and wages paid in the week ended 17th December, as compared with the previous month and a year ago:—

District	Number of Workpeople.		Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
	Week ended 17th Dec., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.	Week ended 17th Dec., 1921.					Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.
Leicester	7,923	+ 3.8	+ 13.8	£ 17,650	+ 6.1	+ 44.3		
Leicester County Dist.	1,808	+ 0.6	- 6.8	3,652	+ 5.7	+ 8.5		
Notts and Derbyshire	4,426	+ 1.8	- 16.0	8,085	+ 7.9	+ 12.0		
Scotland	1,324	+ 3.7	- 8.2	3,631	+ 4.3	+ 8.3		
Other Districts	382	+ 0.3	- 14.9	530	+ 3.1	- 20.8		
Total, United Kingdom	16,363	+ 1.8	- 1.5	33,548	+ 6.5	+ 25.0		

Of 14,189 workpeople employed by firms making reports as to short time, about 12 per cent. were losing, on the average, nearly 17 hours a week.

Employment in Leicestershire was better than in November and very little short time was reported, while overtime was worked in some cases. In Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire the improvement reported in November was maintained on the whole, but many workers continued under-employed. In Scotland employment was fair generally.

JUTE TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT in Dundee and the surrounding districts during December was bad, and showed a further slight decline.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 14.6 at 30th December, as compared with 12.6 at 2nd December. In addition, 3.3 per cent. of the workpeople were claiming benefit in respect of systematic short-time working at 30th December, as compared with 22.9 per cent. at 2nd December.

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

DEPARTMENTS.	Number of Workpeople.		Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
	Week ended 17th Dec., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.	Week ended 17th Dec., 1921.					Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.
Preparing	3,430	- 0.5	- 18.2	£ 5,274	+ 0.2	- 2.0		
Spinning	3,790	- 2.8	- 20.8	5,588	- 3.9	- 4.6		
Weaving	3,699	- 0.5	- 24.0	5,137	- 3.1	- 15.6		
Other and not specified	2,674	+ 0.1	- 10.0	5,315	- 4.6	- 12.6		
Total	13,593	- 1.0	- 19.2	21,314	- 2.9	- 8.9		

Returns relating to short time were received from firms employing 12,437 workpeople. Of these workpeople over 44 per cent. were working 17 hours per week less than full time.

LINEN TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT in the linen trade in Ireland was still slack, but an improvement was reported on the previous month, particularly with flax dressers. In Scotland employment was bad, although an improvement was reported on November. The percentage of workpeople unemployed in the flax, linen and hemp trades, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 21.2 at 30th December, as compared with 17.4 at 2nd December. In addition, 17.6 per cent. of the workpeople were claiming benefit in respect of systematic short-time working, as compared with 16.4 per cent. at 2nd December.

The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished returns relating to numbers employed and wages paid:—

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

	Number of Workpeople.				Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.			
	Week ended 17th Dec., 1921.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.		Week ended 17th Dec., 1921.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	
	Month ago.	Year ago.	Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.	
DEPARTMENTS.								
Preparing	3,396	+ 1.4	- 3.5	4,954	+ 5.0	- 1.8		
Spinning	6,410	+ 1.7	- 10.6	7,959	+ 4.1	- 10.6		
Weaving	7,334	+ 1.7	- 2.9	10,618	+ 4.0	- 1.4		
Other	4,110	+ 2.0	- 13.7	7,687	+ 1.6	- 19.9		
Not specified	3,650	- 2.2	- 2.9	4,760	- 6.9	- 13.2		
Total	24,892	+ 1.2	- 7.0	35,978	+ 2.1	- 9.6		
DISTRICTS.								
Belfast	10,917	+ 1.2	- 3.9	15,748	- 0.6	- 9.0		
Other places in Ireland ..	6,973	+ 0.6	- 4.4	9,525	+ 0.8	- 11.4		
Total, Ireland	17,890	+ 1.0	- 4.1	25,273	- 0.1	- 9.9		
Fifeshire	1,467	+ 1.2	+ 2.6	2,377	+ 14.3	+ 9.3		
Other places in Scotland ..	5,535	+ 1.8	- 17.2	8,328	+ 5.7	- 12.9		
Total, Scotland	7,002	+ 1.7	- 13.7	10,705	+ 7.5	- 8.8		
United Kingdom	24,892	+ 1.2	- 7.0	35,978	+ 2.1	- 9.6		

Returns from firms in Ireland employing 17,000 workpeople showed that about 38 per cent. of the workpeople were working on an average about 13 hours less than full time in the week ended 17th December. Similar returns from firms in Scotland employing 5,600 workpeople showed that about 60 per cent. were working on an average 9 hours less than full time.

SILK TRADE.

The slight improvement in employment in this trade was maintained through December, though it was still slack, and a considerable amount of short time was worked. The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 8.3 at 30th December, as compared with 7.4 at 2nd December. In addition, 3.9 per cent. of the workpeople were claiming benefit in respect of systematic short time working at 30th December, as compared with 4.6 per cent. at 2nd December.

The following Table summarises information received from employers who furnished returns relating to numbers employed in the week ended 17th December, as compared with the previous month and a year ago.

	Number of Workpeople.				Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.			
	Week ended 17th Dec., 1921.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.		Week ended 17th Dec., 1921.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	
	Month ago.	Year ago.	Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.	
BRANCHES.								
Throwing	813	- 2.2	+ 4.0	1,154	- 0.2	+ 20.7		
Spinning	1,699	+ 6.8	- 16.8	2,700	+ 8.3	- 39.8		
Weaving	1,718	- 1.8	- 13.9	2,749	- 3.0	- 15.5		
Other	1,017	+ 0.1	- 2.5	2,047	+ 1.7	- 12.0		
Not specified	411	+ 3.8	+ 7.6	889	+ 5.7	+ 41.3		
Total	5,658	+ 1.3	- 9.4	9,539	+ 1.6	- 18.1		
DISTRICTS.								
Lancashire and W. Riding of Yorkshire	1,856	+ 2.4	- 13.9	3,194	+ 4.9	- 41.3		
Macclesfield, Congleton and District	1,234	+ 3.0	- 15.6	2,034	+ 2.1	- 12.8		
Eastern Counties	1,799	- 2.3	+ 2.4	3,296	- 2.4	+ 17.9		
Other Districts, including Scotland	769	+ 4.9	- 11.5	1,015	+ 4.7	- 6.2		
Total	5,658	+ 1.3	- 9.4	9,539	+ 1.6	- 18.1		

Reports relating to short time received from firms employing 4,214 workpeople show that 49 per cent. of those workpeople worked an average of nearly 15 hours short time during the week ended 17th December.

In the Macclesfield, Leek and Congleton districts, employment, though slack, showed some improvement. In the Lancashire and West Riding districts employment was still bad, and nearly 87 per cent. of the operatives worked an average of about 12 hours per week less than full time. In the Eastern Counties employment was fairly good on the whole.

The following Table summarises the statistics of imports (less re-exports) of raw and thrown silk, spun silk yarn and broad-stuffs, and the exports of spun silk yarn and silk broadstuffs in December, 1921, in comparison with November, 1921, and December, 1913 :-

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

Description.	Dec., 1921.	Nov., 1921.	Dec., 1913.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on	
				A month ago.	Dec., 1913.
<i>Imports (less Re-exports)</i>					
Raw Silk .. lb.	75,756	53,490	78,730	+ 22,266	- 2,974
Throw .. lb.	504		35,284		- 35,780
Spun Silk Yarn lb.	22,455	37,323	34,940	- 14,868	- 12,485
Silk Broadstuffs	4,123†	3,878†	8,401‡	+ 245	
<i>Exports of British Manufacture :-</i>					
Spun Silk Yarn lb.	10,173	14,767	114,966	+ 4,594	- 104,813
Silk Broadstuffs	327†	296†	1,010†	+ 31	

LACE TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT in the lace trade remained bad during December, and unemployment and short-time working were prevalent throughout the industry. Several firms closed their works in the Nottingham and Long Eaton districts.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 16.3 at 30th December, as compared with 16.1 at 2nd December. In addition, 6.8 per cent. of the workpeople were claiming benefit in respect of systematic short time at 30th December, as compared with 6.4 per cent. at 2nd December.

At Nottingham and Long Eaton employment continued bad on the whole, although there was an improvement in the curtain section. In Scotland employment was moderate.

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

	Number of Workpeople.				Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople.			
	Week ended 17th Dec., 1921.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.		Week ended 17th Dec., 1921.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	
	Month ago.	Year ago.	Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.	
Branches.								
Lavers	1,035	- 2.5	- 10.8	1,621	- 5.4	- 18.7		
Curtain	1,505	+ 4.1	+ 5.6	3,439	+ 1.0	+ 42.9		
Plain Net	1,003	- 8.3	- 17.4	1,677	- 7.9	- 37.3		
Others	592	- 3.3	- 7.1	1,107	+ 0.5	+ 13.1		
Total	4,135	- 1.9	- 6.8	7,944	- 2.4	+ 5.9		
Districts.								
Nottingham City	1,841	- 0.2	- 14.3	3,302	+ 0.5	- 7.8		
Long Eaton and other English Districts ..	1,270	- 6.2	- 4.4	2,140	- 7.7	- 1.8		
Scotland	1,024	+ 1.0	+ 6.7	2,402	- 1.3	+ 46.0		
Total	4,135	- 1.9	- 6.8	7,944	- 2.4	+ 5.9		

Returns received from certain firms employing about 2,800 workpeople showed that in the week ended 17th December about 47 per cent. of these employees worked, on the average, fifteen hours per week less than full time.

CARPET TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT in the carpet trade during December was fair, and showed a slight improvement as compared with the preceding month.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed in the carpet and rug trades, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 9.7 at 30th December, as compared with 10.5 at 2nd December. In addition 1.9 per cent. of the workpeople were claiming benefit in respect of systematic short-time working at 30th December, as compared with 2.9 per cent. at 2nd December.

Returns received from firms employing 8,616 workpeople in the week ending 17th December, and paying £18,244 in wages, showed an increase of 0.6 per cent. in the number employed and an increase of 4.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with the previous month. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 7.9 per cent. in the number employed, and of 22.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Returns covering 5,600 workpeople showed that in the week ended 17th December, 27 per cent. were working on the average 8 hours less than full time.

BLEACHING, PRINTING, DYEING AND FINISHING.

DURING December employment in these trades continued bad and showed a decline, on the whole, as compared with the previous month. There was a large amount of unemployment and short-time working in all the principal districts.

* Imports nil; re-exports, 90 lbs.

† Thousands of square yards.

‡ Thousands of linear yards.

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

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 13.0 at 30th December, as compared with 11.7 at 2nd December. In addition 9.5 per cent. of the workpeople were claiming benefit in respect of systematic short-time working, as compared with 5.7 per cent. at 2nd December.

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

	Number of Workpeople.				Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.			
	Week ended 17th Dec., 1921.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.		Week ended 17th Dec., 1921.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	
	Month ago.	Year ago.	Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.	
Trades:								
Bleaching	2,235	- 1.7	- 2.6	5,347	- 3.4	- 13.3		
Printing	681	- 1.9	- 19.1	2,141	- 1.7	- 32.0		
Dyeing	11,594	+ 1.2	- 10.4	34,726	+ 1.3	- 15.5		
Trimming, Finishing, and other Departments	6,611	- 2.0	- 8.9	17,655	+ 1.0	- 13.4		
Not specified	520	- 0.2	- 12.3	1,498	- 0.4	- 11.5		
Total	21,641	- 0.2	- 9.6	61,367	+ 0.7	- 15.4		
Districts:								
Yorkshire	10,884	+ 1.0	- 9.8	33,153	+ 1.0	- 13.9		
Lancashire	6,789	- 2.1	- 11.8	18,022	+ 0.4	- 23.4		
Lancashire	1,254	+ 0.2	- 8.5	2,885	+ 0.9	- 10.7		
Ireland	413	+ 1.2	+ 3.3	793	- 4.1	- 17.1		
Other Districts	2,301	- 0.9	- 4.1	6,508	- 0.2	+ 4.0		
Total	21,641	- 0.2	- 9.6	61,367	+ 0.7	- 15.4		

Returns received from firms employing over 16,000 workpeople showed an increase in the percentage on short time; in the week ended 17th December about 65 per cent. of these employees worked, on the average, fifteen and a half hours less than full time.

In Yorkshire and Lancashire employment continued slack, with much short-time working, and showed a decline in Lancashire, although there was a slight improvement on the whole in Yorkshire, where a little overtime was reported by several firms. At Nottingham, employment with lace dyers showed a decline and was reported as quiet on silk and artificial silk laces, and bad on cotton laces. With hosiery dyers and trimmers in the Leicester district, employment was reported as fair and better than a month ago. With silk dyers it was reported as bad at Congleton, but fair at Macclesfield and Leek.

FELT HAT TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT in the felt hat trade was bad, and worse than in the previous month. Trade Unions at Denton, Stockport, Bredbury, Bury and Hyde, with a membership of 5,079, reported that 11.4 per cent. of the members were unemployed at the end of December, compared with 9.5 per cent. at the end of November.

At Denton employment was bad, and worse than in November; 90 per cent. of the workpeople were reported to be working short time, and in many cases the Christmas holidays were extended. At Stockport employment was very bad, and showed a decline on the previous month; 95 per cent. of the workpeople were reported to be working short time.

In Warwickshire employment was quiet, and was slightly worse than in November; some short time was reported.

TAILORING TRADES.

BESPOKE.

London.—Employment during December in the bespoke branch of the tailoring trade was only moderate. Returns received from firms paying £11,562 to their workpeople (indoor and outdoor) during the month ended 17th December showed a decrease of 10.3 per cent. as compared with the previous month, and a decrease of 6.7 per cent. as compared with a year ago.*

Other Centres.—With tailors in Leeds employment was quiet. A seasonal slackness was experienced at Bradford and Huddersfield; at other places in the North and at Bristol employment was slack. In the Midland and Eastern Counties employment was slack. In the Devon and Cornwall district it was fair. In Ireland employment continued bad.

READY-MADE.

In this branch employment during December continued slack. About three-fifths of the employees covered by the returns relating to short time lost, on an average, about 18 hours a week.

The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished returns regarding numbers employed and wages paid during the week ended 17th December :-

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

District.	Number of Indoor Workpeople.				Total Wages paid to all Indoor Workpeople.			
	Week ended 17th Dec., 1921.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.		Week ended 17th Dec., 1921.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	
	Month ago.	Year ago.	Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.	
Leeds	4,123	+ 0.9	- 12.8	6,014	- 2.5	+ 0.6		
Manchester	2,370	+ 0.4	- 27.2	3,836	- 0.6	+ 21.5		
Other places in Yorks., Lancs. and Cheshire ..	2,705	+ 0.8	- 3.6	4,178	- 3.7	+ 1.4		
Bristol	1,288	+ 5.6	- 25.5	1,609	+ 2.0	- 17.7		
North and West Midland Counties (excluding Bristol) ..	1,705	- 4.4	- 11.4	2,294	- 10.3	+ 6.7		
South Midland and Eastern Counties ..	1,374	- 12.0	- 27.4	1,665	- 21.5	- 28.0		
London	2,128	+ 0.1	- 7.2	5,178	- 4.9	+ 0.5		
Glasgow	863	+ 1.1	- 10.2	1,470	+ 1.7	- 8.0		
Rest of United Kingdom ..	1,307	+ 4.9	- 17.9	1,822	- 4.7	- 25.8		
Total, United Kingdom ..	17,863	- 1.0	- 15.7	28,106	- 4.8	- 8.3		

In the Northern district employment was slack and more than half the workpeople covered by the returns were on short time. At Bristol employment was bad and the majority of the workers in this district were working short time. In the North and West Midland Counties and in the South Midland and Eastern Counties there was a decline, and nearly the whole of the employees in these districts were on short time. In London employment was moderate and a little short time was reported. In Glasgow short time was worked by over half the operatives. Employment in other parts of the United Kingdom was slack.

SHIRT AND COLLAR TRADE.

DURING December employment in the shirt and collar trade continued slack. Returns relating to short time were received from firms employing 7,600 workpeople, of whom nearly 60 per cent. lost, on an average, nearly 13 hours in the week ended December 17th.

The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished returns as to the numbers employed and wages paid :-

District.	Number of Workpeople.				Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.			
	Week ended 17th Dec., 1921.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.		Week ended 17th Dec., 1921.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	
	Month ago.	Year ago.	Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.	
London	2,253	- 1.1	- 22.3	3,804	+ 4.2	- 15.7		
Manchester	1,463	- 2.1	- 20.5	2,414	- 9.2	- 11.0		
Rest of Yorks., Lancs., and Cheshire	1,106	- 0.9	+ 6.7	1,485	- 0.3	+ 35.2		
South Western Counties ..	1,011	- 0.7	- 20.4	1,330	+ 4.2	- 29.9		
Rest of England and Wales	578	- 0.7	- 20.4	918	- 2.9	-		

Employment with milliners in the West-End still continued fair, but, compared with November, showed a decline, and a little short time was reported.

WHOLESALE MANTLE, COSTUME, BLOUSE, Etc., TRADES.

In London employment again showed a decline, but, on the whole, was fair. A considerable amount of short time was reported. Returns from firms employing 1,866 workpeople on their premises (in addition to outworkers) showed a decrease in the number employed of 3.2 per cent. on a month ago, and of 7.2 per cent. on a year ago.

The slight improvement in Manchester was maintained during December, but, on the whole, employment was again only moderate, and short time continued to be worked in the costume and mantle trades. Returns from firms employing 2,195 workpeople in the week ended 17th December showed an increase in the number employed of 1.2 per cent. compared with the previous month, and of 2.2 per cent. compared with December, 1920.

Employment in the mantle trade in Glasgow, on the whole, showed a slight improvement on November, but remained bad; about 75 per cent. of the operatives covered by the returns received relating to short time lost, on an average, 11 hours per week. Returns from firms employing 933 workpeople in the week ended 17th December showed an increase in the number employed of 1.2 per cent. compared with the previous month, but a decrease of 11.3 per cent. compared with a year ago.

CORSET TRADE.

In the corset trade employment again showed a slight improvement, and, on the whole, was fair, although some short time continued to be worked. Returns from firms employing 5,449 workpeople in the week ended 17th December showed an increase in the number employed of 0.6 per cent. on the previous month, but a decrease of 10.3 per cent. on December, 1920.

LEATHER TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in the tanning and currying section continued to improve during December, and advanced to fair on the whole. In the manufactured leather goods section reports were again very varied according to trade and locality, but short time was fairly general. Returns received from trade unions concerning 10,220 workpeople showed that 10.2 per cent. of their members were unemployed at the end of December, 1921, as compared with 11.7 per cent. in November, 1921, and 10.4 per cent. in December, 1920.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 14.1 per cent. at 30th December, as compared with 13.3 at 2nd December. In addition, 1.3 per cent. of the workpeople were claiming benefit in respect of systematic short time working at 30th December, as compared with 1.7 per cent. at 2nd December.

Employment with skippers, tanners and curriers was fair, showing an improvement compared with November, but short time continued to be worked to a considerable extent. At Walsall employment continued very bad with saddle, harness and horse-collar makers, nearly all of the workpeople working part-time only. At Birmingham it continued very quiet, with much short time and unemployment. Employment was again fair generally with portmanteau, trunk and fancy leather workers. In Birmingham a slight seasonal improvement was shown and a little overtime was worked.

BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

In this trade employment continued very depressed during December, and there were increases both in the numbers unemployed and in the amount of short time worked. In some cases extended holidays were taken at Christmas. Employment was, however, not quite so bad, in most districts, as in December, 1920.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed in boot, shoe and slipper making and repairing establishments, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 11.9 at the 30th December, as compared with 9.5 per cent. at the 2nd December. In addition, 3.0 per cent. of the workpeople were claiming benefit in respect of systematic short-time working at the 30th December, as compared with 2.4 at the 2nd December.

At Leicester employment was fairly good for some of the women workers, but otherwise continued slack, with much short time. At Hinckley employment was good, and better than in November. At Wellingborough it was quiet, and showed a decline. At Higham and Rushden it continued fair. At Northampton, Kettering and Leeds there was much short time, and employment was still bad. At Bristol it was bad, and worse than in November. At Norwich it was fair; better than in November, and much better than last year. There was a decline in the Rossendale Valley towards the end of the month, owing to the completion of Christmas orders.

In Scotland employment remained fair, or good, at Maybole and at Kilmarnock, but it was bad at the other principal centres. The following Table summarises the information received from those firms who furnished returns :-

Districts.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 17th Dec., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 17th Dec., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
England and Wales :-		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
London	1,968	- 0.2	+ 13.6	5,076	+ 3.9	+ 24.1
Leicester	8,677	- 0.2	+ 1.0	21,073	+ 5.5	+ 9.6
Leicester Country District	2,778	- 0.8	+ 14.4	6,818	+ 2.2	+ 37.8
Northampton	6,880	- 0.4	+ 0.6	15,234	+ 0.4	+ 9.3
Northampton Country District	7,441	+ 0.3	+ 0.2	18,064	+ 1.0	+ 20.7
Kettering	2,897	- 0.5	+ 8.5	7,510	+ 0.3	+ 18.2
Stafford and District	2,316	- 1.7	- 1.8	3,938	- 25.1	- 3.4
Norwich and District	3,898	+ 1.4	+ 2.3	9,045	+ 3.7	+ 37.3
Bristol and District	789	- 5.7	- 16.2	1,858	- 10.0	+ 0.1
Kingswood	1,504	- 2.0	- 1.8	2,896	- 13.4	-
Leeds and District	1,749	+ 0.3	+ 1.0	4,280	- 0.2	+ 10.0
Lancashire (mainly Rossendale Valley)	3,424	- 3.0	- 9.0	7,390	- 14.2	+ 8.6
Birmingham and District	966	- 0.1	+ 7.3	2,020	+ 2.1	+ 23.2
Other parts of England and Wales	2,752	- 1.1	- 4.7	5,142	+ 1.3	+ 4.7
England and Wales	48,079	- 0.5	+ 0.7	110,344	- 1.0	+ 14.7
Scotland	2,697	- 0.3	- 4.0	5,312	- 6.0	+ 11.3
Ireland	511	- 1.9	- 10.7	961	- 8.0	- 4.9
United Kingdom	51,287	- 0.5	+ 0.4	116,617	- 1.3	+ 13.0

Returns received from firms employing over 28,000 workpeople showed that in the week ended 17th December about 50 per cent. of these employees worked on the average 15½ hours less than full time.

The exports of boots and shoes in December, 1921, amounted to 43,733 dozen pairs, or 1,782 dozen pairs less than in November, 1921, and 92,496 dozen pairs less than in December, 1913.

BRICK AND CEMENT TRADES.

BRICK.

THE decline in employment which began in September continued during December. At Bridgwater a large number of men were discharged during the month. In the Nottingham district employment was very bad, much short time being worked. In Norfolk, Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire, Essex and Suffolk employment was slack.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed in the brick and tile and cement trades, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges at 30th December was 18.9, as compared with 16.3 at 2nd December.

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

Districts.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 17th Dec., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 17th Dec., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*
Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire	2,362	- 1.0	- 10.2	6,550	- 1.2	- 30.3
Midlands and Eastern Counties	3,262	- 0.5	- 4.3	8,601	- 2.7	- 26.1
South and South-West Counties and Wales	1,188	- 2.1	- 18.6	3,495	- 6.8	- 37.7
Other Districts	1,005	- 6.3	- 18.8	2,730	- 14.5	- 36.3
Total	7,817	- 1.7	- 10.5	21,376	- 4.7	- 30.9

Returns received from firms employing 6,444 workpeople in this trade show that 40.5 per cent. of their workpeople worked short time to the extent of about 11.5 hours, on the average, during the week ended 17th December.

CEMENT TRADE.

Employment during December showed a further decline. On the Thames and Medway it was much worse than in the previous month, most works having closed down for a fortnight at Christmas. In Wales, employment was normal for the time of the year.

Returns from firms employing 6,429 workpeople in the week ended 17th December, 1921, showed a decrease of 3.3 per cent. in the number employed, and of 4.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with the previous month. Compared with December, 1920, there was a decrease of 44.1 per cent. in the number employed, and of 56.1* per cent. in the amount of wages paid by these firms.

Returns received from firms employing 6,320 workpeople in this trade show that 32 per cent. of their workpeople worked short time to the extent of about 9 hours, on the average, during the week ended 17th December.

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

BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION OF WORKS.

EMPLOYMENT in these trades continued to show a decline during December, as is usual at this season of the year. Short time was worked in several districts, and, of the returns received from eighty master builders' associations in Great Britain, the majority showed employment as quiet or slack, and only two (Kendal and North Herts.) reported employment as good. In no case did the report show any improvement as compared with November. In the geographical divisions shown in the Table given below there was a general decline, which was most marked in the North-Western division, the Northern counties and the South Midland and Eastern division.

Employment was good with plasterers, there still being a shortage of labour in some districts; it was quiet generally with carpenters, plumbers and bricklayers, though there was much variation between different districts. It was reported as slack with masons and very bad with painters. The percentage of unemployed among navvies and other occupations in works of construction continued very high, though there was a slight improvement, on the whole, as compared with the previous month.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of workpeople claiming unemployment benefit at 30th December, 1921, and the increase or decrease in the percentage as compared with 2nd December :-

Occupation.	Number of Unemployment Books Remaining Lodged at 30th Dec. 1921.	Percentage Unemployed at 30th Dec., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage as compared with 2nd Dec., 1921.
Building Trade.			
Carpenters	11,823	8.5	+ 1.0
Bricklayers	6,491	10.2	+ 2.5
Masons	3,441	13.6	+ 1.8
Plasterers	552	3.1	+ 0.5
Painters	32,994	27.6	+ 4.1
Plumbers	3,371	9.1	+ 0.8
All other occupations	103,037	26.6	+ 0.8
Total	161,714	20.5	+ 1.5
Construction of Works.			
Navvies	12,244	33.7	- 1.2
All other occupations	22,049	27.1	+ 0.2
Total	34,293	29.2	- 0.2
Grand Total	196,007	21.6	+ 1.3
Divisions.			
London	41,456	22.1	+ 0.2
Northern Counties	9,185	23.3	+ 2.6
North Western	26,356	23.5	+ 2.7
Yorkshire	12,475	19.2	+ 1.2
East Midlands	5,860	21.0	+ 0.4
West Midlands	15,495	25.6	+ 0.9
South Midlands and Eastern Counties	15,537	17.4	+ 2.2
South Western	10,807	16.6	+ 0.8
Wales	16,425	17.6	+ 1.7
Scotland	8,697	24.0	+ 1.7
Ireland	17,572	21.1	+ 1.3
Ireland	16,142	34.0	+ 0.3
United Kingdom	196,007	21.6	+ 1.3
Males	195,550	21.7	+ 1.3
Females	457	6.3	- 0.2

WOODWORKING AND FURNISHING TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in these trades remained bad generally during December. Returns were received from trade unions covering 90,256 workpeople, of whom 8.5 per cent. were stated to be unemployed at the end of December (exclusive of considerable numbers on short time), as compared with 8.3 per cent. at the end of November and 4.2 per cent. in December, 1920.

Mill-Sawing and Machining.—In this trade employment continued bad on the whole during the month, with much short time. It was reported as fair, however, at Hull, Leeds and Sheffield. The percentage of workpeople unemployed in the mill-sawing and machine wood-working trades, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges at 30th December was 15.1, as compared with 14.9 at 2nd December. In addition, 1.4 per cent. of the workpeople were claiming benefit in respect of systematic short time working at 30th December, compared with the same percentage at 2nd December.

Furnishing.—Employment was again bad in this trade during December, and short time was worked in most districts. An improvement, however, was reported at High Wycombe and a slight improvement in the Birmingham district; employment was good with pianoforte workers in London.

Coach Building.—Employment continued slack on the whole during the month, and short time was general. It was reported, however, as good at Glasgow and Paisley, and there was a slight improvement at Bristol, Coventry and Salfrey.

Coopering.—In this trade employment was bad at many centres, but it was reported as good in the wet section at Birmingham and on tight work repairing in certain localities in the West of Scotland and fairly good at Burton-on-Trent.

Miscellaneous.—In the brushmaking trade employment re-

mained bad during December, and short time was general. With basket makers employment continued bad on the whole, but was reported as fairly good in London. In the Lancashire and Cheshire district the majority of the workpeople were working alternate weeks only. Employment with packing case makers remained bad, and much short time was worked during the month. With wheelwrights and smiths employment continued bad, with much short time.

PAPER, PRINTING AND BOOKBINDING TRADES.

IN the paper, printing and bookbinding trades employment generally continued bad during December. It was rather worse than a month ago in the printing trades, but showed some improvement in the bookbinding trade.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed in the printing, publishing and bookbinding trades, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 7.9 at 30th December, as compared with 8.1 per cent. at 2nd December.

In addition, 2.0 per cent. of the workpeople were claiming benefit in respect of systematic short time working at 30th December, as compared with 1.0 per cent. at 2nd December.

With letterpress printers in London the state of employment remained bad, and was rather worse with some classes than during the previous month. Overtime continued to be worked by compositors and readers in certain offices, but in others many compositors were on short time. In the provinces a slight improvement was reported in many districts, due principally to seasonal requirements. Throughout the month, however, short time was prevalent. In the lithographic printing trade employment was generally about the same as in November, and much short time was worked. Of over 7,600 workpeople in the letterpress and lithographic printing trades covered by returns received by the Department, 23 per cent. were working an average of 8 hours per week short of full time.

Employment in the bookbinding trade continued to be bad, but some improvement was reported at London, Manchester, Salford, Bury, Leeds and a few other centres. Short time, however, was worked to a greater extent than during the previous month, and 29 per cent. of over 4,000 workpeople for whom returns were received were working short time to an average extent of 16 hours per week.

In the paper trade much unemployment and short time was reported, and a number of mills were closed down. Of nearly 7,700 workpeople covered by returns received, 34 per cent. were losing on an average 16 hours in the week ending 17th December.

The following Table summarises the returns from Trade Unions relating to unemployment in December :-

	No. of Members of Unions at end of Dec., 1921.	Percentage Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on a	
		Dec., 1921.	Nov., 1921.	Dec., 1920.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Bookbinding	16,182	7.3	9.0	2.3	- 1.7	+ 5.0

The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished returns of the number of workpeople employed and the amount of wages paid :-

	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 17th Dec., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 17th Dec., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Paper	10,396	- 3.2	- 14.9	27,088	- 7.4	- 28.3
Printing	9,746	- 0.2	- 11.8	34,018	- 0.3	- 17.4
Bookbinding	4,750	+ 0.4	- 15.3	10,225	- 3.5	- 23.4
Total	24,792	- 1.4	- 13.8	71,331	- 3.6	- 22.6

The following Table shows the imports of wood pulp and paper and the exports of paper in December, 1921, in comparison with November, 1921, and December, 1913 :-

Description.	Dec., 1921.	Nov., 1921.	Dec., 1913.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on	
				A month ago.	Dec., 1913.
Imports:					
Wood pulp for paper-making tons	77,672	66,232	109,019	+ 11,440	- 31,347
Paper cwt.	736,165	712,308	1,067,918	+ 23,857	- 351,753
Exports of paper .. cwt.	139,354	135,257	258,431	+ 4,097	- 119,077

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

POTTERY TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in the pottery trades during December was bad on the whole, and again showed a decline in the Staffordshire area. At Bristol, Swadlincote and Derby, however, and in the white earthenware section of the trade at Kirkcaldy, Bo'ness and Glasgow, employment was again reported as fair and about the same as in November.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 23.4 at 30th December, as compared with 13.6 at 2nd December. In addition, 1.3 per cent. of the workpeople were claiming benefit in respect of systematic short time working at 30th December, as compared with 0.7 per cent. at 2nd December.

The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished Returns relating to numbers employed and wages paid in the week ended 17th December, as compared with the previous month and a year ago:—

Branches.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 17th Dec., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 17th Dec., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.*	Year ago.*
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
BRANCHES.						
China Manufacture ..	1,644	- 2.0	- 9.4	3,880	-11.2	-24.1
Earthenware Manufacture ..	9,221	- 2.0	- 7.8	19,429	-11.5	-26.0
Other Branches (including unspecified) ..	1,491	- 2.1	-14.8	2,997	-11.3	-33.3
Total	12,356	- 2.0	- 9.0	26,306	-11.4	-26.6
DISTRICTS.						
Potteries	9,607	- 2.2	- 7.1	19,998	-12.0	-24.2
Other Districts	2,749	- 1.3	-15.9	6,308	- 9.5	-33.4
Total	12,356	- 2.0	- 9.0	26,306	-11.4	-26.6

Returns received from employers relating to short time working showed an increase in the numbers of workpeople on short time; about 31 per cent. of over 10,000 workpeople covered by the Returns worked, on an average, 17 hours short of full time in the week ended 17th December.

The exports of china, earthenware and pottery in December, 1921, amounted to 244,892 cwts., or 6,106 cwts. more than in November, 1921, but 59,716 cwts. less than in December, 1913.

GLASS TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in these trades showed a slight improvement, but was still bad on the whole.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed in the glass trades (excluding optical and scientific glassware), as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 21.9 at 30th December, as compared with 20.1 at 2nd December. In addition, 4.7 per cent. of the workpeople were claiming benefit in respect of systematic short-time working at 30th December, as compared with 4.0 per cent. at 2nd December.

In the glass bottle trade there was an increase in the number employed. Flint glass-ware makers and cutters at Birmingham reported employment as slack and plate glass bevellers as very slack, much short time being worked. Employment among pressed glass makers on the Tyne and Wear was bad, and worse than a month ago. Sheet glass flatteners at St. Helens reported better employment than during the previous month.

The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished returns as to the number of workpeople employed and amount of wages paid in the week ended 17th December, as compared with the previous month and a year ago:—

Branches.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 17th Dec., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 17th Dec., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.*	Year ago.*
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
BRANCHES.						
Glass Bottle	5,260	+ 4.2	- 26.7	14,994	- 0.9	- 43.7
Flint Glass Ware (not bottles)	2,781	- 1.9	- 15.5	5,369	- 7.7	- 34.3
Other Branches	619	- 0.6	- 31.1	1,513	- 0.3	- 35.7
Total	7,960	+ 2.1	- 24.5	21,876	- 2.7	- 41.1

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

Districts.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 17th Dec., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 17th Dec., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.*	Year ago.*
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
DISTRICTS.						
North of England	355	- 5.8	- 55.1	840	- 26.3	- 70.9
Yorkshire	3,677	+ 6.2	- 18.9	10,711	+ 0.2	- 36.5
Lancashire	963	+ 2.7	- 38.9	2,481	- 0.1	- 50.4
Worcestershire and Warwickshire	810	- 0.4	+ 2.3	2,040	- 2.2	- 18.2
Scotland	734	- 8.1	- 29.6	1,811	- 11.1	- 50.8
Other parts of the United Kingdom	1,421	+ 1.3	- 21.4	3,993	- 1.1	- 36.1
Total	7,960	+ 2.1	- 24.5	21,876	- 2.7	- 41.1

Returns covering 6,500 workpeople showed that in the week ended 17th December, 16 per cent. were working, on the average, 17 hours less than full time.

FOOD PREPARATION TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT showed little variation on the whole in the food preparation trades during December, and was again only moderate. Considerable short time was still worked in most sections.

In the sugar refining industry employment was slacker than in the preceding month. Of 3,550 workpeople reported upon in regard to short time, 32 per cent. lost 11 hours on an average in the week ended 17th December. A little overtime was again reported in some cases. Reports received from the cocoa, chocolate and confectionery trade varied widely, but employment was fair on the whole, and rather less short time was worked than in the previous month; a fair amount of overtime was reported. Employment remained dull in the biscuit and cake-making trades. Of 12,783 reported upon, 50 per cent. of the workpeople lost 9 hours in short time. In the jam and marmalade trade employment was moderate, and showed a slight improvement on last month. Both overtime and short time were reported. In the bacon and preserved meat trade employment was again fair. In the pickle and sauce-making trades employment showed a slight decline during the month, and 13 hours short time was worked by 36 per cent. of the 1,197 workpeople reported upon.

The following Table summarises the information received from employers who furnished returns relating to the number of workpeople employed and the amount of wages paid in the week ended 17th December, as compared with the previous month and a year ago:—

Trade.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 17th Dec., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 17th Dec., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.*		Month ago.*	Year ago.*
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
TRADES.						
Sugar Refining, etc. ..	5,418	-16.1	-17.0	20,132	- 4.6	-14.9
Cocoa, Chocolate and Sugar Confectionery ..	32,281	- 0.8	+ 4.4	71,173	- 4.0	- 5.2
Biscuits and Cakes, etc. ..	12,908	- 1.0	- 2.9	29,888	+ 3.4	- 0.9
Jams, Marmalades, etc. ..	5,569	+ 1.7	+ 9.9	13,687	+ 0.6	+ 7.8
Bacon and Preserved Meats	3,732	- 1.9	+ 9.2	8,003	+ 1.5	- 2.5
Pickles and Sauces, etc. ..	1,403	- 0.6	+ 8.7	2,651	- 5.8	- 1.9
Total	62,311	- 2.2	+ 1.4	144,504	- 2.0	- 4.6

AGRICULTURE.†

ENGLAND AND WALES.

Favourable weather during December enabled good progress to be made with field work, and autumn cultivation was everywhere well advanced.

The supply of labour was plentiful in all parts of the country; in some districts the numbers of regular workers were being reduced, but, as a rule, unemployment was confined to casual labourers. In parts of Essex unemployment has to some extent been avoided by the working of shorter hours.

In some counties there was still an occasional demand for skilled labour, hedgers being required in parts of Bedfordshire, Northamptonshire and Warwickshire, and hedgers and ditchers in some districts in Dorset, Wiltshire and Hampshire.

† Based on information supplied by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

FISHING INDUSTRY.

EXCEPT at the South Wales ports, where there was a definite improvement, employment declined during December, and on the whole was only moderate.

The number of fishermen whose unemployment books were lodged at Employment Exchanges at 30th December was 3,972, compared with 3,350 at 2nd December, 1921.

East, South and West Coasts.—Employment at Hull was reported as fair. At Grimsby it continued moderate in all branches. At Yarmouth the industry suffered severely from the bad weather, and employment throughout the month was very slack. At Lowestoft a very bad herring season came to a close at Christmas; employment during the month was only moderate, showing a decline compared with the previous month. At Cardiff, Swansea and Milford Haven there was a considerable improvement, and employment was reported as good.

Scotland.—At Aberdeen employment was fair. At Peterhead it was only moderate among fishermen and bad among fish dock labourers and fish curers. At Macduff it declined to fair with fishermen and to bad with fish dock labourers and fish curers. At Fraserburgh it declined to bad in all branches.

The following Table shows the quantity and value of fish landed in the United Kingdom in December, 1921, as compared with December, 1920:—

	Quantity of fish landed.		Value.	
	Dec., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with Dec., 1920.	Dec., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with Dec., 1920.
	Cwts.	Cwts.	£	£
Fish (other than shell):—				
England and Wales ..	804,794	-65,860	1,213,441	-205,087
Scotland	327,085	-62,158	307,566	-98,297
Ireland	19,397	-3,085	14,887	-10,547
Total	1,151,276	-121,103	1,535,894	-313,931
Shell Fish	—	—	48,418	-10,915
Total	—	—	1,584,312	-324,846

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

EMPLOYMENT among dock labourers remained slack during December. The percentage of workpeople unemployed in the canal, river, harbour, dock and wharf service, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges at 30th December, was 22.6 per cent., as compared with 23.2 per cent. at 2nd December.

London.—In London employment generally was slack. The following Table shows the average daily number of labourers employed at the docks and at the principal wharves in each week of the month:—

Period.	Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London.			
	In Docks.		At Wharves making Returns.	Total Docks and Principal Wharves.
	By the Port of London Authority or through Contractors.	By Ship-owners, etc.		
Week ended—				
3rd Dec., 1921 ..	6,019	2,479	8,498	17,082
10th " ..	6,424	2,988	9,412	18,240
17th " ..	6,155	2,821	8,976	17,723
24th " ..	5,751	2,516	8,267	16,993
31st " ..	5,153	2,912	8,065	16,222
Average for 5 weeks ended 31st Dec., 1921	5,954	2,731	8,685	17,326
Average for Nov., 1921	5,994	2,655	8,649	17,152
Average for Dec., 1920	8,027	3,184	11,211	19,832

Tilbury.—The mean daily number of dock labourers employed in December was 1,509, as compared with 1,444 in November and 1,832 in December, 1920.

East Coast.—On the Tyne and Wear and at Blyth employment generally was quiet and showed little change compared with the previous month. In the import trade there was an improvement, but with exports it was very slack.

Employment was bad with trimmers and teamers, and remained slack with dockers at Blyth. Tugboatmen on the Tyne and Wear were fairly well employed.

At Hull employment remained slack, but at Middlesbrough

it showed some improvement. At Yarmouth, Lowestoft and Ipswich bad weather affected employment, which was slack and worse than in the previous month.

Southern and Western Ports.—Employment was slack at Plymouth and at the Bristol Channel Ports. On the Mersey there was an improvement as compared with a month ago and employment with dock labourers was fair. The average weekly number of dock labourers employed at Liverpool during the four weeks ended 26th December was 15,257, compared with 15,037 in the five weeks ended 28th November and 16,520 in the corresponding period of 1920.

Scottish and Irish Ports.—At Glasgow employment was moderate and about the same as in November, and at Leith and Dundee it continued fair. At Belfast it had declined and was bad, but at Cork it had improved and was fair. At Limerick employment remained fair.

SEAMEN.

EMPLOYMENT among seamen during December was again slack, and large numbers of men failed to obtain engagements.

The percentage of seamen unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 26.2 at 30th December, as compared with 28.9 at 2nd December.

Except in the middle of the month, when the demand improved, employment on the Thames was slack. At the Tyne ports the demand declined and was exceptionally small at the end of the month. Employment on the Tees was poor, and on the Wear it continued slack. At Hull the demand improved in the first half of the month, but subsequently declined. At Grimsby and at Goole the demand for seamen was very poor throughout the month.

Employment at Southampton was slack, particularly in the week ended 17th December. At Bristol a very poor demand improved in the third week of the month, but became insignificant afterwards. Employment at Avonmouth declined from moderate to slack between the middle and the end of the month. At Cardiff a fair demand in the early part of December was not maintained. At Newport and Swansea employment was poor, with a tendency at the former port to decline towards the end of the month. In the foreign-going trade on the Mersey employment was moderate and declined, except during the third week of the month, when a slight improvement was reported.

The demand on the Clyde improved after a decline in the middle of the month. At Leith employment fluctuated and was very slack at the end of the month. At Dundee and Aberdeen the demand for seamen was insignificant.

Employment at Dublin and Belfast continued very slack, but improved somewhat at the latter port in the last two weeks of the month.

The following Table shows the number of seamen shipped in British registered foreign-going vessels at the principal ports during December:—

Principal Ports.	Number of Seamen* shipped in					
	Dec., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Year ended Dec.		
		Month ago.	Year ago.	1921.	1920.	1913.
ENGLAND & WALES:						
East Coast—						
Tyne Ports	1,391	- 200	+ 443	16,656	21,728	32,191
Sunderland	143	- 84	+ 38	1,961	2,968	4,951
Middlesbrough	286	- 49	- 256	3,685	6,100	3,717
Hull	959	- 140	- 611	13,293	16,113	16,895
Grimsby	1	-	+ 1	89	249	1,144
Bristol Channel—						
Bristol	795	- 66	- 279	10,560	13,012	14,203
Newport, Mon.	1,091	+ 320	+ 653	7,349	9,897	10,454
Cardiff†	2,432	- 405	- 129	24,622	34,031	51,970
Swansea	518	+ 67	+ 226	5,180	4,280	5,492
Other Ports—						
Liverpool	9,129	- 882	- 1,328	130,092	144,308	207,035
London	6,083	- 2,191	- 1,097	81,280	95,427	101,417
Southampton	4,873	- 1,999	- 297	76,556	62,261	58,923
SCOTLAND:						
Leith	530	+ 69	+ 386	4,415	4,612	4,679
Kirkcaldy, Methil and Granemouth	130	- 99	+ 6	1,297	1,990	3,196
Glasgow	2,016	- 254	-	24,628	27,365	53,161
IRELAND:						
Dublin	2	- 144	- 47	1,279	913	687
Belfast	76	- 4	- 115	2,339	3,628	2,566
Total	30,454	- 6,063	- 2,406	405,341	448,882	572,681

* It will be understood that the numbers given are the numbers of separate engagements, and not of separate individuals.
† Including Avonmouth and Portishead.
‡ Including Barry and Penarth.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES.

STATISTICS from Employment Exchanges during the five weeks ended 30th December showed that the increase in the number of workpeople on the live register was 52,558. The number remaining on the live register at 30th December was 1,885,743. The increase during December occurred amongst adults only, men accounting for 40,180, and women for 14,791. The decrease in the juvenile department amounted to 2,413. The average weekly number of applications from workpeople during the five weeks ended 30th December was 153,773, compared with a weekly average of approximately 203,000 during the four weeks ended 25th November.

The following Table summarises the work of the Exchanges during the five weeks ended 30th December, 1921 :-

Week ended	Applications by		Vacancies Filled.	Applications outstanding at end of week.	
	Work-people.	Employers.		From Workpeople (Live Register.)	From Employers.
25th Nov., 1921	166,894	19,585	17,067	1,833,185	18,304
2nd Dec., 1921	166,120	19,384	16,872	1,834,009	18,065
9th " "	162,202	20,274	16,625	1,833,638	18,459
16th " "	150,371	21,622	18,531	1,822,837	19,636
22nd " "	121,777	17,658	16,296	1,813,700	19,125
30th " "	168,393	12,689	11,152	1,885,743	19,184
Total (5 weeks)	768,863	91,634	79,476	-	-

Of the total number of workpeople on the Live Register at 30th December, 1,451,434 were men, 60,103 were boys, 333,671 were women, and 40,535 were girls. Of the 19,184 vacancies unfilled, 4,662 were for men, 12,160 were for women, and 2,362 for juveniles. The daily average number of vacancies notified and vacancies filled showed a slight increase (2.2 per cent. and 0.7 per cent. respectively), as compared with the previous period.

Details of the figures given in the preceding paragraphs are not yet available, but the outstanding features of the work of the Employment Exchanges during the four weeks ended 2nd December, 1921, are dealt with below :-

Applications from Workpeople.—The daily average number of applications from workpeople (29,325) during the four weeks ended 2nd December showed a decrease of 8,276, or 22.0 per cent., compared with the previous month. Of the daily average (29,325), men accounted for 20,263, women for 6,747, and juveniles for 2,295, a decrease of 24.4 per cent. in the case of men, 16.7 per cent. in the case of women, and 13.6 per cent. in the case of juveniles.

The decrease in the number of applications from men was common to all trade groups, with the exception of agriculture, the greatest decreases occurring in engineering and ironfounding (26.2 per cent.), general labourers (21.9 per cent.), the transport trades (20.7 per cent.), miscellaneous metal trades (20.7 per cent.), and shipbuilding (20.4 per cent.). In the case of women, all trade groups showed decreases, the principal being engineering and ironfounding (43.2 per cent.), miscellaneous metal trades (40.6 per cent.), the transport trades (31.7 per cent.), commercial and clerical occupations (21.6 per cent.), and domestic service (17.5 per cent.).

Of the total applications from men, 20.8 per cent. were in engineering and ironfounding, 15.4 per cent. in building and construction of works, 10.1 per cent. in the transport trades, and 9.0 per cent. as general labourers. Of the total applications from women, the textile trades accounted for 36 per cent. and domestic service for 19 per cent.

Vacancies Notified.—The average daily number of vacancies notified by employers during the four weeks ended 2nd December was 3,278, as compared with 3,382 during the preceding period. Of this daily average, 1,884 were for men, 960 were for women, and 434 were for juveniles—decreases of 4.0 per cent., 0.3 per cent., and 4.6 per cent. respectively. Increases occurred in the number of vacancies notified for men in building and construction of works, engineering and ironfounding, and shipbuilding; there were decreases in the number of vacancies notified in commercial and clerical occupations, the transport trades, agriculture, and for general labourers.

Of the total vacancies notified for men, 45.6 per cent. were in building and construction of works, 4.9 per cent. in commercial and clerical occupations, and 24.3 per cent. for general labourers.

There was a decrease in the number of vacancies notified for women in domestic service, the transport trades, and agriculture, while there was an increase in the case of dress (including boots and shoes), textile trades, and commercial and clerical occupations. Of the total vacancies notified for women, 15,540, or 67.4 per cent., were in domestic service.

Vacancies Filled.—The average daily number of vacancies filled during the period ended 2nd December was 2,770, as compared with 2,853 during the previous period, and 2,226 during the corresponding period a year ago. Compared with the previous month, the average daily number of vacancies filled by men and juveniles decreased by 5.8 per cent. and 2.1 per cent. respectively, while in the case of women, there was an increase of 5.1 per cent.

The proportion of vacancies filled to vacancies notified during the period was 84.5 per cent., as compared with 84.4 per cent. during the previous period. Of the total vacancies filled by men, 47.5 per cent. were in building and construction of works, while commercial and clerical occupations accounted for 5.1 per cent., and general labourers for 25.1 per cent. In the women's department, domestic service accounted for 61.1 per cent. of the total vacancies filled.

In the men's department there were increases in the number of vacancies filled in building and construction of works, engineering and ironfounding, and shipbuilding. Decreases occurred in the number of vacancies filled in commercial and clerical occupations, the transport trades, agriculture and by general labourers. In the case of women, there was an increase in the number of vacancies filled in all trade groups with the exception of agriculture.

Juveniles.—With reference to juveniles, 28,710 applications were received from boys, and 4,198 vacancies were notified for boys. Of the vacancies notified, 3,796, or 90.4 per cent., were filled. Of the total vacancies filled by boys, 34.4 per cent. were in the transport trades, 14.4 per cent. in engineering and ironfounding, and 9.8 per cent. in commercial and clerical occupations.

The number of applications received from girls was 26,362. The number of vacancies notified was 6,225, of which 5,303, or 85.2 per cent., were filled. Of the total vacancies filled, domestic service accounted for 31.0 per cent., the transport trades for 10.9 per cent., dress (including boots and shoes) for 9.9 per cent., and commercial and clerical occupations for 8.8 per cent.

The proportion of vacancies filled to vacancies notified for boys among the more important trade groups was greatest in building (96.7 per cent.), engineering and ironfounding (96.5 per cent.), commercial and clerical occupations (93.2 per cent.), and the transport trades (89.5 per cent.). In the case of girls, the percentages were: Dress (including boots and shoes) (96.5), commercial occupations (95.2), food, tobacco, drink and lodging occupations (93.1), and the transport trades (91.2).

Of the total vacancies (9,099) filled by juveniles, 1,359, or 14.9 per cent., were filled by applicants who obtained their first situation since leaving school.

The following Table shows, for men and for women, the number of applications from workpeople, vacancies notified and vacancies filled, during the four weeks ended 2nd December, and the number remaining on the live registers. It should be noted that the number on the live registers of Employment Exchanges does not include persons on short time :-

Group of Trades.*	Men.			
	Applications from work-people.	Live Register.	Vacancies Notified.	Vacancies Filled.
Building	64,488	130,897	5,940	4,799
Construction of Works ..	10,534	23,816	14,616	14,999
Engineering and Iron- founding	101,170	331,861	2,004	1,397
Shipbuilding	38,580	105,972	1,895	1,637
Construction of Vehicles ..	2,334	9,425	112	94
Miscellaneous Metal Trades	40,626	107,103	122	154
Domestic Service	5,418	16,267	317	238
Commercial and Clerical ..	7,976	24,820	2,210	2,110
Conveyance of Men, Goods and Messages	49,150	139,014	1,186	1,011
Agriculture	3,318	7,686	917	774
Textiles	29,396	56,336	317	280
Dress (including Boots and Shoes)	6,775	19,307	287	224
Food, Tobacco, Drink and Lodgings	5,341	14,771	153	102
General Labourers	43,873	129,068	11,022	10,437
All other Trades	77,216	250,226	4,038	3,209
Total	486,794	1,366,838	45,226	41,665
Group of Trades.*	Women.			
	Applications from work-people.	Live Register.	Vacancies Notified.	Vacancies Filled.
Engineering and Iron- founding	5,551	20,169	179	162
Miscellaneous Metal Trades	4,936	14,916	248	212
Domestic Service :-				
Resident domestic ser- vants	6,149	5,820	7,112	2,744
Non-resident domestic servants	8,241	12,024	2,929	2,106
Other domestic offices and services	16,148	30,251	5,499	4,760
Commercial and Clerical ..	6,885	18,435	1,019	873
Conveyance of Men, Goods and Messages	3,927	10,694	330	374
Agriculture	237	335	145	172
Textiles	59,055	97,551	1,406	1,199
Dress (including Boots and Shoes)	18,294	39,155	2,048	1,460
Food, Tobacco, Drink and Lodgings	6,810	13,510	425	349
General Labourers	3,254	7,379	124	121
All other Trades	22,376	49,799	1,567	1,184
Total	161,923	320,038	23,021	15,716

* Casual occupations (dock labourers and coal labourers) are excluded from this table, and from all other figures above except those in the first three paragraphs. The number of casual jobs found for workpeople in these occupations during the period of four weeks ended 2nd December was 1,598.

EMPLOYMENT OVERSEAS.

[NOTE.—The following reports include an abstract of such official information as is available with regard to the state of employment abroad, in order to indicate, as far as possible, the fluctuations in employment in each country from period to period. The bases of the official statistics published in the countries are, however, not the same as those for the United Kingdom, and therefore the figures quoted below cannot properly be used with those on pp. 12-13 to compare the actual level of employment in the United Kingdom with that in other countries. For further information on the subject of the bases of the unemployment statistics of the various countries, see pp. xxiv-xxvi and 8-20 of the Fourth Abstract of Foreign Labour Statistics, Cd. 5415 of 1911, also "International Labour Review," July-August, 1921, issued by the International Labour Office.]

FRANCE.*

Unemployment in December.—The total number of unemployed persons remaining on the "live register" at Employment Exchanges in France for the week ended 24th December was 17,165 (12,447 men and 4,718 women). The total number of vacancies remaining unfilled was 5,367 (2,625 for men and 2,742 for women). During the week under review the Exchanges succeeded in placing 26,898 persons (22,647 men and 4,251 women) in situations, and, in addition, found employment for 480 foreign immigrants.

Out-of-Work Benefit in December.—According to the latest returns, seven departmental and 77 municipal unemployment funds were in operation throughout France on 30th December, the total number of persons in receipt of out-of-work benefit through their agency being 9,885 (7,620 men and 2,265 women). Of this total 6,631 were resident in the Seine Department, including 3,656 in Paris. It is pointed out that these figures do not fully indicate the total number of persons out of employment. They do not include those on short time. Where unemployment funds are in operation, particulars are not complete, while in localities where no fund exists the numbers out of work are not recorded.

GERMANY.

Employment in November.—Summarising the state of the labour market in November, the *Reichs-Arbeitsblatt* for 31st December states that there ensued in that month for the first time a certain lull after a period of almost uninterrupted expansion lasting with slight fluctuations for nearly half a year.

The number of totally unemployed persons in receipt of out-of-work donation fell from 150,113 on 1st November to 147,806 on 1st December, or by 1.5 per cent.; the number of men showed a slight decrease from 113,682 to 113,185 (0.4 per cent.), and that of women a larger one, from 36,431 to 34,621 (5.0 per cent.).

Returns from trade unions show that out of a total membership of 5,912,750 covered, 81,228, or 1.4 per cent., were out of work at the end of November, as compared with 1.2 per cent. at the end of the preceding month, and 3.9 per cent. in November, 1920.

Unions.	Member-ship reported at end of Nov., 1921.	Percentage of Membership Unemployed.		
		Nov., 1921.	Oct., 1921.	Nov., 1920.
All Unions making Returns ..	5,912,750	1.4	1.2	3.9
PRINCIPAL UNIONS:—				
Building (Soc. Dem.)	490,104	4.3	1.3	5.1
(Cristian)	52,034	1.0	1.1	2.6
Painters (Soc. Dem.)	50,187	4.1	0.9	8.8
Metal (Soc. Dem.)	1,265,060	0.6	1.0	4.1
(Cristian)	225,314	0.4	0.6	1.1
(Hirsch-Duncker)	105,611	0.4	0.6	1.7
Textile (Soc. Dem.)	617,751	0.5	0.5	4.3
(Cristian)	104,406	0.3	0.3	1.7
Clothing	91,880	0.3	0.3	—
Boot and shoe (Soc. Dem.) ..	93,013	0.7	1.0	2.6
Transport (Soc. Dem.)	64,139	2.4	2.0	4.3
Printing	72,656	0.7	1.1	6.6
Bookbinding	84,588	0.7	1.4	3.9
Woodworking (Soc. Dem.) ..	361,100	0.8	1.0	5.1
Glass (Soc. Dem.)	65,714	0.9	0.8	1.3
Porcelain	57,758	1.1	0.6	3.0
Baking and confectionery (Soc. Dem.)	79,762	2.9	3.4	7.3
Brewing and corn-milling ..	77,273	0.9	0.6	2.7
Tobacco	81,693	3.3	5.3	1.5
Factory workers (irrespective of trade)	574,612	1.3	1.1	3.2
Factory and transport work- ers (Cristian)	110,480	1.2	1.4	1.7
Municipal and State workers	259,623	2.1	1.4	2.1

Employment Exchanges reported that the number of vacancies offered by employers showed a somewhat marked falling off from 697,717 in October to 623,654 in the month under review, a decrease of 74,063 of 10.6 per cent. The number of applications for employment fell to 847,722, i.e., by 43,049, or 4.8 per cent., as compared with October. There were thus on an average 136 applications for each 100 situations offered in November, as compared with 128 in October.

The statistics of the sickness insurance societies for the month under review show that the number of persons under obligation to insure in the 6,225 societies making returns increased from

* Journal Officiel, 4th January, 1922. Paris.

13,829,365 on 1st November to 13,848,736 on 1st December, or by 0.1 per cent. This increase is due to women members, who increased in number by 0.5 per cent., whereas the number of men declined by 0.5 per cent.

BELGIUM.*

Unemployment in October and November.—Returns relating to October were received by the Belgian Ministry of Industry, Labour and Supplies from 2,292 unemployment funds with an aggregate membership of 748,302. On the last working day of the month 102,079 of these, or 13.6 per cent. of the total were out of work, 53,573 being totally unemployed and 48,506 partially so. The corresponding percentage for the previous month was 17.7. The aggregate days of unemployment in October numbered 1,688,547, as compared with 2,284,740 in September.

During November 15,922 applications for employment were received by the Employment Exchanges, as compared with 15,691 in October. Offers of situations numbered 3,087 (9,207 in October). For every 100 situations registered as vacant there were thus 197 applications, as compared with 170 in October.

NORWAY.

Unemployment in December.—H.M. Minister at Christiania, reporting on 23rd December, states that the returns from employment exchanges for the two weeks ended 10th December show that at the end of this period the number of applicants for employment remaining on the "live register" was 21,088, while the vacant positions registered amounted to 900. At the corresponding date of 1920 the applicants for employment numbered 5,806, and the number of vacant situations 1,133. The total number of unemployed throughout Norway on 10th December is estimated at about 32,300, as compared with 32,700 and 30,500 on 25th and 10th November respectively.

Trade Union Unemployment in October.—The percentage of members reported as unemployed at the end of October in certain trade unions making returns to the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics was 15.1, as compared with 14.7 at the end of the preceding month and 2.1 in October, 1920.

Unions.	Membership.			Percentage Unemployed.		
	Oct. 31, 1921.	Sep. 30, 1921.	Oct. 31, 1920.	Oct. 31, 1921.	ep 30, 1921.	Oct. 31, 1920.
Bricklayers and masons (Christiania)	942	944	911	4.5	4.0	4.7
Carpenters	927	994	1,404	17.4	13.5	1.2
Painters (Christiania) ..	584	562	716	3.4	1.4	0.3
Metal workers	7,375	7,700	10,066	20.4	20.2	1.6
Boot and shoe makers ..	770	772	916	3.9	4.3	1.0
Printers	2,560	2,553	2,828	11.6	7.2	2.3
Bookbinders (Christiania)	790	801	869	13.5	22.5	2.6
Cabinetmakers	549	570	604	11.8	15.1	7.1
Bakers (Christiania) ..	550	550	590	9.1	9.3	4.2
Total	15,047	15,446	18,604	15.1	14.7	2.1

SWEDEN.†

Unemployment in October and November.—The percentage of unemployed among members of Swedish trade unions on 30th November was 28.6 as compared with 26.8 at the end of the preceding month, and 7.0 on 30th November, 1920. Full details for the latest date are, however, not available, and the following table relates to the end of October :-

Unions.	Membership reporting on 31st Oct., 1921.	Percentage Unemployed.		
		31st Oct., 1921.	30th Sept., 1921.	31st Oct., 1920.
All Unions Making Returns.	149,371	26.8	26.2	4.3
PRINCIPAL UNIONS:—				
Blast furnacemen	8,892	32.3	36.1	3.1
Engineering workers	37,245	35.3	34.9	3.2
Textile workers	5,220	15.7	15.4	6.5
Clothing workers	3,485	9.6	9.4	7.4
Boot, shoe & leather workers	5,296	10.9	10.2	2.5
Baking and confectionery workers	4,308	8.3	6.5	2.6
Tobacco workers	3,891	10.4	6.7	0.1
Sawmill workers	10,193	46.3	47.4	6.4
Woodworkers	8,832	34.1	30.6	7.7
Municipal workers	5,707	2.7	3.0	0.8
General and factory workers (trades not specified) ..	21,053	35.3	34.4	6.8
Commercial employees ..	6,207	8.9	10.4	1.8

* Revue du Travail, December, 1921. Brussels.

† Information supplied through the courtesy of the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics.

‡ Information supplied through the courtesy of the Swedish Department for Social Affairs; also *Societal Meddelanden*, No. 1, 1922. Stockholm.

DENMARK.

Unemployment in November.*—Out of a total of 283,975 workpeople covered by the returns supplied to the Danish Statistical Department by trade unions and by the Central Employment Exchange, 20.8 per cent. were unemployed on 25th November, as compared with 18.3 per cent. on 25th October and 6.1 per cent. on 26th November, 1920.

Groups of Trades.	Number of Workpeople included in Returns for 25th Nov., 1921.	Percentage Unemployed.		
		25th Nov., 1921.	25th Oct., 1921.	26th Nov., 1920.
Copenhagen—				
Building trades ..	11,994	34.2	30.3	16.6
Other industries ..	62,437	22.7	22.6	5.9
Commercial employment ..	9,568	8.1	8.0	1.4
General labourers (trades not specified)	31,305	18.0	16.6	5.9
Total	115,304	21.4	20.6	6.6
Provinces—				
Building trades ..	20,823	33.9	25.2	15.2
Other industries ..	57,072	19.3	18.1	5.1
Commercial employment ..	11,136	5.6	5.5	1.2
General labourers (trades not specified)	79,640	17.0	12.9	4.9
Total	168,671	19.1	15.7	5.8
Grand Total.. ..	283,975	20.8	18.3	6.1

Unemployment in December.—The Commercial Secretary at Copenhagen states that in the week ended 30th December 35,441 persons were reported unemployed in the capital, 17,809 in the Islands and 25,643 in Jutland, giving a total for the whole country of 78,893.

ITALY.†

Unemployment on 1st November.—According to information supplied to the International Labour Office, 492,368 persons were reported to be totally unemployed on 1st November, as compared with 463,108 on 1st September. In addition, 131,167 persons were partially unemployed at the later date, as against 213,327 on 1st September. On 1st November the number of the totally unemployed in receipt of benefit under the scheme of compulsory insurance was 83,332, which, added to 36,652 under the provisional scheme, gives a total of 119,984 in receipt of benefit. The totally unemployed not in receipt of benefit therefore number 372,384.

SWITZERLAND.‡

Unemployment in November.—According to figures compiled by the Central Employment Department on the basis of returns from Employment Exchanges throughout Switzerland, the number of applicants for employment remaining on the "live register" of the exchanges on 30th November was 80,692. Of this total 19,065 were employed on relief works, leaving 61,627 entirely without work. The total number of applicants for employment included 19,422 persons normally engaged in the watch and clock-making and jewellery trades, 11,703 in the building trades, 10,210 in the metal, engineering and electrical trades and 5,622 in the textile trades. In addition, 56,869 persons were reported as only partially employed, including 18,635 in the metal, engineering and electrical trades, 17,144 in the textile trades and 3,809 in the watchmaking, etc., trades. The vacancies offered by employers on the same date numbered 965.

During the month of November 887 applications for employment were registered for each 100 vacancies for men and 448 for each 100 for women; in October the figures were 818 and 457 respectively.

Unemployment in Eastern Switzerland.—The Commercial Secretary at Berne, reporting to the Department of Overseas Trade for the week ending 7th January, quotes the Swiss Press as stating that the slight improvement in employment in the embroidery trade of Eastern Switzerland observed last autumn proved only transient, and was followed by a fresh period of stagnation. The increase in the number of unemployed is described as most disquieting. The various relief works organised for the purpose of giving employment, e.g., at road-making and river mending, are coming to an end.

CANADA.§

Employment in November.—For the fortnight ending 5th November returns were received by the Employment Service of Canada from 5,404 firms, with an aggregate pay roll of 689,872 persons. Assigning to the week ending 17th January, 1920, the number 100, the index of employment for the period under review is 90.2, as compared with 90.4 for the fortnight ended 22nd October. The corresponding figure for the fortnight ending 6th November, 1920, was 104.4.

Unemployment amongst Trade Union Members.—Returns relating to unemployment at the beginning of November were received by the Canadian Department of Labour from 1,552

* Statistiske Efterretninger, 14th December 1921, Copenhagen. Also issues for 21st November 1920, and 15th December, 1920.
† Daily Intelligence, 30th December, 1921. International Labour Office.
‡ Der Schweizerische Arbeitsmarkt, December, 1921. Berne.
§ Employment, 1st December, 1921. Ottawa.

labour organisations, with a total membership of 174,336. For all trades reporting, 7.4 per cent. of the members were unemployed at the beginning of November, as compared with 8.5 per cent. at the beginning of October and 6.1 at the beginning of November, 1920.

UNITED STATES.*

Employment in November.—The following tabular statements, showing the volume of employment in representative establishments in thirteen manufacturing industries, and in bituminous coal mining in the United States in November, 1921, as compared with (a) the preceding month, and (b) November, 1920, are compiled from reports received by the United States Bureau of Labour Statistics:—

(a) November, 1921, as compared with October, 1921.

Industry.	Number of Establishments reporting.	Number of Workpeople.		Earnings.†	
		Oct., 1921.	Nov., 1921.	Oct., 1921.	Nov., 1921.
Coal mining (bituminous) ..	101	25,782	26,575	\$ 1,777,015	\$ 1,667,286
Iron and steel ..	119	118,768	123,920	4,974,236	5,282,658
Railway and tramcar building and repairing ..	63	50,943	53,964	3,091,352	3,251,901
Automobiles ..	52	100,384	96,838	2,953,210	2,702,234
Cotton manufacturing ..	59	62,153	61,981	988,338	995,048
Cotton finishing ..	16	11,054	11,219	238,400	228,321
Hosiery and underwear ..	62	30,903	32,009	530,986	526,475
Woolen ..	52	51,496	50,731	1,052,143	1,076,409
Silk ..	48	19,064	18,462	807,516	698,647
Men's ready-made clothing ..	52	34,061	33,293	919,680	902,208
Boots and shoes ..	83	63,463	63,098	1,375,903	1,335,407
Cigars ..	57	17,536	17,242	317,188	293,302
Leather ..	36	13,248	13,864	286,806	282,860
Paper ..	59	23,668	25,351	565,788	605,396

The above figures show that in seven industries there were increases in the number of persons employed in November as compared with October, and in seven decreases. The largest increases are shown in paper-making (7.1 per cent.) and railway and tramcar building and repairing (5.9 per cent.); the greatest decreases are 3.5 per cent. for automobiles and 3.2 per cent. for silk. Five industries show an increase and nine a decrease in the aggregate earnings. The largest increases are 7 per cent. in paper-making and 6.2 per cent. in iron and steel. Other increases are 5.2 per cent. in railway and tramcar building and repairing, and 2.3 per cent. in the woolen industry. The largest decrease (13.5 per cent.) appears in silk, while other decreases are shown for automobiles (8.5 per cent.), cigars (7.5 per cent.) and bituminous coal-mining (6.2 per cent.).

(b) November, 1921, as compared with November, 1920.

Industry.	Number of Establishments reporting.	Number of Workpeople.		Earnings.†	
		Nov., 1920.	Nov., 1921.	Nov., 1920.	Nov., 1921.
Coal mining (bituminous) ..	103	29,688	26,543	\$ 2,535,672	\$ 1,664,411
Iron and steel ..	118	185,547	124,147	14,720,283	5,274,084
Railway and tramcar building and repairing ..	62	71,960	53,816	5,232,200	3,242,587
Automobiles ..	53	114,427	96,854	3,235,077	2,702,489
Cotton manufacturing ..	60	56,819	62,761	1,098,086	1,003,229
Cotton finishing ..	16	8,587	11,219	177,948	228,321
Hosiery and underwear ..	62	22,773	31,489	389,320	516,940
Woolen ..	52	29,164	50,731	680,345	1,076,409
Silk ..	47	17,021	17,957	698,138	681,458
Men's ready-made clothing ..	48	21,379	32,936	584,643	894,172
Boots and shoes ..	82	48,924	62,737	1,722,864	1,324,016
Cigars ..	54	16,899	16,738	357,656	296,296
Leather ..	36	12,845	13,864	332,218	282,860
Paper ..	57	32,286	25,187	970,258	601,781

A comparison of the figures for November, 1921, with those for November, 1920, shows that there were increases in eight of the fourteen industries in the number of persons employed in November, 1921. The largest increase (74 per cent.) was in the woolen industry. Men's ready-made clothing shows an increase of 54.1 per cent., and hosiery and underwear an increase of 33.3 per cent. The most important decreases were 53.1 per cent. in iron and steel, and 25.2 per cent. in railway and tramcar building and repairing. Five of the fourteen industries show an increase in the aggregate earnings and nine decreases. The most important percentage increase (53.2) appears in the woolen industry. Iron and steel shows a decrease of 64.2 per cent., and both railway and tramcar building and repairing and paper-making a decrease of 38 per cent.

* Information supplied through the courtesy of the Federal Commissioner of Labour Statistics, Washington.
† The figures represent the aggregate wages bill for two weeks in the case of coal mining, the iron and steel, railway and tramcar building and repairing, and silk industries, and for one week in other industries.

TRADE DISPUTES.*

Number, Magnitude and Duration.—The number of trade disputes involving a stoppage of work, reported to the Department as beginning in December, was 35, as compared with 74 in the previous month, and 34 in December, 1920. In these new disputes about 6,600 workpeople were directly involved, and 300 indirectly involved (i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, though not themselves parties to the disputes). In addition to the numbers involved in new disputes nearly 7,700 workpeople were involved, either directly or indirectly, in 50 other disputes which began before December, and were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The total number of new and old disputes in progress in December was thus 85, involving about 14,600 workpeople, and resulting in a loss during December of about 127,000 working days.

The following Table classifies the disputes by groups of trades, and indicates the number of workpeople involved (whether directly or indirectly) at the establishments concerned, and the approximate time lost during December in all the disputes in progress:—

Groups of Trades.	Number of Disputes in progress in December.			Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress in December.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress in December.
	Started before 1st Dec.	Started in Dec.	Total.		
Building ..	8	3	11	600	6,000
Mining and Quarrying ..	9	6	15	7,100	57,000
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding ..	12	4	16	1,000	10,000
Textile and Clothing ..	5	5	10	900	15,000
Other Trades ..	16	17	33	5,000	39,000
Total, Dec., 1921 ..	50	35	85	14,600	127,000
Total, Nov., 1921 ..	47	74	121	36,000	252,000
Total, Dec., 1920 ..	65	34	99	77,000	529,000

The number of disputes shown for December is the lowest recorded in any month since December, 1918; the numbers in-

involved in disputes and the aggregate time lost are lower than for any month since the early part of 1917.

Of the 127,000 working days lost in December by all the disputes in progress, about 91,000 were lost by disputes which began before December and were still in progress at the beginning of that month, and 36,000 by disputes which began in the month.

Causes.—Of the 35 new disputes, 19, directly involving nearly 5,100 workpeople, arose out of proposed reductions in wages; 6, directly involving about 600 workpeople, on other wages questions; 4, directly involving about 700 workpeople, on questions respecting working hours; and 6, directly involving about 200 workpeople, on other questions.

Results.—During December settlements were effected in the case of 12 new disputes, directly involving over 4,600 workpeople, and 24 old disputes, directly involving about 3,900 workpeople. Of these disputes, 8, directly involving about 400 workpeople, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 9, directly involving about 4,200 workpeople, in favour of the employers; and 19, directly involving over 3,900 workpeople, were compromised. In the case of 8 disputes, directly involving nearly 900 workpeople, work was resumed pending negotiations.

TRADE DISPUTES IN 1920 AND 1921.

The total number of disputes beginning in 1921 was 800, compared with 1,715 in 1920.

About 1,800,000 workpeople were involved, either directly or indirectly, and about 86,000,000 working days were lost through disputes which began in 1921, or which began before 1921 and were still in progress at the beginning of that year. In 1920 about 2,000,000 workpeople were involved in disputes having an aggregate duration of approximately 27,000,000 working days.

Further particulars with regard to disputes in 1921, with comparative statistics for previous years, are given on pages 3 and 4.

PRINCIPAL TRADE DISPUTES IN PROGRESS IN DECEMBER, 1921.

Occupations and Locality.‡	Approximate Number of Workpeople Involved.		Date when Dispute		Cause or Object.‡	Result.§
	Directly.	Indirectly.‡	Began.	Ended.		
BUILDING TRADES:— Building trades workpeople— Hawick, Galashiels and district.	160	—	21 Nov.	12 Dec.	Against proposed reduction in wages.	Modified reduction accepted. (See also page 30).
MINING AND QUARRYING:— Coal miners, etc.—Sunderland (near).	1,558	—	3 Oct.	..	Men demanded reinstatement of two putters, dismissed for alleged malingering under the protection of the Minimum Wage Act. Subsequently men desired to resume work, but employers demanded abolition of certain colliery customs.	No settlement reported.
Coal miners, etc.—West Bromwich (near).	1,500||	—	7 Dec.	10 Dec.	Against reductions in wages proposed in accordance with National Agreement.	Proposed reductions accepted.
Coal miners, etc.—Nuneaton (near).	1,200	—	12 Dec.	14 Dec.	Against proposed reduction in wages of 10 per cent. below district rate.	Proposed reduction accepted for three months; any profits made during that period to be used in making good the workpeople's loss of earnings due to the reduction.
Coal miners, etc.—Edinburgh (near).	1,200	—	14 Dec.	14 Dec.	Against reduction in wages of certain men.	Work resumed on advice of Trade Union official, pending investigation of grievance.
TEXTILE TRADES:— Rope and twine makers, Attors, smiths, engine drivers, etc.—Liver-pool.	550||	—	2 May	..	Against proposed reduction in wages.	No settlement reported.
OTHER TRADES:— Shopmen, storemen and other railway employees.—Coik.	160	510	7 Nov.	7 Dec.	Against proposed reduction in wages.	Modified reduction awarded.
Dock pilots, boatmen, riggers, etc.— —South Wales ports.	1,200	—	28 Nov.	14 Dec.	Dispute arising out of proposed reductions in wages.	Proposed reductions accepted with slight modifications. (See also page 36).
Farm workers—North-West Norfolk.	250	—	1 Oct.	..	Against proposed reduction in wages.	No settlement reported.
Employees of co-operative society.—Gateshead.	500	—	17 Dec.	21 Dec.	Against proposed reduction in wages.	Proposed reduction accepted provisionally. (See also page 40).
Employees of co-operative society.—Jarrow.	280	—	27 Dec.	28 Dec.	Against proposed reduction in wages.	Proposed reduction accepted provisionally. (See also page 40).

* 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.
† Workpeople involved in more than one dispute during the year are counted more than once in the totals for the year. The extent of such duplication is not very considerable, except in the coal mining group, where about 83,000 workpeople in 1921 and 314,000 workpeople in 1920 were involved in more than one dispute.
‡ Revised figure.
§ The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople "indirectly involved," i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes. The statements of cause and result do not apply to these persons.
|| Estimated number.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.

[Based on Returns from Employers and Workpeople.]

Rates of Wages.

In the industries covered by the Department's statistics (see note in next column) the changes in rates of wages arranged to come into operation in December resulted in a reduction of over £400,000 in the weekly full-time wages of nearly 3,600,000 workpeople, and in an increase of about £250 per week in the wages of 8,250 workpeople.

The groups of trades principally affected by the reductions reported are shown below :-

Group of Trades.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected.	Amount of Reduction in Weekly Wages.
Mining and Quarrying ..	1,215,000	£ 87,600
Iron and Steel ..	80,000	11,100
Engineering and Shipbuilding ..	1,278,000	177,500
Other Metal ..	185,000	24,000
Textile ..	549,000	55,000
Pottery, Brick, Chemical, &c. ..	73,000	15,400
Other ..	207,000	30,600
Total ..	3,587,000	401,200

As a result of the monthly re-adjustment of coal miners' wages there were further decreases in all districts except in the Forest of Dean, where there was a small increase, and in Cumberland, Kent and part of Somerset, where wages remained at the minimum; the decreases varied from under 1 per cent. on current wages in Yorkshire, the East Midlands, and South Wales to nearly 10 per cent. in Durham and North Wales, and over 12 per cent. in South Staffordshire and Shropshire.

In the iron and steel trades the principal decreases in December affected iron puddlers and iron and steel millmen in the Midlands, whose wages were reduced by 7½ per cent. on standard rates (equal to nearly 3½ per cent. of current rates) and steel sheet millmen, whose wages were reduced by 14 per cent. on standard rates (over 7 per cent. of current wages).

The bonus paid to workmen in the engineering and shipbuilding trades, which had already been reduced in November from 12½ per cent. (timeworkers) and 7½ per cent. (piecemen) to 8½ per cent. and 5 per cent., respectively, were further reduced to 4½ per cent. and 2½ per cent.; and in the shipbuilding trade a second instalment of the special advances given to certain classes of piece and lieu workers in ship yards under the "Standard Ship Cycle" of awards (see pp. 516-517 of the October GAZETTE) was also withdrawn.

In other metal trades a large number of men were affected by the withdrawal of part of the bonuses of 12½ and 7½ per cent.,

including those in the light castings, railway carriage building, bridge building, sheet metal, gas meter and aluminium trades. There were also reductions in the rates of wages of iron and steel wire drawers generally, of copper workers in South Wales, and of wrought hollow-ware makers in the Midlands. A number of decreases, usually amounting to about ½d. or 1d. per hour for adult males, took effect under "cost of living" sliding scales, the workpeople affected including those in the brass, cast-iron hollow-ware, hearth furniture and allied tool trades in the Birmingham districts, gold, silver and edge workers in London, and farriers in various districts.

The principal changes in the textile group affected workpeople in the cotton industry, who sustained a reduction generally of 10 per cent. on standard list prices (equal to about 4 per cent. of current rates). Hosiery workers in the Midlands had their "cost of living" bonus reduced from 11d. to 10d. on each shilling on earnings.

Pottery workers in North Staffordshire and certain other districts sustained a decrease equivalent to 10 per cent. of current wages. In the soap and candle trades there were decreases amounting to 2s. and 1s. per week in the case of men and women respectively.

In trades other than those in the above groups the principal reductions affected female laundry workers, papermakers and cocoa and chocolate makers.

Of the changes taking effect in December, 7, affecting 105,000 workpeople, were arranged by arbitration; 2, affecting 2,000 workpeople, were arranged by conciliation; 74, affecting 1,472,000 workpeople, took effect under sliding scales; and the remaining 137, affecting 2,016,000 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople or their representatives, or took effect as the result of Orders under the Trade Boards Acts. In 13 cases, involving 481,000 workpeople, the changes were preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work.

Hours of Labour.

Only three changes in hours were reported in December. These included hosiery workers at Hawick, whose hours for a full ordinary week were increased from 48 to 49½.

Changes in Wages and Hours in 1921.

A special article dealing with these changes is given on pages 4-6.

[NOTE.—The statistics given above are exclusive of changes affecting Government employees, domestic servants, police, agricultural labourers, shop assistants and clerks, for which classes the information available is not sufficient to provide a basis for statistics.]

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING DECEMBER, 1921.

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

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)																								
Building	Cockermouth ...	5 Dec.	ALLIED TRADES (including Works of Construction).	Decrease of 2d. per hour. Rates after change: tradesmen, 1s. 9d.; labourers, 1s. 3d.																								
					Stafford ...	21 Nov.	Decrease of 1d. per hour (2s. 2d. to 2s. 1d.).																					
								Sudbury and Melford Districts ...	3 Dec.	Decrease of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: brush hands, 1s. 1d.; others, 1s. 5d.																		
											Knighton ...	15 Nov.	Decreases to a minimum rate of 10d. per hour.															
														Galashiels and Hawick ...	17 Dec.	Decrease of 1d. per hour (1s. 11½d. to 1s. 10½d.).												
																	Drogheda ...	1 Oct.	Decrease of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: scaffolders and labourers ...									
																				Londonderry ...	17 Oct.	Decrease of 2d. per hour (2s. 1½d. to 1s. 11d.).						
																							Omagh ...	3 Dec.	Decrease of 1½d. per hour (1s. 9d. to 1s. 7½d.).			
																										Wexford ...	20 Nov.	Decrease of 1d. per hour (1s. 2d. to 1s. 1d.).
Belfast ...	12 Sept.	Increase of 1½d. per hour (1s. 6d. to 1s. 7½d.).																										
			Belfast ...	12 Sept.	Increase of 2d. per hour in standard rate. Rate after change: 2s. 3d. per hour less 10 per cent.																							
						Coal Mining	Northumberland ...	1 Dec.	Workpeople (both underground and surface) employed in or about coal mines, other than those workpeople whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries																			
										Durham ...	1 Dec.	Decrease of 13-84 per cent. on standard base rates of 1879, leaving wages 107-35 per cent. above the standard of 1879.																
						Durham ...	1 Dec.	Decrease of 23-16 per cent. on standard base rates of 1879, leaving wages 119-73 per cent. above the standard of 1879.																				

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING DECEMBER, 1921—(continued).

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)																									
Coal Mining (continued)	Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Cannock Chase and Warwickshire	1 Dec.	MINING AND QUARRYING—(continued).	Decrease of 1-01 per cent. on standard base rates of 1911, leaving wages 109-54 per cent. above the standard of 1911.																									
					Lancashire, North Staffordshire and Cheshire	1 Dec.	Decrease of 2-49 per cent. on standard base rates of 1911, leaving wages 72-76 per cent. above the standard of 1911.																						
								South Staffordshire and Shropshire	1 Dec.	Decrease of 18-52 per cent. on standard base rates of 1911, leaving wages 33-92 per cent. above the standard of 1911.																			
											Bristol ...	1 Dec.	Decrease of 9-13 per cent. on standard base rates of 1917 for hewers, and of 8-8 for other workers, leaving wages at the minimum of 21-99 and 23-91 per cent. respectively above the standard of 1917.																
														Forest of Dean ...	1 Dec.	Increase of 2-33 per cent. on standard base rates of 1919, making wages 64-33 per cent. above the standard of 1919.													
																	Radstock ...	1 Dec.	Decrease of 9-71 per cent. on standard base rates of 1918, leaving wages 57-58 per cent. above the standard of 1918.										
																				South Wales ...	1 Dec.	Decrease of 0-92 per cent. on standard base rates of 1915, leaving wages 28-03 per cent. above the standard of 1915.							
																							North Wales ...	1 Dec.	Decrease of 14-6 per cent. on standard base rates of 1911, leaving wages 44-5 per cent. above the standard of 1911.				
																										Sootland ...	1 Dec.	Decrease of 5-47 per cent. on standard base rates of 1888, leaving wages 136-44 per cent. above the standard of 1888.	
																													Coke and By-Products Manufacture	South Wales and Monmouthshire	12 Dec.	Coke oven workers
Cleveland ...	5 Dec.	Lower paid datal workers at ironstone mines and limestone quarries																											
			S. and W. Durham ...	11 Dec.	Iron-ore miners and surface men (except blacksmiths and fitters whose wages are not regulated by sliding scale arrangements)																								
						Furness District ...	11 Dec.	Gypsum miners, mill hands and stone dressers																					
									Gypsum Mining	Gotham, Cropwell Bishop, Thrumpton, Newark - on - Trent and Chellaston	1 Dec.	Freestone quarrymen and labourers																	
													Northumberland and Durham	1 Dec.	Freestone quarrymen, &c.														
																Yorkshire ...	30 Dec.	Quarry labourers ...											
																			North-East Lancs. ...	15 Sept.	Quarrymen, labourers, &c.								
																						Quarrying	Carnarvonshire and Merionethshire	1 Dec.	Slate quarrymen, &c.				
																										North of Scotland (Aberdeenshire and Kincardineshire)	1 Dec.	Granite quarryworkers	
																													England and Wales ...	5 Dec.	Steel sheet millmen
Midlands (including parts of South Yorkshire and South Lancashire)	5 Dec.	Iron puddlers																											
			North Staffordshire ...	1 Dec.	Iron and steel millmen																								
						West of Scotland ...	1 Dec.	Other classes																					
									Iron and Steel Manufacture	North Staffordshire ...	1 Dec.	Loco. drivers, shunters, firemen, shedmen, and cleaners, employed at blastfurnaces and in iron and steel works																	
													West of Scotland ...	1 Dec.	Mechanics, etc., employed in puddling, forging and rolling mills, and engineers, boiler-makers, smiths, hammermen, patternmakers, electricians, etc., engaged on the maintenance, upkeep and running of steel plants and mills (men 21 years and over) whose wages are not regulated by sliding scale arrangements														
																Engineering, Boiler-making, Foundry, etc., Trades	Various Districts in the United Kingdom (excluding Swansea and certain other districts in South Wales and Monmouthshire)	1 Dec.														Males, 21 years of age and over, employed in the engineering, boiler-making and foundry trades (except those whose wages are regulated by movements in an industry other than engineering and shipbuilding)
																			Engineering, Boiler-making, Foundry, etc., Trades	Various Districts in the United Kingdom (excluding Swansea and certain other districts in South Wales and Monmouthshire)	1 Dec.												Bonuses on total earnings of 8½ per cent. for time-workers and of 5 per cent. for pieceworkers, previously paid, reduced to 4½ per cent. and 2½ per cent. respectively.

* In the case of West Yorkshire, the surface workers' percentage addition to the 1911 standard from 1st December was 107-88 for the Eastern area and 104-54 for the Western area.
 † In this area it was agreed to ignore the decimal points and to pay to the nearest whole number: the percentage payable for December is therefore 73.
 ‡ The lower percentage applies to hewers and piecemen, and the higher to other workers on the north side of Bristol; on the south side the percentages were 26 for hewers and 27-99 for other workers.
 § Excluding men employed at coke ovens or works where wages are customarily regulated by movements in the coal mining or iron and steel trades.
 ¶ The decrease took effect on dates varying from 22nd December to 5th January.
 †† This decrease took effect under an arrangement by which wages are automatically regulated in accordance with the index numbers of retail prices, etc., published in the LABOUR GAZETTE.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING DECEMBER, 1921—(continued).

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Includes sections for ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING TRADES and OTHER METAL TRADES.

* In the railway shops in Scotland the reductions generally took effect as from 28th November. † These decreases are made under the "Standard Ships Cycle" Awards issued by an Arbitration Board under the Industrial Courts Act on 4th October, and are the second instalment of three approximately equal instalments which amount to 100% (generally) to three quarters of the amount of the advances granted in 1917-18, and known as the "Standard Ships Cycle" of advances and consequential extensions. The amount of each decrease except where otherwise stated is deducted from the ruling percentage which is added to the agreed basic lien rates or piecework prices.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING DECEMBER, 1921—(continued).

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

* Belonging to the Galvanising Conciliation Board. † This decrease took effect under an arrangement by which wages are automatically regulated in accordance with index numbers of retail prices, etc., published in the LABOUR GAZETTE. ‡ The reductions shown formed part of the reductions of 12s. 4-6d. for men, 10s. 2-0d. for youths, and 4s. 0-6d. for boys, due to take effect under the sliding scale in November; it was agreed to make the reductions in three monthly instalments of amounts as given above, carrying the balance over to the next ascertainment.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING DECEMBER, 1921—(continued).

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
Edge Tool Manufacture	Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Wednesbury, Oldbury, Stourbridge and Cannock Districts	1st pay day in Dec.	Males employed in the edge tool trade	Decreases* of 2s. 4d. per week for men 21 years of age and over; of 1s. 9d. per week for youths 18 years and under 21 years; and of 1s. 2d. per week for boys under 18.
	Lancashire and Yorkshire	1st full pay after 1 Dec.	Adult males Youths and females	Bonuses on total earnings of 12½ per cent. for timeworkers and of 7½ per cent. for pieceworkers, previously paid, reduced to 6½ per cent. and 3½ per cent. respectively. Decreases of 2s. per week for those 18 years to 21 years and of 1s. per week for those under 18 years.
Nut and Bolt Manufacture	Birmingham and Darlaston	1 Dec.	Male timeworkers Females	Bonus on total earnings of 8½ per cent. previously paid, reduced to 4½ per cent. Decreases of 2s. per week for those over 18 years and of 1s. per week for those under 18 years.
	Birmingham and District	1st pay day in Dec.	Adult male workers in the screw making trade	Bonuses on earnings of 8½ per cent. for timeworkers and of 5 per cent. for pieceworkers, previously paid, reduced to 4½ per cent. and 2½ per cent. respectively.
Nail and Screw Manufacture	Scotland	Dec.	Adult males employed in the nail making trade	Decreases of 2s. per week for those 18 years of age and over, and of 1s. per week for those under 18 years; piecework prices adjusted so as to enable a worker 18 years and over of average ability to earn at least 5s. per week, and proportionately for those under 18 years of age.
	Scotland	Dec.	Adult males employed in the nail making trade	Bonuses on total earnings of 8½ per cent. for timeworkers and of 5 per cent. for pieceworkers, previously paid, reduced to 4½ per cent. and 2½ per cent. respectively.
Ship's Tackle, etc., Manufacture	Cradley Heath, Rowley Regis, and Old Hill Districts	1 Dec.	Workpeople employed in the manufacture of ships' tackle, iron hooks, brackets, railway dogs, cotter pins and other miscellaneous iron forgings	Decrease of 5 per cent., leaving the piece price list of 1918 subject to an addition of 105 per cent.
	London	1st pay day in Dec.	Silversmiths, polishers, platers, gilders, chasers, stampers, burnishers, etc. Male timeworkers (21 years of age and over) Pieceworkers	Decrease* of 1d. per hour (1s. 11d. to 1s. 10d.). Decrease* of 10 per cent. on pre-war piece prices, leaving pre-war piece rates subject to an addition of 100 per cent.
Gold, Silver and Allied Trades	West of Scotland	1 Dec.	Workpeople employed in bridge building and structural engineering shops	Bonuses on total earnings of 8½ per cent. for timeworkers, and of 5 per cent. for pieceworkers, previously paid, reduced to 4½ per cent. and 2½ per cent. respectively.
	North-Eastern District of England Manchester, Hanley and Stoke	1st pay in Dec. 1st pay in Dec.	Farriers Farriers	Decrease* of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: freemen, 1s. 10d. per hour or 86s. 2d. per week; doormen, 1s. 9½d. per hour or 84s. 2½d. per week.
Farriery	Larger towns in Lancs. and Cheshire (except Manchester, Liverpool and Birkenhead)	1st pay in Dec.	Farriers	Decrease* of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: freemen, 1s. 9½d. per hour or 84s. 2½d. per week; doormen, 1s. 9d. per hour or 82s. 3d. per week.
	Smaller towns in Lancs. and Cheshire, with Kendal and High Peak District	1st pay in Dec.	Farriers	Decrease* of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: freemen, 1s. 9½d.; doormen, 7s. 4½d. per week.
Various towns in Yorkshire	Various towns in Yorkshire	1st pay in Dec.	Farriers	Decrease* of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: freemen, 1s. 9½d.; doormen at Hull, 1s. 9½d.; doormen at other towns, 1s. 9d.
	Birmingham and Wolverhampton	1st pay in Dec.	Farriers	Decrease* of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: freemen, 1s. 9½d.; doormen, 1s. 9d.
London	London	1st full pay in Dec.	Farriers	Decreases of 1½ per hour or 4s. per week. Rates after change: freemen, 86s. 6d. per week; doormen, 83s. 6d. per week.
	Reading	1st full pay in Dec.	Farriers	Decrease of 1d. per hour.
Cardiff, Swansea, Newport and Merthyr	Cardiff, Swansea, Newport and Merthyr	1 Dec.	Farriers	Decrease* of 1d. per hour.
	Kirkcaldy	1st pay in Dec.	Farriers	Decrease* of 1d. per hour.
Safe Manufacture	Birmingham, Dudley, Sedgley, West Bromwich, and Wolverhampton	1 Dec.	Workpeople employed in the safe making trade	Bonuses on total earnings of 12½ per cent. for timeworkers and of 7½ per cent. for pieceworkers, previously paid, cancelled.
	Sheffield	1st full pay after 18 Dec.	Laminated spring fitters and vice-men, smiths and strikers	Decrease* of 1s. per week (32s. to 31s.) in war bonus.
Spring Manufacture	Accrington, Bury and Rochdale	1 Dec.	Spring makers and grinders	Bonuses on total earnings of 8½ per cent. for timeworkers and of 5 per cent. for pieceworkers, previously paid, reduced to 4½ per cent. and 2½ per cent. respectively.
	Great Britain	1 Dec.	Adult males employed in the scale, beam and weighing machine making trade	Bonuses on total earnings of 8½ per cent. for timeworkers and of 5 per cent. for pieceworkers, previously paid, reduced to 4½ per cent. and 2½ per cent. respectively.
Weighing Machine etc. Making	Birmingham, Bristol, Chester, Sheffield and Glasgow	1 Dec.	Adult males employed in the steel casement and sash window making trades	Bonuses on total earnings of 8½ per cent. for timeworkers and of 5 per cent. for pieceworkers, previously paid, reduced to 4½ per cent. and 2½ per cent. respectively.

* This decrease took effect under an arrangement by which wages are automatically regulated in accordance with index numbers of retail prices, etc., published in the LABOUR GAZETTE.
 † Including Accrington, Altrincham, Ashton, 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 Alnwick, Benthams, Chester, Crewe, Furness District, Garstang, Kirkham, Knutsford, Macclesfield, Middlewich, Nantwich, Northwich and Tarporley.
 § Including Barnsley, Bradford, Halifax, Heckmondwike, Huddersfield, Hull, Keighley, Leeds, Rotherham, Sheffield and Todmorden.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING DECEMBER, 1921—(continued).

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
Miscellaneous Metal Trades	Birmingham and Midland District (including West Bromwich, Wednesbury, Oldbury, Wolverhampton, Walsall and Coventry)	1 Dec.	OTHER METAL TRADES.—continued. Adult males employed in miscellaneous metal trades, including axle, bridge building and constructional engineering, cycle, drop forging and stamping, metal rolling (brass and copper tubes, sheets, wire, etc.), roll making, small arms, small tool, spring, tank, welded and weldless tube, etc.	Bonuses on total earnings of 8½ per cent. for timeworkers and of 5 per cent. for pieceworkers, previously paid, reduced to 4½ per cent. and 2½ per cent. respectively.
	Lancashire, Cheshire, Derbyshire and West Riding of Yorkshire	*	TEXTILE TRADES. Workpeople employed in the cotton industry (including enginemakers, firemen, etc., and all employed in the manufacture of velvet, fustian, hard waste goods, towels, quilts, sheetings and cotton blankets)	Decrease (for those who received an increase of 70 per cent. in May, 1920), of 10 per cent. on standard piece price lists, and an equivalent decrease for those whose wages are not governed by a standard list, leaving wages 145 per cent. above the Bolton and Oldham Spinners' Lists, and the Uniform Weaving List, 142½ per cent. above the Hard Waste List for weaving, 142½ and 147½ per cent. above the Colne Lists for coloured checks and stripes respectively, 140 per cent. above the Fustian List, and 155 or 160 per cent. above the Oldham Velvet List; and decrease of 8 per cent. on standard piece price lists for tapers, dry tapers, warp dressers and loom overlookers (who received an increase of 55 per cent. in May, 1920). Minimum rates after change: male adult clothlookers, 60s.; male adult general warehousemen and others employed in warehouse, etc., 54s.
Cotton Industry	Mansfield and Sutton-in-Ashfield	Week beginning 22 Dec.	Cotton doublers	Decrease of 10 per cent. on standard list of May, 1916, leaving wages 100 per cent. and 75 per cent. above standard for pieceworkers and timeworkers respectively.
	Bradford and Shipley	1 Dec.	Mechanics employed in textile mills and dye works	Decrease of 3s. or 3s. 0½d. per week. Rate after change: 76s. 10½d.
Woolen and Worsted Manufacture	Dundee	1 Dec.	Mechanics, joiners and other tradesmen and semi-skilled and unskilled allied workers employed in the jute industry	Bonuses of 8½ per cent. and 5 per cent. on earnings previously paid to timeworkers and pieceworkers respectively reduced to 4½ per cent. and 2½ per cent. respectively. Rates after change: mechanics, 1s. 6½d. per hour plus 4½ per cent.; joiners, 1s. 6½d. per hour plus 4½ per cent.
	Dunfermline	1 Dec.	Workpeople over 18 years of age employed in linen manufacture (timeworkers)	Decreases in present wages of 6½ per cent. for males and 12½ per cent. for females (except weavers, warpers and winders)
Jute and Linen Manufacture	Belfast	1 Dec.	Mechanics and hacklesetters employed in the linen industry	Bonus of 8½ per cent. on earnings previously paid reduced to 4½ per cent. Rate after change for mechanics, 78s. 3d. per week plus 4½ per cent.
	Midlands†	Pay day in week beginning 19 Dec.	All classes of workpeople employed in the manufacture of hosiery (except dyers, trimmers, finishers, etc.)	Bonus of 11d. in the shilling on earnings reduced to 10d. in the shilling.
Hosiery Manufacture	Hawick and District... ..	1st pay day in Dec.	Workpeople employed in the manufacture of hosiery	Decreases in flat rate bonuses† of 3s. 3d. per week for men, 2s. 6d. per week for women, and 1s. 1½d. per week for apprentices (leaving for adults a bonus of 40 per cent. on basic rates, plus flat rate bonuses of 9s. 9d. per week for men and 7s. 6d. per week for women)‡
	Leicester, Loughborough, Nottingham, Derby and Hinckley Districts	31 Dec.	Workpeople employed in the hosiery bleaching, dyeing and finishing trades:— Timeworkers Pieceworkers:— Trimmers (other than web trimmers and jersey trimmers) Web trimmers and jersey trimmers Dyers, scourers, menders and other pieceworkers	Decreases† of 3d. per hour for dyers, scourers and trimmers, and of 3d. per hour for menders and for male and female auxiliary workers 18 years of age and over, and proportionate decreases for auxiliary workers under 18 years. Bonus of 90 per cent. on list prices previously paid reduced to 80 per cent. Bonus of 62½ per cent. on list prices previously paid reduced to 55 per cent. Decrease† of 1s. in the £.
Belfast and North of Ireland	Belfast and North of Ireland	1 Dec.	Workpeople employed in the dyeing, bleaching and finishing trades	Decrease of 4s. per week for men and of 2s. per week for women and young persons with proportionate decreases for pieceworkers.
	London (West End)	25 Oct.	Hand-sewn boot and shoe makers and repairers	Decrease of 12½ per cent. on total wages and sliding scale method of determining wages adopted whereby wages are regulated in accordance with the Ministry of Labour Index Number of retail prices, etc.
Boot and Shoe Making and Repairing	Liverpool	3 Dec.	Hand-sewn boot and shoe makers and repairers (pieceworkers)	Decrease of 10 per cent. in existing rates for ground work and repairs.
	Edinburgh	12 Dec.	Hand-sewn boot and shoe makers and repairers (pieceworkers)	Decrease of 17½ per cent. on current rates for groundwork.
Tailoring	Bradford	1st pay day in Dec.	Tailors (timeworkers)	Decrease of 1d. per hour (1s. 8d. to 1s. 7d.).
	Oldham	24 Oct.	Male timeworkers Male pieceworkers	Decrease of 6s. per week (90s. to 84s.). London "log" adopted with hourly "log" rate of 1s.
Glove Manufacture	Certain districts in England‡	2 Dec.	Female pieceworkers Workpeople employed in the leather section of the glove industry:— Other than labourers Labourers	Decrease of 2d. per "log" hour (10d. to 8d.). Decrease of 5 per cent. in amounts payable on rates fixed by the National Agreement of 1919, leaving wages 2½ per cent. above those rates. For rates previously paid see page 604 of LABOUR GAZETTE for November. Decrease of 5 per cent. Rate after change, 1s. 3d. per hour less 10 per cent.

* The change took effect after the making-up prior to pay-day in the week ending 24th December.
 † Including Leicester, Loughborough, Nottingham, Mansfield, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Ilkeston, Derby, Hinckley and Coventry Districts.
 ‡ This decrease took effect under an arrangement by which wages are automatically regulated in accordance with the index number of retail prices, etc., published in the LABOUR GAZETTE.
 § See also under "Changes in Hours of Labour."
 ¶ The decrease took effect under an agreement arrived at by the Joint Industrial Council for the Glove-Making Industry. The principal districts affected were Worcester, Yeovil, North Devon and Oxford.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING DECEMBER, 1921—(continued).

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)		
CLOTHING TRADES—(continued).						
Laundering	Great Britain (excluding Cornwall and the Orkney and Shetland Islands)	12 Dec.	Female workers:— Timeworkers	New scale of minimum time rates fixed under Trade Boards Acts resulting in decreases of 1s. per week for those under 18 years of age, and of 2s. per week for those 18 years of age and over; and decrease of 1d. per hour in the minimum time rate for casual workers or for workers specially employed for emergency work and in the piecework basis time rates for all workers.*		
			Pieceworkers	Decrease, under Trade Boards Acts, in the guaranteed time rate of 2s. per week for those 16 and under 18 years, and of 3s. per week for those 18 years and over; for those under 16 years the rates remain unchanged.*		
	Birmingham	1st pay day after 1 Dec.	Laundry workers	Decrease of 2s. 6d. per week for men 21 years of age and over (6s. 6d. to 60s.) and of 1s. per week for women 18 years and over (3s. to 32s.).		
Linen and Cotton Embroidery Trade	Ireland	13 Dec.	Females:— Hand embroidering and sparring ...	Decrease, under Trade Boards Acts, in minimum time rates of 1d. per hour for sparring, and a new list of general minimum piece rates fixed.†		
			Thread drawing, drawn thread work, sparring, dicing and clipping	Decrease, under Trade Boards Acts, in minimum time rates of 1d. per hour for thread drawing, sparring and clipping, and of 1d. per hour for drawn thread work and for chain stitched lamoured handkerchiefs, and new list of minimum piece rates fixed for thread drawing, drawn thread work, sparring and dicing.†		
			German embroidery on household linens	New list of piece prices fixed under Trade Boards Acts resulting generally in decreases of from 20 to 25 per cent.†		
TRANSPORT TRADES.						
Dock, Wharf, Riverside, etc., Labour	Various ports in England and Wales†	1st full pay day in Dec.	Coal tipplers, teamers, weighers, hoistmen and boxmen	Bonus of 35 per cent. previously paid on all agreed piecework and tonnage rates, reduced to 25 per cent. Minimum rate after change: 80s. per week plus 25 per cent.† Decrease of 4s. 6d. per week.		
			Midlands	1 Dec.	Canal boatmen employed in the transport of coal, iron, glass, chemicals, etc. Riggers, lumpers and dock foyboatmen	Decrease of 20 per cent. on existing rigging, lumping and dock foyboat tariff list. Decrease of 1s. for each foy on vessels over 500 tons, and the 2s. previously paid for every 500 tons or part thereof over 4,000 tons reduced to 1s.
			The Tyne	1 Dec. ‡	River foyboatmen	New tariff of rates adopted, estimated to give an average increase of about 80 per cent. on pre-war rates; war bonus of 116 per cent. on pre-war rates, previously granted, cancelled. Decrease of 5s. per week.§
Road Transport Industry	Cardiff, Barry, Newport, Penarth, Port Talbot and Swansea	10 Dec.	Dock pilots, boatmen and riggers ...	Decrease of 5s. 6d. per week.¶		
	Huddersfield	5 Nov.	Carters, motormen, and other workpeople employed in the road transport industry	Decrease of 5s. 6d. per week.¶		
	Carlisle	31 Oct.		Decrease of 5s. per week.		
Agriculture	Lancashire, Cheshire and Yorkshire (except South Yorks)	1st week in Aug. 1st week in Nov.	Carters and motormen employed by Co-operative Societies	Further decrease of 1s. per week. Decrease of 6s. per week.		
	Cambridgeshire (except Isle of Ely)	3 Dec.	Adult male agricultural workers ...	Decrease of 7s. 6d. per week (37s. 6d. to 30s.) to operate for a week of 48 hours.¶		
	Derbyshire	9 Dec.	Adult male agricultural labourers ...	Rate of 40s. 6d. adopted for a week of 54 hours up to 31 December.**		
Agriculture	Leicester and Loughborough districts††	22 Dec.	Adult male agricultural labourers ...	Minimum rate†† of 7½d. per hour adopted.¶		
	Rutland	28 Nov.	Adult male agricultural labourers ...	Decrease of 5s. per week (39s. to 34s.) to operate for week of 48 hours up to 31 January, 1922.**		
	Soke of Peterborough	Dec.	Adult male agricultural workers ...	Decrease of 2s. per week for ordinary labourers (37s. to 35s.).¶		
	Suffolk	22 Dec.	Adult male agricultural labourers ...	Rate of 30s. adopted for a week of 48 hours up to 14 January, 1922.**		
	Hampshire	17 Dec.	Adult male agricultural labourers ...	Rate of 36s. adopted for a week of 48 hours up to 14 January, 1922.**		
	Somerset	1 Dec.	Male agricultural workers	Decrease of 2s. per week for those 21 years and over (38s. to 36s.), and of proportionate amounts for those under 21; to operate for a week of 50 hours up to 31st December.**		
	Cardiganshire	7 Dec.	Adult male agricultural labourers ...	Rate of 36s. adopted up to 28th February, 1922, for a week of 54 hours in summer and 50 hours in winter.**		
	Glamorganshire ...	16 Dec.	Adult male agricultural labourers ...	Rate of 40s. adopted for a week of 50 hours up to 31st December.**		
	Merionethshire and Montgomeryshire	17 Dec.	Adult male agricultural labourers ...	Rates adopted up to 31st January, 1922, of 35s. for a week of 50 hours or 38s. for a week of 56 hours.**		

* See also page 669 of December LABOUR GAZETTE.
 † See also page 663 of December LABOUR GAZETTE.
 ‡ The terms of settlement were embodied in an agreement made between representatives of the Railway Companies, Dock and Port Authorities, the National Transport Workers' Federation, and the National Union of Railwaymen, and applied to the principal ports exporting coal, except at Immingham, where the percentage payable on basis rates was reduced from 16½ to 15½.
 § For the rates previously paid see p. 369 of July LABOUR GAZETTE.
 ¶ For the rates previously paid see p. 551 of October LABOUR GAZETTE.
 ** No agreement as to wages was arrived at between employers and workpeople in this area, but representatives of the employers recommended that the rate shown should be paid.
 †† The new rates of wages and working hours referred to above are those which have been agreed upon by the local Conciliation Committees set up under the Corn Production Acts (Repeal) Act, 1921.
 ††† In October a uniform rate of 39s. for a week of 50 hours was agreed upon by the County Conciliation Committee for the whole of Leicestershire.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING DECEMBER, 1921—(continued).

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
PAPER, PRINTING, AND ALLIED TRADES.				
Paper-making	United Kingdom ...	1 Dec.	Workpeople employed in paper mills (except mechanics, etc., and those employed in hand-made paper mills and board mills)— Timeworkers: Men 21 years of age and over ... Boys and youths under 21 years ... Women and girls	Decrease* of 1½d. per hour.† Decrease* of 1d. per hour for boys 18 to 20 years, and of ½d. per hour for those under 18.† Decrease* of 1d. per hour for those 18 years and over, of ½d. per hour for those of 17, and of ¼d. per hour for those 14 to 16 years.† Decreases* proportionate to those for time-workers.
Printing and Allied Trades.	Belfast	12 Nov.	Compositors, linotype operators, etc., employed in jobbing and newspaper offices	Decrease of 4s. per week. Rates after change for compositors, jobbing, 89s. 6d., evening news, 92s., morning news, 101s. 6d.
FURNITURE AND WOODWORKING TRADES.				
Furniture Manufacture	Leeds, Bradford, Halifax, Keighley and Brighouse	1 Dec.	Cabinet makers, chairmakers, carvers, machinists, upholsterers and french polishers	Decrease* of 1d. per hour. Rates after change, 1s. 10½d.; carvers and spindle moulders who are all-round machinists receive 1d. per hour extra.
	York and Ripon ...	1 Dec.	Cabinet makers, upholsterers and french polishers	Decrease* of 1d. per hour (1s. 9½d. to 1s. 9d.).
	Harrogate	3 Dec.	Cabinet makers, french polishers and upholsterers	Decrease* of 1d. per hour (1s. 11d. to 1s. 10½d.).
	Barrow-in-Furness ...	31 Dec.	Cabinet makers, turners, machine-men, upholsterers and french polishers	Decrease of 2d. per hour (2s. to 1s. 10d.).
	Nottingham	1 Dec.	Cabinet makers, carvers, chair-makers, french polishers, machinists, upholsterers, sanders by hand or single band machines and packers Upholsteresses and female french polishers Furniture trade operatives:— Journymen	Decrease* of 1½d. per hour. Rates after change: sanders and packers, 1s. 5½d.; others, 1s. 8½d. Decrease* of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: female polishers, 11d.; upholsteresses, 9d.
	High Wycombe ...	Pay day in week ending 24 Dec.	Apprentices and learners Caners	Decrease* of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: men engaged on skilled processes, 1s. 8d.; Windsor, cane and cheap rush-bottomed chairmakers, packers, markers-out, and benders, 1s. 7½d. Decreases* varying from 3d. to 10d. per week.
	Plymouth	16 Sept.	Matters	Decrease* of 1d. per chair on bedroom chairs (over 21 and 25, and of ½d. per hour (10d. to 9½d.) on Manchester rockers, odd chairs, etc.) Decrease* of 1d. per hour (10½d. to 10d.) on ordinary chairs, and proportionate decreases on children's and kindergarten chairs. Decrease of 2d. per hour (1s. 9d. to 1s. 7d.).
	Glasgow	1st full pay week in Dec. 10 Oct.	Cabinet makers, chairmakers, woodcutting machinists, upholsterers, french polishers and mattress makers Rocking and baby chair makers ...	Decrease* of 1d. per hour for time-workers, and of 2½ per cent. for pieceworkers.
	Certain towns in West Riding of Yorkshire†	1st pay day in Dec. Dec.	Woodcutting machinists and sawyers employed in sawmills	Decrease of 1d. per hour. Minimum rate after change, 1s. 11d.‡
	Sheffield and Rotherham	1st pay day in Dec. Dec.	Machinists, sawyers, etc., employed in sawmills	Decrease of 1d. per hour. (For rates previously paid, see p. 661 of December LABOUR GAZETTE.)
Leicester	30 Nov.	Sawyers and machinists employed in sawmills	Decrease* of 1½d. per hour (1s. 9d. to 1s. 7½d.).	
Cardiff, Barry, Newport and Swansea	2 Sept.	Machinists, sawyers and deal carriers employed in sawmills	Decrease* of 1½d. per hour. Rates after change: machinists and sawyers, 1s. 9½d.; deal carriers, 1s. 6½d.	
Scotland	1st pay day in Dec.	Woodcutting machinists and sawyers employed in sawmills	Decrease of 1d. per hour (1s. 11d. to 1s. 10d.).	
Packing Case Making	London	23 Dec.	Packing case makers— Fully qualified male adults and labourers	Decrease* of 1d. per hour for hand holers, branders, printers and benders and for labourers, and of ½d. per hour for other classes. (For rates previously paid, see page 661 of December LABOUR GAZETTE.)
			Apprentices and improvers ...	Decrease* of 1d. per hour for those 16 to 17 years and 18 to 19 years, and of ½d. per hour for those 19 to 21 years of age.
			Females	Decrease* of 1d. per hour for those 16 to 20½ years of age and for those 21 years of age and over, and of ½d. per hour for those 20½ to 21 years. Rate after change for those 21 years of age and over, 1s.
Manchester, Salford and Bolton	1 Dec.	Packing case makers	Decrease of 1d. per hour for journeymen time-workers (1s. 11d. to 1s. 10½d.), and proportionate decreases for apprentices and piece-workers.	
Scotland (except Aberdeen)	1st pay day in Dec.	Packing case makers and woodcutting machinists employed in packing case shops	Decrease* of 1d. per hour for journeymen and of ½d. per hour for apprentices. Rates after change: packing case makers, Glasgow, 1s. 7½d.; Edinburgh, Leith, Dunfermline and Dundee, 1s. 6½d.; woodcutting machinists (all districts), 1s. 7½d.	
Coopering	Derby, Nottingham, Leicester and Stoke-on-Trent||	1st pay day in Dec.	Coopers	Increase of 1d. per hour (1s. 10d. to 1s. 11d.).

* This decrease took effect under an arrangement by which wages are automatically regulated in accordance with the index number of retail prices, etc., published in the LABOUR GAZETTE.
 † For rates previously paid, see p. 433 of August LABOUR GAZETTE.
 ‡ Including Barnsley, Bradford, Dewsbury, Halifax, Huddersfield, Keighley and Leeds, and certain smaller districts.
 § At certain smaller centres the rates are 2d. or 3d. less than those quoted.
 || The change took effect as the result of the recommendation of the Joint Industrial Council of the Cooperage Industry. It has been reported that the new rate has not been put into operation by members of the North Staffordshire Master Coopers' Association in the Stoke District.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING DECEMBER, 1921—(continued).

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Includes entries for Explosives Manufacture, Soap and Candle Manufacture, Printing Ink, Pottery Manufacture, Brick Manufacture, Flour Milling, Baking and Confectionery Trades, Beer Bottling.

* Including North Staffordshire, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Yorkshire, Derbyshire, Worcester, Bristol, Bovey Tracey, Kilmarnock, Kirkcaldy, and Bo'ness. † This decrease took effect under an arrangement by which wages are automatically regulated in accordance with the index number of retail prices, etc., published in the LABOUR GAZETTE.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING DECEMBER, 1921—(continued).

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Includes entries for Brewing, Slaughtering, etc., Sugar Confectionery and Food Preserving Trades, Seed Crushing Industry, Saddlery etc., Manufacture, Picker Making, Basket Making, Other Trades and Occupations.

* See also under "Changes in Hours of Labour." † The change took effect under agreements arrived at by the Interim Industrial Reconstruction Committee of the Cocoa, Chocolate, Sugar Confectionery and Jam Industries.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING DECEMBER, 1921—(continued).

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
MISCELLANEOUS TRADES AND OCCUPATIONS—(continued).				
	Portsmouth	5 Dec.	Musicians employed in theatres ...	Decrease of 2s. 6d. per week (65s. to 62s. 6d.). (See Decision No. 698 on p. 43.)
	Certain towns in Durham, Northumberland, Cumberland, North Riding of Yorkshire, and part of Westmorland*	Dec.	Co-operative employees	Decrease of 40s. per week for adult males, 7s. per week for adult females and for juniors 18 and under 21 years, and 5s. per week for juniors under 18 years. Minimum rates after change: Nos. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 and 7 districts—men, skilled, 21 years, 67s.; 24 years, 73s.; unskilled, 21 years, 65s.; 24 years, 71s.; skilled women, 41s. 6d.
Other Trades and Occupations (continued).	Yorkshire, part of Lancashire, Cheshire, North Wales, and parts of North Staffordshire, North Derbyshire and Westmorland	1st pay day after 5 Dec.	Co-operative employees—Managers, assistants, clerks, etc.	Decrease of 4s. per week for male adults, of 3s. per week for female adults, and of 2s. per week for juniors. Minimum rates after change: assistants, males, 14 years, 14s., increasing to 72s. at 25 years, females, 14 years, 14s., increasing to 42s. at 21 years. Clerks: males, charge clerks, 78s.; others, 21 years, 63s.; 22, 68s.; 23 years, 76s.; females, 21 years, 43s.; 22 years, 47s.
			Dressmakers	Decrease of 2s. per week. Minimum rate after change, at 21 years, 45s.
			Warehousemen, porters, caretakers, etc.	Decrease of 4s. per week. Minimum rates after change: head warehousemen, 79s.; other warehousemen, 21 years of age, 63s.; 22 years, 68s.; porters, caretakers, etc., 63s.
PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES.				
		1 Oct.		Decrease of 3s. per week for males 18 years and over, and of 1s. 6d. per week for females and for boys under 18 years.
Tramways Undertakings	Glasgow	1 Dec.	Motormen, conductors, car cleaners, etc.	Further decrease of 3s. per week for males, 18 years and over, and of 1s. 6d. per week for females and for boys under 18 years. Rates after change: motormen and conductors, 68s. to 75s.; car cleaners, 68s. to 70s. per week.
Waterworks Undertakings	South Midlands ...	1st full pay in Dec.	Able-bodied male manual workers employed at waterworks undertakings	Decrease of 3s. 6d. per week for Grade D areas, of 3s. per week for Grade C areas, of 2s. 6d. per week for Grade B areas, and of 2s. per week for Grade A areas. Minimum weekly rates after change for labourers in D, C, B and A areas, 62s. 3d., 60s. 6d., 58s. and 50s. 6d. respectively.†
Local Authorities	East Midland Area ...	1st pay in Dec.	Manual workers employed in non-trading departments of local authorities	Decrease of 1d. per hour. Minimum rates for road and general labourers and scavengers after change: Grade A areas, 1s. 4d.; Grade B areas, 1s. 2d.; Grade C areas, 1s. 1d.; Grade D areas, 1s. 1d. (industrial areas) and 1s. per hour (agricultural areas).‡
	Glasgow	1st full pay in Oct. 1st full pay in Dec.	Corporation employees whose wages are not regulated by agreements or Trade Union conditions (excluding those in tramway departments)	Decrease of 6s. per week for able-bodied males and of 3s. per week for females and non-able-bodied males. Further decrease in bonus of 3s. per week for able-bodied males and of 1s. 6d. per week for females and non-able-bodied males.

CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED DURING DECEMBER, 1921.

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change.
Building	Southport and Birkdale	28 Nov.	Painters	Decrease of 2½ hours per week in winter (41½ to 39).
Hosiery Manufacture	Hawick and District...	1st pay day in Dec.	Workpeople employed in the manufacture of hosiery	Increase of 1½ hours per week (48 to 49½).§
Slaughtering, etc.	Birkenhead, Tranmere and Wallasey	4 Nov.	Cattle drovers	Increase of 2 hours per shift (10 to 12) except on Saturdays.§

* The decreases took effect under an arrangement made by the Co-operative Union, Ltd., Northern Section, to which no trade union was a party. It is understood that with the exception of Newcastle, the decreases have been put into operation by the majority of the Societies concerned. For a list of Societies in the Northern section see p. 501 of LABOUR GAZETTE for September.

† These decreases are the balance of total reductions under "cost of living" sliding scale adopted in October, 1921, as recommended by the District Council for the South Midlands Waterworks Undertakings, of 6s., 5s. 6d., 5s. and 4s. 6d. per week for Areas D, C, B and A respectively. The first instalment (2s. 6d.) of these reductions took effect in October. The authorities reported as recognising the decisions of the District Council and their respective Grades are given below. Grade A areas—Bristol Water Works Co. (Country), Southampton Corporation (Country), West Gloucestershire Water Co. Grade C areas—Reading Corporation. Grade D areas—Bristol Water Works Co. (Town), Portsmouth Water Works Co., Southampton Corporation (Town).

‡ The decreases described took effect under an agreement made by the East Midlands District Joint Industrial Council for Local Authorities: Non Trading Services. The authorities reported as recognising the decisions of the Joint Council and their respective Grades are given below. In some cases the rates actually paid differ from the minimum rates recommended by the Joint Council; this is indicated below in the case of labourers by the actual rate being inserted in brackets after the authority concerned:—Grade A areas—Derby (1s. 9d. per hour), Grimsby, Ilkeston, Lincoln, Leicester (64s. 10d. per week), Nottingham, Northampton (1s. 6d. per hour), Mansfield (1s. 5d. per hour). Grade B areas—Alfreton U.D.C. (8s. 4d. per day), Boston, Grantham (1s. 5d. per hour), Hinkley U.D.C., Kettering (1s. 6d. per hour), Mansfield Woodhouse U.D.C. (59s. 4d. per week), Sutton-in-Ashfield U.D.C. (58s. 9d. per week). Grade C areas—Ashby-de-la-Zouch U.D.C. (8s. 6d. per day), U.D.C. Mansfield Woodhouse U.D.C. (59s. 4d. per week), Sutton-in-Ashfield U.D.C. (58s. 9d. per week), Grantham (1s. 5d. per hour), Hinkley U.D.C., Kettering (1s. 6d. per hour), Mansfield (1s. 5d. per hour), Ashby Wolds (8s. 6d. per day), Desborough U.D.C. (54s. 9d. per week), Melton Mowbray U.D.C., Oadby U.D.C. (54s. 10d. per week), Rothwell U.D.C. (54s. 9d. per week), Warsop U.D.C. (1s. 1d. per hour). Grade D areas—Blackwell U.D.C. (10s. 6d. per day), Shardlow U.D.C. (40s. to 45s. per week).

§ See also under "Changes in Rates of Wages."

CHANGES TAKING EFFECT IN JANUARY, 1922.

The third of the three instalments by which it was arranged that the bonuses of 12½ and 7½ per cent. paid to timeworkers and pieceworkers respectively in the engineering, shipbuilding and various metal trades should be withdrawn, operated from 1st January. Other important reductions operating in January affect painters in Scotland; public works operatives in London; coal miners in certain districts; blastfurnace workers in Cleveland; steel workers at Sheffield; cutlery, file, edge tool, etc. workers at Sheffield; heating and domestic engineers; asbestos workers; railwaymen; dock labourers and coal trimmers; certain printing trade operatives; cement workers; flint glass makers and cutters; and employees of gas, water and electricity undertakings. Details will be given in the February issue of the LABOUR GAZETTE.

MISCELLANEOUS STATISTICS.

POOR LAW RELIEF IN GREAT BRITAIN.

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

THE number of persons relieved on one day in December, 1921, in the 31 selected areas named below corresponded to a rate of 494 per 10,000 of population, showing a decrease of 28 per 10,000 on the previous month, and an increase of 326 per 10,000 on a year ago.

Compared with November, the total number relieved decreased by 49,624 (or 5.5 per cent.). The number of indoor recipients of relief increased by 2,191 (or 1.8 per cent.), while the number of outdoor recipients decreased by 51,815 (or 6.6 per cent.). Seven districts showed increases, and every other district showed a decrease. The Sheffield district showed the largest increase (95 per 10,000), and the greatest decrease was in the Paisley and Greenock district (213 per 10,000).

Compared with December, 1920, the total number relieved increased by 566,036 (or 194.5 per cent.). The number of indoor recipients of relief increased by 11,874 (or 10.5 per cent.), and the number of outdoor recipients increased by 554,162 (or 511.3 per cent.). Every district showed an increase, the greatest being in the Sheffield district (939 per 10,000), in the Coatbridge and Airdrie district (854 per 10,000), in the Stockton and Tees district (850 per 10,000). Sixteen districts showed increases ranging from 207 to 688, and twelve districts showed increases ranging from 39 to 189.

Selected Urban Areas.*	Number of persons in receipt of poor-law relief on one day in December, 1921.			Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with a	
	Indoor.	Outdoor.	Total.		Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.†						
<i>Metropolis.</i>						
West District	9,471	14,898	24,369	300	-30	+143
North District	10,588	24,559	35,147	349	-24	+147
Central District	2,827	3,168	5,995	451	-14	+127
East District	10,233	42,306	52,539	829	-18	+499
South District	18,766	82,197	101,963	537	-9	+316
TOTAL, Metropolis ..	62,878	167,128	220,006	491	-17	+268
West Ham	4,262	47,491	51,753	703	-2	+303
<i>Other Districts.</i>						
Newcastle District ..	2,561	23,290	25,851	532	+2	+380
Stockton and Tees District ..	1,171	25,298	26,479	1,003	+82	+850
Bolton, Oldham, etc. ..	3,673	5,296	8,969	117	+7	+40
Wigan District	1,741	19,395	21,136	482	-2	+342
Manchester District ..	8,576	33,065	41,641	412	-58	+276
Liverpool District ..	10,039	64,669	74,708	634	-22	+461
Bradford District ..	1,782	8,460	10,242	279	+3	+189
Halifax and Huddersfield ..	1,215	5,824	7,039	186	-7	+99
Leeds District	2,498	6,767	9,265	193	-11	+86
Barnsley District ..	953	10,459	11,412	365	+28	+208
Sheffield District ..	2,660	50,354	53,014	1,053	+95	+939
Thornhill District ..	1,811	11,839	13,650	441	-9	+235
North Staffordshire ..	1,879	6,665	8,544	213	+17	+81
Nottingham District ..	2,072	7,767	9,839	216	-16	+87
Leicester District ..	1,191	3,455	4,647	198	-76	+71
Wolverhampton District ..	3,264	34,975	38,239	545	-96	+433
Birmingham District ..	6,725	66,903	73,628	800	-38	+6.8
Bristol District	2,676	12,662	15,338	378	-26	+250
Cardiff and Swansea ..	2,355	16,119	18,474	400	-2	+234
TOTAL "Other Districts" ..	59,052	413,153	472,205	468	-14	+338
SCOTLAND.‡						
Glasgow District	4,595	65,160	69,755	721	-192	+499
Paisley & Greenock Dist. ..	797	9,733	10,530	550	-213	+412
Edinburgh & Leith Dist. ..	1,589	11,046	12,635	301	-7	+166
Dundee and Dunfermline ..	720	2,893	3,613	175	-156	+39
Aberdeen	531	5,185	5,716	380	-9	+267
Coatbridge and Airdrie ..	414	19,367	19,781	1,062	-114	+854
TOTAL for the above } ..	8,646	104,384	113,030	552	-135	+371
Scottish Districts } ..						
TOTAL for above 31 Districts in Dec., 1921 ..	124,838	732,156	856,994	494	-28	+326

* These urban areas include in the case of England and Wales more than one poor-law union, except in the Leicester, Birmingham, and West Ham districts; and more than one parish in the case of Scotland, except in the Aberdeen district.

† Exclusive of Vagrants; of Patients in the Fever and Small-pox Hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Boards; of Lunatics in Asylums, Registered Hospitals and Licensed Houses; and of persons receiving indoor medical relief only.

‡ The numbers included for the Sheffield Union do not cover changes which have taken place since the 26th November, 1921.

§ The figures for Scotland include destitute able-bodied unemployed in receipt of poor relief. The number of recipients given in some cases is an estimate, exact figures not being available.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.*

THE number of workpeople, other than seamen, reported as killed in the course of their employment during December, 1921, was 250 as compared with 218 in the previous month and 250 a year ago. The distribution of such fatal accidents among the various trades is as follows:—

RAILWAY SERVICE.	FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS—(continued):
Brakesmen and Goods Guards	Non-Textile—continued:
Engine Drivers	Gas
Firemen	Wood
Guards (Passenger)	Clay, Stone, etc.
Permanent Way Men	Chemicals
Porters	Laundries
Shunters	Food
Mechanics	Drink
Labourers	Paper, Printing, etc.
Miscellaneous	Other Non-Textile Industries
Contractors' Servants	
TOTAL, RAILWAY SERVICE ..	TOTAL, FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS
	76
MINES.	
Underground	ACCIDENTS REPORTED UNDER FACTORY ACT, SS. 104-5—
Surface	Docks, Wharves and Quays
TOTAL, MINES	Warehouses
106	Buildings to which Act applies
	13
QUARRIES over 20 feet deep	
7	
FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.	
<i>Textile—</i>	
Cotton	3
Wool and Worsted	2
Other Textiles	1
<i>Non-Textile—</i>	
Extraction of Metals	1
Conversion of Metals	9
Founding of Metals	2
Marine, Locomotive, and Motor Engineering	2
Ship and Boat Building	7
	250

* Based on Home Office, Mines Department and Ministry of Transport Returns.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.

THE total number of cases* of poisoning and of anthrax reported to the Home Office under the Factory and Workshop Act during December, 1921, was 34. Two deaths due to lead poisoning in the smelting of metals industry and two due to anthrax in the wool and handling and sorting of hides industries respectively, were reported. Two cases (one fatal) of lead poisoning among house painters and plumbers came to the knowledge of the Home Office during December, but notification of these cases is not obligatory. The cases of poisoning and anthrax are analysed below:—

(a) CASES OF LEAD POISONING.	(b) CASES OF OTHER FORMS OF POISONING.
Among Operatives engaged in—	Mercurial Poisoning—
Smelting of Metals	Barometer and Thermometer Making
Plumbing and Soldering	Other Industries
Printing	Phosphorus Poisoning
File Cutting and Hardening	Arsenic Poisoning
Tinning of Metals	Toxic Jaundice—
Other Contact with Molten Lead	Arseniated Hydrogen Gas
White and Red Lead Works	Other
2	Epitheliomatous Ulceration—
3	Paraffin
† Pottery	Pitch
Vitreous Enamelling	Tar
Electric Accumulator Works	2
Paint and Colour Works	Chrome Ulceration
India-rubber Works	
Coach and Car Painting	TOTAL OTHER FORMS OF POISONING
3	6
Shipbuilding	
Paint used in other Industries	(c) CASES OF ANTHRAX—
Other Industries	Wool
8	Handling of Horsehair
	Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins (Tanners, Fellmongers, &c.)
	Other Industries
	1
TOTAL OF ABOVE	TOTAL ANTHRAX
23	5
HOUSE PAINTING AND PLUMBING	
2	

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

† Of the 3 persons affected in the Pottery industry 1 was a female.

LEGAL CASES, OFFICIAL NOTICES, ETC.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR

(1) Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906.

LIABILITY OF EMPLOYERS TO WORKMEN FOR INJURIES.—SCOPE OF EMPLOYMENT.—ACCIDENT WHICH DID NOT ARISE OUT OF THE EMPLOYMENT.

Section 1 of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906, provides as follows:—

"If in any employment personal injury by accident arising out of and in the course of the employment is caused to a workman, his employer shall, subject as hereinafter mentioned, be liable to pay compensation in accordance with the First Schedule to this Act."

On the 26th August last a foreman engineer and two labourers were engaged on work at the bottom of a large tank, 40 feet high, which during bad weather was covered over by a heavy iron plate. The foreman directed the two labourers to get out of the tank and remove the cover. One labourer went out of the tank in the ordinary way, but the second began to make a knot in a rope with the intention of hauling himself up in that way and walking along the girder across the top of the tank. After directing these men to use the staircase and reach the plate in that way, the foreman walked to another part of the tank. The labourer, however, persisted in using the rope, fell and was killed.

His Honour Judge Dowdall, K.C., at Liverpool County Court, on the 9th December, 1921, in delivering judgment, held that as long as a workman pursued the means which were indicated or known to and acquiesced in by his employer, or which were safe and proper to the end in view, he remained within the scope of his employment; but if, for his own pleasure or in order to save himself trouble or for any other extraneous reason, he adopted some other means which were unauthorised and unnecessarily dangerous he passed outside its scope, and the added risk became his own. His Honour expressed the opinion that the deceased was endeavouring to climb up the rope because it was less tedious than going round by the staircase. He had therefore adopted an inappropriate and unnecessarily dangerous means and one which was forbidden by the foreman. In making an award in favour of the respondents he found that the accident did not arise out of the man's employment.—*Liverpool County Court, 9th December, 1921.*

(2) Trade Union Acts.

SECRECY IN TRADE UNION BALLOTS.

Mr. Justice Sargent gave judgment in the Chancery Division in favour of the plaintiffs in the action brought against the officers of the National Society of Operative Printers and Assistants.

The Society is a trade union certified as such under the Trade Union Act, 1913. The membership of the Society is divided into branches with centres throughout England, Scotland and Wales. The general administration of the affairs of the Society is vested in an Executive Council of fourteen elected members and the President and General Secretary of the Society. The plaintiffs in both actions were members of the Society belonging to the London branch. The defendants were the President and the General Secretary of the Society and the Chairman and Secretary of the London Branch Committee of the Society.

Questions were raised as to the validity of ballots taken on 30th May and 8th August, 1921, by the Society. As to the first, which authorised a levy, it was contended that it had been taken in a manner contrary to the rules, with the result that the secrecy of the ballot had been impaired; as to the second, which altered the rules of the Society, that the secrecy of the ballot had been broken by marking the ballot papers issued to the London branch in pencil with the card numbers of the members.

It was also contended that the ballot papers in the first case had been "spoilt" within the rules by having on them: "If you want to save the Society you must vote in favour of these proposals"; and that those in the second were spoilt by reason of the marking above referred to with card numbers.

After stating the facts, the learned Judge said that various attacks had been made on the ballot of 30th May, 1921. It was first said that there was no right in the Executive Council to re-submit the question determined by the ballot of 3rd May to a second ballot immediately afterwards. It was not said that there was any express rule as to that; but it was said that it was obviously wrong to have a second ballot on a matter that had just been decided by the first ballot. In his view that objection was unsustainable. If the officials were satisfied that the position of the Society was critical and that it was of extreme importance to have the decision which had been come to by a narrow majority reconsidered, it was not only the right but the duty of the officials to draw the attention of members to the position, and to ask them to reverse their earlier decision.

Then it was said that the ballot was improperly taken in that the ballot papers when issued had printed on them: "If you want to save the Society you must vote in favour of these proposals." That was an unsigned statement. It appeared that, in ballot papers issued by trade unions, people were not so careful as was a returning officer in a Parliamentary election to see that the papers were limited to their object. There had been a statement signed by members of the Executive Council on the ballot papers used in the earlier ballot of 3rd May. In his view a statement on a ballot paper which was intended to influence

the voter was objectionable. There was no objection to a circular accompanying the ballot paper, but it was a pity that the ballot paper itself should bear a statement of this kind representing the view of one side only. The ballot paper of 3rd May was objectionable in this respect, but in the case of the ballot paper of 30th May the objection was emphasised because the statement was unsigned, and appeared therefore to represent the view of the Society as a whole. To place such a statement on the ballot paper was to weigh the scales rather unfairly in favour of the proposal of the Executive Council. But he did not think that this alone would have sufficed to cause him to come to the conclusion that the ballot ought to be declared void. It was, however, unnecessary to decide this, as there was another objection to this ballot, which, in his view, was fatal.

It had been alleged in the statement of claim that the Executive Council had made statements as to the position of the Society which to their knowledge were incorrect. He was of opinion, on the contrary, that the statements complained of were true and that the Executive Council would have been wanting in their duty to the members if they had not pointed out the bad financial position of the Society.

The last objection to the ballot of 30th May was that it had not been taken in accordance with the rules of the Society, as the scrutiny to determine the result of the ballot had not been made in the manner provided. Under the rules there were two forms of ballot recognised. The first was a ballot of districts, which was employed to determine the persons to constitute the Executive Council. That was a branch election, and the result was ascertained by the scrutineers for the district. By Rule 36 an entirely different kind of ballot was provided for. It was quite clear that a ballot taken for the purpose of increasing the levy was a "general" or, what was used as an interchangeable term, a "national" ballot within Rule 36. National was used in distinction from a ballot of the London area. Although the Executive Council might make a levy of a limited extent, a larger levy could only be imposed by a national ballot under Rule 31, Clause 2; and an examination of the rules made it certain that under their great importance was attached to the personality of the scrutineers. They were persons elected under Rule 14, and were, under Rule 36, Clause 4, the only persons who could conduct a general ballot, scrutinise the votes and determine the result. These scrutineers had acted for the London area in accordance with the rules in taking the ballot of 30th May, but the district scrutineers had acted for the branches or districts, and they made returns of the result of the voting to the Executive Council. The result was that the secrecy of the ballot was to a considerable extent stultified by having the votes of each branch counted separately. He mentioned this to show that it was a point of practical importance and not a mere technicality. In these circumstances, it was clear that the rules had been violated, and the scrutiny was made of about one-half of the votes by the wrong individuals. This disregard of the rules had caused persons who were appointed to ascertain the result of the ballot to be left unemployed and caused others to be substituted. It was as if a different returning officer was used in a Parliamentary election from the one appointed. This was a fatal objection. He was bound in the circumstances to hold that this levy was not properly made. In saying this, his decision was subject to the point that he would consider later whether he had jurisdiction to entertain the action. The plaintiffs had a right to say here that the personality of the scrutineers was of the essence of the ballot.

The next question, which he would also deal with subject to this point as to jurisdiction, was as to an objection to the ballot of 8th August, by which the rules of the Society had been altered. In that case the ballot was impugned because, as it was said, there had been no such secrecy of the ballot as was provided for by the rules of the Society. He had no doubt whatever that the ordinary meaning of the word "ballot" in rules of this kind was a method of secret voting. Reference had been made in argument to the meaning given to the word in various dictionaries in favour of that view. But, however that might be, when the rules of this Society were looked at it was overwhelmingly clear that in dealing with the ballot they were dealing with a method of secret voting. This was clear from Rule 36, Clause 5, which provided that any scrutineer making any attempt to ascertain the identity of a voter was to be excluded from acting as scrutineer in that or any other subsequent ballot. What had happened in taking this ballot was that the ballot paper of each of the London members, who were about half the total membership, had been marked in pencil in the left-hand top corner with the number of the member of the Society to whom it was issued. So that every single ballot paper issued to London members was identifiable, and anyone who had an opportunity of inspecting these ballot papers could ascertain how members had voted.

For the defendants it had first been contended that a mark put on the ballot paper before it was issued to a member was not a mark within Rule 36, Clause 6, because that only applied to marks made by members. The terms of the rule were, however, perfectly general. Moreover, he did not see how a scrutineer could determine whether a ballot paper was good or not if he had first to ascertain whether any mark on it had been made by the voter or someone else. Further, having regard to the object of the rule to preserve the secrecy of the ballot, a mark by the issuing authority was likely to be much more harm-

ful and much more likely to cause the detection of the voter. For the issuing authorities, who were officers of the Society, to put on a mark of this sort was more likely to facilitate identification than any mark made by the voter himself.

In his opinion, the secrecy of the ballot was very considerably stultified by placing on the ballot paper a mark of this kind. The matter for consideration was not so much whether the scrutineer would himself identify the voter, but rather the impression produced on the mind of the voter that his vote was capable of identification. He accepted the explanation that the marks had been put on bona fide to prevent duplication by reason of the existence of jobbing printers who might pay their contributions now to the Father of one Chapel and now to the Father of another. The result was, however, that half the members of the Society had voted under conditions which prevented their votes from being given with the secrecy provided for by the rules, and which should have caused the scrutineers, if they acted vigilantly, to reject their papers as spoilt. If so, whether the question was considered from the point of view of the general incidences of a ballot, as laid down in *Woodward v. Sarsons* (2 R., 10 C.P. 733), or from that of the precise regulations of this Society, there was no proper voting by the London members on 8th August, with the result that the resolutions arrived at as a result of that ballot were not binding on the Society.

There remained the question, which ought perhaps to have been decided first, whether the Court could entertain these actions at all. It had been argued on behalf of the defendants that the Court was precluded from entertaining these actions under Section 4 of the Trade Union Act, 1871. The question was whether, by declaring the ballots invalid, he would be directly enforcing an agreement for payment of subscriptions. He was unable to see how that could be so. He was deciding not that the plaintiffs were bound to pay the levy, but that they were not bound to pay the levy under penalty of losing their membership of the Society. He did not think there was anything in this provision to prevent his deciding that the defendants were not entitled to decline to receive the plaintiffs' contributions, so that by virtue of the non-payment arising from this refusal the plaintiffs would become liable to come out of benefit or cease to be members of the Society. That, in his view, was the true object of both actions in this case.

As to the point taken under Sub-section 3 of Section 4 of the Trade Union Act, 1871, the argument, as far as he understood it, was that when funds were received they would be applied for benefits, and therefore that by interfering with the payment of funds to the Society he would be interfering with the administration of the funds of the Society. In his judgment that was not so. All that he was holding was that the Society could not insist on members paying the levy as a condition of their remaining members. He was in no way dealing with the subsequent application of the fund. He was of opinion that the defence founded on the Act of 1871 failed.

He would decide in favour of the plaintiffs that the result of the ballot of 30th May was not duly ascertained in accordance with the rules of the Society, and that the plaintiffs were therefore not liable to pay to the Society the levy affected to be authorised by that ballot as a condition of their remaining members of the Society and receiving benefits from the Society. He would further declare that the ballot of 8th August was not properly held in view of the marking of the ballot papers of the London members.—*Brodie v. Bevan, Dunn v. Bevan, 9th December, 1921.*

RECENT CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION CASES.

UNDER THE INDUSTRIAL COURTS ACT, 1919.

THE INDUSTRIAL COURT.

Building and Allied Trades.

NAVVIERS—ABERTILLERY AND DISTRICT WATER BOARD.—Public Works and Construction Operatives' Union v. Abertillery and District Water Board. Decision.—Under an agreement entered into by the Civil Engineering Construction Conciliation Board on 22nd March, 1921, it was provided that the rates of pay of workmen engaged on works of civil engineering construction should be determined by scale rates of pay dependent on the cost of living figure as published in the LABOUR GAZETTE, subject to the rule that such works should be grouped into four classes, viz., County of London and Classes I., II. and III., according to the general economic conditions applicable to the district in which the work is situated. The rates of wages now being paid to workpeople employed at works situated in the areas classified as I., II. and III. are 1s. 5d., 1s. 4d., and 1s. 3d. per hour respectively. The Court decided that the claim that the Gwynne Fawr Reservoir Works be placed in a higher classification than Class III. is not established. Issued 13th December, 1921. (701.)

Engineering, Shipbuilding and other Metal Trades.

DRILLERS—H.M. DOCKYARDS.—Ship Constructors' and Shipwrights' Association; Workers' Union v. Admiralty. Decision.—The rates of pay of drillers employed under the ship construction manager in working portable drills to be increased by 2s. a week as from the beginning of the first pay period following the date of the decision. Issued 1st December, 1921. (697.)

Public Utility Services.

LONDON FIRE BRIGADE.—Representative Body of the London Fire Brigade v. London County Council. Decision.—In December, 1919, a settlement was arrived at between the Council and the Representative Body which established a two-shift system of duty operating from 28th June, 1920. Among other changes necessitated by the adoption of this system was the engagement of 101 additional sub-station officers, who were promoted solely from within the brigade. It was also found necessary to close 15 stations, thus reducing the number of station officers by 15. The complaint of the Representative Body is that this arrangement unduly retards promotion in the lower ranks of the brigade. The Court decided that the proposal of the Representative Body to create 26 additional posts of station officer, in order to increase the flow of promotion, is not established. The Representative Body also claimed that the recommendations of the Departmental Committee on Professional Fire Brigades in Great Britain as to the appointment of relief officers, should have been adopted by the Council. The Court found that the Council were under no obligation to accept the recommendations. Issued 7th December, 1921. (699.)

MAINTENANCE WORKERS—MANCHESTER CORPORATION.—Amalgamated Engineering Union; Electrical Trades Union; General Union of Braziers and Sheet Metal Workers; Municipal Employers' Association; United Vehicle Workers and Workers' Union v. Manchester Corporation.—The Corporation early in September, 1921, reduced the wages of skilled maintenance workers employed in the Gas and Tramways Departments by 2d. per hour and those of semi-skilled and unskilled maintenance workers in the Tramways Department by 1d. per hour. The unions appealed. Decision.—In the circumstances of the case the Corporation were justified in making the reductions. Issued 22nd December, 1921. (703.)

Miscellaneous Trades.

MUSICIANS—PORTSMOUTH AND SOUTHEAST THEATRES.—Amalgamated Musicians' Union v. Theatre Royal, Portsmouth; King's Theatre, Southsea; Princes Theatre, Portsmouth; Coliseum, Portsmouth. Decision.—A strike occurred on 19th November, 1921, the men returning to duty on 5th December on the basis of such rates as should be determined by the Court. The Court decided that the wages of the musicians shall be reduced by 2s. 6d. per week, making the minimum rate now payable 62s. 6d. per week. Issued 6th December, 1921. (698.)

EMPLOYEES—ADMIRALTY NON-INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENTS.—Official side of the Shipbuilding Trade Joint Council v. Trade Union side of the Council. Decision.—Reduction in wages of adult male workpeople, including domestics and semi-domestics, as follows:—

Workpeople employed in establishments situated at the dockyard ports, of the classes which received an advance of 5s. a week from 3rd October, 1920, under decision No. 524 of the Industrial Court—5s. a week to be deducted in two equal instalments of 2s. 6d. as from 18th December, 1921, and 15th January, 1922. Workpeople employed in establishments situated outside dockyard areas, of the classes which received advances of 2s. 6d. a week from 6th June, 1920, and 3s. a week from 3rd October, 1920, under decisions Nos. 485, 486 and 487 of the Industrial Court—2s. a week as from 15th January, 1922. Ships' caretakers—3s. a week as from 15th January, 1922. Watchmen—5s. a week to be deducted in two equal instalments of 2s. 6d. as from 18th December, 1921, and 15th January, 1922. Issued 15th December, 1921. (700.)

LIGHTKEEPERS—CORPORATION OF TRINITY HOUSE.—Workers' Union v. Corporation of Trinity House. Decision.—Claim for increased rates of wages to principal and assistant keepers, and overtime rates for all hours worked above 48 a week, not established. Claim for increased allowances not established except in the case of the victualling allowance to keepers on rock stations, which shall be increased from 2s. to 2s. 6d. per day, and the value of pensionable emoluments, which shall be £53 per annum instead of £28 as at present. The decision to take effect from the beginning of the first pay period following the date of issue. Issued 13th December, 1921. (702.)

CONCILIATORS, SINGLE ARBITRATORS AND AD HOC BOARDS OF ARBITRATION APPOINTED BY THE MINISTER OF LABOUR.

Building and Allied Trades.

STONEMASONS—RAWTENSTALL.—Amalgamated Union of Building Trade Workers v. Rawtenstall Corporation. Difference.—As to whether the stone to be used on the Oakley and Edgeside Housing Schemes of the Corporation should be dressed by stonemasons employed on the sites and paid for at building trade rates or dressed at the quarries and paid for at quarrying rates. Arbitrator—Sir Harry Courthope-Munroe, K.C. Award.—The stone, if obtained from quarries elsewhere than in the Rossendale Valley, should be dressed by stonemasons employed on the sites

and paid for at building trade rates. If obtained from quarries in the Rosendale Valley it should be dressed at the quarries and paid for at quarry rates. Issued 14th December, 1921. (I.R. 2455/2.)

Pig Iron and Iron and Steel Manufacture.

BLASTFURNACEMEN: BILSTON.—National Union of Blastfurnacemen, Ore Miners, Coke Workers and Kindred Trades v. Alfred Hickman, Limited, Bilston, Staffordshire. Difference—Proposal of the firm on re-starting the blast furnaces to put into operation a new scale of wages and working conditions. Board of Arbitration—Sir William W. Mackenzie, K.B.E., K.C. (Chairman), Mr. W. Simons and Mr. Bruce Harding (Employers' Representatives), and Mr. T. McKenna and Mr. A. Callaghan (Workpeople's Representatives). Award—Standard rates of wages (subject to a sliding scale percentage) were fixed lower than those previously in force, but in effect 8½ per cent. above the pre-war standard rates, for the workmen concerned, with week-end overtime at time and quarter from Saturday 2 p.m. to Sunday 6 a.m., and time and half from Sunday 6 a.m. to Monday 6 a.m. The Board fixed certain working conditions and decided that any other conditions that may be required for the proper carrying on of the work at the furnaces should be a matter for settlement between the parties. Issued 20th December, 1921. (I.R. 2017/2.)

Transport Trades.

TRANSPORT WORKERS: DUBLIN.—The Foremen's Union v. Messrs. John Wallis and Sons, Railway Agents, Dublin. Difference—As to whether the 10 per cent. reduction of wages of seven members of the Union employed by the firm was equitable in whole or in part, and, if equitable in part, to what extent. Arbitrator—The Rt. Hon. Sir Dunbar Plunket Barton, Bart., K.C. Award—The reductions were equitable to the extent of 6s. per week in each case. Issued 9th December, 1921. (I.R. 600/11; I.B. 299/3.)

Food, Drink and Tobacco Trades.

OPERATIVE BAKERS: LONDONDERRY.—Irish Bakers', Confectioners' and Allied Workers' National Amalgamated Union v. Londonderry Master Bakers' Association. Difference—As to what reduction, if any, should be made in the wages of skilled and unskilled men and breadservers, and as to the manner in which the wages of the workpeople should in future be regulated, having regard to the "Cost of Living" index figures published in the LABOUR GAZETTE. Arbitrator—Mr. J. H. Robb, K.C., M.P. Award—As from 28th November, 1921, the wages of skilled and unskilled workers should be reduced by 7s. and 8s. per week respectively, and of breadservers by 5s. per week. On and after the first pay day in February, 1922, the wages of skilled men and breadservers should rise or fall by 2s. 6d. per week, and of unskilled workers by 1s. 6d. per week for every 10 points rise or fall in the "Cost of Living" figure as published in the LABOUR GAZETTE, calculated from a base of 100, wages to be fixed quarterly on the average for the three preceding months. When the average figure so calculated has reached 50 or less, the rise or fall in the wages of skilled men and breadservers should be 1s. 6d., and of unskilled men 1s., for every 10 points rise or fall. Issued 29th December, 1921. (I.R. 600/12; I.B. 317/3.)

FLOUR AND GRIST MILLERS: LONDONDERRY.—National Amalgamated Union of Labour v. Samuel Gilliland and Sons, Limited, Flour and Grist Millers, Londonderry. Difference—As to whether a reduction, and, if so, what reduction, should be made in the wages of the workpeople employed by the firm, having regard to the state of trade and the reduced cost of living. Arbitrator—Mr. J. H. Robb, K.C., M.P. Award—The wages of the workpeople employed by the firm, with the exception of the three flour millers, should be reduced by 5s. per week as from 23rd November, 1921. Issued 29th December, 1921. (I.R. 600/12; I.B. 561/6.)

AGREEMENTS NEGOTIATED BY OFFICERS OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR.

Building and Allied Trades.

BUILDING TRADES OPERATIVES: BORDER BURGH.—National Federation of Building Trades Operatives and the Building and Monumental Workers' Association of Scotland v. certain Building Trades Employers, Border Burghs. Difference—Arising out of a proposed reduction of the wages of the operatives by 2d. per hour. Agreement—The men on strike should resume work at 1s. 11½d. per hour, and those who had accepted employment at the reduced rate of 1s. 9½d. should continue to work without interference. The difference should be referred to the National Wages and Conditions Council for the Building Industry, and in the event of no settlement being arrived at by that body, a joint request should be made to the Council for the appointment of an arbitrator to determine the matter. Agreed 12th December, 1921. (I.R. 2456.)

LABOURERS, CIVIL ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION: BARGOED.—National Federation of Building Trades Operatives v. Powell Duffryn Company, Bargoed. Difference—Proposal by the employers to re-engage labourers, other than Building Trade labourers, at a rate of 10½d. per hour, the colliery surface labourers' rate. Agreement—The labourers concerned should be paid a rate of 1s. per hour, with a guarantee against loss due to wet weather and with facilities for overtime. Agreed 18th December, 1921. (I.R. 816.)

Engineering, Shipbuilding and other Metal Trades.

FITTERS AND TURNERS: DARLINGTON.—Amalgamated Engineering Union v. Cleveland Car Company, Limited, Automobile Builders, Darlington. Difference—Discontinuance of payment of the 25 per cent. special bonus, given in 1917, as well as the 7½ per cent. bonus given early in 1918. Agreement—The withdrawal of 12½ per cent. of the total 32½ per cent. bonus should proceed in three instalments as in other engineering firms, and after the third instalment the remaining 20 per cent. should be withdrawn in three monthly instalments. Agreed 19th December, 1921. (I.R. 2497.)

Transport Trades.

DOCK LABOURERS: RIVER THAMES.—Transport and General Workers' Union and labourers at Cherry Garden Pier v. Skipper of S.S. "Emily Warbuck" and Messrs. Watkin and Tiquet, Brokers. Difference—Concerning the rates of pay and working conditions of men loading scrap-iron from barges. Agreement—A rate of 1s. 6d. per ton should be paid, four men to be employed on a barge. Agreed 15th December, 1921. (I.R. 2587.)

DOCK WORKERS: SURREY COMMERCIAL DOCKS.—Transport and General Workers' Union v. Messrs. Andersen, Becker and Company, Brokers, London, and the Captain of the S.V. "Carradale." Difference—Arising out of the action of the captain in unloading firewood ballast from the vessel with his own crew, employing boy labour in the barges alongside, and his proposal to load again with similar labour. Agreement—The unloading should proceed as before, but the captain should employ a stevedore with his men for loading according to the custom of the Port. Agreed 20th December, 1921. (I.R. 2350/2.)

TRADE BOARDS ACTS, 1909 AND 1918.

ORDERS.

ORDERS confirming minimum rates of wages as fixed and/or as varied by the following Trade Boards, have been made by the Minister of Labour under Section 4 (2) of the Trade Boards Act, 1918:—

Aerated Waters Trade Board (England and Wales).

Order, dated 31st December, 1921, confirming general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates and overtime rates (as varied) for male and female workers; and specifying 9th January, 1922, as the date from which these rates are effective. The principal general minimum time-rates per week of 48 hours are as follows:—(a) For male workers of 21 years of age and over, 58s.; (b) for female workers 18 years of age and over, 31s.; with lower rates for younger male and female workers. The piece-work basis time-rates are (a) for all male workers, 1s. 6½d. per hour; (b) for all female workers, 10d. per hour.

Boot and Shoe Repairing Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order, dated 31st December, 1921, confirming general minimum time-rates and overtime rates for certain classes of male and female workers; and specifying 16th January, 1922, as the date from which these rates are effective.

The general minimum time-rates are as follows:—(a) For male surgical bootmakers, 2s. per hour; (b) for male workers (other than learners, indentured apprentices, surgical bootmakers, pressmen responsible for cutting and costing, workers operating power sole-stitchers, Blake or Richardson machines, foremen and managers), 65s. per week; (c) for male learners, from 45s. to 22s. per week, according to age; (d) female surgical bootmakers, 2s. per hour; (e) female workers of 21 years of age and over (other than surgical bootmakers and workers employed in a productive department on patching machines), 45s. per week of 48 hours, with lower rates for younger workers.

Brush and Broom Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order, dated 8th December, 1921, confirming general minimum time-rates, a piece-work basis time-rate and overtime rates (as varied) for male and female workers; general minimum piece-rates and overtime rates (as varied) for male workers employed on pan work, hairs and hand finishing, and as fixed for male pan hands employed on setting only and for certain classes of female pan hands, and as varied for female workers employed on hand drawing and for female drawing hands on machine work and for male workers employed on painting brush-making, machine pan work in bristle or mixtures, drawing machine work, certain classes of limers and nail stock and bone brush-making; and specifying 2nd January, 1922, as the date from which these rates are effective.

The general minimum time-rate for male workers of 21 years of age and over employed on certain operations, with not less than three years' experience or who have served an apprenticeship of not less than five years in one or more of these operations, is 1s. 4½d. per hour, and for all other workers 1s. 1½d. per hour. For certain classes of female pan hands (all ages) the general minimum time-rates are 1s. and 1s. 4½d. per hour according to operation, and the piecework basis time-rate for the workers to whom the above 1s. rate is applicable, 1s. 1½d. per hour.

Brush and Broom Trade Board (Ireland).

Order, dated 24th December, 1921, confirming the variation of the general minimum piece-rates (by a reduction of 7½ per

cent.) and overtime rates for male workers of 21 years of age and over with not less than three years' experience and who are employed in one or more of the specified operations of the painting brush-making section of the trade; and specifying 2nd January, 1922, as the date from which these rates are effective.

Chain Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order, dated 4th January, 1922, confirming general minimum time-rates and general minimum piece-rates (as varied) for hand-hammered chain-making; and specifying 11th January, 1922, as the date from which these rates are effective.

The general minimum time-rate for making from iron supplied by the employer hand-hammered chain up to and including 1½ inch, is 7½d. per hour, and, where the worker provides the workshop, tools and/or fuel, 10d. per hour.

Jute Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order, dated 22nd December, 1921, confirming the general minimum time-rates and overtime rates (as varied) for male and female workers by providing that the period of operation of the minimum rates set out in the Schedule to the Minister's Order, 1921, No. 1479, dated 3rd September, 1921, shall be extended for a further period of one month, from 9th January to 8th February, 1922, inclusive.

Retail Bespoke Tailoring Trade Board (Ireland).

Order, dated 24th December, 1921, confirming general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates and overtime rates for certain classes of male workers in certain areas, and general minimum time-rates and overtime rates for certain classes of female workers; and specifying 2nd January, 1922, as the date from which these rates are effective.

The rates for male workers who have completed not less than four years' apprenticeship or learnership in the trade (i) employed on the making up of (a) military dress uniforms (excluding khaki); (b) naval frock and dress uniforms; (c) scarlet hunt coats, melton and faced cloth hunt coats (but excluding red flannel coats) and white dooskin breeches; (d) frock and dress coats; and (e) court and diplomatic garments, are general minimum time-rate, 1s. 7d. per hour; piece-work basis time-rate, 1s. 8½d. per hour; (ii) workers employed on other operations, 1s. 5d. and 1s. 6½d. per hour respectively. The above rates apply to workers employed in areas other than areas administered by rural district councils or areas with a population not exceeding 2,000 administered by urban district councils or other local authorities. The general minimum time-rate for female workers other than learners and workers specified in the Board's Notices, dated 30th May, 1921, and 12th November, 1921, is 8d. per hour, lower rates being fixed for learners.

Stamped or Pressed Metal Wares Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order, dated 4th January, 1922, confirming general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates and overtime rates (as varied) for certain classes of female workers; and specifying 14th January, 1922, as the date from which these rates are effective.

The rates for female workers employed as (a) polishers or drop stampers are (i) general minimum time-rates of 10d. and 11d. per hour for workers of 18 years of age and over during first 12 months, and after completion of 12 months, respectively, with lower rates for younger workers, (ii) a piece-work basis time-rate of 1s. per hour for workers of all ages; (b) hand-brush japanners, hand-brush-lacquers, blowpipe-braziers or solderers using ordinary hand-iron or blow-pipe with bar solder; (i) general minimum time-rates, 9d. and 10d. per hour for workers of 18 years of age and over during first 12 months and after completion of 12 months respectively, with lower rates for younger workers; (ii) a piece-work basis time-rate of 11d. per hour for workers of all ages.

Toy Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order, dated 29th December, 1921, confirming general minimum time-rates and overtime rates (as varied) for male and female workers; and specifying 9th January, 1922, as the date from which these rates are effective.

The general minimum time-rate (a) for male workers of 21 years of age and over is 1s. 2d. per hour; (b) for female workers of 21 years of age and over, 7½d. per hour, with lower rates for younger male and female workers.

NOTICES OF PROPOSAL.

NOTICES OF PROPOSAL to fix and/or vary minimum rates of wages have been issued by the following Trade Boards:—

Aerated Waters Trade Board (Scotland).

Notice of Proposal, dated 5th January, 1922, to vary the general minimum time-rates and overtime rates for male and female workers.

The proposed general minimum time-rates for workers other than those employed in the Orkney and Shetland Islands, to operate (i) from the effective date until 31st May, 1922, are (a) for male workers of 21 years of age and over, 1s. 1½d. per hour; (b) for female workers of 18 years of age and over, 7d. per hour; (ii) from 1st June, 1922, (a) for male workers of 21

years of age and over, 1s. 0½d. per hour; (b) for female workers of 18 years of age and over, 6½d. per hour; lower rates being proposed in each case for younger male and female workers. The Board propose to vary the general minimum time-rates for male and female workers in the Orkney and Shetland Islands so that the rates shall be in each case 1d. per hour less than the proposed rates set out above.

Boot and Shoe Repairing Trade Board (Great Britain).

Notice of Proposal, dated 29th December, 1921 (issued with the Minister's consent) to vary the general minimum time-rates for certain classes of male apprentices provided with board and lodging, and the minimum rates for foremen and managers by re-defining the classes of workers to whom the minimum rates for foremen and managers are applicable.

Brush and Broom Trade Board (Great Britain).

Notice of Proposal, dated 14th December, 1921 (issued with the Minister's consent), to vary the general minimum time-rates and overtime rates for certain classes of male workers.

The general minimum time-rates proposed for all male workers other than (i) workers of 21 and over with not less than three years' experience in and employed on one or more of certain specified operations; (ii) workers of all ages who have served an apprenticeship of not less than five years in one or more of these specified operations; (iii) male indentured apprentices employed under indentures in a form prescribed by the Board; (iv) male indentured apprentices or unbound learners employed under an indenture or written agreement, respectively, entered into prior to 1st January, 1920, in one or more of the specified operations; (v) carmen, engineers, power-men, engine-men and stokers, are (a) for workers of 21 and over, 1s. 0½d. per hour; (b) 20 and under 21, 11d. per hour; (c) 19 and under 20, 9½d. per hour.

Cotton Waste Reclamation Trade Board (Great Britain).

Notice of Proposal, dated 3rd January, 1922 (issued with the Minister's consent), to vary the general minimum time-rates and overtime rates for male and female workers.

The general minimum time-rate proposed (a) for male workers of 21 years of age and over is 1s. 1d. per hour; (b) for female workers of 18 years of age and over (i) in England and Wales, 7½d. per hour; (ii) in Scotland, 7½d. per hour; with lower rates in each case for younger workers.

Dressmaking and Women's Light Clothing Trade Board (England and Wales).

Notices of Proposal, dated 22nd December, 1921 (issued with the Minister's consent), to vary the general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates and overtime rates for female workers in the retail bespoke dressmaking branch and in the wholesale manufacturing or any other branch.

I. *Retail Branch.*—The general minimum time-rates proposed (i) for bodice, skirt, gown or blouse hands, of 20 years of age and over (a) who have completed four years as learners, apprentices and/or improvers in the retail branch, and who have had not less than two years' subsequent employment in this branch, and (b) who take bodices, skirts, gowns and blouses direct from the fitter and make them up without supervision other than the general supervision of the fitter or the workroom foreman or forewoman, are A 8½d., B 9½d., C 9½d. per hour; (ii) for all other female workers, including homeworkers, A 7d., B 7½d., C 8d. per hour; lower rates being proposed for learners ranging from 1½d. to 6½d. per hour according to year of employment and area. The piece-work basis time-rates proposed for female workers specified in (i) above are A 9½d., B 10½d., C 10½d. per hour, and for all other workers, A 8d., B 8½d., C 9d. per hour. The proposed rates set out in the respective scales A, B and C shall apply as follows:—

Scale A.—(a) To all areas administered by Rural District Councils and (b) to all areas administered by Municipal Borough Councils and Urban District Councils with a population of less than 10,000, excluding areas within the Metropolitan Police District. Scale B.—To all areas other than those to which Scale A and C apply. Scale C.—To the area comprising the City of London and the Metropolitan Police District.

II. *Wholesale Manufacturing or other Branches.*—The general minimum time-rate proposed for workers other than learners is 7½d. per hour, lower rates being proposed for learners ranging from 1½d. to 6½d. per hour according to age at entry and period of employment. The piece-work basis time-rate proposed for all workers, including homeworkers, employed on piece-work is 8½d. per hour.

Dressmaking and Women's Light Clothing Trade Board (Ireland).

Notice of Proposal, dated 15th December, 1921 (issued with the Minister's consent), to vary the general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates and overtime rates for female workers of 22 years of age and over who have had not less than three years' experience after learnership in the retail bespoke dressmaking trade and who are employed as "fully qualified" bodice, skirt, gown or blouse hands.

The general minimum time-rates and piece-work basis time-rates proposed for the above class of workers employed (a) in the areas of the County Boroughs of the Cities of Dublin, Belfast, Cork, Limerick, Waterford and Londonderry are 9½d. and 10½d. per hour; (b) in other areas, 9d. and 10d. per hour respectively.

Hair, Bass and Fibre Trade Board (Great Britain).

Notice of Proposal, dated 3rd January, 1922 (issued with the Minister's consent), to vary the general minimum piece-rates by a reduction of 10 per cent. for hand-loom weavers (other than damask seating hand-loom weavers), and the overtime rates for this class of workers and homeworkers.

Linen and Cotton Embroidery Trade Board (Ireland).

Notice of Proposal, dated 14th December, 1921 (issued with the Minister's consent), to vary the general minimum piece-rates for sparring on household linens from 1½d. to 2½d. for 4 inches (24 spokes per inch), from 1½d. to 2½d. for 6 inches (20 spokes per inch), and from 1½d. to 2½d. for 8 inches (16 spokes per inch).

Linen and Cotton Handkerchief and Household Goods and Linen Piece Goods Trade Board (Great Britain).

Notice of Proposal, dated 17th December, 1921 (issued with the Minister's consent), to vary the general minimum time-rates and overtime rates for male and female workers and the piece-work basis time-rates and guaranteed time-rates for female workers.

The general minimum time-rate proposed for male workers of 21 years of age and over is 1s. 1d. per hour. The general minimum time-rate and piece-work basis time-rate proposed for female workers of 18 years of age and over are 7½d. and 8½d. per hour respectively, while the guaranteed time-rate proposed for female workers of 17 to 18 years of age is 6d. per hour; lower rates are proposed in each case for younger male and female workers.

Machine-Made Lace and Net Finishing Trade Board.

Notice of Proposal, dated 23rd December, 1921, to vary the general minimum time-rates for learners as follows: (a) workers on frame clipping from 10s.-25s. per week to 8s.-19s. per week; (b) other workers from 10s.-24s. per week to 8s.-20s. per week.

Pin, Hook and Eye and Snap Fastener Trade Board (Great Britain).

Notice of Proposal, dated 5th January, 1922 (issued with the Minister's consent), to vary the general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates and overtime rates for certain classes of male and female workers.

The proposed general minimum time-rate (a) for male workers of 21 years of age and over (other than home-workers and other than workers employed as pin makers, hairpin machinists, hook and eye makers, machine blackers or automatic machinists (including snap fastener machinists), blackers (other than machine blackers), electro-platers, whiteners or wire-straighteners, is 1s. 0½d. per hour; (b) for all female workers of 18 years of age and over (other than home-workers and other than workers employed in carding hooks and eyes or snap fasteners) (i) employed as charge hands responsible for all work and order, 8½d. per hour; (ii) all other workers 7½d. per hour; (c) for all home-workers 6d. per hour; lower rates are proposed for younger male and female workers. A piece-work basis time-rate of 8½d. per hour is proposed for female workers (other than home-workers and other than workers employed in carding hooks and eyes or snap fasteners).

Ready-Made and Wholesale Bespoke Tailoring Trade Board (Great Britain).

Notice of Proposal, dated 4th January, 1922 (issued with the Minister's consent), to vary the general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates and overtime rates for male and female workers.

I. *Male Workers.*—The general minimum time-rates proposed (a) for workers employed on certain specified operations range from 1s. 0½d. to 1s. 7d. per hour; (b) for other male workers of 22 years of age and over, 1s. 0½d. per hour, with lower rates for younger workers. The piece-work basis time-rates proposed (a) for workers employed on the specified operations range from 1s. 1½d. to 1s. 8½d. per hour; (b) all other workers, 1s. 1½d. per hour.

II. *Female Workers.*—The general minimum time-rates proposed are (a) for cutters, trimmers and fitters-up (i) under 19 years of age, 7½d. per hour; (ii) 19 and under 20 years of age, 8d. per hour; (iii) 20 years of age and over, 8½d. per hour; (b) other workers, including home-workers, 7½d. per hour; (c) learners from 1½d. to 6½d. per hour according to age at entry and period of employment. A piece-work basis time-rate of 8½d. per hour is proposed for female workers, including home-workers, other than cutters, trimmers and fitters-up, and learners.

Sack and Bag Trade Board (Great Britain).

Notice of Proposal, dated 23rd December, 1921, to fix general minimum time-rates and overtime rates for male workers and general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates and overtime rates for certain classes of female workers.

The general minimum time-rates proposed for male workers of 21 years of age and over are (a) for superintendents of packing presses (hand or machine) or press foremen (hand or machine) and setters-up and operators of branding machines, 1s. 4½d. per hour; (b) all other workers, 1s. 1½d. per hour; with lower rates for younger workers.

For female workers employed as examiners of mended work, allocators, forewomen, hand sewers on heavy twill sacks and

bags of 10 porter and upwards, selectors or graders of mixed loads and setters-up on branding machines, the general minimum time-rate proposed for workers of 18 years of age and upwards and the piece-work basis time-rate for workers of all ages are 8d. and 9d. per hour respectively.

Wholesale Mantle and Costume Trade Board (Great Britain).

Notice of Proposal, dated 4th January, 1922 (issued with the Minister's consent), to vary the general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates and overtime rates for male and female workers.

I. *Male Workers.*—The general minimum time-rates proposed (a) for workers employed on certain specified operations range from 1s. 0d. to 1s. 7d. per hour; (b) for other workers of 22 years of age and over, 1s. per hour; with lower rates for younger workers. The piece-work basis time-rates proposed (a) for workers employed on the specified operations range from 1s. 1½d. to 1s. 8½d. per hour; (b) for all other workers 1s. 1½d. per hour.

II. *Female Workers.*—The general minimum time-rates proposed are (a) for cutters, trimmers and fitters-up (i) under 19 years of age, 7½d. per hour; (ii) 19 and under 20 years of age, 8d. per hour; (iii) 20 years of age and over, 8½d. per hour; (b) other workers, including home-workers, 7½d. per hour; (c) learners, from 1½d. to 6½d. per hour according to age at entry and period of employment. A piece-work basis time-rate of 8½d. per hour is proposed for female workers, including home-workers, other than cutters, trimmers and fitters-up, and learners.

Further particulars regarding these minimum rates of wages proposed or fixed and varied by the Trade Boards may be obtained from the Secretary of the Trade Board concerned at 7-11, Old Bailey, London, E.C. 4, in the case of Trade Boards in Great Britain, and at 21, Parliament Street, Dublin, in the case of Trade Boards in Ireland.

Objections to the proposed rates, which should be in writing and signed by the person making the same (adding his or her full name and address), may be lodged with the Trade Board issuing the notice, within two months from the date of the Notice of Proposal, and should be sent to the Secretary of the Trade Board at the appropriate address as set out above.

ERRATUM.—Page 669 of the December issue of the LABOUR GAZETTE. Sugar Confectionery and Food Preserving Trade Board (Great Britain) should read Sugar Confectionery and Food Preserving Trade Board (Ireland)

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTS.**DECISIONS GIVEN BY THE UMPIRE.**

VOLUMES containing the collected decisions of the Umpire appointed under Section 12 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, respecting disputed claims to benefit, are published by His Majesty's Stationery Office. The following are recent decisions of general interest:—

CASE No. 1500.—SECTION 8 (2)—EMPLOYMENT LEFT VOLUNTARILY—TANTAMOUNT TO—REFUSAL TO ADOPT PIECE RATES IN PLACE OF TIME RATES—ALLEGED REDUCTION IN EARNINGS—NO TRIAL GIVEN—NOT JUST CAUSE—FULL DISQUALIFICATION.

The applicant, who had been employed for three years as a machinist (woodwork), lost this employment on the 5th October. It appeared that he was asked to work at piece rates instead of his usual time rate, and on his refusal to do so was dismissed. The Association contended that their member, with others, had been receiving £4 5s. per week at the time rate of 1s. 9½d. per hour, whereas at the piece rate they would have been able to earn only £3 12s. per week. They had offered to discuss piece rates with the employer, but had been refused a hearing. It was against the Union rules for a member to accept piece rates in a time rate workshop. This member, who together with other members refused, was the only one dismissed.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim for benefit should be allowed. The Court were of opinion that the firm should have met the Association on the question of the introduction of a new method of payment.

The Insurance Officer declined to accept the recommendation of the Court of Referees. In his opinion the workman should have given the new rates a trial before practically throwing up the work.

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

“The applicant did not give the piece-work rates any trial, and his refusal to do so, solely on the ground that they had not been arranged through his trade union, cannot be regarded as necessarily rendering the employment offered unsuitable.”

CASE No. 1512.—SECTION 7 (1) (iii)—NOT CAPABLE OF WORK—LOST SIGHT NECESSITATES TRAINING AT INSTITUTION FOR BLIND—WITHOUT REMUNERATION.

The applicant, who had been employed as a porter for 5 years, lost this employment on the 15th October. It appeared that the workman, whose sight had been in a precarious condition for

some years, had become practically blind and unable to follow his usual occupation. He was subsequently admitted to an institution for the blind to be taught mat-making, and was not in receipt of remuneration while so engaged. The applicant lodged a claim to benefit, but payment was suspended on the ground that the workman was not available for work. At the hearing before the Court of Referees medical evidence was produced testifying to the applicant's disability, and it further transpired that his wife was similarly afflicted.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim for benefit should be disallowed. The Court were of the opinion that the applicant was not available for work. Leave to appeal to the Umpire was granted.

Decision.—“On the facts before me my decision is that the claim for benefit should be disallowed. I agree with the Court of Referees. The case is a hard one, but the Unemployment Insurance Acts do not appear to me to provide for the payment of benefit during training to a man who through blindness is not capable of work until he has been trained.”

CASE No. 1541.—SECTION 8 (1)—TRADE DISPUTE—INTIMIDATION BY ORGANISED UNEMPLOYED—QUESTION OF 75 PER CENT. STANDARD RATE—SMALL NUMBER OF MEN ON RELIEF WORK—CAUSED STOPPAGE OF WORK.

The applicants, 20 in number, were engaged by a Local Authority on relief work, and left this employment on the 23rd October. An unemployed organisation in the district, as a protest against the payment of 75 per cent. of the district rate for relief work in accordance with a Ministry of Health Circular, appeared on the job, threatening violence, with the result that the applicants were compelled to cease work.

At the hearing before the Court of Referees the applicants contended that there was no dispute with their employers, and that in the face of a body of men 250 strong they were powerless and were compelled to comply with the demands to down tools. Work was resumed on the 4th November.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claims for benefit should be allowed. The Court were of opinion that this did not constitute a trade dispute, there being no grievance with the employers or other employees so far as the men were concerned, and that the applicants were compelled to leave their work.

The Insurance Officer declined to accept the recommendation of the Court of Referees. In his opinion the fact that the applicants left their work at the instance of the unemployed, who were protesting at the scale of wages paid for relief work, constituted a stoppage of work due to a trade dispute.

Decision.—“On the facts before me my decision is that the claims should be disallowed. This case is similar to Nos. 3332 (O.W.D.) and 88 (Act of 1911).”

CASE No. 1572.—SECTION 7 (1) (iii)—SUITABLE EMPLOYMENT, REFUSAL OF—SHORTHAND TYPIST OFFERED DOMESTIC SERVICE—PROTRACTED PERIOD OF UNEMPLOYMENT—NO LIKELIHOOD OF SECURING CLERICAL WORK IN DISTRICT.

The applicant, aged 25 years, who had last been employed as a shorthand typist, lost this employment in June, 1921. After being unemployed for 4½ months she was offered a resident situation as a children's attendant, in an institution at a commencing salary of £35 per year, which, however, she refused. The prospective employer submitted a list of duties to be performed, and stated that an inmate of the institution, aged 15 years, acted as a maid and would have performed all the duties in connection with the nursery, while the applicant would have been merely responsible for the general welfare of the children. Payment of benefit was suspended on the ground that the refusal was unreasonable seeing that there were no prospects of clerical work being available in the district.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim for benefit should be disallowed. The Court were of opinion that the applicant, after so long a period of unemployment, should have given the work a trial. Leave to appeal to the Umpire was granted.

Decision.—“On the facts before me my decision is that the claim for benefit should be disallowed. In view of the length of time the applicant had been unemployed and the poor prospects of securing clerical work in the district, she should have been prepared to give a trial to the employment offered, or else not claim unemployment benefit.”

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT, 1920.**Decisions of the High Court on References Made Under Section 10 (1) of the Act.**

On the 20th December, 1921, the Minister referred to the High Court for decision the questions whether persons employed as

Second hand on a private yacht,
Housemaid-waitress and housemaid in a seaside boarding house, which, though not closed to visitors at any time of the year, is occupied to its full capacity only at certain holiday seasons,
were or were not employed persons within the meaning of the Act of 1920.

The Judge held that the employment of the second hand on the yacht was not employment in domestic service, and was

accordingly not excepted under paragraph (b), Part II. of the First Schedule to the Act of 1920. The employment of the housemaid-waitress he held to be employment in domestic service, but in a business carried on for the purposes of gain, and accordingly not excepted under the paragraph (b) referred to above. Both were, therefore, required to be insured.

Consequently, contributions under the Act are payable in respect of the persons so employed.

References to the High Court of Justice under Section 10 (1).

Pursuant to paragraph 6 of the Unemployment Insurance (Determination of Questions) Regulations, 1920, the Minister of Labour gave notice in the *London Gazette* of the 6th January, 1922, of his intention to refer to the High Court for decision the following question that has arisen in an application made to him for his decision under section 10 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, namely, whether the employment of a person as a

Daily maid at a private nursing home, who does general domestic work and cleans patients' bedrooms, but does not herself reside at the said nursing home,
is or is not employment within the meaning of the Act of 1920.

Decisions of the Minister of Labour under Section 10 (1) Reconsidered and now Regarded as no Longer in Force.

In view of the judgments of the High Court and the observations of the Judge at the hearing of the cases recorded in the LABOUR GAZETTE for December, 1921, the decisions mentioned below, which were given by the Minister under section 10 of the Act, have been reconsidered, and are no longer regarded as in force:—

Decisions Nos. 2, 176 and 250 notified in LABOUR GAZETTES for January, March and May, 1921, respectively.

Accordingly, persons employed in occupations precisely similar to those indicated in the decisions mentioned above are not required to be insured, and no contributions under the Act are payable in respect of them while so employed.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS, 1901-1920.**(a) Draft Regulations for Buildings in Course of Construction, Alteration, Repair or Demolition.**

By the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, the Home Secretary has power to make Regulations for all premises on which machinery worked by steam, water or other mechanical power is used for the purpose of construction of a building, or any structural work in connection with a building. In 1907 he appointed a Departmental Committee to inquire into the dangers attendant on building operations, and to report as to the precautions which were desirable for the safety of the workers. This Committee drew up a Code of Regulations for the industry, and recommended that they should be made to apply to all buildings in course of construction, alteration or repair, and that the powers under the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, should be extended accordingly. It has not so far been possible to pass the legislation required to give effect to this recommendation.

In February, 1919, the Joint Industrial Council for the Building Trade, at the suggestion of the Home Office, set up a Safety and Welfare Committee to consider the matter afresh in the light of more recent experience. This Committee agreed with the Departmental Committee in advocating Regulations, and submitted a code based substantially on the conclusions arrived at by that Committee, but incorporating certain amendments. They further recommended that, in the absence of powers to deal with the industry as a whole, the proposed Regulations should be put in force at once for buildings to which the existing legislation applies. This Report was adopted by the Joint Industrial Council, and submitted by them to the Home Secretary, who decided to give effect to their recommendation. He accordingly gave notice, on the 9th December, 1921, that he had formally certified the construction of buildings and constructional work in connection with buildings for the purpose of which machinery worked by steam, water or other mechanical power is used, to be dangerous; and that he proposed to make Regulations to apply to all buildings in course of construction, alteration, repair or demolition to which the provisions of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, apply. The Regulations were at the same time issued in draft; and notice was given that any objections to them must be sent to the Secretary of State within forty days from the date of the notice.

The Draft Regulations* deal, *inter alia*, with (a) the construction and placing of scaffolding, working platforms, ladders, etc.; (b) the operation of cranes, and the repair and examination of their working gear; (c) the fencing of dangerous parts of machinery; and (d) the protection of painters and plumbers by providing washing conveniences, enjoining the use of overalls, prohibiting meals in the paint-mixing room or the plumbers' shop, and using a moist method, where practicable, for rubbing down or scraping painted surfaces containing lead.

* Copies may be obtained on application to the Chief Inspector of Factories, Home Office, Whitehall, London, S.W.1.

(b) Regulations for the Handling of Dry or Dry-salted Hides and Skins imported from Africa or Asia.

An account was given in the LABOUR GAZETTE for December, 1921 (p. 671), of draft regulations proposed to be made by the Home Secretary, under Section 79 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, for the handling of dry or dry-salted hides or skins imported from Africa (including Madagascar), and from Asia (including Japan and the Malay Archipelago).

The Regulations, which may be cited as the Hides and Skins Regulations, 1921,† were duly made on the 29th December, 1921, and will come into force on the 1st February, 1922.

(c) Regulations for the Manufacture of Aerated Water.

An account was given in the LABOUR GAZETTE for December, 1921 (p. 671), of draft regulations proposed to be made by the Home Secretary under Section 79 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, to apply to all factories and workshops, or parts thereof, in which is carried on the manufacture of aerated water and processes incidental thereto. The Regulations, which may be cited as the Aerated Water Regulations, 1921,† were duly made on the 19th December, 1921, and came into force on 1st January, 1922.

(d) Amended Draft Regulations for the Use of Wood Working Machinery.

The Secretary of State for the Home Department gave notice on the 3rd January, 1922, in pursuance of Section 80 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, that he has amended the draft Regulations for the use of Wood Working Machinery which were issued on the 3rd September, 1920, and that he proposes to make Regulations in accordance with the amended draft.* Objections to the amended draft by or on behalf of any persons affected by the Regulations must be sent to the Secretary of State within twenty-one days from the date of the notice. A memorandum, setting forth the alterations which are proposed in the new draft regulations, may be obtained from the Home Office.

* Copies may be obtained on application to the Chief Inspector of Factories, Home Office, Whitehall, London, S.W. 1.

† Copies may be purchased through any bookseller, or directly from H.M. Stationery Office.

(e) Welfare of Workers Employed in the Manufacture of Hollow-Ware and in the Process of Galvanising.

The Secretary of State for the Home Department has given notice that on the 31st December, 1921, he made an order under Section 7 of the Police, Factories, etc. (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1916, for securing the welfare of workers employed in factories and workshops or parts thereof in which (i.) the manufacture of hollow-ware, or (ii.) the process of galvanising, other than the galvanising of wire, is carried on. The order, which may be cited as the Hollow-ware and Galvanising Welfare Order, 1921,* comes into force on the 1st February, 1922.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT, 1906.**EXTENSION OF PROVISIONS TO TWISTERS' CRAMP.**

The Secretary of State for the Home Department gave notice on the 2nd January, 1922, that on the 31st December, 1921, he made an Order under Section 8 (6) of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906, extending the provisions of the Act to cases of twisters' cramp caused by twisting of cotton or woollen (including worsted) yarns. The Order, which may be cited as the Workmen's Compensation (Twisters' Cramp) Order, 1921,* came into force on the 16th January, 1922.

CENSUS OF PRODUCTION ACT, 1917.

An Order of the Board of Trade, dated the 29th December, 1921, made under Section 1, Sub-Section (2), of the Census of Production Act, 1917, provides that a Census of Production shall be taken in the year 1923 in respect of the production of the year 1922. The Order may be cited as the Census of Production (1923) Order, 1921.

* Copies may be purchased through any bookseller, or directly from H.M. Stationery Office.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO LABOUR RECEIVED DURING DECEMBER, 1921.

[All the Official Publications (distinguished as Cd., Cmd., H.L., H.C. or S.O. publications) may be purchased through any bookseller or directly through H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses: Imperial House, Kingsway, London, W.C. 2, and 28, Abingdon Street, London, S.W. 1; 37, Peter Street, Manchester; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff; 23, Forth Street, Edinburgh; or from Eason & Son, Ltd., 40 and 41, Lower Sackville Street, Dublin.]

UNITED KINGDOM.

AGRICULTURAL COUNCILS.—Agricultural Councils for England and Wales, regulations dated 18th November, 1921. S.R. and O. 1921. No. 1821. Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. [S.O. publication: price 1d.]

ARBITRATION.—The Industrial Court. Vol. IV. Part II. Decisions 665 to 691, 1st July, 1921, to 30th September, 1921. Ministry of Labour. [S.O. publication: price 1s. 6d.]

EX-SERVICE MEN.—Ex-Service men employed in government offices on 1st November, 1921. Treasury. [Cmd. 1558: price 2d.]

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.—Statement showing staffs employed in Government departments on 1st November, 1921. Treasury. [Cmd. 1557: price 2d.]

INDUSTRIAL EFFICIENCY.—Motion study in metal polishing. Report No. 15. (Metal Series No. 5.) Industrial Fatigue Research Board. [S.O. publication: price 2s.]

LOCAL TAXATION.—Local taxation returns (England and Wales) 1919-20. Part I. Return showing the sums expended and received during the year ending 31st March, 1920, by Boards of Guardians of the Poor and Joint Poor Law Authorities. Ministry of Health. [H.C. 231: price 1s.]

MINES.—Draft regulations under section 7 of the Mining Industry Act, 1920, for the constitution of committees and boards under Part II. of the Act. Board of Trade. Draft S.R. and O. 1921. [S.O. publication: price 3d.]

PENSIONS.—Fourth annual report of the Minister of Pensions, from 1st April, 1920, to 31st March, 1921. Ministry of Pensions. [H.C. 244: price 9d.]

RAILWAYS.—Report of the light railways (investigation) committee. Ministry of Transport. [S.O. publication: price 1s. 6d.]

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.—Decisions given by the umpire respecting claims to benefit. (Given up to 27th April, 1921.) Vol. IV. Nos. 1501-1821. (Together with index for all decisions 1-1821.) Ministry of Labour. U.I. 440a/Vol. IV. [S.O. publication: price 3s.]

VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE.—Vocational guidance. (A review of the literature.) Report No. 12. (General series No. 4.) Industrial Fatigue Research Board. [S.O. publication: price 1s.]

DOMINIONS AND FOREIGN.—Reports. (1) Bahamas. Report No. 1095 for 1920-1. Colonial Office. [S.O. publication: price 9d.]

(2) Brazil. Report on economic and financial conditions to October, 1921. Department of Overseas Trade. [S.O. publication: price 1s. 9d.] (3) Nigeria. Report No. 1098 for 1920. Colonial Office. [S.O. publication: price 9d.] (4) Nyasaland. Report No. 1096 for 1920. Colonial Office. [S.O. publication: price 9d.] (5) St. Vincent. Report No. 1094 for 1920. Colonial Office. [S.O. publication: price 6d.] (6) Wethaiwei. Report No. 1097 for 1920. Colonial Office. [S.O. publication: price 6d.]

BRITISH DOMINIONS AND INDIA.

AUSTRALIA.—(1) Census of the Commonwealth of Australia, 4th April, 1921. Census Bulletin No. 1. Population of states and territories. Commonwealth Statistician. [Melbourne: A. J. Mullett.] (2) Prices, purchasing-power of money, wages, trade unions, unemployment, and general industrial conditions, 1920. Labour and Industrial Branch Report, No. 11. Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics. [Melbourne: McCarron, Bird & Co.]

NEW SOUTH WALES.—(1) The New South Wales Industrial Gazette. (a) 30th September. (b) 31st October, 1921. (c) Index. Vol. XIX.—January—June, 1921, with appendices. Department of Labour and Industry. [Sydney: W. A. Gullick.] (2) The industrial arbitration reports, New South Wales, 1921. Vol. XX. Part 3, 1921. [Sydney: W. A. Gullick.]

QUEENSLAND.—Thirty-sixth report of the registrar of friendly societies, building societies, and industrial and provident societies, containing list of societies, etc., to 30th September, 1921, and financial and numerical statements for the year 1920. [Brisbane: A. J. Cumming, 1921.]

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—Industrial Courts Awards, etc. August and September, 1921. Department of Industry. [Adelaide: R. E. E. Rogers.]

VICTORIA.—Report of the Registrar of Friendly Societies for the year 1920. [Melbourne: A. J. Mullett.]

CANADA.—(a) The Labour Gazette, November, 1921. Juvenile employment service in Canada and other countries; unemployment in Canada, etc. Department of Labour. [Ottawa: F. A. Acland.]

(b) Ontario.—(1) The Minimum Wage Act, 1920. An Act to provide for a minimum wage board with power to regulate in certain cases the minimum wages of women and girls. Assented to 4th June, 1920. Chapter 87. (2) The Workmen's Compensation Act, 1920. An act to amend the Workmen's Compensation Act. Assented to 4th June, 1920. Chapter 43.

INDIA.—(1) Labour Gazette. November, 1921. Cost of living index; conciliation and arbitration; trade union legislation, etc. Labour Office, Secretariat. [Bombay: Superintendent Government Printing.] (2) Correspondence relating to the action to be

taken in India on the proposals of the Genoa Labour Conference regarding employment at sea. Bulletins of Indian industries and labour. No. 17. [Calcutta: Superintendent Government Printing.] (3) Journal of Indian industries and labour. November, 1921. Technical training; the problem of industrial fatigue in India; industrial disputes during the third quarter of 1921, etc. Department of Industries. [Calcutta: Superintendent Government Printing.] (4) Review of the trade of India, 1920-1. Department of Statistics. [Calcutta: Superintendent Government Printing.] (5) Return showing the wholesale and retail prices of certain staple cereals, pulses, oilseeds, sugar (raw), salt, etc., in India by districts for the fortnights ending the 30th September and 15th October, 1921. Department of Statistics. [Calcutta: Superintendent Government Printing.]

SOUTH AFRICA.—The South African Journal of Industries. November and December, 1921. Trade schools in Texas; the protection of South African industries; roads and roadmaking; careers for the rising generation, etc. Department of Industries. [Pretoria: Government Printing and Stationery Office.]

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

INTERNATIONAL.—(1) International crop reports. International Institute of Agriculture, Bureau of General Statistics. [Rome: 10th November, 1921.] (2) Supplementary reports on agricultural results in 1921. International Institute of Agriculture, Bureau of Statistics. [Rome: 13th December, 1921.] (3) World harvests and sowings. International Institute of Agriculture, Bureau of Statistics. [Rome: November, 1921.] (4) International crop report and agricultural statistics. November, 1921. (a) Part II. Production. (b) Part III. Trade and stocks. International Institute of Agriculture, Bureau of Statistics. [Rome: Printing Office of International Institute.] (5) International emigration commission, Geneva, August, 1921. Report of the Commission. International Labour Office. [Geneva: 1921.] (6) International Labour Review. December, 1921. Prevention and compensation of unemployment, etc. International Labour Office. [Geneva.] (7) International Labour Office. Official Bulletin. (a) 16th November, 1921. Vol. IV. No. 20. (b) 23rd November, 1921. Vol. IV. No. 21. (c) 30th November, 1921. Vol. IV. No. 22. International Labour Office. [Geneva.]

ARGENTINE.—Cronica Mensual del Departamento Nacional del Trabajo. October. Average earnings of home-workers in various trades in Buenos Aires; strikes on the State railways in 1919. National Department of Labour. [Buenos Aires.]

AUSTRIA.—(1) Statistik des Bergbaues in Oesterreich für das Jahr 1916. Erste Lieferung: Die Bergwerksproduktion. Statistics of output of mines in the Austrian Empire in 1916. Ministry of Commerce. [Vienna.] (2) Bundesgesetzblatt für die Republik Oesterreich. Nos. 212 to 229 (inclusive). Collection of laws, decrees and regulations of the Austrian Republic. [Vienna.] (3) Mitteilungen des Bundesamtes für Statistik, No. 15. Cost of living in Vienna in October, 1921, compared with July, 1914; minimum wages as fixed by collective agreement in various trades in October, 1921, compared with 1914. Federal Statistical Department. [Vienna.] (4) Amtliche Nachrichten des Oesterreichischen Bundesministeriums für Soziale Verwaltung. 1st December. Text of law of 1st June, 1921, on working conditions in agriculture in Carinthia; unemployment in Vienna in October. Ministry for Social Affairs. [Vienna.]

BELGIUM.—(1) Revue du Travail. November, 1921. Statistics of unemployment in September; wage rates of engineering workers in Brussels; index numbers of wholesale prices in Belgium in August; retail prices at Brussels, September; industrial disputes in September; wage agreements in occupied German territory; index figures of cost of living on 15th October. Ministry of Industry, Labour and Supplies. [Brussels.] (2) Statistique des Industries Extractives et Metallurgiques et des Appareils à Vapeur en Belgique pour l'année 1920. Statistics of output of coal, average wages of miners, output of blastfurnaces, steel and iron works, accidents in mines, etc., in 1920. Ministry of Industry, Labour and Supplies. [Brussels.]

BRAZIL.—Boletim do Departamento Estadual do Trabalho do Estado de São Paulo, Nos. 38 and 39. Statistics of immigration; wages of various agricultural workers. Department of Agriculture, Commerce and Public Works of the State of San Paulo. [San Paulo.]

CZECHOSLOVAKIA.—(1) Exposé Sommaire des Travaux Législatifs de l'Assemblée Nationale de la République Tchécoslovaque: Session de Printemps, 1921. Abstracts of laws establishing Works Committees in industry, and making provision for unemployment pay to organised workers and others. Library of the National Assembly. [Prague.] (2) Résultats Préliminaires du Recensement de la Population du 15me Février, 1921. Preliminary figures of population census taken on 15th February, 1921. Statistical Department. [Prague.] (3) Bulletin Statistique de la République Tchécoslovaque. December, 1921. Statistics of unemployment and unemployment relief, January to June, 1921. Statistical Department. [Prague.]

DENMARK.—(1) Social Forsorg. November. Journal of the Unemployment Council, Workmen's Council, etc. [Hellerup.] (2) Statistiske Meddelelser: Ansættelserne till Merindkomstskatten for Aaret 1919-1920. Assessments for Excess Income Tax on the year 1919-20. Statistical Department. [Copenhagen.] (3) Statistiske Efterretninger, 14th and 20th December. Unemployment in November, 1921. Statistical Department. [Copenhagen.] (4) Statistiske Meddelelser, 4 Raekke, 62 Bind: Sta-

tistics of industrial output in 1920. Ibid. 64 Bind, 3 Hæfte: Det Nordiske Statistiske Møde i København 29-31 August, 1921. Papers read at the Statistical Congress for Scandinavian Countries held at Copenhagen in August, 1921. Statistical Department. [Copenhagen.]

FINLAND.—Social Tidskrift. No. 11. Activities of Employment Exchanges and cost of living and retail prices in October. Ministry for Social Affairs. [Helsingfors.]

FRANCE.—(1) Bulletin du Marché du Travail. 10th December. Activities of Employment Exchanges in week ending 3rd December. Ministry of Labour. [Paris.] (2) Bulletin de la Statistique Générale de la France et du Service d'observation des Prix. October. Statistics of wholesale and retail prices, index number for cost of living in France, 1919-1921; wages of domestic servants in large towns in France in 1921. Department of Statistics. [Paris.] (3) Rapport relatif aux Echelles des Traitements, etc., fixes des fonctionnaires, agents, etc., de l'Etat rémunérés au mois, 1911-1921. Report on salaries of Civil Servants. Ministry of Labour. [Paris.] (4) Journal Officiel (Daily). Issues from 29th November to 28th December (inclusive). [Paris.]

GERMANY.—(1) Wirtschaft und Statistik. November. Cost of living index figures for period August to October, 1921; retail prices in October; wholesale prices October-November; new wage rates and salaries in State factories, etc. National Statistical Department. [Berlin.] (2) Reichs-Gesetzblatt. Nos. 101 to 107 (inclusive). Collection of Laws, decrees, regulations, etc., of the German Federal Government. [Berlin.] (3) Reichs-Arbeitsblatt. 15th December, 1921. Statistics of Employment Exchanges on 2nd December; cost of living in November; wages fixed by collective agreements. Ministry of Labour. [Berlin.] (4) Deutscher Reichsanzeiger (Daily). Issues from 27th November to 28th December (inclusive). [Berlin.]

HOLLAND.—(1) Maandschrift van het Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek. 30th November. Statistics of unemployment in July and August; activities of employment exchanges in October; minimum wages on public works; working conditions, wages, etc., as fixed by collective agreements in mines, the building trade, the mercantile marine, and other occupations; "family wages" in the public service and various industries. Central Statistical Bureau. [The Hague.] (2) Maandbericht van het Bureau van Statistiek der Gemeente Amsterdam. October. Wholesale and retail prices with index figures; unemployment during October. Statistical Bureau. [Amsterdam.] (3) Bijdragen tot de Statistiek van Nederland. No. 350. Werkstakingen en uitsluitingen in Nederland gedurende 1920. Statistics of strikes and lockouts in Holland in 1920. Central Bureau of Statistics. [The Hague.]

ITALY.—(1) La Disoccupazione in Italia al 1° Settembre ed al 1° Ottobre, 1921. Unemployment in Italy on 1st September and 1st October, 1921. Reprinted from Bollettino del Lavoro e della Previdenza Sociale. Ministry of Labour and Social Thrift. [Rome.] (2) Gazzetta Ufficiale (Daily). Issues from 26th November to 26th December (inclusive). [Rome.]

JAPAN.—Statistical Abstract for Osaka, 1919. Average wages in 40 occupations at Osaka in 1908-1919; index numbers of wages in 43 trades, 1905-1919. Municipal Office. [Osaka.]

MEXICO.—Gaceta Mensual del Departamento del Trabajo, August. Wages and working conditions in the brick-making industry; retail prices in July and August. Department of Labour. [Mexico.]

NORWAY.—(1) Meddelelser fra det Statistiske Centralbyrå. No. 11. 1921. Statistics of employment in August and September; cost of living and retail prices in September and October. Central Statistical Office. [Christiania.] (2) Norges Offentlige Arbeidsformidling og de av Staten Anerkjente Arbeidsledighetskasser. Report by the Inspector of Employment Exchanges for the year 1918-19. [Christiania.] (3) Sociale Meddelelser, No. 9. Wages and working conditions in cocoa and chocolate factories in 1917; emigration statistics, 1836-1915; cost of living in September; statistics of unemployment in August. Department for Social Affairs. [Christiania.] (4) Norsk Lovtidende, Nos. 50 to 54 (inclusive). Collection of Laws, decrees and regulations. [Christiania.] (5) Statistisk Maanedsskrift. October. Statistics of Christiania Employment Exchange; retail prices, 1914-October, 1921; cost of living, October, 1921. Municipal Statistical Office. [Christiania.]

POLAND.—(1) Les résultats provisoires du recensement de la population de la République Polonaise du 30me Novembre, 1921. Preliminary figures of the population census of 30th November, 1921. Reprinted from Revue Mensuelle de Statistique, Année 1921. Tome IV. [Warsaw.] (2) Mouvement naturel de la Population Chrétienne dans l'ancien Royaume de Congrès pendant les années 1909-1918. Movement of the population of Congress Poland (excluding Greek Orthodox Church population) during the years from 1909 to 1918 inclusive. Central Office of Statistics. [Warsaw.]

RUMANIA.—Buletinul Muncii si al Ocrotirilor Sociale. August and September. Labour disputes in Transylvania, Bessarabia and Rumania during 1920. Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. [Bucarest.]

SPAIN.—Boletín del Instituto de Reformas Sociales, October. Retail prices in various towns in September; wages and hours in various trades; strikes during August. Institute of Social Reforms. [Madrid.]

SWEDEN.—(1) Sociala Meddelanden, December. Employment during October; wages and working hours in agriculture in 1920; hourly rates in handicrafts, transport trade, restaurants and domestic service in 1920; wages in the tobacco trade in 1920; the rise in cost of living in Scandinavia; statistics of Employment Exchanges in October; unemployment among trade unionists on 30th September; retail prices and cost of living in October. Department for Social Affairs. [Stockholm.] (2) Arbetartillgång, Arbetstid och Arbetlön inom Sveriges Jordbruk år 1920. Supply of labour, working hours and wages in agriculture in 1920. Department for Social Affairs. [Stockholm.] (3) Sveriges Officiella Statistik: Byggnadsverksamheten i Rikets Stadssamhällen åren 1918-1920. Report on and statistics of house building in Swedish towns, 1904-1920. Department for Social Affairs. [Stockholm.]

SWITZERLAND.—(1) Feuille Fédérale et Recueil des Lois Fédérales, Nos. 47 to 49 (inclusive). Statement as to rise in cost of living and retail prices in Switzerland since 1914 in regard to bonuses to State Employees. [Berne.] (2) Preisberichte, October, 1921. Table of current prices of principal necessary articles of food, fuel and lighting in 32 districts. Federal Statistical Bureau. [Berne.] (3) Der Schweizerische Arbeitsmarkt, December. Activities of Employment Exchanges in November; short time worked in various industries; labour disputes; cost of living index figures. Federal Labour Office. [Berne.]

UNITED STATES.—(a) Federal. (1) Prices and cost of living, from the Monthly Labor Review (October, 1921). Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. [Washington: Government Printing Office, 1921.] (2) Wholesale prices in October. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. [Washington: 19th November, 1921.] (3) Employment in selected industries in October, 1921. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. [Washington: 19th November, 1921.] (4) Changes in retail price of food in the United States. Department of Labor,

Bureau of Labor Statistics. [Washington: 19th November, 1921.] (5) Wages and hours of labor in woolen and worsted goods manufacturing, 1920. Bulletin No. 289. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. [Washington: Government Printing Office, September, 1921.] (6) Average heights and weights of children under six years of age. Community child-welfare series No. 2. Bureau publication No. 84. Department of Labor, Children's Bureau. [Washington: Government Printing Office.] (7) Health problems of labor, Women's Bureau. [Washington: Government Printing Office, 1921.]

(b) States—Iowa.—(1) Statistics of manufactures for year ending 31st December, 1919. Including report on factory inspection for biennium ending 30th June, 1920. Bulletin No. 2. Bureau of Labor Statistics. [Des Moines.] (2) Arbitration and conciliation report for biennium ending 30th June, 1920, and conciliation report for biennium ending 30th June, 1920, and conciliation report for biennium ending 30th June, 1920. Bulletin No. 3. Bureau of Labor Statistics. [Des Moines.] (3) Child Labor, Analysis of work permits issued during biennium ending 30th June, 1920. Bulletin No. 4. Bureau of Labor Statistics. [Des Moines.] (4) Labor organisations. Trade union statistics for biennium ending 31st December, 1919. Bulletin No. 5. Bureau of Labor Statistics. [Des Moines.] (5) The State free employment bureau (Co-operating as the State-Federal Employment Service), including farm wage data for biennium ending 30th June, 1920. Bulletin No. 6. Bureau of Labor Statistics. [Des Moines.]

NEW YORK.—(1) Miscellaneous labor laws, with amendments, additions and annotations to November, 1921. Department of Labor. (2) Annual report of the Industrial Commission for the twelve months ended 30th June, 1920. Department of Labor. [Albany, 1921.]

OHIO.—Union scale of wages and hours of labor in Ohio on 15th May, 1921. Report No. 1. Department of Industrial relations. Division of Labor Statistics. [Columbus, Ohio: The J. F. Heer Printing Co., 1921.]

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.

LIST OF NEW CONTRACTS, DECEMBER, 1921. ADMIRALTY.

(CIVIL ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF'S DEPARTMENT.)

Drencher Installations, R.N.A. Depôts, Crombie and Bandedath; Merryweather & Sons, London, S.E.—Fencing Round R.N.A. Depôt, Bandedath, Stirling: Wm. Bain & Co., Ltd., Coatbridge.—Improving Accommodation at Coast Guard Station, New Brighton: T. Bentley, West Kirby.—New Coast Guard Buildings, Quarters for Officers and Men, Abbotbury: Jenkins, Hitt & Grant, Weymouth.—Painting Tanks, O.F. Depôt, Devonport: William Dewey, Barton-on-Humber.—Oil Tanks, Steel, H.M. Naval Establishments Abroad: The Barrowfield Ironworks, Ltd., Glasgow.

WAR OFFICE.

Barbed Wire: W. Bain & Co., Coatbridge; Excelsior Wire Rope Co., Ltd., Cardiff.—Bleaching Powder: United Alkali Co., Ltd., Widnes.—Brushes, Clothes: D. Hayward, Ltd., Bloxwich.—Cordage: Frost Bros., Ltd., London, E.—Driers: Burrell & Co., Ltd., London, E.—Drums, Oil: Baldwins, Ltd., London, E.C.; P. D. Mitchell, Ltd., Dundee.—Earthenware, Table: A. B. Jones & Sons, Longton; R. H. & S. L. Plant, Ltd., Longton.—Economiser Plant: Goodbrand & Co., Ltd., Stalybridge.—Electric Cells: Chloride Elec. Storage Co., Ltd., Manchester; Edison Swan Elec. Co., Ponders End, Middlesex; Ever Ready Co., Ltd., London, N.; Fullers United Electric Co., London, E.; General Electric Co., Birmingham; Pritchett & Gold & E.P.S. Co., Ltd., London, S.W.; Siemens Bros., Birmingham; The Tudor Accumulator Co., Dukinfield.—Fans, Electric: Veritza, Ltd., Birmingham.—Generators, Electric: Electric Constructional Co., Ltd., Wolverhampton; Vickers-Petters, Ltd., Ipswich.—Gauze: Duke, Waring, Crisp & Co., London, W.—Hides: J. Tullis & Sons, Alos, N.B.—Iron Work: David King & Sons, Glasgow.—Lead, Sheet: Foster, Blackett & Wilson, Hebburn.—Medal Ribbons: J. & J. Cash, Ltd., Coventry; Dalton, Barton & Co., Ltd., Coventry; W. Franklin & Son, Ltd., Coventry; G. Kenning & Son, Coventry.—Medical Stores: Burroughs & Wellcome & Co., Dartford; May & Baker, Ltd., London, S.W.—Meters, Electric: Chamberlain & Hookham, Ltd., Birmingham.—Mop Heads: E. Early & Son, Witney; W. Smith & Co., Ltd., Witney.—Motor Spares: Crossley Motors, Ltd., Manchester.—Oil, Lubricating: The Silvertown Lubricants, Ltd., London, E.—Packing Cases: M. A. Castell, London, E.C.; J. C. Edgington & Co., Ltd., London, E.; Harrison & Rogers, London, S.W.; Edmundson, Blackburn.—Paint, Dry: Golden Valley Ochre & Oxide Co., Ltd., Wick near Bristol.—Pig Iron: Denby Iron & Coal Co., Ltd., Denby.—Pneumatic Covers: Dunlop Rubber Co., Ltd., London.—Pneumatic Tubes: The Dunlop Rubber Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—Repairs, Binoculars: H. Hughes & Son, Ltd., London, E.C.; W. Ottway & Co., Ltd., London, W.; W. Watson & Sons, Ltd., London, W.C.—Repair to Watercraft: Menzies & Co., Ltd., Leith. Shoes, Canvas: North British Rubber Co., Ltd., Edinburgh; New Liverpool Rubber Co., Ltd., Liverpool; Victoria Rubber Co., Ltd., Edinburgh.—Socket Strips: Thomas de la Rue & Co., Ltd.,

London, E.C.—Steel, Round: Steel, Peach & Tozer, Ltd., Sheffield.—Steelwork, Bridges: E. C. & J. Keay, Ltd., Birmingham.—Time Recorders: Gledhill Brook Time Recorders, Ltd., London, S.W.—Transformers: Ferranti, Ltd., Lancs.—Transformer: Rotary: Newton Bros., Ltd., Derby; Small Electric Motors, Ltd., Beckenham.—Valves, W.T.: British Thomson Houston Co., Ltd., Rugby; A. C. Cossor, Ltd., Highbury Grove; General Electric Co., London, W.C.; General Electric Co., Ltd., Witton; Muller, Valve Co., London, W.—Varnish, Copal: Naylor Bros., Ltd., Slough, Bucks.—Vat Casks: W. Ryan & Co., London, E.—Wire Electric: Enfield Edison Cable Works, Ltd., London, E.—The General Electric Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—Works Servicing Maintenance Works: Houslow, Bargmans, Ltd., London, E.—Tipperary: P. F. Monahan, Butevant, Newport; J. B. Williams, Newport, Mon. Melton Mowbray; John F. Burdett, Nottingham. Wrexham Barracks: F. Holdsworth, Shipley, Yorks.—Building Works and Services: Newcastle-on-Tyne: B. Hall & Sons, Ltd., Shipley. Chilwell: W. Crane, Ltd., Nottingham. Kempton Barracks, Bedford: A. L. & H. W. Chorn Northampton. Chilwell: F. Perks & Son, Ltd., Long East, York Barracks: A. Robinson, Ltd., Idle. Stranals Camp: Taglag, Ltd., Stockton-on-Tees.—Conversion of Huts into Emergency Married Quarters: R. Beaumont & Son, Laxden, Cheshire. Worcester, Norton Barracks: F. H. Dent, Thrapston. Chelsea Barracks: Constable, Hart & Co., Ltd., London, E.—Orford Barracks, Warrington: John Gourelay, Manchester. John's Wood Barracks: A. Roberts & Co., London, W.; C. Roberts & Co., Ltd., Dalston, E. Lincoln Barracks: S. & Horton & Sons, Ltd., Lincoln. Chilwell Barracks: W. H. All & Sons, Ltd., Bedford. Derby Barracks: W. Walkerdine, Ltd., Derby.—Painting: Meeanee Barracks: A. Bagnall & Shipley, Yorks. Hyderabad Barracks: S. Lupton & Sons, Bedford, Yorks.

AIR MINISTRY.

Aeroplane Spares: G. Parnall & Co., Bristol; Vickers, Ltd., London, S.W.; Westland Aircraft Works, Yeovil.—Aeroplane Modifications: Vickers, Ltd., London, S.W.—Aircraft Spares: London Armoury Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—Aircraft Repairs: G. Parnall & Co., Bristol.—Aircraft Spares: G. Parnall & Co., Bristol.—Alterations and Additions to Buildings (Borough): Guest & Goodall, Ltd., Ascot.—Alterations to (Felixstowe): W. F. Cross, Felixstowe.—Cables, Underground: Macintosh Cable Co., London, E.C.—Canvas Covers for Lorry: J. Edgington & Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—Condensers: H. W. Sullivan, London, E.C.—Conduit Boxes: Credenda Conduits Co., Birmingham.—Electric Lamps: Notable Electric Co., Mersey General Electric Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—Engine Drawing: Armstrong Siddeley Motors, Ltd., Coventry.—Engine Spares: D. Napier & Son, Ltd., London, W.—Flowmeters: Brown Barlow, Ltd., Birmingham.—Generators, etc.: Rotax (Motor Accessories) Ltd., London, N.W.—Heating Installation: Broadside Foundry & Eng. Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—Hull and Bow Structure: Supermarine Aviation Works, Ltd., Southampton.—Ironmongery: Comyn, Ching & Co., Long Acre; Parker, W. & Achurch, Ltd., Birmingham.—Keys W/T: C. A. Carter &

London, N.—Leyland Spares: Leyland Motors, Ltd., Leyland.—Married Quarters Erection: W. & J. R. Watson, Glasgow.—Married Quarters, Erection of: W. G. Tarrant, Ltd., Byfleet.—Monoplane: Handley Page, Ltd., London, N.W.—Motor Boat Spares: J. M. Brooke & Co., Ltd., Lowestoft.—Petrol Filters: Rotherham & Sons, Ltd., Coventry. Propellers: Land Propeller, Ltd., Weybridge; D. M. Davies, London, N.—Radiators: Serck Radiators, Ltd., Birmingham.—Receivers: H. W. Sullivan, London, E.C.—Repairs to Buildings: Larkhill: J. Cockerell, Durrington. Donibristle: W. & J. R. Watson, Ltd., Edinburgh.—Repairs, etc., to Buildings: Ascot: Guest & Goodall, Ltd., Ascot. Leuchars: W. & J. R. Watson, Glasgow.—Reservoir, Concrete: Guest & Goodall, Ltd., Ascot.—Seaplanes: The English Electric Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—Shoes, Canvas, Rubber Soled: New Liverpool Rubber Co., Ltd., Liverpool; North British Rubber Co., Ltd., London, W.; Victoria Rubber Co., Ltd., Edinburgh.—Sick Quarters, Erection of: W. E. Chivers & Sons, Ltd., Devizes.—Steel Bars: Steel, Peach & Tozer, Ltd., Sheffield.—Steel Sheets: Shimwell & Co., London, E. Steel Sheets, Galvanised: Dorman, Long & Co., Ltd., Middlesbrough.—Steel Sheets: Baldwins, Ltd., Wilden, near Stonsport; Dorman, Long & Co., Ltd., Middlesbrough.—Timber: Jewson & Sons, Ltd., Norwich.—Tyres, Solid: Avon India Rubber Co., Ltd., Melksham.—Vehicle Shed, Erection of: John Hunt, Gosport.—Votmeters: Johnson & Phillips, Ltd., London, S.E. Water Fittings: Ham, Baker & Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—Wireless Telegraphy Masts: C. F. Elwell, Ltd., London, W.C.

POST OFFICE.

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The Publishers (to whom should be addressed all communications concerning subscriptions and sales) are H.M. Stationery Office, Imperial House, Kingsway, London, W.C. 2, and branches (see Cover).

PRINTED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE BY WYMAN & SONS, LTD., FETTER LANE, LONDON, E.C. 4.