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

EMPLOYMENT.

EMPLOYMENT, on the whole, showed a further improvement during March.

Among the 11,892,000 workpeople insured against unemployment under the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the percentage unemployed at 22nd March was 9.8, as compared with 10.5 at 22nd February, and 11.1 at 23rd March, 1925. Among the members of those trade unions from which returns were received, the percentage unemployed was 10.1 at the end of March, 1926, compared with 10.4 at the end of February and with 9.0 at the end of March, 1925. The total number of applicants for employment registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 29th March, 1926, was approximately 1,070,000, of whom 842,000 were men and 175,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls; at 1st March, it was 1,169,000, of whom 911,000 were men and 194,000 were women; and at 30th March, 1925, it was 1,249,000, of whom 959,000 were men and 228,000 were women.

Employment was good, on the whole, with brickmakers, with skilled operatives in the building trades, and in most sections of the printing trades; it was fairly good in some branches of the metal and clothing trades, in the furnishing trades, and with coachbuilders and millsawyers. In coal mining it was still slack, and in iron and steel manufacture, shipbuilding, and marine engineering it continued bad.

Among the principal industries the improvement during March was most marked in building and public works contracting and in the clothing trades; but minor improvements were also recorded in many other industries, including iron and steel, brick, pottery, woollen and worsted, silk, and linen manufacture.

WAGES.

There was little movement in rates of wages in March. In the industries for which statistics are regularly compiled by the Department, the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation during the month resulted in an aggregate increase of nearly £4,000 in the weekly full-time wages of nearly 47,000 workpeople, and in a reduction of £1,125 in the wages of 19,000 workpeople.

The principal groups whose wages were increased were about 20,000 workpeople employed in the non-trading services of local authorities in Lancashire and Cheshire, and upwards of 10,000 workers in paper mills. In the first-mentioned group a bonus of 90 per cent. on basis rates was increased, under the operation of a cost-of-living sliding scale, to 95 per cent. In the paper-making industry increases were granted, under

a decision of the Industrial Court, of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per hour in the minimum rates of the lower-paid adult male shift-workers and of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour in those of women and of the lower-paid adult male day-workers. Other bodies of workpeople whose wages were increased included coal miners in the Radstock district, and iron puddlers and millmen in the North of England.

The groups of workpeople whose wages were reduced included iron ore miners and blast furnace workers in Cumberland, bakers at Liverpool, and the employees of local authorities in the East Midlands.

During the first three months of 1926 the changes reported to the Department, in the industries for which statistics have been compiled, have resulted in net increases amounting to £12,350 in the weekly full-time wages of 123,000 workpeople, and in net reductions of £15,750 in those of 260,000 workpeople. In the corresponding period of 1925 there were net increases of over £68,000 in the weekly full-time wages of 725,000 workpeople, and net reductions of £27,000 in those of nearly 600,000 workpeople.

COST OF LIVING.

At 1st April the average level of retail prices of all the commodities taken into account in the statistics compiled by the Ministry of Labour (including food, rent, clothing, fuel, light and miscellaneous items) was approximately 68 per cent. above that of July, 1914, as compared with 72 per cent. a month ago and 75 per cent. a year ago. The corresponding figures for food alone were 59, 65 and 70 respectively. The decline in the figures since 1st March was mainly due to seasonal reductions in the prices of eggs and milk, but there were also slight reductions in the prices of various other articles of food.

These statistics are designed to indicate the average increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the pre-war standard of living of working-class families. Accordingly, in making the calculations, the changes in the prices of the various items included are combined in proportions corresponding with the relative importance of those items in pre-war working-class family expenditure. Further particulars will be found on page 129.

TRADE DISPUTES.

The number of trade disputes involving stoppages of work reported to the Department as beginning in March was 35. In addition, 28 disputes, which began before March, were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The number of workpeople involved in all disputes in March (including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes) was about 37,000; the estimated aggregate duration of all disputes during March was about 460,000 working days. These figures compare with totals of approximately 22,000 workpeople involved and 366,000 days lost in the previous month.

CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF LABOUR ON HOURS OF WORK IN INDUSTRY.

As stated in the February issue of this GAZETTE, H.M. Government decided to invite the Belgian, French, German and Italian Governments to appoint representatives to attend a conference to consider how far it was possible to secure an international agreement for the regulation of hours of labour in industry. Representatives of the International Labour Organisation were also invited to be present.

The Conference met in London on the 15th March, when the proceedings were opened by the Prime Minister. Sir Arthur Steel-Maitland, the British Minister of Labour, was then appointed Chairman, and the Conference decided to examine the Washington Convention, article by article.

The Conference came to an end on the 19th March, when Sir Arthur Steel-Maitland made the following concluding statement:—

"The Government of Great Britain decided to convene this Conference because it desired to see how far it was possible to secure agreement amongst the principal industrial States as to the principles upon which there could be based an international agreement for the regulation of hours of labour. This was without prejudice to other nations. It is no doubt desirable to obtain agreement among others than those invited, but the possibility of agreement among the four nations here present with us is indispensable if a wider measure of agreement is to be obtained.

In particular, the British Government felt it necessary to examine the difficulties surrounding the Washington Convention and to ascertain to what extent it would be practicable to ensure uniformity of interpretation, combined with assurances as to effective operation and enforcement.

I am sure that we all agree that the Conference has been able greatly to advance the consideration of the whole question of hours of labour from the international standpoint, and I acknowledge with cordiality and gratitude the co-operation of my colleagues to that end. I gladly assure them that I shall for my part submit the conclusions of the Conference to my Government, and I venture to express the hope that the other Ministers present will find themselves able to do likewise."

After replies from the other members of the Conference, the following record of the conclusions of the Conference, registering the agreements reached, was signed:—

Article I.—It is agreed that the Convention applies to all industrial undertakings, whatever the number of persons employed, except those in which only members of the same family are employed.

It is agreed that the ordinary postal, telegraph and telephone service is outside the scope of the Convention, but that constructional, maintenance and repair work in connection with the postal, telegraph and telephone service is covered by it.

Article II.—It is agreed that working hours are the time during which the persons employed are at the disposal of the employer; they do not include rest periods posted in accordance with Article VIII, during which the persons employed are not at the disposal of the employer.

Article V.—It is agreed that the provisions of Article V may be applied to the building trade.

Article VI (a).—The expression "essentially intermittent work" used in Article VI should be interpreted in a restrictive sense.

It applies only to occupations such as those of doorkeepers, watchmen, works firemen and other workers, which are not concerned with production properly so-called, and which, by their nature, are interrupted by long periods of inaction during which these workers have to display neither physical activity nor sustained attention, and remain at their post only to reply to possible calls.

Article VI (b).—It is agreed that the maximum limit to the number of additional hours that may be worked under Article VI (b) is within the competence of national law.

It is agreed that the obligation as to the rate of pay for overtime imposed by the Convention applies only to the additional hours contemplated by Article VI (b).

It is agreed that the minimum additional rate of 25 per cent. for overtime provided for in Article VI is obligatory.

Five-day Week.—A table fixing hours of work over a longer period than the week may be drawn up in a manner similar to that provided for in Article V in order to distribute the hours of work in each week over five days, or in two weeks over eleven days, it being understood that the average working hours may in no case exceed 48 per week.

Weekly Rest Day.—It is agreed that any hours over and above the weekly limit of 48 which are required by the nature of the services rendered to be worked on the weekly rest day other than hours covered by Articles II (c), III, IV and V, shall be treated either as hours to be dealt with under the provisions of national legislation relating to the weekly rest day or as hours to be dealt with under the provisions of Article VI.

Railways.—It is agreed that railways are covered by the Convention. In so far as Article V and Article VI (a) are not sufficient for the needs of the railways, the necessary overtime is permissible under Article VI (b).

Time lost by Holidays.—It is agreed that in cases where a State allows hours to be worked in excess of 48 per week in order to make up time lost by reason of holidays (other than national holidays or holidays with pay), such hours must be included in the maximum

number of hours' overtime fixed in virtue of Article VI, and must be paid for at the overtime rates laid down in the said Article.

Article XIV.—(1) It is agreed that each Government will insert Article XIV in their legislation to carry out the Convention.

(2) It is agreed* that use can only be made of Article XIV in case of a crisis which affects the national economy to such an extent that it threatens the existence of the life of the people. An economic or commercial crisis, however, which concerns only special branches of industry cannot be regarded as endangering the national safety within the meaning of Article XIV, so that in this case the suspension of the Convention would not be justified.

It is agreed that the English, French, German and Italian texts shall be equally authoritative.

It is further agreed by the representatives of the Governments participating in the Conference that they will report to their respective Governments the conclusions, as set out above, which the Conference has been able to reach, so that those Governments who have not ratified the Convention may, taking account of the agreements reached, be in a position to proceed with their consideration of the question of the ratification of the Washington Convention.

The conclusions of the Conference will also be reported formally to the International Labour Office by the British Government, which took the initiative in summoning the Conference.

THE INFLUENCE OF LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES ON THE OFFICIAL UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS.

A MEMORANDUM† has been issued for the purpose of setting out the results of an examination of the extent to which the unemployment figures issued weekly by the Ministry of Labour have been affected by the greater restrictions on the receipt of unemployment benefit which came into operation during the summer of 1925. In particular the memorandum examines the extent to which the reduction in the weekly figures between 27th July and 31st December, 1925, was due, not to a real reduction in the numbers unemployed, but to the omission from the official figures of persons who had been "cut off benefit" by reason of the legislative and administrative changes introduced during 1925.

The method has been adopted of comparing in the first place the numbers of insured persons included in the weekly statistics relating to the registers of Employment Exchanges with the monthly record of unemployment in insured industries as shown by the numbers of lodged unemployment books. The difference between these two series of figures represents what is known as the Two Months File of lodged books. This file contains for a period of two months the unemployment books of insured persons who are not known to be in employment, whether insured or uninsured, but who are not maintaining registration at an Employment Exchange. Generally speaking, such books relate in the main to individuals who have had claims for unemployment benefit disallowed; but inasmuch as they are not maintaining registration for employment they are not included in the weekly figures relating to persons on the Registers. It follows that any abnormal deflation of the Register figures due to increased disallowances of benefit would be reflected in a corresponding increase in the size of the Two Months File. The average of this file during 1924 and 1925, which included measures both of relaxation and of restriction, has been taken as a datum line from which to measure such increases. The memorandum includes a Table covering the period from 27th January, 1924, to 25th January, 1926, showing the division of the Register between insured and uninsured persons, together with the figures of unemployment books lodged, the numbers of books in the Two Months File, the number of claims to benefit disallowed and the numbers of persons who, although disallowed benefit, have maintained registration at Employment Exchanges and who consequently have been included in the Register figures. There is also included a brief summary of the legislative and administrative changes regarding unemployment benefit during the two years 1924 and 1925.

In the second place the memorandum deals with the question whether during the latter half of 1925 there was any inflation of the Dead Files of lodged books. These files in the main consist of books which have passed through the Two Months File. They are subject to continuous shrinkage, due to the removal of books of persons who, after an absence of two months or more from the Exchanges, get insured work or renew a claim to benefit.

The conclusions reached as the result of the examination are as follows:—

(1) So far as regards persons who register at the Exchanges the effect of restrictions on benefit in unduly reducing the numbers of persons on the register at any given date is not greater than the sum, at that date, of the increases (if any) in the Two Months File and the Dead File above normal.

(2) The Two Months File showed at 25th January, 1926, an increase of about 13,700 above normal; while the Dead File showed no increase above normal.

(3) The figure of 13,700 includes some persons who for various reasons should not be counted as unemployed; and the number who ceased to register on account of stricter benefit conditions, though remaining unemployed, is therefore less than 13,700 and probably not more than 10,000.

It is also pointed out that, in comparing these figures with the number of disallowances of claims, it is necessary to bear in mind

* Provisionally on the part of Great Britain.
† Cmd. 2601. H.M. Stationery Office; price 3d.

that the number of disallowances is considerably larger than the number of persons whose claims have been disallowed, and that the number of persons maintaining registration after disallowance of benefit has increased from 19,608 at 27th October, 1924, to 79,422 at 25th January, 1926. These persons are always included in the statistics relating to the registers of Employment Exchanges.

WAGES AND HOURS OF EMPLOYMENT IN THE DRAPERY, MEAT, GROCERY AND CATERING TRADES.

As stated by the Minister of Labour in answer to a question in the House of Commons on the 11th February* investigations have been undertaken into the rates of wages, hours of employment, and degree of industrial organisation in the drapery and allied trades, in the meat distributive trade, and in the catering trade, in order to ascertain whether there was a case for issuing a statutory notice of intention to bring these trades under the Trade Boards Acts. A similar investigation has also been made into the wages, hours, and degree of organisation in the grocery trade. The Reports of these investigations have now been published.†

DRAPERY AND ALLIED TRADES.

For the purposes of this inquiry the trades covered were—

- the drapery and women's and children's outfitting retail distributive trade;
- the men's and boys' outfitting and the bespoke tailoring retail distributive trade; and
- the fancy goods retail distributive trade.

The inquiry was by way of sample. The information relates to July, 1924, and the area covered was Great Britain.

On the basis of the 1921 Census returns it is estimated that approximately 62,000 males and 150,000 females were employed in those branches of trade covered by the inquiry. The distribution in age groups is estimated to be 19,000 males under 21 and 43,000 males of 21 years and over; 37,000 females under 18 years of age, 33,000 females aged 18 to 20 years, inclusive, and 80,000 females aged 21 years and over.

Visits were made to 324 towns in Great Britain, and returns of wages were obtained from 4,395 employers, representing, it is estimated, about 15 per cent. of the employers in these trades. The wages of 17,924 male and 43,495 female workers, or approximately 30 per cent. of the total workers in the trade, were ascertained. Of the males, 8,004 were in the drapery trade, 8,181 in the outfitting trade, and 1,739 in the fancy goods trade. Of the females, 30,055 were in the drapery trade, 2,194 in the outfitting trade, and 11,246 in the fancy goods trade. The proportion of workers who received cash wages only was 85.2 per cent. for males, and 77.0 per cent. for females. Of the remainder, 12.4 per cent. of the males and 16.8 per cent. of the females were supplied with partial board; and only 2.4 per cent. of the males and 6.2 per cent. of the females were "living in." The age distribution of the workers covered by the returns was as follows:—

	Under 18.	18 to 20 (inclusive).	21 and over.
Males	Per cent. 19.9	Per cent. 10.9	Per cent. 69.2
Females	24.6	21.9	53.5

The principal occupations were found to be:—

Males: managers, 1,503; sales assistants, 8,707; errand boys, 3,974.

Females: sales assistants, 35,969; clerks, 3,251; cashiers, 1,390.

RATES OF WAGES.—The ascertained rates of wages are analysed in great detail in thirty-six tables appended to the Report. The wages were found to vary considerably from one district to another, except in the case of male workers aged 21 and over, with whom the general wage level was fairly uniform. In almost all cases the highest range of wage-rates was found in London, and the lowest rates in the South-Western Counties, or the Northern Counties.

For workers under 21 years of age, both male and female, the highest wages appeared to be in the fancy goods trade, and the lowest wages in the drapery trade. On the other hand, for males aged 21 and over the highest wages appeared to be in the outfitting trade, and the lowest wages in the fancy goods trade; and for females aged 21 and over (the most important group numerically) the highest wages appeared to be in the drapery trade, and the lowest in the outfitting trade.

Taking all branches of the trades and all districts together, the prevailing range of weekly wage-rates‡ for each age- and sex-group was as follows:—

Males, under 18: 76.7 per cent. received from 10s. to 20s.

* See the February issue of this GAZETTE, page 40.

† H.M. Stationery Office; prices 4s. net (Drapery Trade Report), 2s. 6d. net (Meat Trade Report), 3s. 6d. net (Grocery Trade Report), and 4s. net (Catering Trade Report).

‡ The figures quoted show the proportion of workpeople of each class, in excess of 50 per cent. of that class, in receipt of remuneration falling between the indicated multiples of 5s., inclusive of both limits.

Males, 18 to 20: 61.7 per cent. received from 20s. to 35s.
Males, 21 and over: 61.2 per cent. received from 50s. to 90s.
Females, under 18: 67.3 per cent. received from 10s. to 20s.
Females, 18 to 20: 83.7 per cent. received from 15s. to 30s.
Females, 21 and over: 54.7 per cent. received from 30s. to 45s.

The lower quartile, median, and upper quartile rates for each of these age- and sex-groups were as follows. In explanation of these terms it should be stated that, if the individuals in a group are ranged in ascending order according to their wages (all those receiving the same wage-rate being each counted separately), then the wages of those who stand most nearly a quarter of the way along the rank, counting from the lower end, are the lower quartile rates; while the wages of those standing nearest to mid-way along the rank are the median rates, and the wages of those standing nearest to three-quarters of the way up the rank are the upper quartile rates.

	Lower Quartile.	Median.	Upper Quartile.
Males, under 18	10s.	13s.	17s.
Males, 18 to 20	15s.	27s.	35s.
Males, 21 and over	51s.	66s.	86s.
Females, under 18	9s.	13s.	18s.
Females, 18 to 20	19s.	23s.	27s.
Females, 21 and over	30s.	35s.	45s.

HOURS OF EMPLOYMENT.—In the combined trades 90.9 per cent. of the male workers and 92.1 per cent. of the female workers were employed for a working week of from 42 to 52 hours; while 74.8 per cent. of the males and 79.4 per cent. of the females worked from 44 to 50 hours per week.

For the purpose of comparing the three trades the percentage numbers of those working 48 or more hours a week have been taken. On this basis the shortest hours were worked in the drapery trade, where 31.2 per cent. of the males, and 26.4 per cent. of the females, worked 48 or more hours a week. The longest hours were in the fancy goods trade, where 73.7 per cent. of the males, and 67.3 per cent. of the females, worked for 48 or more hours a week.

ORGANISATION.—Nearly half of the employers visited were organised in employers' associations. Considerable difficulty was found in ascertaining the degree of organisation among the workers; but after all due allowances have been made it is estimated that not less than 3 per cent., and not more than 10 per cent., of the workers in the combined trades were organised. The great majority of organised workers were found in co-operative societies, four-fifths of the organised workers found in the drapery trade and three-quarters of those in the outfitting trade being employed by such societies. The organisation among workers in the fancy goods trade was almost negligible.

MEAT DISTRIBUTIVE TRADE (WHOLESALE AND RETAIL).

The places and firms visited were selected so as to afford information representative of every type of locality and business. The information relates to July, 1924, and the area covered was Great Britain. The estimated numbers of workers engaged in the trades covered by the inquiry, according to the Census of 1921, were 83,500 males and 15,500 females. Of the males, 19,950 were under 18 years of age, and 10,350 between the ages of 18 and 20 (inclusive); of the females, nearly three-quarters were aged 21 and over.

The inquiry covered wholesale distributors, shipping butchers, retail butchers, pork butchers, sausage and tripe factories, abattoirs, etc. Visits were made to 324 towns, and returns of wages were obtained from 1,829 firms, including a number of multiple firms with a large number of branches. The number of shops visited represents, it is estimated, about 10 per cent. of the butchers' establishments in Great Britain. Returns of wages were obtained in respect of 17,768 male and 1,797 female workers, representing, it is estimated, 20 per cent. of the total workers in the trade.

It was ascertained that the proportion of workers paid cash wages only was 83 per cent. The proportion remunerated by means of cash wages, and also provided with meat or partial board, was 15.7 per cent. in the case of males and 14.7 per cent. in the case of females. The proportion of workers "living in" was only 1.2 per cent. in the case of males, and 2.1 per cent. in the case of females.

Of the 17,768 males covered by the returns received, 4,239 were less than 18 years old, 2,208 were between 18 and 20 (inclusive), and 11,321 were 21 years of age and over. Of the females, over 70 per cent. were 21 years of age and over.

The principal occupational groups for males were managers, inspectors and supervisors, 3,102; sales assistants, 8,414; porters and errand boys, 3,138. The principal occupational group among women and girls was that of clerks and cashiers.

RATES OF WAGES.—There was considerable variation as between one district and another in the rates of wages paid. The districts with the highest wages were London and Yorkshire; while the South-Western and South-Eastern Counties, and (for some classes of workers) the Northern Counties, had generally a range of wages lower than the average.

Taking all districts together, the predominant rates of weekly wages were as follows (females under 21 have been omitted in this summary, owing to their relatively small numbers):—

Males under 18: 79.9 per cent. received from 10s. to 20s.

Males, 18 to 20: 63.0 per cent. received from 20s. to 35s.
Males, 21 and over: 58.9 per cent. received from 55s. to 80s.
Females, 21 and over: 70.1 per cent. received from 25s. to 40s.

The median and upper and lower quartile rates (see page 121) for the above four classes were as follows:—

	Lower Quartile.	Median.	Upper Quartile.
Males under 18	10s.	14s. 6d.	18s.
Males, 18 to 20	20s.	25s.	34s.
Males, 21 and over	55s.	66s.	80s.
Females, 21 and over	29s. 6d.	35s.	40s.

HOURS OF EMPLOYMENT.—It was found that 93 per cent. of the male workers were employed between 44 and 58 hours per week, while 56.3 per cent. were employed from 48 to 54 hours per week.

Among females the percentage working from 44 to 58 hours per week was 89.5, and the percentage working from 48 to 54 hours was 57.0.

ORGANISATION.—59.3 per cent. of the employers, employing 62.8 per cent. of the workers covered by the inquiry, were organised. Considerable difficulty was found in ascertaining the degree of organisation among workers, but after all due allowances have been made it is estimated that not less than 12 per cent. and not more than 25 per cent. of the workers were organised. Organisation was strongest among workers employed by co-operative societies and in the north and north-west of England.

GROCERY AND PROVISIONS TRADE (WHOLESALE AND RETAIL).

The estimated number of persons engaged in the grocery and provision trade, according to the Census of 1921, was 294,959, of whom 24,956 were employers; 41,751 were proprietors not employing labour; and 228,252 were workers. The investigation was made during the period from 27th March to 22nd June, 1925. It covered every county in England and Wales, 654 towns being visited; but Scotland was not visited in this inquiry.

The inquiry covered not only grocers' shops, but also the grocery departments of co-operative societies and departmental stores. Returns of wages were received in respect of 49,766 males and 17,072 females, representing from 28 to 30 per cent. of the estimated number of workers in the trade. It was found that over 95 per cent. of the workers were remunerated by means of cash wages and/or commission only, and the figures given in the Report represent this form of remuneration unless the contrary is stated. The value of partial board (where this was given) was in two-thirds of the cases 2s. 6d. or less per week. The proportion of workers "living in" was extremely small.

Male workers were found to be in the proportion of about two to one to female workers. The figures show that the age at which the largest number of workers is employed is 15, after which there is a decrease, the largest decrease coming between the number of workers aged 20 and the number aged 21. Approximately 50 per cent. of the males and 63 per cent. of the females were found to be under 25 years of age. In view of this fact, the wages of the workers are shown separately in this Report for each year of age from 14 to 24 inclusive; while those of 25 and over are grouped together.

The most important occupational group numerically was that of retail managers, salesmen and shop assistants. In the retail branch of the trade wages information was obtained concerning 28,090 males and 8,648 females in this occupational group.

RATES OF WAGES.—It was found that in the main the wages were highest in London (for both males and females), in Lancashire and the West Riding of Yorkshire (for males), and in the South-Eastern district (for females). They were lowest for both males and females in the South-Western and in the North-Eastern and East Midlands districts.

The following Table shows the median and the upper and lower quartile rates for males and for females at each age from 14 to 24, inclusive, and in the age-group 25 and over. The figures here given relate to the retail trade only; the figures for the wholesale and retail trades taken together (which are given in the Report) differ slightly from those for the retail trade only.

Age.	Males.			Females.		
	Lower Quartile.	Median.	Upper Quartile.	Lower Quartile.	Median.	Upper Quartile.
14	10s.	10s.	12s.	9s.	10s.	12s.
15	11s.	13s.	15s.	10s.	13s.	16s.
16	14s.	16s.	18s.	12s.	15s.	18s.
17	17s.	20s.	23s.	15s.	18s.	21s.
18	20s.	25s.	30s.	18s.	20s.	24s.
19	26s.	30s.	36s.	20s.	23s.	26s.
20	30s.	35s.	42s.	22s.	25s.	30s.
21	35s.	43s.	50s.	24s.	28s.	30s.
22	40s.	48s.	57s.	25s.	29s.	33s.
23	45s.	51s.	60s.	27s.	30s.	34s.
24	48s.	55s.	65s.	28s.	30s.	35s.
25 and over	58s.	66s.	78s.	30s.	35s.	40s.

HOURS OF EMPLOYMENT.—It was found that hours in the wholesale branch of the trade were shorter than in the retail branch, and there was a marked tendency in the wholesale branch for females to work

shorter hours than males. In the wholesale branch 79.7 per cent. of the male and 67.4 per cent. of the female workers were employed between 44 and 52 hours per week; while in the retail branch 82.8 per cent. of the male and 81.9 per cent. of the female workers were employed between 48 and 56 hours per week.

ORGANISATION.—74.2 per cent. of the employers in the wholesale branch and 54.7 per cent. of those in the retail branch were found to be organised. Only 2.4 per cent. of the workers (excluding those employed by co-operative societies) were found to be organised. On the other hand, 84.6 per cent. of the workers employed by co-operative societies were organised.

CATERING TRADE.

The inquiry was limited to establishments engaged in the light refreshment and dining room (non-licensed) branch of the catering trade, the types of firms visited including tea-rooms, dining rooms, restaurants, cafés, fried fish shops, etc. It is estimated that the number of workers employed in the branch of the trade covered by the inquiry does not exceed 10,000 males and 90,000 females; as the Census returns do not distinguish between workers in licensed and in unlicensed establishments, the above figures are approximations.

Visits were made to 283 towns in Great Britain, and returns of wages were received from 3,601 employers, in respect of 3,405 male and 36,306 female workers, representing about 40 per cent. of the total number employed in this branch of the trade. The information relates to January, 1925.

The workers are remunerated by various combinations of cash wages, tips, meals, and lodging. In addition some disturbance of wage levels is caused by deductions for breakages, and by the provision and laundering of uniform. Of the 15,596 waitresses in respect of whom wages returns were received, 11,001 received tips; of the waiters, 243 out of 408 received tips. The percentages of male and of female workers provided with meals in addition to cash wages (and/or tips where received) were 84.3 and 94.2, respectively; the wages Tables in the Report relate almost entirely to this class of worker, and the figures in the present summary are confined, for reasons of space, to these workers. A relatively small number were employed under the "living-in" system, while a still smaller number received no allowances of meals or lodging. Tips were ascertained from the employers' estimates, checked, in very many cases, by confidential reference to the employees themselves. Employers were asked to state the estimated cost to them of the meals and/or lodging provided, and the information was checked in the light of the general character of the establishments and the detailed experience of the investigators.

The principal occupational groups were waitresses and female kitchen hands, who together covered 82.2 per cent. of the female workers included in the returns. Most of the workers employed in the trade are adults, the percentage of workers 21 years of age and over being 77.0 for males and 72.6 for females.

RATES OF REMUNERATION.—The following summary relates to the weekly receipts of female workers only, though corresponding particulars are given for male workers also in the Report. As stated, the particulars given below relate in all cases to workers receiving meals. The highest rates were generally found in London, or (for certain classes of workers) in the Midland Counties; and the lowest rates in the Northern Counties and Wales.

Age Group (females).	Cash receipts only (i.e., wages and tips, where received).		Total remuneration (including estimated value of meals).	
	Percentage receiving predominant range.	Predominant range (inclusive).	Percentage receiving predominant range.	Predominant range (inclusive).
Under 18	69.0	10s. to 20s.	66.7	15s. 1d. to 25s.
18 to 20	67.2	15s. to 25s.	79.2	20s. 1d. to 35s.
21 and over	68.7	20s. to 35s.	67.8	25s. 1d. to 40s.

The median and upper and lower quartile rates (see page 121) for female workers provided with meals were as follows:—

Age Group (females).	Cash receipts only (i.e., wages and tips, where received).			Total remuneration (including estimated value of meals).		
	Lower Quartile.	Median.	Upper Quartile.	Lower Quartile.	Median.	Upper Quartile.
Under 18	10s.	14s.	17s.	19s.	22s.	25s.
18 to 20	18s. 11s.	21s.	24s. 6d.	22s. 15s.	26s.	31s.
21 and over	21s.	25s.	31s.	29s.	33s.	40s.

HOURS OF EMPLOYMENT.—The percentage working between 44 and 52 hours per week was 64.0 per cent. for males and 74.2 per cent. for females. The proportion of employees working over 48 hours was 58.3 per cent. for males and 36.6 per cent. for females.

ORGANISATION.—16.6 per cent. of the employers visited were organised in employers' associations, but 63.5 per cent. of the workers included in the inquiry were employed by these organised employers. After making all due allowances, it is estimated that not more than 5 per cent. of the workers were organised; organisation appeared to be most extensive in Yorkshire and in the Northern Counties.

THE PERSONAL FACTOR IN ACCIDENT CAUSATION.

THE Industrial Fatigue Research Board have issued a Report* containing a study by Miss E. M. Newbold, B.A., one of their investigators, into the personal factor in accident causation.

The question has been dealt with to some extent in two earlier Reports of the Board.† One of these gave the results of an investigation based on data collected in munition factories during the war, which indicated that the distribution of accidents was largely influenced by a special personal susceptibility inherent in the individual and differing from one individual to another. Some workers are more liable to suffer casualties than others; and there are grounds for thinking that the bulk of accidents may occur among a limited number of individuals having a special personal susceptibility to accidents.

The present Report contains the result of a statistical enquiry based on accident records specially kept for the purpose by thirteen firms, employing 8,962 workpeople (6,938 men and 2,024 women), the periods of observation covering from three months to two years. The number of accidents observed was 16,183; the term "accidents" including any injury, however slight, which was recorded as treated either in the ambulance room or from ambulance boxes. The firms supplying the information were engaged in a great variety of industries.

The results of the investigation go to support the conclusion reached by earlier inquiries, as to the existence of special individual susceptibility. It has been shown that the average number of accidents in any homogeneous group is much influenced by a comparatively small number of workers; from which it follows that the elimination of comparatively few specially susceptible workers from "risky" occupations would go far to reduce the number of industrial accidents. The Board have, therefore, initiated investigations on the further point, how these individuals having a special susceptibility to accident may be discovered, with a view to their removal from "risky" occupations, otherwise than by the test of actual experience.

The Report draws attention to a statistical test, suitable for application to departmental accident returns, in order to show whether the average number of accidents is due to conditions affecting all the workers in about the same degree, or whether it is largely due to a small group of persons having many accidents. Clearly, different remedies for these two cases are indicated. In the former case, the accidents probably arise mainly from causes affecting all the workers alike, and the remedy lies in some general alteration of the conditions under which work is carried on; in the latter, further detailed observation of the small groups affected is called for, and if no special cause is found in their individual conditions of work, and the reporting of accidents is satisfactory, then the accidents are largely personal in origin, and can be reduced by transferring certain individuals to work involving less exposure to risk.

Other points brought out by the investigation are as follows:— There is a tendency for the number of accidents to decrease to some extent with age, and apparently also, though to a less extent, with length of service in the factory; but, when allowance is made for age, there is no independent association between experience and accidents; while, when allowance is made for experience, the association between accidents and age remains.

A decreasing tendency towards serious accidents as age advances is shown not to be necessarily inconsistent with the known higher accident mortality and invalidity rates among older workers; but the present data do not include enough serious accidents to establish any relation between the tendencies to trivial and to serious accidents.

The people who have the most accidents are, on the whole, those who pay most visits to the ambulance room for minor sicknesses.

The consistency of individual tendency to accident is shown by the association found between (1) accidents in two different periods, (2) accidents of one type and accidents of other types, and (3) accidents in the factory and accidents at home.

SHIPBUILDING IN THE QUARTER ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1926.

ACCORDING to Lloyd's Register Quarterly Shipbuilding Returns, the gross tonnage of merchant vessels under construction in Great Britain and Ireland at the end of March, 1926, amounted to 843,070 tons, as compared with 885,013 tons at the end of December, 1925, and 1,165,468 tons at the end of March, 1925. The present total is the lowest recorded since September, 1909, the average tonnage building during the twelve months immediately preceding the war being 1,890,000 tons. The tonnage on which work was suspended at the end of March, 1926, amounted to nearly 80,000 tons, as compared with 74,000 tons at the end of March, 1925. The tonnage of motor ships building at the end of March, 1926, equalled 52.7 per cent. of the steam tonnage under construction.

An appreciable increase is shown in the tonnage commenced during the quarter, viz., 193,121 tons, as compared with 160,986 tons during the previous quarter.

The tonnage launched during the quarter, viz., 190,705 tons, is 25,776 tons lower than that for the previous quarter.

The total horse-power of the marine engines building or being installed on board vessels in Great Britain and Ireland at the end of March, 1926, amounted to 612,678 h.p.

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

* Industrial Fatigue Research Board: Report No. 34. H.M. Stationery Office; price 5s. net.
† Reports No. 4 (published in 1919) and 19 (published in 1922). H.M. Stationery Office; price 6d. net and 1s. 6d. net, respectively.

VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE FOR CHILDREN ENTERING INDUSTRY.

THE Industrial Fatigue Research Board have issued a Report* containing the results of an investigation conducted, in co-operation with the National Institute of Industrial Psychology, by four investigators, under the general direction of Professor Cyril Burt. Numerous investigations have been made into the problem of vocational selection, that is to say, the selection of the most suitable employees for a particular kind of work; but this is the first investigation carried out in this country on the subject of vocational guidance, that is to say, the application of psychological methods (such as standard intelligence tests) as a means of guiding young people in their choice of employment.

The investigation was carried out in a London borough, so selected as to provide a wide variety of typical occupations. The figures relate to elementary schools only; and the figures for professional or semi-professional callings are, therefore, much smaller than they would have been if pupils from the secondary schools had been included.

As a preliminary, an analysis of the occupations of two thousand children (1,000 boys and 1,000 girls) leaving eighteen representative schools in this borough during the years 1919 to 1922 was taken. Of the boys, 0.4 per cent. were going to secondary or technical schools (without immediate employment); 8.1 per cent. were taking up clerical or highly skilled work in offices, engineering (with training or continued education), etc.; while 25.5 per cent. were going into skilled, 30.1 per cent. into semi-skilled, and 35.9 per cent. into unskilled occupations. The corresponding percentages for girls were 0.3, 8.2, 33.0, 34.9 and 23.6 respectively. The high proportion of unskilled occupations among boys was largely due to the number who became errand boys and van boys (14.1 per cent. and 5.2 per cent., respectively).

Next, an intensive individual study was made of all the children who were due to leave three selected schools in the borough during the following twelve months, covering home conditions, the physical condition of each child, and the mental condition (under sixteen sub-divisions). At the close of the inquiry all the data obtained for each individual child were collected together, and vocational recommendations were made by the investigators discussing each child singly in the committee. A brief letter was sent to the parents, stating what form of employment seemed best fitted to their child. After an interval of about two years all the homes were revisited; and a special inquiry was carried out, to discover how many of the children had obtained employment of the type recommended, and to compare their progress with that of the children unable to follow the investigators' advice. Of 100 children covered by this part of the investigation all but six were traced. Two were found to be out of work; 30 were in employment of the type recommended; 22 were in employment similar to that recommended; and 40 were in employment dissimilar to that recommended.

The principal conclusions to which the inquiries as regards these 100 children have led are thus stated in the Report:—

Judged by the after-histories of the several children, those who entered occupations of the kind recommended have proved both efficient and contented in their work. As compared with their fellows, they are, on an average, in receipt of higher pay; they have generally obtained promotion earlier; they have experienced fewer changes of situation; and have incurred hardly a single dismissal between them. Over 80 per cent. declare themselves satisfied alike with the work they have taken and with their prospects and their pay. On the other hand, of those who obtained employment different from the kind advised, less than 40 per cent. are satisfied. Among the latter group nearly half dislike their work; and among the former only one dislikes it.

Perhaps the best established conclusion in the whole inquiry is the number and complexity of the factors involved in any attempt at vocational guidance. Not one, but a dozen or more considerations must be duly studied and weighed, before any accurate decision can be reached upon what particular career a child can best be advised to take up. It is clear that, to be genuinely worth while, such a decision must not be based upon a short ten-minute's consultation; it must be founded upon an intensive inquiry, wherever such inquiry is possible, into all the conditions of the case.

TRADE FACILITIES ACT, 1926.

THE Trade Facilities Acts, 1921 to 1925, empower the Treasury to give guarantees in respect of loans raised for the purpose of carrying out capital undertakings calculated to promote employment in this country up to a limit which was raised, in April, 1925, to £70,000,000.

An amending Act, entitled the Trade Facilities Act, 1926, which received the Royal Assent on the 26th March, extends the maximum limit of the loans, the principal or interest of which may be guaranteed under the Trade Facilities Acts, to £75,000,000; and extends the period within which guarantees may be given up to the 31st March, 1927.

The Act also extends the Overseas Trade Acts, 1920 to 1924, by empowering the Board of Trade to give guarantees at any time before the 8th September, 1929, and to extend the date up to which guarantees may remain in force to the 8th September, 1933.

* A Study in Vocational Guidance: Report No. 33 of the Industrial Fatigue Research Board. H.M. Stationery Office; price 4s. net.

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

THERE was a further improvement in employment during March. Employment was good, on the whole, with brickmakers, with skilled operatives in the building trades, and in most sections of the printing trades; it was fairly good in some branches of the metal and clothing trades, in the furnishing trade, and with coachbuilders and millers. In coal mining it was still slack, and in iron and steel manufacture, shipbuilding, and marine engineering it continued bad. Among the principal industries the improvement during March was most marked in building and public works contracting and in the clothing trades; but minor improvements were also recorded in many other industries, including iron and steel, brick, pottery, woollen and worsted, silk, and linen manufacture.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

Among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts, numbering approximately 11,892,000, and working in practically every industry, except agriculture and private domestic service, the percentage unemployed at 22nd March, 1926, was 9.8, as compared with 10.5 at 22nd February, 1926, and with 11.1 at 23rd March, 1925. For males alone the percentage at 22nd March was 10.9, as compared with 11.5 at 22nd February; for females the figures at 22nd March were 7.1, as compared with 7.7 at 22nd February. Among members of Trade Unions from which returns were received, the percentage unemployed was 10.1 at the end of March, 1926, as compared with 10.4 at the end of February, 1926, and with 9.0 at the end of March, 1925. The total number of persons (insured and uninsured) registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 29th March, 1926, was approximately 1,070,000, of whom 842,000 were men and 175,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls; at 1st March, 1926, it was 1,169,000, of whom 911,000 were men and 194,000 were women; and at 30th March, 1925, it was 1,249,000, of whom men numbered 959,000 and women 228,000.

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

Month.	Percentage Unemployed (at or near end of month) among			Numbers registered at Local Offices (Insured and Uninsured).
	Trade Unions making Returns.	Males.	Females.		Total.
1925.				
March ...	9.0	11.9	8.9	1,249,000
April ...	9.4	11.7	8.8	1,251,000
May ...	10.1	11.8	8.5	1,253,000
June ...	12.3	15.0	8.6	1,368,000
July ...	11.2	11.8	9.5	1,252,000
August ...	11.4	13.1	9.5	1,418,000
September ...	11.4	13.3	8.5	1,401,000
October ...	11.3	12.7	7.7	1,295,000
November ...	11.0	12.2	7.8	1,227,000
December ...	11.0	11.6	7.3	1,166,000
1926.				
January ...	10.6	12.1	8.1	1,237,000
February ...	10.4	11.5	7.7	1,169,000
March ...	10.1	10.9	7.1	1,070,000

EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

Mining and Quarrying.—Employment at coal mines continued slack on the whole. The total number of wage-earners on the colliery books at 27th March was 1,111,912, an increase of 0.4 per cent. as compared with 27th February, but a decrease of 1.3 per cent. as compared with March, 1925. In the fortnight ended 27th March, 1926, the average number of days worked per week was 5.30, as compared with 5.37 in February, 1926, and 5.20 in March, 1925.

At iron mines employment continued bad in the Cleveland district, and varied from fair to bad in other districts. At the mines covered by the returns received there was an increase of 0.6 per cent. in the numbers employed as compared with the previous month, but a decrease of 13.1 per cent. as compared with March, 1925. The average number of days worked per week by the mines that were working was 5.86 in March 1926, 5.74 in February, 1926, and 5.69 in March, 1925. Returns from the shale mines in West Lothian that had re-opened showed a slight decline in employment, as compared with the previous month. At limestone quarries employment continued moderate; at slate quarries in North Wales it was reported as fairly good. At whinstone quarries in the East of Scotland it was bad. At tin mines in Devon and Cornwall employment continued good; at china clay quarries it was fairly good.

* At 21st December.
† At 22nd February.
‡ At 22nd March.

Manufacture of Pig Iron, Iron and Steel, and Tinplate.—In the pig-iron industry employment showed a further slight improvement but was still bad; of a total of 475 furnaces, the number in blast at the end of March was 151, as compared with 146 in February, 1926, and 169 in March, 1925. In the iron and steel trades employment continued bad. Employment in the tinplate trade was moderate and showed a decline; in the steel sheet trade it continued fair. The number of tinplate and steel sheet mills in operation at the end of March, 1926, was 513, as compared with 520 at the end of February, 1926, and with 453 in March, 1925.

Engineering, Shipbuilding, and Metal Trades.—Employment in engineering continued bad on the whole, but showed a further slight improvement. In the marine engineering section it remained very bad, and in the textile machinery section considerable short time was worked. Employment continued fair in electrical engineering, and in motor and cycle work, where an improvement was reported. At railway works full time generally remained in operation. In the shipbuilding and ship-repairing trades employment showed a slight decline and was very bad. In the other metal trades employment was fair on the whole. It was good in the lock, latch and key trade; fairly good in the hollow-ware, stove and grate, brasswork, needle and fishing tackle, and nut and bolt trades; fair in the sheet metal and tube trades; moderate in the metallic bedstead, cutlery, file, and wire trades; and bad in the jewellery and plated ware, copper, chain and anchor, and anvil and vice trades.

Textile Trades.—Employment in all sections of the cotton trade, except the Egyptian spinning section, continued slack, and showed little general change as compared with the previous month; operatives in the section spinning Egyptian cotton were fairly well employed. In the wool textile industry employment showed a slight improvement as compared with February and less short time was worked in some of the principal districts. Employment in the hosiery trade showed little change as compared with the previous month; in the lace trade there was a slight improvement but employment was still bad, with much short time working; in the linen trade employment was also slack, but slightly better than during the previous month; in the jute trade it showed a decline and was slack, with much short time working. In the textile bleaching, printing, dyeing, etc. trades employment continued slack on the whole, and short time working was still fairly general.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the retail bespoke branch of the tailoring trade continued slack generally, but showed a slight seasonal improvement at some centres; in the wholesale bespoke and ready-made branch it showed an improvement and was good, with some shortage of skilled labour. In the dressmaking and millinery trades there was a further seasonal improvement, and employment was fairly good; in the shirtmaking trade it was also fairly good; in the corset trade it was fair. In the felt-hat trade employment showed an improvement, but short time was still worked. In the boot and shoe trade employment showed a further slight improvement in some of the principal centres, and towards the end of the month many firms were busy getting out orders before the Easter holidays.

Leather Trades.—In the leather trades employment showed a slight improvement on the whole; in tanning and currying, and in the portmanteau, trunk, and fancy leather section it was fair; with saddlery and harness makers at Walsall it continued bad.

Building, Woodworking, etc.—Employment in the building trades showed a further seasonal improvement, especially in the painting and decorating section; it was good in most districts with skilled operatives, and generally moderate with unskilled workers. It was very good generally with bricklayers and plasterers, good with masons, carpenters and joiners and fairly good with slaters; with plumbers it continued fairly good; with skilled painters it was also fairly good at most centres; with tradesmen's labourers it continued moderate. With brickmakers employment was good, and full time was worked in most districts.

Employment in the furnishing trades and with coachbuilders showed an improvement and was fairly good; with millers it continued fairly good; with coopers employment was bad; with packing-case makers it was also bad, but some improvement was reported.

Paper Manufacture, Printing, and Bookbinding.—Employment in the paper trade continued generally fair. In the letterpress printing trade employment showed an improvement, and was good in most of the large centres; with electrotypers and stereotypers it continued very good in London and at Edinburgh, and good elsewhere; in the lithographic section it was fair on the whole, but showed a decline at several centres. In the bookbinding trade employment generally was fair.

Pottery and Glass.—Employment in the pottery trades showed a further slight improvement but was still slack on the whole; in the sanitary ware and fireclay branches, however, it was reported to be good. In the glass trades employment showed an improvement; it was still bad on the whole, however, in the glass bottle-making section; in other sections it was fair.

Agriculture and Fishing.—In agriculture in England and Wales the supply of labour was generally sufficient for requirements, but casual labour for potato planting was not always easy to obtain in a few districts. With fishermen employment continued fair.

Dock Labour and Seamen.—Employment with seamen continued slack on the whole; with dock labourers it continued moderate generally.

TRADE UNION PERCENTAGES OF UNEMPLOYED.

TRADE Unions with a net membership of 980,127 in branches covered by the returns received, reported 99,271 (or 10.1 per cent.) of their members as unemployed at the end of March, 1926, compared with 10.4 per cent. at the end of February, 1926, and 9.0 per cent. at the end of March, 1925.

Trade.	Member-ship of Unions reporting at end of Mar., 1926.	Unemployed at end of March 1926.*		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		Num-ber.	Per-cent-age.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Coal Mining ...	143,860	26,648	18.5	- 0.2	+ 3.8
Engineering and Ship-building ...	342,845	51,366	15.0	- 0.2	+ 1.3
Miscellaneous Metal ...	49,550	3,000	6.1	+ 0.3	- 0.4
Textiles:—					
Cotton ...	58,597	3,489†	6.0	+ 0.2	+ 1.3
Other ...	68,253	1,999	2.9	- 0.2	- 0.4
Printing, Bookbinding and Paper ...	106,223‡	2,881	2.7	- 0.5	...
Furnishing ...	29,209	1,818	6.2	- 1.1	+ 1.5
Woodworking ...	38,611	1,949	5.0	- 0.9	+ 1.4
Clothing:—					
Boot and Shoe ...	81,779	2,611	3.2	- 0.5	- 0.5
Other Clothing ...	47,475	1,836	3.9	...	+ 2.7
Leather ...	5,634	639	11.3	- 0.3	+ 2.5
Glass ...	1,215	29	2.4	- 0.1	+ 0.1
Tobacco§	6,876	1,006	14.6	+ 1.5	- 10.4
Total ...	980,127	99,271	10.1	- 0.3	+ 1.1

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED INDUSTRIES.

THE percentage unemployed among workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was 9.8 per cent. (males 10.9 per cent., females 7.1 per cent.) at 22nd March, 1926, as compared with 10.5 per cent. (males 11.5 per cent., females 7.7 per cent.) at 22nd February, 1926, and 11.1 per cent. (males 11.9 per cent., females 8.9 per cent.) at 23rd March, 1925. Tables showing the numbers unemployed in the principal industries appear on pages 138 to 141.

SUMMARY OF EMPLOYERS' RETURNS.

INFORMATION as to the state of employment in certain industries in March, derived from returns furnished by employers and employers' associations, is summarised below. Further details are given on pages 132 to 137.

(a) CERTAIN MINING AND METAL TRADES.

Trade.	Workpeople included in the Returns for March, 1926.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a		
		March, 1926.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Coal Mining ...	1,111,912	5.30	- 0.07	+ 0.10
Iron " ...	7,204	5.86	+ 0.12	+ 0.17
Shale " ...	2,587	5.75	+ 0.07	- 0.13
		Days Worked per week by Mines.	Days.	Days.
Pig Iron ...	...	Furnaces in Blast 151	Number + 5	Number - 18
Tinplate and Steel Sheet ...	...	Mills Working 513	- 7	+ 60
Iron and Steel ...	75,407	Shifts Worked (one week) 404,399	Per cent. + 0.4	Per cent. + 4.0

(b) OTHER TRADES.

Trade.	Number of Workpeople Employed.			Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 27th Mar., 1926.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 27th Mar., 1926.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Textiles:—						
Cotton ...	81,918	+ 0.2	- 2.3	154,131	+ 0.9	- 3.8
Woollen ...	66,205	- 0.3	- 2.9†	134,732	+ 1.1	- 1.6‡
Worsted ...	94,246	+ 0.7	+ 0.4§	181,568	+ 0.2	+ 6.7¶
Boot and Shoe ...	51,289	+ 0.2	- 0.5	124,375	+ 1.5	+ 2.6
Pottery ...	11,876	+ 0.3	- 0.3	22,401	+ 2.0	- 0.4
Brick ...	9,474	+ 2.2	+ 10.0	26,696	+ 5.6	+ 14.4||

* 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. Persons on strike or locked out are also excluded.

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

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

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

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

|| Comparison as explained in the article on page 83 of last month's GAZETTE.

EMPLOYMENT CHART.

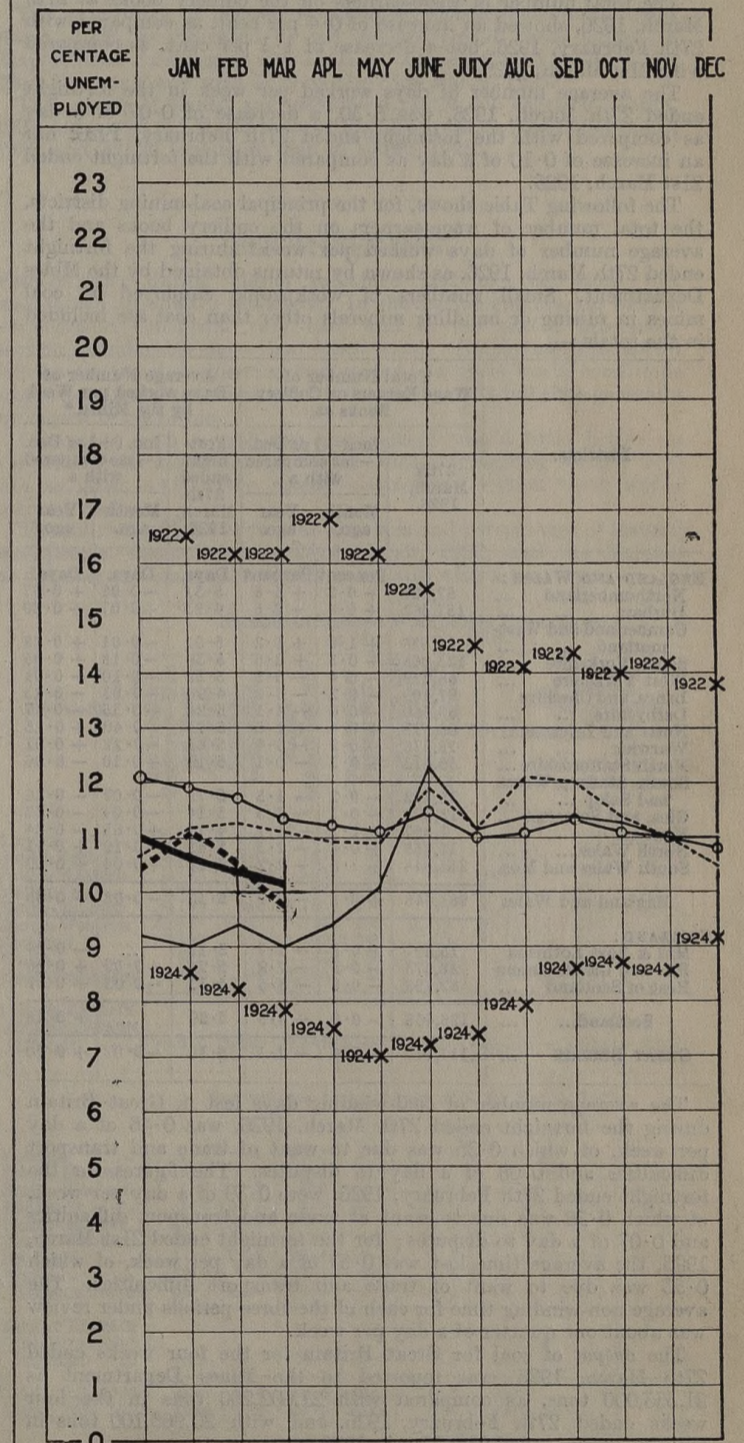
(1) PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT THE END OF EACH MONTH AMONG MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS:—

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

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

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

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



NOTE.

The figures relate to Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The Trade Union Returns are furnished by various Trade Unions which pay unemployment benefit to their members. Persons on strike or locked out, sick or superannuated, are excluded from the figures. Detailed figures are given in the previous column.

The figures for insured workpeople are briefly explained, and are analysed in detail, on pages 138 to 141.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED INDUSTRIES.

THE statistics here presented show, industry by industry, the estimated number of persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, the number and percentage of such persons who were unemployed on the 22nd March, 1926, and the increase or decrease at that date in the total percentages unemployed compared with a month earlier, a year ago, and two years ago, respectively.

The Unemployment Insurance Acts provide, subject to certain exceptions, for the compulsory insurance against unemployment of substantially all employed persons. The principal classes of persons who are exempted from such compulsory insurance are juveniles under 16 years of age, persons employed otherwise than by way of manual labour at a rate of remuneration exceeding in value £250 per annum, persons employed in agriculture and private domestic service, and outworkers. Persons employed by local public authorities, railways and certain other public utility undertakings, members of the police forces, and persons with rights under a statutory superannuation scheme may, in certain circumstances, also be exempted.

An unemployment book, on which is recorded, inter alia, the industry in which he is employed is issued to every insured person, and this book must be lodged at an Employment Exchange whenever the insured person to whom it relates makes a claim for unemployment benefit, or, without claiming benefit, ceases to be employed in an insured trade. The book must be removed and deposited with the employer for stamping as soon as employment in an insured trade is resumed.

Insured persons who are disqualified for the receipt of unemployment benefit under the trade dispute disqualification are not included in the numbers unemployed, unless they are definitely maintaining registration for other employment.

The files of "lodged" books at the Employment Exchanges thus furnish for each industrial group a record of the unemployment of insured persons. In arriving at this figure the books of those persons who are known to be working in an uninsured trade, or to be sick or deceased, or who are known to have emigrated or gone

abroad, are of course excluded. In cases where information on these points is lacking the books remain in the "lodged" files, and are included in the statistics of unemployment, for a period of two months from the date on which the insured person was last in touch with the Employment Exchange.

This last item determines in the main the difference between the total number of unemployed persons given in the following Table and the figure given on page 142 showing the total number of persons registered at Employment Exchanges. The difference would be greater were it not that this latter figure includes uninsured persons who are maintaining registration. These do not appear in the figures of "books lodged," which relate solely to insured persons.

The statistics of unemployment in insured industries are presented in two separate Tables, one showing the numbers recorded as unemployed, and the other showing the estimated number insured and the percentages unemployed.

Each of these Tables gives an analysis of the figures, distinguishing between persons who are wholly unemployed (in the sense that they are definitely without a job) and those who are temporarily stopped or suspended from the service of an employer. The figures under the heading "temporary stoppages" include those persons recorded as unemployed on the date of the return who were either on short time or were otherwise stood off or suspended on the definite understanding that they were to return to their former employment within a period of six weeks from the date of suspension. In cases where there was no definite prospect of return within six weeks the individuals have been included in the statistics as "wholly unemployed." The only exception to this rule arises in the small number of cases where, although the expectation of resumption within the six weeks' period was not realised, a definite date for resumption of work had nevertheless been fixed. In such cases the individuals concerned have been included under the heading "temporary stoppages." The figures given in the grand total columns in both Tables are strictly comparable with the corresponding figures published each month since July, 1923.

NUMBERS OF INSURED PERSONS RECORDED AS UNEMPLOYED AT 22ND MARCH, 1926.

Table with columns for Industry, Wholly Unemployed (Males, Females, Total), Temporary Stoppages (Males, Females, Total), and Total (Males, Females, Total) for Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and Great Britain Only. Includes categories like Fishing, Mining, Non-Metalliferous Mining Products, Glass Trades, Ammunition, Metal Manufacture, Engineering, etc.

Table showing Unemployment in Insured Industries for Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and Great Britain Only. Columns include Industry, Wholly Unemployed (Males, Females, Total), Temporary Stoppages (Males, Females, Total), and Total (Males, Females, Total). Includes categories like Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing, Metal Trades, Textile Trades, Leather and Leather Goods, Clothing Trades, Food, Drink and Tobacco, Sawmilling, Furniture and Woodwork, Printing and Paper Trades, Building and Construction of Works, Other Manufacturing Industries, Gas, Water and Electricity Supply, Transport and Communication, Distributive Trades, Commercial, Banking, Insurance and Finance, and Miscellaneous Trades and Services.

* Including 78,296 Casuals (Males 77,192, Females 1,104).

NUMBERS INSURED AND PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED.

Table with columns: INDUSTRY, ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AT JULY, 1925, PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 22ND MARCH, 1926 (Wholly Unemployed, Temporary Stoppages, Total), INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN TOTAL PERCENTAGES AS COMPARED WITH 22ND FEB., 23RD MAR., 24TH MAR., 1924, and GREAT BRITAIN ONLY. TOTAL PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 22ND MAR., 1926.

Table for GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND. Columns: INDUSTRY, ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AT JULY, 1925 (Males, Females, Total), PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 22ND MARCH, 1926 (Wholly Unemployed, Temporary Stoppages, Total), INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN TOTAL PERCENTAGES AS COMPARED WITH 22ND FEB., 23RD MAR., 24TH MAR., 1924, and GREAT BRITAIN ONLY. TOTAL PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 22ND MAR., 1926.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES.

At 29th March, 1926, the total number of persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain was 1,013,609; in Great Britain and Northern Ireland it was 1,069,993. Comparative figures for men, boys, women, and girls separately, for 22nd February and 29th March, are given below :-

Table comparing Employment Exchanges for Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Columns: 22nd Feb. 1926, 29th March, 1926 (Total, Persons normally in regular employment, Wholly Unemployed, Temporary Stoppages, Persons normally in Casual Employment, Total).

The following Table gives particulars relating to certain branches of the work of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland during the four weeks ended 29th March, 1926. Of the 102,874 vacancies filled, 59,451 were for men, 25,049 for women, and 18,374 for juveniles.

Table showing Applications from Employers and Vacancies Filled. Columns: Week ended, Applications from Employers (During Week, At end of Week), Vacancies Filled, Number of Work-people on Registers.

* The figures include all workpeople on the Registers of Exchanges, including persons "suspended" or "stood off" and those who, although employed on a basis of systematic short time, were not actually at work on the date in question. + "Vacancies filled" include certain types of cases (described as Class B placements) in which the work of the Exchanges was limited; for instance, obtaining for an employer former employees or placing the same men on relief works in alternate weeks. During the four weeks ended 1st March, 1926, the average number of such placements was 5,740 per week. The average number of placements of casual workers, such as dock labourers and coal porters, during the four weeks ended 29th March, 1926, was 975 per week.

The following Table shows for each of the Employment Exchange administrative areas, and for the principal towns therein, the number of persons registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland on 29th March, 1926.

Table showing the number of persons on registers at 29th March, 1926, broken down by area (London, South-Eastern, South-Western, Midlands, North-Eastern, North-Western, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, Great Britain and Northern Ireland) and by gender (Men, Women, Juveniles, Total).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE STATISTICS: GREAT BRITAIN.

On page 138 an explanation is given of the unemployment statistics published weekly in the Press, and monthly in this GAZETTE. The following Table gives figures relating to the 22nd March, 1926, for the total of each group included in those statistics.

Table showing the composition of unemployment statistics as of 22nd March, 1926, categorized by group (1. Unemployed - Special Schemes, 2. Claims admitted or under consideration, etc.) and by gender (Men, Boys, Women, Girls, Total).

NUMBER OF CLAIMS TO BENEFIT. During the four weeks ended 22nd March, 1926, 607,632 fresh claims were added to the register, while 688,153 claims were removed from the register.

CLAIMS TO EXTENDED BENEFIT. Claims to "extended" benefit—i.e., benefit beyond that to which the claimant is entitled in respect of contributions paid—are submitted for recommendation to the Local Employment Committees, composed, in the main, of representatives of employers and workpeople.

Table showing applications considered by committees during the period, applications admitted by committees during the period, and applications definitely recommended for disallowance during the period, categorized by general and special conditions.

UNEMPLOYMENT FUND. During the four weeks ended 27th March, 1926, the receipts and payments of the Unemployment Fund were approximately as shown in the following Table; figures for the four weeks ended 27th February, 1926, and for the four weeks ended 28th March, 1925, are also given for purposes of comparison.

Table comparing contributions (receipts) and payments of the Unemployment Fund for four weeks ended 27th March 1926, 28th March 1925, and 27th Feb 1926.

* Includes refunds at age 60 and compensation for the abolition thereof, cost of administration, etc.

PRINCIPAL VARIATIONS IN NUMBERS OF INSURED PERSONS RECORDED AS UNEMPLOYED.

The following Table indicates for Great Britain and Northern Ireland the industries in which the numbers of insured persons recorded as unemployed at 22nd March, 1926, differed from the figures for 22nd February, 1926, to the extent of 1,000 or more.

The Table shows the increases and decreases for males and for females separately, together with the total net variation for all insured industries.

Table showing principal variations in numbers of insured persons recorded as unemployed at 22nd March, 1926, as compared with 22nd February, 1926, by industry (Building, Tailoring, Distributive Trades, etc.) and by gender (Males, Females, Total).

NUMBER OF PERSONS REGISTERED AT EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES NOVEMBER, 1925—MARCH, 1926.

In the issues of this GAZETTE for October, 1924 (page 353), May, 1925 (page 157) and November, 1925 (page 381), statements were published giving the numbers of persons registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain in each week from 7th January, 1921, to 2nd November, 1925.

Owing to the exclusion of Northern Ireland, these figures differ from those given in the Table on page 130, which relate to Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Table showing the number of persons registered at employment exchanges in Great Britain from November 1925 to March 1926, by date and number.

NORTHERN IRELAND UNEMPLOYMENT FUND.

By the Unemployment Insurance (Northern Ireland Agreement) Act, 1926, passed on 26th March, effect was given to an Agreement between the British Treasury and the Ministry of Finance for Northern Ireland, made with the object of maintaining the British and Northern Ireland Unemployment Funds financially on a parity.

* This group, which includes miscellaneous industries, corresponds with that under the same heading in the Table on pages 139 and 141.

favourable in Northern Ireland than in Great Britain, and the Northern Ireland Exchequer makes to its Unemployment Fund an "equalisation payment" sufficient to bring it to a parity, as regards that year's working, with the British Unemployment Fund.

The Agreement operates for the period from 30th September, 1925, to 31st March, 1930.

It is estimated that for the period 30th September, 1925, to 31st March, 1926, a grant of about £685,000 became due from the British Exchequer to the Northern Ireland Exchequer, and a payment on account, as provided by the Act, was made accordingly on the 30th March.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COMMITTEE.

MEETINGS of the Unemployment Insurance Committee, under the Chairmanship of the Rt. Hon. Lord Blanesburgh, G.B.E., were held on 16th and 17th March, when evidence was heard from the Association of Poor Law Unions of England and Wales, from representatives of the Adjustment Committee of the Parish Councils of Edinburgh, Glasgow and Govan, and from the Chairmen of the Sheffield and of the Pontypridd Boards of Guardians, who spoke on behalf of a number of Unions which have suffered heavily from unemployment.

On 13th and 14th April evidence was heard from Chairmen of Courts of Referees, namely, Sir William Clegg, C.B.E., Sheffield, Mr. James Allison, C.B.E., Dundee, and Mr. J. Forster, London, and from the National Joint Standing Advisory Committee of Associations Administering Unemployment Benefit under Section 17 of the Act of 1920.

EMPLOYMENT OF DISABLED EX-SERVICE MEN.

KING'S NATIONAL ROLL.

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

KING'S ROLL NATIONAL COUNCIL.

The King's Roll National Council, presided over by Field Marshal Earl Haig, K.T., O.M., G.C.B., G.C.V.O., K.C.I.E., held its fourteenth meeting at the House of Commons on 18th March, 1926.

It was reported to the Council that the number of non-enrolled Local Authorities who were not employing too small a staff to be reasonably expected to enrol was 607, as against 721 at the date of the last meeting (10th December, 1925); and that the number of non-enrolled Royal Warrant Holders had been reduced from 137 to 82.

The Council have for some time past been urging public utility Companies (i.e., electricity, gas, water, harbour and dock, etc., concerns) to join the King's Roll; and the present figures show that 292 out of a total of 599 such Companies are on the Roll. The number not on the Roll does not include those concerns known to employ too small a staff to be reasonably expected to enrol.

With regard to the Resolution which was passed in both Houses of Parliament on the 16th February, 1926,* regarding the principle of restricting Government Contracts to firms on the King's Roll, the Council were informed that steps are being taken to bring the Resolution to the notice of all Local Authorities, in the hope that they will follow the Government practice. The number of Local Authorities who already follow this practice is 544.

UNEMPLOYED DISABLED EX-SERVICE MEN.

The latest figures available relate to the position on the 1st March, 1926, and indicate that 29,404 disabled ex-Service men were registered at the Employment Exchanges as in search of employment on that date.

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING.

At 30th March, 1926, the number of men in training was 2,146, and the number awaiting training, 209. Since 1st August, 1919, 97,444 men have terminated training.

* See the March issue of this GAZETTE, page 102.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.

Rates of Wages.

IN the industries covered by the Department's statistics* the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation in March in Great Britain and Northern Ireland resulted in an aggregate increase of nearly £4,000 in the weekly full-time wages of nearly 47,000 workpeople and in a reduction of £1,125 in the weekly wages of 19,000 workpeople.

The groups of industries principally affected were as shown below:—

Group of Industries.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by		Amount of Changes in Weekly Wages.	
	Increases.	Decreases.	Increases.	Decreases.
Mining and Quarrying ...	5,100	5,100	£ 350	£ 100
Iron and Steel ...	4,700	3,200	240	55
Paper, Printing, etc. ...	14,200	...	1,660	...
Public Utility Services ...	21,800	7,500	1,560	700
Other ...	800	3,200	140	270
Total ...	46,600	19,000	3,950	1,125

The principal increase in the mining and quarrying group affected about 5,000 coal miners in the Radstock district, whose wages were increased by an amount equivalent to 3½ per cent. on current rates. The principal reduction in this group affected 4,000 iron ore miners in Cumberland, who sustained reductions varying from ¼d. to 1d. per shift.

In the iron and steel group there was an increase equivalent to rather over 1½ per cent. on the current wages of 4,000 iron puddlers and millmen in the North of England, and there were small reductions, varying from 2-6d. to 7d. per week, in the cost-of-living bonuses of about 3,000 blast furnace workers in Cumberland.

In the paper-making industry there were increases in the minimum rates of upwards of 10,000 workpeople, comprising the lower-paid classes of men, and women workers generally; for women and for adult male day-workers the increase amounted to ¼d. per hour and for adult male shift-workers it was ½d. per hour.

In the public utility services the principal increase affected about 20,000 workpeople employed in the non-trading services of various local authorities in Lancashire and Cheshire, whose bonus on basic rates was increased from 90 per cent. to 95 per cent., under the operation of a cost-of-living sliding scale. Similar classes of workpeople, numbering about 7,000, in the East Midlands sustained a reduction of ¼d. per hour.

In industries other than the above the principal bodies of workpeople affected by changes were bakers at Liverpool and Bristol, who sustained reductions amounting to 2s. per week at Liverpool and 1s. 3d. per week at Bristol.

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

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics.)
AGRICULTURE AND FISHING.				
Agriculture.	Bedfordshire and Huntingdonshire.	1 Mar.	Male agricultural labourers 21 years and over.	Increase of 6d. per week. Minimum rate after change for a week of 48 hours in winter and 50 hours in summer, 30s. 6d.†
	Essex ...	1 Mar.	Female agricultural labourers ...	Increase of 1d. per hour for those 16 years and over and ¼d. per hour for those 14 and under 16 years. Minimum rates after change vary from 3d. at 14 and under 16 to 6d. at 21 and over.†
	Worcestershire‡	22 Mar.	Male agricultural labourers ...	Rates fixed for a week of 50 hours in summer (in lieu of 53 hours) and 48 hours in winter varying from 10s. at under 15 years to 24s. at 18 and under 19 and to 30s. at 21 and over.†
	Glamorganshire ...	2 Mar.	Male agricultural labourers other than those employed wholly or mainly as stockmen, cattlemen, cowmen, horsemen, shepherds, or bailiffs.	Decrease of 1s. 6d. per week, and hours in respect of which minimum rates are paid reduced from 53 to 50 per week in summer and from 51 to 48 in winter. Minimum rates after change vary from 15s. at 14 and under 15 years to 27s. at 18 and under 19, and to 36s. at 21 and over.†
MINING AND QUARRYING.				
Coal Mining	Radstock ...	25 Feb.	Workpeople employed in or about coal mines.	Increase of 4-9s per cent. on standard base rates of 1918, making wages 45-6s per cent. above the standard.
Iron Mining	Cumberland...	14 Mar.	Workpeople employed at iron-ore mines.	Decrease of 1d. per shift in the bargain price (8s. to 7s. 11d.) of ¼d. per shift for winding enginemen, of ¼d. per shift for other underground and surface workers, and of ¼d. per shift for boys under 16 years. Rates after change: 1st class, or leading labourers, 8s. 4d. per shift; winding enginemen, 7s. 2d. per shift, plus a temporary increase of 1s. 9d. per shift in each case. Bonus reduced from 6s. 6d. to 6s. per week. Rates after change (including bonus) for labourers: underground, 8s. 5½d. per shift; surface, 7s. 3d.
Lead Mining	Wearhead and Alledale.	15 Mar.	Underground and surface workers	

* The particulars of numbers affected and amount of change in weekly wages exclude changes affecting Government employees, police, agricultural labourers, shop assistants and clerks, for which classes the information available is not sufficient to form a basis for statistics. Where information is available, however, details of changes in the current rates of wages of agricultural labourers, shop assistants and clerks are included in the list of principal changes recorded. The statistics are based on normal conditions of employment and do not take into account the effect of short-time working, etc.

† The minimum rates of wages referred to took effect under an Order of the Agricultural Wages Board, in accordance with the provisions of the Agricultural Wages (Regulation) Act, 1924.

‡ Excluding the parishes of Alderminster, Shipston-on-Stour, Tidmington and Tredington, Blockley, Cutsdean, Daylesford and Evenlode.

§ Under selling-prices sliding scale arrangements.

Of the total increase of £3,950 per week £2,000 was the result of arbitration, £1,270 took effect under arrangements made by joint standing bodies of employers and workpeople, nearly the whole of which sum was the result of cost-of-living sliding scales arranged by such bodies; nearly £600 took effect under sliding scales based on selling prices or the proceeds of an industry; while the remainder was the result of direct negotiation between employers and workpeople. Increases preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work accounted for under £50 per week.

Of the total reduction of £1,125, £1,050 took effect under cost-of-living sliding scales; included in this amount was nearly £750 which took effect under scales arranged by joint standing bodies of employers and workpeople; the greater part of the remaining reductions took effect under sliding scales based on selling prices.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES REPORTED IN JANUARY-MARCH, 1926.

The following Table shows the number of workpeople in Great Britain and Northern Ireland affected by changes in rates of wages reported to the Department during the first three completed months of 1926, and the net aggregate amounts of such changes:—

Group of Industries.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by net		Net Amount of Change in Weekly Wages.	
	Increases.	Decreases.	Increases.	Decreases.
Mining and Quarrying ...	9,000	8,350	£ 950	£ 480
Brick, Pottery, Glass, Chemical, etc. ...	3,550	250	490	20
Iron and Steel ...	6,600	114,000	610	10,200
Engineering, Shipbuilding and Other Metal ...	7,650	20,500	640	1,500
Textile ...	250	85,500	20	1,200
Clothing ...	2,250	...	190	...
Food, Drink and Tobacco ...	850	3,750	105	290
Woodworking, etc. ...	1,750	3,600	170	340
Paper, Printing, etc. ...	14,500	...	1,750	...
Building and Allied Trades ...	14,500	...	1,550	...
Transport ...	2,350	...	640	...
Public Utility Services ...	52,000	7,800	5,100	770
Other ...	10,000	14,000	325	760
Total ...	123,000	260,000	12,350	15,750

In the corresponding three months of 1925, there were net increases of over £68,000 in the weekly wages of 725,000 workpeople, and net reductions of £27,000 in the weekly wages of nearly 600,000 workpeople.

Hours of Labour.

No important changes were reported in March.

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

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics.)
Quarrying	West Cumberland ...	8 Mar.	MINING AND QUARRYING (continued). Lower paid men at limestone quarries.	Additional temporary advance of 3d. per shift for men in receipt of less than 6s. 3d. per shift on scale rates. Rates after change: day labourers, 6s. 1d., plus 1s. 3d. per shift; ruddmen, 5s. 7d., plus 1s. 6d.
	Gotham, Cropwell Bishop, and Newark-on-Trent.	Mar.	Gypsum miners, mill hands and stone dressers.	Decrease* of 2d. in the £ on earnings. Rates after change: mill hands and stone dressers at Gotham, 64s. per week, less 6s. 5d. in the £; day workers at Cropwell Bishop, 60s. per week, less 6s. 5d. in the £.
	Clee Hill District ...	24 Mar.	Roadstone quarry workers ...	Minimum wage for daymen, 18 years and over, increased from 7s. 6d. to 7s. 8d. per day, and the piece rates of loaders and unloaders increased by varying amounts.
Fertiliser, etc., Manufacture.	Bristol ...	1st week in Mar.	CHEMICAL, GLASS, BRICK, POTTERY, ETC., TRADES. Workpeople employed in the manufacture of glue and chemical manure.	Decrease* of 9d. per week for men and of proportionate amounts for women and youths. Minimum rate after change for men, 46s. 3d.
	Pig Iron Manufacture.	West Cumberland and North Lancashire.	2nd full pay in Mar.	IRON AND STEEL SMELTING AND MANUFACTURE. Workpeople (excluding skilled craftsmen and bricklayers on maintenance work and also labourers employed at blastfurnaces. Keepers, slaggers, fillers, enginemen, etc., employed at blastfurnaces.	Decreases in bonuses* of amounts varying according to base rates, from 2-6d. to 7d. per week, making total amount of bonus from 2s. 7-6d. to 6s. 8d. per week.
Iron and Steel Manufacture.		North of England ...	29 Mar.	Iron puddlers ... Iron millmen ...	Increase† of 1 per cent. on output bonus earnings, making the percentage payable 44½ in the Workington area and 39½ in the Furness area.† Increase† of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 52½ per cent. above the standard. Increase† of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 50 per cent. above the standard.
Cutlery	Sheffield ...	29 Mar.	Pen and pocket blade forgers ...	Bonus payable on prices for forging pruner blades reduced from 35 to 27½ per cent.‡
	Farriery	Liverpool and Birkenhead.	1 Mar.	Farriers ...	Decrease* of 2s. per week. Rates after change: firemen, 72s. 6d.; doormen, 70s. 6d.
Nut and Bolt Manufacture.	Glasgow ...	Mar.	Girls employed in the manufacture of nuts, bolts and screws.	Weekly rates adopted as follows:—age 14 years, 10s.; 15 years, 12s.; 16 years, 15s.; 18 years, 18s.
	Lace Manufacture	Nottingham District and Ayrshire	After last pay day in Mar.	Workpeople employed in the curtain section of the lace trade.	Certain adjustments made in piece price list affecting half-gauge goods, 4-point goods and facked fillet net, and increases granted on rates applicable when using colours, varying according to proportion of coloured spool threads from 5 to 15 per cent.
Felt Hat Making		Atherstone and Bedworth.	20 Mar.	Male pieceworkers employed in the felt hat-making trade.	Bonus of 32½ per cent. on piecework lists previously paid reduced* to 30 per cent.
	Baking and Confectionery Trades.	Liverpool, Birkenhead and Wallasey.	22 Mar.	Bakers and confectioners ...	Decrease* of 2s. per week for adult workers and of 1s. per week for juniors. Rates after change for daywork: adult workers—forehands and ovenmen, 70s.; tablehands, 64s.
Bristol ...		6 Mar.	Bakers and confectioners ...	Decrease* of 1s. 3d. per week. Rate after change for tablehands, 61s.
Bath ...		6 Mar.	Bakers and confectioners ...	Decrease* of 1s. 3d. per week. Rate after change for tablehands, 60s. 3d.
Brewing	Pontypridd and Rhondda Valley.	6 Mar.	Workpeople employed in the bread baking and confectionery trades.	Decrease* of 2s. 6d. per week for adult male workers and of proportionate amounts for improvers and female workers. Rates after change for adult male workers: daywork—foremen, 70s. 6d.; first and single hands, 68s. 6d.; second hands and doughmen, 63s. 6d. and 65s. 6d.; tablehands, 62s. 6d.; nightwork—5s. per week more in each case.
	Norwich ...	1 Jan.	Brewery workers ...	Increase* of 1s. per week for men (53s. to 54s.) and ¼d. per hour for women (7½d. to 7½d.).
Furniture	Glasgow ...	1st full pay in Mar.	Rocking and baby chair makers ...	Decrease* of ¼d. per hour for timeworkers (1s. 5d. to 1s. 4½d.) and of 2½ per cent. for pieceworkers.
	Sports* Accessories Manufacture.	London, Watford, Bolton, Cambridge, Nottingham, Highbury and Leeds.	5 Mar.	Workpeople employed in the manufacture of tennis and badminton rackets.
Paper Making	Great Britain and Ireland.	1st pay after 30 Mar.	Workpeople employed in paper mills (except mechanics, etc. and those employed in hand-made paper mills and board and wrapping mills):— Men 21 years and over in Class III occupations.‡ Women ...	Increases in the minimum rates of ¼d. per hour for shiftworkers and ¼d. per hour for dayworkers. Minimum rates after change: shiftworkers, 1s. 2d.; dayworkers, 1s. 0½d.; West of England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland, 1d. per hour less. (See I.C. Decision 1201 on page 153.) Increase of ¼d. per hour in the minimum rate. Minimum rates after change: 7½d.; West of England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland, 6½d. (See I.C. Decision 1201 on page 153.)
	Building	London District (within a 15-mile radius of Charing Cross).‡ Congleton ...	15 Feb. 1 Mar.	Plasterers ... Bricklayers, masons, carpenters and joiners, woodcutting machinists, slaters, plumbers, plasterers, painters and labourers.	Standard rate fixed at 1s. 9½d. per hour, with an extra allowance of 2s. per day (1s. on Saturdays).‡ Increase of ¼d. per hour for tradesmen (1s. 7d. to 1s. 7½d.) and of ¼d. per hour for labourers (1s. 2½d. to 1s. 2½d.).
Inverness ...		26 Feb.	Painters ...	Increase of ¼d. per hour (1s. 5d. to 1s. 5½d.). (See I.C. Decision 1203 on page 153.)

* Under cost-of-living sliding scale arrangements.

† Under selling-prices sliding scale arrangements.

‡ The percentage addition to day and tonnage basis rates remained at 16 in accordance with the arrangement made in October, 1925.

§ Under an agreement between the Sheffield Cutlery Manufacturers' Association and the Pen and Pocket Blade Forgers and Smiths Protection Society. Fillers-in, rag chop-per-men, loaders, liquor-makers, kollar-gang-men, pan-men, lower-men, drainer-men, wood pulp potcher-men, bleach, clay and size mixers, oilers and greasers, sawyers, belt repairers, sheet carriers and general labourers.

¶ The change took effect under an arrangement agreed upon between the London Master Plasterers' Association and the National Association of Plasterers, Granolithic and Cement Workers, but not recognised by the National Wages and Conditions Council for the Building Industry. An agreement made in 1924 between the London Master Builders' Association and the National Federation of Building Trade Operatives, provided that a rate of 1s. 9½d. per hour should be payable within a radius of 12 miles of Charing Cross, and ¼d. per hour less in the remainder of the district.

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

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics.)
TRANSPORT TRADES.				
Railway Service	London (Poplar and Victoria and Albert Docks).	1st full pay after 30 Mar.	Checkers, loaders, crane drivers, cramenen, porters, oilers, and electric pumpmen employed by railway companies on waterside work, loading or unloading vessels.	Rates of wages increased, under National Wages Board Award, to those set out in the Railway Owned Docks Agreement of 4th August, 1920.
Merchant Shipping	Great Britain	1 Mar.	Sea-going wireless operator inspectors.	Decrease of 22s. 6d. per month. Rates after change, per calendar month: 1st year, £19 17s. 6d.; 2nd year, £21 7s. 6d.; 3rd year, £22 17s. 6d.
Dock Labour	Ellesmere Port (Manchester Canal).	3 Mar.	Dock labourers	Increase of 1s. per day or 5s. 6d. per week. Rate after change: 60s. 6d. per week (of 48 hours).
PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES.				
Gas Undertakings.	London	1st full pay after 1 Jan.	Youths and boys under 21 years of age.	Schedule of rates adopted as follows:—Class A (Works): aged 14 years, 14s. 4d. per week; 15 years, 16s. 3½d.; 16 years, 18s. 3d.; 17 years, 21s. 2½d.; 18 years, 22s. 10½d.; 19 years, 25s. 9½d.; 20 years, 28s. 9d. Class B (Distribution): aged 14 and 15 years, 14s. 4d. per week; 16 years, 16s. 3½d.; 17 years, 18s. 3d.; 18 years, 20s. 11½d.; 19 years, 22s. 10½d.; 20 years, 24s. 10d.
	Eastern Counties (certain districts)*.	4 Dec., 1925.	Adult male workers	New schedule of rates adopted, the scheduled rates applicable to the various town Categories being raised in the majority of cases, and in certain cases towns being raised from a lower to a higher Category. Scheduled rates after change: stokers, 8s. to 10s. 3d. per shift (Norwich, 10s. 6d.); labourers, 40s. to 49s. 3d. per week (Norwich, 51s. 2d.); gas fitters, 52s. 2d. to 60s. per week (Norwich, 62s.).
Electricity Supply Undertakings.	London	1st full pay after 15 Jan.	Adult male workers (excluding electrical fitters, etc., engaged on installation work and other craftsmen whose wages are regulated by movements in their respective trades) employed in electricity generating stations and sub-stations of railway companies.	Increase of 6½ per cent. on current rates. Rates after change: switchboard attendants (up to 5,000 kw.), 1s. 7¼d. per hour; (5,000 kw. and over), 1s. 10¼d.; turbine mechanics, 1s. 7½d.; drivers, 1s. 6d.; stokers, leading, 1s. 7d.; others, 1s. 5½d.; electrical fitters on maintenance work, 1s. 7d., electricians' mates, 1s. 3½d., plus 1d. per hour for shift workers, plus, in each case, 6½ per cent. (See I.C. Decision, 1195, on page 153.)
	Certain Undertakings in Yorkshire Area.†	1 Mar.	Meter fixers	Increase of 1d. per hour. Scheduled minimum rates after change: Zone A, 1s. 3½d. per hour; Zone B, 1s. 3d.; Zone C, 1s. 2d.
Omnibus Undertakings.	Certain Undertakings in Scotland.	1 Jan.	Jointers	New rates of wages adopted of 1s. 7d. per hour for Group A areas, 1s. 6½d. for Group B, and 1s. 6d. for Group C.
	London	24 Mar.	Drivers and conductors	New rates of wages adopted of 5d. per hour less than schedule rates for jointers, in first year, of 1d. per hour less in second year, and full jointers' rates after second year. Rate of wages after one year's regular and continuous service as skilled workers' mate, fixed at ¼d. per hour above the scheduled rates for labourers.
Non-Trading Services of Local Authorities	Certain Authorities in Lancashire and Cheshire.‡	1 Mar.	Manual workers	War wage and base rates previously paid consolidated as follows: drivers, first 6 months, 81s. 6d. per week, thereafter 87s. 6d.; conductors, first six months, 74s. 6d., thereafter 80s. 6d.‡. Cost-of-living bonus increased from 90 to 95 per cent. on basic rates, subject to a maximum bonus of 35s. 8d. for males and 26s. 2d. for females. Standard weekly rates after change, including bonus: labourers, Zone A, 54s. 7d.; Zone B, 50s. 8d.; Zone C, 48s. 9d.; Zone D (roadmen), 40s. 11d.; Zone E (roadmen), 39s.; street sweepers, Zone A, 50s. 8d.; Zone B, 46s. 10d.; Zone C, 44s. 10d. Zone D, 40s. 11d.; Zone E, 39s.
	Lincoln	Week ending 10 Feb.	Manual workers	Increase of ¼d. per hour. Rate after change for road and general labourers, scavengers, and refuse collectors, 1s. 1d. per hour.
Non-Trading Services of Local Authorities	Certain Authorities in the East Midlands Area.†	1st pay day in Mar.	Men paid hourly rates	Decrease of ¼d. per hour. Scheduled minimum hourly rates after change for road and general labourers and scavengers: Grade A areas, 1s. 1½d.; Grade B areas, 1½d.; Grade C areas, 10½d.; Grade D areas, 10½d. (industrial districts) and 9½d. (agricultural districts).
	Norfolk	1 Mar.	Road labourers and lengthmen	Decrease of 1s. 11d. per week for Grade A areas, of 1s. 9d. per week for Grade B areas, and of 1s. 6d. for Grade C areas. Scheduled minimum weekly rates after change: Grade A areas, 49s.; Grade B areas, 45s. 4d.; Grade C areas, 38s. 9d. Decrease of 11d. per week for Grade A areas (25s. 8d. to 24s. 9d.).
Non-Trading Services of Local Authorities	Ayrshire (Northern District).	4 Jan.	Road labourers	Increase of 1s. per week for summer months. Rates after change: labourers, 33s. per week; lengthmen, 36s.
	Certain Authorities in Lancashire and Cheshire.‡	1 Mar.	Manual workers	Increase of 1s. per week for summer months. Rates after change: labourers, 33s. per week; lengthmen, 36s.

* The undertakings concerned include the following: Bedford, Boston, Braintree, Cambridge, Clacton, Cleethorpes, Colchester, Felixstowe, Gainsborough, Gorleston, Great Yarmouth, Grantham, Grimsby, Ipswich, Leighton Buzzard, Lincoln, Louth, Lowestoft, Newark, Newmarket, Norwich (change took effect from 6 Nov.), Retford, Scunthorpe, Sleaford, Stamford. In a number of cases the rates actually paid were already in excess of the scheduled rates, and there was little or no change in wages, such increases as were reported not usually exceeding 1s. or 2s. per week in the case of labourers.

† Including Yorkshire, North Lincolnshire, North Nottinghamshire and North Derbyshire.

‡ It was agreed that the above rates (which represent no change in total wages) should be subject, after 31 March, 1926, to a reduction of 1s. per week when and if the cost-of-living index figure reaches 75 or less, and that the new rates thus formed shall be the standard rates for a period of two years from the date of the agreement, viz., 24 March, 1926.

§ The Authorities affected are those which follow the wages agreements of the Lancashire and Cheshire Joint Industrial Council for Local Authorities' Non-Trading Services, and include the following, which are shown in their respective zones; the Authorities in italics pay general yard labourers the same rate as a builders' labourer:—Zone A.—*Bolton*, Burnley, Liverpool (Engineers' Dept.), Manchester, Oldham, Salford, Stockport, Abram, Atherton, Little Hulton, Padiham, Stretford, Swinton and Pendlebury, Winstanley, Zone B.—*Acrington*, *Ashton-under-Lyme*, Bacup, Barrow-in-Furness, Blackpool, Bury, Colne, Crewe, Darwen, *Dukinfield*, *Eccles*, Haslingden, Hyde, Middleton (unskilled men in Highways Dept.), Nelson, Preston, Rawtenstall, St. Helens, Southport, Stalybridge, Wallasey, Warrington, Widnes, Altrincham, Ashton-in-Makerfield, Audenshaw, Barrowford, Brierfield, Chadderton, Crompton, Droydsden, *Faiisworth*, Farnworth, Golborne, Ince-in-Makerfield, Kearsley, Lees, Littleborough, Little Lever, Newton-in-Makerfield, Prestwich, *Radcliffe*, Ramsbottom, Rishton, Royton, Tottington, *Tyldesley-with-Shakerley*. Zone C.—Chester, Chorley, Clitheroe, Glossop, Lytham St. Anne's, Macclesfield, Morecambe, Alderley Edge, Ashton-upon-Mersey, Aspull, Bollington, Bowdon, Dalton-in-Furness, Fleetwood, Great Harwood, Hale, Hazel Grove and Bramhall, Horwich, Kirkham, Milnrow, Northwich, Ormskirk, Oswaldtwistle, Sale, Springhead, Standish-with-Langtree, Turton, Upholland, Urnston, Westhoughton, Whitefield. Zone D.—Billinge, Nantwich, Marple, Trawden, Ulverston, Withnell, R.D.C.'s of Burnley, Leigh, West Lancashire. Zone E.—Lancashire County Council, Fylde R.D.C. The rates paid by some of the Authorities differ slightly from those quoted above. The following Authorities, while not recognising the Zone rates recommended by the Joint Industrial Council, made the percentage increase shown above: *Heywood*, Leigh, Mossley, *Rochdale*, Wigan, Blackrod, Haydock, Hindley, Hurst, Norden, Skelmersdale, Worsley.

¶ Under cost-of-living sliding scale arrangements.

§ The Authorities affected are those which follow the recommendations of the East Midlands Joint Industrial Council for Local Authorities, Non-Trading Services, and include:—*Grade A*: Chesterfield, Derby, Grimsby, Ilkeston, Leicester, Mansfield, Mansfield, Northampton, Nottingham. *Grade B*: Coalville, Eastwood, Grantham, Hinckley, Kettering, Kirby-in-Ashfield, Loughborough, Newark, Ripley, Rushden, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Swadlowcote. *Grade C*: Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Shepshed, Warsop, Wigston Magna. *Grade D*: Daventry, Derbyshire C.C. (made change from 5 April), Glossop Dale R.D.C., Shardlow R.D.C. The rates paid by some of the Authorities differ slightly from the minima quoted above.

CHANGES IN WAGES TAKING EFFECT IN APRIL, 1926.

The following groups of workpeople are among those affected by changes in wages already reported as having been arranged to take effect in April:—*Increases*.—Certain classes of workpeople employed in the rope, twine and net trade (under Trade Board Order). *Decreases*.—Iron puddlers and iron and steel millmen in the Midlands; workpeople employed in the seed crushing and oil milling industry; men employed by public works contractors in London; employees of waterworks undertakings in various districts.

TRADE DISPUTES.*

Number, Magnitude and Duration.—The number of trade disputes involving a stoppage of work, reported to the Department as beginning in March in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was 35, as compared with 36 in the previous month and 55 in March, 1925. The total number of workpeople involved in these disputes (including those thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, though not themselves parties to the disputes) was approximately 20,000. In addition, about 17,000 workpeople were involved, either directly or indirectly, in 28 disputes which began before March and were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The number of new and old disputes was thus 63, involving about 37,000 workpeople, and resulting in a loss during March of about 460,000 working days.

The following Table analyses the disputes in progress in March in Great Britain and Northern Ireland by groups of industries, and indicates the number of workpeople involved at the establishments concerned and the approximate time lost during the month in all disputes in progress:—

Groups of Industries.	Number of Disputes in progress in March.			Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress in March.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress in March.
	Started before 1st March.	Started in March.	Total.		
Mining and Quarrying... Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding ...	8	13	21	24,000	308,000
Textile ...	4	5	9	2,000	25,000
Transport ...	1	4	5	5,000	71,000
Other ...	11	9	20	3,000	34,000
Total, Mar., 1926 ...	28	35	63	37,000	460,000
Total, Feb., 1926 ...	26	36	62	22,000	366,000
Total, Mar., 1925 ...	25	55	80	44,000	161,000

Causes.—Of the 35 disputes beginning in March, 4, directly involving 2,000 workpeople, arose out of demands for advances in wages; 11, directly involving 4,000 workpeople, on other wages questions; 13, directly involving 4,000 workpeople, on questions

respecting the employment of particular classes or persons; and 7, directly involving 9,000 workpeople, from other causes.

Results.—Settlements were effected in the case of 23 new disputes, directly involving 15,000 workpeople, and 10 old disputes, directly involving 3,000 workpeople. Of these new and old disputes, 6, directly involving 7,000 workpeople, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 8, directly involving 2,000 workpeople, were settled in favour of the employers; and 19, directly involving 9,000 workpeople, were compromised. In the case of 7 disputes, directly involving 2,000 workpeople, work was resumed pending negotiations.

TOTALS FOR FIRST THREE MONTHS OF 1925 AND 1926.†

The following Table summarises the figures for the first three months of 1926, in comparison with the corresponding period of 1925.

Groups of Industries.	January to March, 1925.			January to March, 1926.		
	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.
Mining and Quarrying... Engineering and Shipbuilding... Other Metal ...	32	20,000	97,000	33	32,000	852,000
Textile ...	15	6,000	35,000	8	1,000	48,000
Transport ...	12	2,000	15,000	12	2,000	25,000
Clothing ...	15	1,500	25,000	18	7,000	88,000
Woodworking and Furnishing ...	8	500	5,000	4	500	5,000
Paper, Printing, etc. ...	6	2,000	25,000	7	500	23,000
Building, Decorating, Contracting, etc. ...	4	16,000	55,000	3	1,000	42,000
Transport ...	13	1,000	10,000	14	2,000	7,000
Public Administration Services. ...	10	4,000	8,000	12	4,000	120,000
Other ...	8	1,000	7,000	4	1,000	20,000
Total ...	21	13,000	39,000	10	1,000	14,000
Total ...	144	67,000	321,000	125	52,000	1,244,000

PRINCIPAL DISPUTES INVOLVING STOPPAGES OF WORK DURING MARCH, 1926.

Occupations and Locality.‡	Approximate Number of Workpeople involved.		Date when Dispute		Cause or Object.‡	Result.‡
	Directly.	Indirectly.‡	Began.	Ended.		
Coal miners, etc.—Consett, Co. Durham.	7,000	...	1925. 22 June–6 July.	1926. §	Against proposed increase in working hours, revision of piece-work rates, etc.	§
Coal miners, mechanics, enginemn, etc.—South Shields (near).	2,577	252	5 Aug.	...	Against proposed reduction in piece-work rates and increase in working hours of certain workpeople, and against concessions as to payment of minimum wage.	No settlement reported.
Coal miners, mechanics, enginemn, etc.—South Shields (near).	2,258	156	14 Aug.	...	Objection of men to day-to-day contracts, and dissatisfaction as to amount of wages paid to certain sets of machine coal-getters.	No settlement reported.
Engineers (printing machine manufacture)—London, S.E.	738	...	1926. 11 Jan.	18 Mar.	Dispute arising from refusal to work with non-unionists and demand for advance in wages.	Work resumed by order of Trade Union Executives.
Painters (ship repairing)—Thames	400	...	18 Feb.	20 Mar.	Strike at one firm against employment of scalers on work claimed by painters, followed by lock-out of painters at other firms.	Work resumed pending arbitration.
Cotton weavers, winders, beamers, etc.—Barnoldswick District.	5,000	...	13 Mar.	27 Mar.	General lock-out following strike at one firm on account of alleged bad material.	Lock-out abandoned.
Tennis racket and cricket bat makers, etc.—London, Watford, Cambridge, Horbury and Leeds.	400	...	1925. 17–21 Sept.	2 Mar.	Dispute arising out of proposed additions, etc., to piece-work price list, stated to involve a reduction in earnings.	Proposed additions accepted with certain modifications.
Porters, packers, bookbinders, etc., employed by book publishers—London.	1,200	...	2 Nov.	9 Mar.	For advance in wages ...	An advance granted by some firms; with most firms workpeople resumed on employers' terms, except where their places had been filled.
Electrical wiremen, bricklayers, carpenters, labourers, etc. (building industry)—London, W.	1,000	...	1926. 2 Mar.	3 Mar.	Dispute arising out of refusal of members of the Electrical Trades Union to work with lift erectors who were in receipt of engineering rates of wages.	Lift erectors in question joined the Electrical Trades Union, and found other employment.
Dock cramenen, slingers, stevedores, etc.—Middlesbrough.	500	...	16 Mar.	16 Mar.	Against the suspension of a crane-man for a fortnight for alleged disobedience.	Work resumed pending negotiations, which resulted in the reinstatement of the man in question.
Gas fitters, stove repairers and labourers employed by municipal gas department—Glasgow.	660	...	20 Mar.	10 April	For reinstatement of certain employees dismissed for alleged disregard of an order forbidding the use of private plumbers' shops.	Work resumed pending investigation by a committee of enquiry.

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

† In making up the totals for the several months of the year the figures have been amended in accordance with the most recent information.

‡ 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.

§ At some of the collieries involved a settlement was effected in April.

¶ The lock-out commenced on 17th March.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.

THE total number of cases* of poisoning, anthrax and epitheliomatous and chrome ulceration in Great Britain and Northern Ireland reported under the Factory and Workshop Act during March, 1926, was 55. Five deaths* were reported during the month, two due to lead poisoning, two due to epitheliomatous ulceration, and one due to mercurial poisoning. In addition, seven cases of lead poisoning (including two deaths) among house painters and one case among house plumbers came to the knowledge of the Home Office during March, but notification of these cases is not obligatory.

Table with columns for categories like 'Cases of Lead Poisoning', 'Cases of Anthrax', 'Cases of Epitheliomatous Ulceration', and 'Cases of Chrome Ulceration'. Includes sub-headers like 'Among Operatives engaged in' and 'Smelting of Metals'.

POOR LAW RELIEF IN GREAT BRITAIN.

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

THE number of persons* relieved on one day† in March, 1926, in the thirty-one selected areas named below, was 808,630, or 1.2 per cent. less than in the previous month, but 14.1 per cent. more than in March, 1925. The numbers relieved at these three dates were equivalent, respectively, to rates of 453, 459 and 399§ per 10,000 of the estimated population.

In the twenty-five selected areas in England and Wales the number of persons relieved in March, 1926, was 664,904, or 421 per 10,000 of the estimated population, a decrease of 7 per 10,000 as compared with the previous month, but an increase of 45 per 10,000 as compared with a year ago. In the six areas in Scotland the number relieved was 143,726, or 703 per 10,000 of the estimated population, an increase of 8 per 10,000 as compared with the previous month, and of 129§ per 10,000 as compared with a year ago.

Recipients of indoor relief in the thirty-one districts in March numbered 129,033 or 0.7 per cent. less than in the previous month but 1.7 per cent. more than a year ago. Recipients of outdoor relief numbered 679,597, or 1.3 per cent. less than in the previous month, but 16.8 per cent. more than a year ago.

In 21 of the 31 selected districts there were decreases in the number per 10,000 relieved as compared with the previous month, while in 10 districts there were increases; the increases and decreases were all small, and none exceeded 25 per 10,000 of the estimated population. As compared with March, 1925, 27 of the 31 districts showed an increase, the most considerable being Newcastle (292 per 10,000), Paisley and Greenock (234 per 10,000), East London (231 per 10,000), Glasgow (189 per 10,000), and Stockton and Tees (119 per 10,000); in four districts there were reductions, but all of small amount.

Large table with columns: 'Selected Urban Areas', 'Indoor', 'Outdoor', 'Total', 'Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population', 'Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with a', 'Month ago', 'Year ago'. Includes sub-sections for 'ENGLAND AND WALES' and 'SCOTLAND'.

* The figures include dependants, but exclude casuals, lunatics in Asylums, Registered Hospitals and Licensed Houses, and persons receiving out-door medical relief only. † The figures for England and Wales relate to 27th March, and those for Scotland to 15th March. § Owing to alteration of area, comparison with a year ago is approximate. ¶ The rates previously published have been revised in accordance with more recent estimates of the population of the six Scottish districts.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

THE number of workpeople, other than seamen, reported as killed in the course of their employment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland during March, 1926, was 234, as compared with 227 in the previous month and with 241 in March, 1925. Fatal accidents to seamen numbered 68 in March, 1926, as compared with 175 in the previous month; comparable figures for March, 1925, are not available.

Table with columns for categories: 'RAILWAY SERVICE', 'MINES', 'QUARRIES over 20 feet deep', 'FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS'. Includes sub-headers like 'Brakesmen and Goods Guards', 'Underground', 'Surface', 'Cotton', 'Wool, Worsted and Shoddy'.

* Cases include all attacks reported during the month, and not previously reported, so far as is known, during the preceding 12 months. † Deaths include all fatal cases reported during the month, whether included (as cases) in previous returns or not. ‡ Of the five persons affected in the Pottery industry, two were females.

BUILDING PLANS APPROVED.

RETURNS have been received from 133 Local Authorities in Great Britain giving the estimated cost of buildings for which plans were passed during the first quarter of 1926. The summarised figures for the quarter are given in the Table below, together with similar figures as to plans passed by the same Authorities during the corresponding quarter of 1925.

Table with columns: 'District and Aggregate Population (at Census of 1921) of Towns from which returns have been received', 'Estimated Cost of Buildings for which plans were approved in the 133 towns from which returns have been received', 'Dwelling Houses', 'Factories and Workshops', 'Shops, Offices, Warehouses, and other Business Premises', 'Churches, Schools, and Public Buildings', 'Other Buildings, and Additions and Alterations to Existing Buildings', 'TOTAL'. Includes sub-sections for '(a) FIRST QUARTER OF 1926' and '(b) FIRST QUARTER OF 1925'.

Table with columns: 'District and Aggregate Population (at Census of 1921) of Towns from which returns have been received', 'Estimated Cost of Buildings for which plans were approved in the 133 towns from which returns have been received', 'Dwelling Houses', 'Factories and Workshops', 'Shops, Offices, Warehouses, and other Business Premises', 'Churches, Schools, and Public Buildings', 'Other Buildings, and Additions and Alterations to Existing Buildings', 'TOTAL'. Includes sub-sections for '(a) FIRST QUARTER OF 1926' and '(b) FIRST QUARTER OF 1925'.

ASSISTED PASSAGES UNDER THE EMPIRE SETTLEMENT ACT, 1922.

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

Table with columns: 'Assisted Passage Schemes', 'Assisted Passages Granted in March, 1926', 'Total Assisted Passages Granted', 'Departures in March, 1926', 'Total Departures'. Includes sub-headers for 'To Australia', 'New Zealand', 'Canada', 'Dominion of Canada', 'Province of Ontario', 'South Africa', 'Minor Schemes'.

The figures given include both applicants and dependants of applicants to whom assisted passages have been granted. * Particulars are not available for the London County Council Area. † Revised figures.

RETAIL PRICES OVERSEAS.

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

I.—FOOD.

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

Table with columns: 'Country', 'Percentage Increase as compared with July, 1914.*', 'July, 1922', 'July, 1923', 'July, 1924', 'July, 1925', 'Latest figures available', 'Rise', 'Date'. Includes sub-sections for 'FOREIGN COUNTRIES', 'BRITISH DOMINIONS, &C.', 'Australia', 'Canada', 'India (Bombay)', 'Native families', 'European families', 'Irish Free State', 'New Zealand', 'South Africa'.

II.—ALL ITEMS.

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

Table with columns: 'Country', 'Items on which Computation is based.‡', 'Percentage Increase as compared with July, 1914.†', 'July, 1922', 'July, 1923', 'July, 1924', 'July, 1925', 'Latest figures available', 'Rise', 'Date'. Includes sub-sections for 'FOREIGN COUNTRIES', 'Belgium', 'Chile', 'Denmark', 'Estonia (Tallinn)', 'Finland', 'France (Paris)', 'Germany (Athens)', 'Greece (Athens)', 'Holland (Amsterdam)', 'Italy (Milan)', 'Luxembourg', 'Norway', 'Poland (Warsaw)', 'Sweden', 'Switzerland', 'United States', 'BRITISH DOMINIONS, &C.', 'Australia', 'Canada', 'India (Bombay)', 'Native families', 'European families', 'Irish Free State', 'New Zealand', 'South Africa'.

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

EMPLOYMENT OVERSEAS.

[N.B.—The following paragraphs include an abstract of such official information as is available with regard to the state of employment abroad, in order to indicate, as far as possible, the fluctuations in employment in each country from period to period. The bases of the official statistics published in the various countries are, however, not the same as those of the United Kingdom statistics, and therefore the figures quoted below cannot properly be used with those on pp. 130-131 to compare the actual level of employment in the United Kingdom with that of other countries. For details of the bases of the unemployment statistics of the various countries reference should be made to the Reports on Statistics of Unemployment issued by the International Labour Office. (Studies and Reports, Series C., No. 7, and Series N., No. 7.)]

FRANCE.*

Unemployment in March.—The total number of unemployed persons remaining on the "live register" of the Exchanges on 27th March, was 10,146 (6,633 men and 3,513 women). At the end of February the corresponding total was 11,320 and in March, 1925, 13,838. The total number of vacancies remaining unfilled on the same date was 12,777 (7,788 for men and 4,989 for women), as compared with 10,047 at the end of February and 8,254 in March, 1925. During the last week of March the Exchanges succeeded in placing 28,590 persons in situations, including 10,249 dock workers at seaports, and in addition found employment for 2,999 foreign immigrants.

GERMANY.†

Employment in February.—The continuous decline in employment reported during recent months came more or less to a standstill in February. Here and there signs of improvement showed themselves; but, apart from the seasonal increase in the demand for workers for outdoor occupations, these were not as yet sufficient to afford grounds for reporting any considerable improvement in employment as a whole.

The aggregate membership‡ of the statutory health insurance societies making returns was 12,284,728 on 1st March as compared with 12,275,739 on 1st February—an increase of less than 0.1 per cent., so that, according to these figures, employment was at about the same level on the two dates.

Returns from 39 trade unions concerning the extent of unemployment among their members show that on 27th February, out of some 3,580,000 members, 786,263, or 22 per cent., were out of work, as compared with 22.6 per cent. at the end of January, 1926, and 7.3 per cent. at the end of February, 1925. The following Table gives certain details for the principal unions:—

UNIONS.	Membership reported on at end of February, 1926.	Percentage Unemployed at end of Month.		
		Feb., 1926.	Jan., 1926.	Feb., 1925.
All Unions making Returns ...	3,579,564	22.0	22.6	7.3
Porcelain (S.D.) ...	43,043	14.8	14.3	3.5
Glass (S.D.) ...	40,486	18.7	16.9	3.1
Metal (S.D.) ...	718,004	20.4	18.8	6.3
(H.D.) ...	80,276	12.0	18.0	5.0
Textile (S.D.) ...	300,234	17.1	13.1	3.5
(C.) ...	79,111	12.2	9.2	1.2
Clothing (S.D.) ...	79,904	31.3	32.9	3.5
Boot and shoe (S.D.) ...	76,615	40.3	37.7	6.6
Food, tobacco, etc. (S.D.) ...	52,389	18.3	19.2	7.9
Food and drink (S.D.) ...	64,465	5.4	6.2	0.4
Tobacco (S.D.) ...	54,109	30.8	27.8	8.7
Woodworking (S.D.) ...	287,542	32.7	32.3	5.0
Printing (S.D.) ...	75,034	6.2	6.3	0.2
Bookbinding (S.D.) ...	52,640	14.5	13.6	2.4
Building (S.D.) ...	318,477	40.2	52.1	22.8
Carpenters (S.D.) ...	84,690	45.7	48.6	15.6
Transport (S.D.) ...	251,594	10.3	10.1	7.3
Factory workers (trades not distinguished) (S.D.) ...	317,133	20.1	20.6	8.0
Engine drivers and firemen (S.D.) ...	46,087	12.5	12.3	6.0
Factory and transport (C.) ...	53,990	24.2	25.2	19.7
Municipal and State workers (S.D.) ...	180,966	2.0	2.4	1.7

The foregoing figures relate to persons entirely unemployed. In addition 771,405, or 21.6 per cent. of the members of the unions reporting, were working short time at the end of February, as compared with 22.6 per cent. in January and 5.3 per cent. in February, 1905.

On 15th March 2,017,461 persons were in receipt of unemployment relief (apart from members of their families), a total which shows a slight decline from the 2,056,179 for 1st March and the 2,058,412 for 15th February.

At the end of the month the employment exchanges reporting had 2,549,004 unemployed persons on their "live register" as against 2,495,257 at the end of January. On an average there were in February 780 applicants for every 100 vacancies registered at the Exchanges as compared with 797 in January.

* Bulletin du Marché du Travail, 2nd April, 1926. Paris.

† Reichsarbeitsblatt, 1st April, 1926. Berlin.

‡ "Members" of these societies are persons under obligation to pay insurance premiums. During unemployment they are relieved of this obligation; consequently paying members are assumed to be in employment.

AUSTRIA.

Unemployment in February.—According to the issue of *Statistische Nachrichten* (the journal of the Austrian Department of Statistics) for 25th March, 1926, the number of persons in receipt of unemployment benefit in Austria was 228,763 at the end of February, as compared with 231,361 at the end of the preceding month and 188,917 at the end of February, 1925. In Vienna alone there were 106,290 persons in receipt of benefit at the middle of March and 112,044 at the end of February.

BELGIUM.*

Unemployment in January.—Provisional returns received by the Ministry of Industry and Labour from 139 approved unemployment insurance societies, with a total membership of 584,713, show that 16,095, or 2.75 per cent., of these were totally unemployed at the end of the month, as compared with 2.79 per cent. in the preceding month and 2.0 per cent. in January, 1925. The total days lost through unemployment in January numbered 632,888 or 4.51 per cent. of the aggregate possible working days; in the preceding month the percentage was 3.41, and in January, 1925, 3.73.

HOLLAND.†

Unemployment in February.—The Journal of the Dutch Statistical Office contains preliminary figures compiled by the State Department of Unemployment Insurance and Employment Exchanges, which show that out of 277,068 members of subsidised unemployment funds making returns for the week ended 27th February, 1926, 20,625 (7.4 per cent.) were unemployed during the whole week, and 6,236 (2.3 per cent.) for less than six days. In the corresponding week of the preceding month (ended 30th January) the percentages were respectively 13.2 and 3.8.

ITALY.

Unemployment in January.—According to a report issued by the Italian Unemployment Insurance Department,‡ 156,139 workpeople were totally unemployed on 31st January, 1926, as compared with 122,200 at the end of December, 1925, and 156,382 at the end of January, 1925. In addition 9,284 were partially unemployed at the latest date, 8,870 on 31st December, and 10,067 on 31st January, 1925. On 31st January last the number of totally unemployed persons in receipt of benefit, under the statutory unemployment insurance scheme, was 24,221, as compared with 19,584 on 31st December, and 22,432 on 31st January, 1925.

SWITZERLAND.§

Unemployment in February.—On 28th February, 1926, the number of applications remaining on the "live register" of Employment Exchanges making returns to the Federal Labour Department was 18,138, as compared with 20,525 at the end of January, and 11,834 at the end of February, 1925. Offers of situations made by employers on these dates numbered 2,541, 1,785, and 3,103 respectively. There were thus on an average 714 applications for each 100 vacancies on 28th February, as compared with 1,150 on 31st January, and 381 on 28th February, 1925.

DENMARK.¶

Unemployment in February.—Returns supplied to the Danish Statistical Department by trade unions and by the Central Employment Exchange show that out of 268,708 workpeople, 28.3 per cent. were unemployed on 26th February, 1926, as against 31.1 per cent. at the end of the preceding month, and 16.5 per cent. at the end of February, 1925.

NORWAY.

Unemployment in January.—According to information supplied by the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics, out of 14,729 members of trade unions making returns 21.5 per cent. were unemployed at the end of January. The corresponding figure for the end of December, 1925, was 23.5 per cent., and that for January, 1925, 8.6 per cent.

SWEDEN.¶

Unemployment in February.—The percentage of members of trade unions making returns who were unemployed on 28th February, 1926, was 14.4, as compared with 15.9 on 31st January, and 13.5 on 28th February, 1925.

UNITED STATES.**

Employment in February.—Figures relating to the volume of employment in February, based on returns from 9,540 establishments in 53 industries, are published by the Federal Bureau of Labour Statistics. These establishments reported 2,952,165 persons employed in February as against 2,924,509 in January, or an increase of 1.1 per cent. The aggregate wages paid for February show an increase of 4.2 per cent. as compared with January, and the average weekly earnings an increase of 3.1 per cent. Thirty-eight industries showed an increase in the number of workpeople in February, the greatest increase being in the seasonal fertiliser industry (13.8 per cent.). Other large gains in employment were

* Revue du Travail, 28th February, 1926. Brussels.

† Maandschrift van het Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek, 31st March, 1926. The Hague.

‡ La Disoccupazione in Italia, 31st January, 1926. Rome.

§ Sozialstatistische Mitteilungen, March, 1926. Berne.

¶ Statistiske Efterretninger, 19th March, 1926. Copenhagen.

** Information supplied by the Department of Social Affairs, Stockholm.

*** Employment in Selected Industries, February, 1926. Washington.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTS, 1920-25.

DECISIONS GIVEN BY THE UMPIRE.

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

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

The following are recent decisions of general interest:—

Case No. 214/26 (26/1/26). Section 8 (1) of the Principal Act—Trade Dispute.

DISPUTE BETWEEN TWO TRADE UNIONS AT A COLLIERY—A TRADE DISPUTE.

The applicants, surface workers at a Forest of Dean Colliery, who were members of the National Winding and General Engineers' Society, lost their employment owing to a stoppage of work, due to a dispute between their Union and the Miners' Association regarding their membership, and their claims for unemployment benefit were accordingly disallowed under the provisions of Section 8 (1).

The workers affected by the dispute were 450 members of the Miners' Association and 21 members of the National Winding and General Engineers' Society. It appeared that up to 18 months ago, the Miners' Association catered for all classes of labour at the local pits, other than those included in a local "Craftsmen's Society," now non-existent. In 1922 the Miners' Association exhausted its funds in support of its members, and incurred heavy debts to local tradesmen who had supplied goods in exchange for coupons. At the instance of the members of the defunct Craftsmen's Society, the National Winding and General Engineers' Society began to operate in the district in the early part of 1924, and to organise labour other than that directly employed at the coal face. They were able to offer advantages far more attractive than those of the Miners' Association.

The National Winding and General Engineers' Society accepted, in addition to craftsmen, three men as members who had previously been members of the Miners' Association. The men were (1) a man engaged on tramping at the pit mouth—a surface labourer, (2) a tipper, and (3) a man said to be a mason's labourer. The Miners' Association objected to this on various grounds, and as the National Winding and General Engineers' Society refused to surrender or expel the men in question the Miners' Association members went on strike on the 17th October, 1925. They had not, however, asked the management to discharge the three men or to compel them to join the Miners' Union. The members of the National Winding and General Engineers' Society remained at work, but were discharged on the 24th October after a week's notice.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claims should be allowed. In the view of the Court the dispute between the Miners' Association and the National Winding and General Engineers' Society was not a trade dispute within the interpretation of Section 47, Subsection (c), of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920. It did not concern the employment, or the terms or conditions of the employment, of the applicants. The unemployment arose solely in consequence of the action of the Miners' Association in withdrawing their men.

The Insurance Officer disagreed with the Court's recommendation, and referred the case to the Umpire.

The applicants' Society contended that the action of the Miners' Association was not officially directed against the members of the National Winding and General Engineers' Society, but was entirely a "non-Union" question. The applicants had received written notice from the Management to terminate their engagement, and lost their employment through no fault of their own. They also contended that as the management had not been asked to discharge the three men in question, there was not any dispute about the employment or non-employment of any person.

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

The applicants lost employment by reason of a stoppage of work which was due to a dispute between the Forest of Dean Miners' Union and the National Winding and General Engineers' Society as to whether three surface men (not being craftsmen) employed at a colliery should continue to be so employed whilst they were not members of the first-named Union.

The dispute was a dispute between employees and employees, and in my opinion it was "connected with the employment or non-employment" of these three men. Clearly no dispute would have arisen unless these men had been employed at the colliery, and it arose out of, and was therefore "connected with," the fact of their being so employed.

In *White v. Riley*, (1921) 1 Ch. 1, it was argued in the Court of Appeal that a dispute of exactly the same kind was not a trade dispute as defined by the Trade Disputes Act, 1906. No decision was given, but the Master of the Rolls and the Lords Justices intimated very clearly that in their opinion the dispute was one

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

shown in the cane-sugar refining (10.9 per cent.), stove and chewing tobacco (approximately 8.5 per cent. each), women's clothing, carriage, cigar, and pottery (over 4 per cent. each) industries. In addition, the millinery and lace goods industries showed increases of 3.8 per cent., steel shipbuilding 3.5 per cent., foundries and machine shops 2.9 per cent., automobiles 2.2 per cent., and iron and steel 1.5 per cent. Decreases in employment were most marked in the woollen and worsted goods industry (7 per cent.) owing largely to labour troubles, and the slaughtering and meat-packing industry which showed a decline of 4 per cent., which is a usual feature in the month of February in this industry.

As regards comparison between the month under review and the corresponding month of 1925, there was an increase of 2.9 per cent. in the number employed, an increase of 4 per cent. in the aggregate wages paid, and an increase of 1.1 per cent. in the average weekly earnings. The most notable increases in employment in February, 1926, as compared with February, 1925, are shown in the automobile (approximately 26 per cent.), fertiliser (23 per cent.), machine tool (29 per cent.), agricultural implement, carriage, stamped ware, and electrical machinery industries. The greatest decline in employment is shown in the woollen and worsted industry (14.8 per cent.), other marked decreases being in the millinery and lace goods and flour industries.

Index Number of Employment, February.—If the monthly average index number of employment in manufacturing industries in 1923 be taken as 100, the corresponding index number for February, 1926, is 94.3, as compared with 93.3 in January, and 91.6 in February, 1925.

CANADA.

*Employment in March.**—For 1st March, 1926, returns were received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from 5,753 firms, with an aggregate of 750,695 upon their pay rolls. On 1st February the same firms reported 743,813 employed, and the total for March thus shows an increase of 6,882 persons. If employment in the week ended 17th January, 1926, be represented by 100, the index number of employment for 1st March, 1926, is 91.5, as compared with 90.7 at the beginning of the preceding month, and 87.0 on 1st March, 1925.

Trade Union Unemployment in February.—On 28th February, 1926, 8.1 per cent. of the aggregate membership of trade unions making returns were unemployed, as compared with 8.1 also at the end of December, and 9.5 per cent. in February, 1925.

AUSTRALIA.‡

Unemployment in Fourth Quarter, 1925.—The proportion of members of trade unions unemployed in the fourth quarter of 1925 amounted to 8.1 per cent., as compared with 7.9 per cent. in the preceding quarter and 10.3 per cent. in the fourth quarter of 1924. (These figures relate to persons out of work for three days or more during a specified week in each quarter.)

LABOUR DISPUTES IN CANADA IN 1925.§

THE total number of disputes in Canada during the year 1925 was 83, covering 510 undertakings and 25,796 workers, and involving a loss of 1,743,996 working days. The corresponding figures for the previous year were 63, 415, 32,494 and 1,770,825 respectively. During the period 1901-1925, only three other years (1911, 1919 and 1922) showed a greater number of working days lost owing to disputes than the years 1924 and 1925. Fourteen disputes in the mining industry accounted for the loss of 1,571,881 working days, or 90 per cent. of the total number of days lost in 1925. This was chiefly due to a single dispute in coal mining in Nova Scotia, which involved 12,000 workers and lasted from March to August.

Of the total number of disputes, 56, or nearly 70 per cent., were settled by negotiation between the parties; 6 by the mediation of outside parties; in one there was a return on the employers' terms; in 15 the workers were replaced; while there were 5 un-terminated or indefinite. None were settled by arbitration or by reference to a Board under the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act, 1907. In the coal mining dispute in Nova Scotia, while resumption of work was brought about by mediation, with partial changes in wages, the matters at issue were left to a special board of inquiry.

The results of the disputes were as follows:—

	No. of disputes.	No. of workers covered.
In favour of workers ...	35	4,992
In favour of employers ...	26	15,807
Compromised ...	17	2,391
Indefinite or un-terminated ...	5	2,606
Total ...	83	25,796

* The March Employment Situation, 1926. Ottawa.

† Information supplied by the Canadian Department of Labour, Ottawa.

‡ Quarterly Summary of Australian Statistics, December, 1925. Melbourne.

§ Labour Gazette, February, 1926. Ottawa.

¶ A dispute included as such in the records of the Canadian Department of Labour is a cessation of work involving 6 or more workers, and lasting one working day or more.

which was "connected with the employment" of the persons about whose membership of a Union the dispute had arisen.

Case No. 224/26 (28/1/26). Section 7 (1) (ii) of the Principal Act—Not Unemployed—Whether following an Occupation.

APPLICANT RECEIVED INSURANCE STAMPS IN ADDITION TO £1 WEEKLY IN SUBSIDIARY OCCUPATION—REMUNERATION DEEMED TO EXCEED 3s. 4d. DAILY—GOOD FAITH.

The claim for Unemployment Benefit of the applicant, who appeared to be in receipt, from a subsidiary occupation, of remuneration exceeding 3s. 4d. per day, was disallowed on the ground that he was not unemployed, but the amount of benefit already paid was not recoverable under Section 9 of the 1923 Act.

The applicant, prior to the 5th July, 1921, was employed as a steel works labourer, and concurrently with this employment was engaged in the evenings as an assistant or reliever in a billiard room at a salary of £1 per week. After he lost his main employment he made a claim for Unemployment Benefit, and up to February, 1925, he had received about £129.

During an investigation in February, 1925, it was ascertained that in addition to his remuneration of £1 per week he had received Health and Unemployment Insurance stamps; but this fact was not disclosed by the applicant when he made his claim.

In his statement to the Court of Referees the applicant said that when questioned at the Exchange in February, 1925, he admitted that he had received the stamps in addition to the remuneration from his subsidiary employment. He had carried on the work for many years. It was work which could quite well be done in the evenings, and he considered himself available for employment. He was unable to follow his former occupation as a steel worker owing to the loss of a leg.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim should be disallowed. The Court were of the opinion that the applicant was not available for work, as the billiard employment had become his regular occupation.

The Insurance Officer disagreed with the Court's recommendation. He considered that since the applicant's employment as a billiard marker had been carried on for a number of years in addition to his usual employment it should not be regarded as having become his regular employment. He noted that the applicant had been unemployed for a considerable period, but there was no increase in the number of hours worked or the remuneration, and the question of his genuinely seeking work was not in question. He was of the opinion that the fact that the applicant's share of the insurance contributions was not deducted from his remuneration should not be regarded as having the effect of an increase of remuneration, and that therefore there should be no disqualification under Section 7 (2) (a) of the 1920 Act.

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

I see no reason whatever for thinking that the applicant was not available for work.

He had ordinarily followed the occupation of billiard marker in addition to his employment and outside the ordinary working hours of that employment, and the only question is whether before the 4th February, 1925, his remuneration exceeded 3s. 4d. on the daily average.

It seems that until 4th February, 1925, the applicant received £1 a week without deduction in respect of his contributions to the Unemployment and Health Insurance Funds. I gather that this was a definite arrangement, so that in effect he was receiving £1 2s. 5d., less 2s. 5d. for statutory deductions, and I think that during that period the applicant must be deemed to have been not unemployed.

There is no question as to the applicant's good faith, and the Insurance Officer does not claim repayment by deduction from benefit.

Case No. 393/1926. (23/2/1926). Section 8 (1) of the Principal Act—Trade Dispute.

EMPLOYERS' NOTICE TO WORKERS AND WORKERS' NOTICE TO EMPLOYERS GIVEN ON SAME DAY. EMPLOYERS' NOTICE DUE TO TRADE DEPRESSION—RESUMPTION OFFERED IN A SHORT TIME—LOSS OF EMPLOYMENT NOT IN CONSEQUENCE OF DISPUTE UNTIL DATE OF REFUSAL TO RETURN TO WORK.

The applicant, a belting man, was one of 114 employees of a Cardiff firm who lodged claims for payment in lieu of Unemployment Benefit on the 1st October, 1925. His claim, taken as a test case, was disallowed on the ground that he had lost his employment by reason of a stoppage of work due to a trade dispute.

It appeared that the employers, in consequence of trade depression, found it impossible to employ all their workpeople on full time, and a Joint Docks Committee met to consider short time proposals, but failed to arrive at any agreed arrangement. The employers therefore decided to terminate existing contracts with a substantial number of men with a view to putting them on short time. Accordingly, on 23rd September they issued one week's notice to 114 men. On the same day the employees, having decided at a meeting that they would insist on the principle of all at work or none at all, gave notice to the firm by the usual method of the shop stewards taking to the office a list of the men who wished to give notice. By this means a number of the 114 men in question, who were working on late shifts, had actually given notice to the employers before they received the employers' form of notice.

On the 5th October the firm offered by letter to reinstate those men to whom notice had been given, provided they presented themselves at the usual hour on the 8th October. However, only eight

of the men accepted the offer and returned to work. It was stated at the hearing of the case by the Court of Referees that the conditions of service in the milling industry were governed by awards of the National Joint Industrial Council. A representative of the applicants' Union contended that, since the Joint Works Committee had failed to reach a settlement regarding the method of employment in the periods of slackness, either party was entitled to give notice terminating the employment.

Recommended by the Court of Referees, by a majority, that the claim should be allowed from the date of the expiration of the notice up to and including the 7th October. They were of the opinion that, in view of the terms of the National Agreement governing the industry, the facts did not disclose a trade dispute; and that on the failure of the Joint Works Committee to agree to the method of employment during periods of slackness the employers were entitled to issue the notices of the 23rd September.

In view of the fact, however, that employment had been refused on the 8th October, the claim should be disallowed as from that date.

The insured contributors' representative at the Court dissented on the ground that the employers were not entitled to terminate contracts.

The applicants' Association appealed to the Umpire against the disallowance operating from the 8th October, contending that the employment offered was less favourable than that prior to discharge. They asserted that the firm's intention was to stand men off intermittently, whereas previously there had been no standing off.

Decision.—On the facts before me my decision is that if the above named employed person had made a claim for unemployment benefit the claim would have been allowed up to and including October 7th, disallowed on and after October 8th.

As regards the week beginning Thursday, 1st October, the applicants' loss of employment was not by reason of the stoppage of work which was due to the trade dispute, but by reason of the employers' notice of 23rd September. The fact that the applicants gave cross notices, and that in some cases they gave them before they had received the employers' notices, does not alter the fact that their loss of employment for the week in question was due, as the employers say, "to trade being so bad." Their loss of employment for that one week was the cause, not the consequence, of the trade dispute.

The notices, however, were clearly intended only to suspend work for a week and were not intended as final discharges, and but for the trade dispute work would have been resumed on 8th October. On and after that date the applicants' loss of employment was due to the stoppage of work which was due to the trade dispute.

Case No. 453/26. (25/2/26). Section 8 (2) and Section 7 (1) (iv) (as Amended) of the Principal Act—Misconduct—Genuinely seeking Work—Unable to obtain Suitable Employment.

COUNCIL EMPLOYEE, CONVICTED OF MISDEMEANOUR OUTSIDE WORKING HOURS WHILST UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF DRINK—DISMISSED ON REFUSAL TO ABSTAIN FROM DRINK—NOT MISCONDUCT WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ACT—REFUSAL OF TERMS OFFERED A DISQUALIFICATION UNDER SECTION 7 (1) (iv) (AS AMENDED).

The applicant, usually employed as a labourer by a Scottish town council, was dismissed on the 9th January, 1926, and his claim for Unemployment Benefit, lodged three days later, was disallowed on the ground that he had lost his employment through his unsatisfactory conduct.

It appeared that the applicant had on many occasions indulged immoderately in drink outside working hours. A sequel was reached when he appeared at the local police court and was convicted for a breach of the peace whilst under the influence of drink. His employer was prepared to allow the applicant to continue in the employment of the council if he promised to abstain from drink. This promise he declined to give, contending that his employer had no right to dismiss him because of his conduct after working hours, provided such conduct did not impair his capacity or skill at work. Further he hesitated to give a promise which he was doubtful of being able to fulfil.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim should be allowed. They were of the opinion that the applicant had not been discharged for unsatisfactory conduct at his work, and they considered that the employer had no concern with the applicant's conduct after working hours.

The Insurance Officer disagreed with the Court's recommendation. He was of the opinion that the employer's request was not unreasonable, and was one which a public authority might expect an employee to give. The circumstances therefore amounted to voluntarily leaving the employment without just cause, or alternatively not being unable to obtain suitable employment.

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

I agree with the Court of Referees that the applicant was not discharged for misconduct within the meaning of that expression as used in Section 8 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920. Nor did he leave voluntarily. But was he at the date of his claim on the 12th January unable to obtain suitable employment? It may well be that if on that day, instead of signing on, he had gone back to the burgh surveyor and offered to give the undertaking he would have been taken back. I see nothing unreasonable in the surveyor's asking for the undertaking, and as the applicant did not try to get back his job on the terms of giving it, he fails to show that he was genuinely seeking work but unable to obtain suitable employment.

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

Recent Proceedings.

(A.)—INDUSTRIAL COURT DECISIONS.

SURVEYORS OF STORES—ADMIRALTY.—The Staff Side v. The Official Side of the Admiralty Administrative Whitley Council. *Difference*.—Salary scales—Claim for increase. *Decision*.—The Court decided basic salaries of the Surveyors as follows:—

Portsmouth...	...	...	£350-15-500 a year.
Chatham & Devonport ...	...	...	£350-15-450 "
West India Docks & Malta ...	...	...	£300-15-400 "

Operative from 1st February, 1926. Issued, 1st March, 1926. (1194.)

ELECTRICAL WORKERS—RAILWAY COMPANIES OPERATING IN LONDON DISTRICT.—(a) Great Western Railway Company; (b) London and North Eastern Railway Company; (c) London, Midland and Scottish Railway Company; (d) Southern Railway Company; (e) London Electric Railway Company; (f) Metropolitan District Railway Company; (g) City and South London Railway Company; (h) Central London Railway Company; (i) Metropolitan Railway Company v. Electrical Trades Union and National Union of Railwaymen. *Difference*.—Railway Power House Staff, London.—Applicability of advance agreed for power house staff in general electricity supply industry—Future regulation of wages and conditions of service. *Decision*.—The Court drew attention of the parties to the desirability of setting up machinery for settlement of any questions arising between them, and meanwhile directed that the payment of the advance of 6½ per cent. should be continued up to 30th June, 1926. Issued, 15th March, 1926. (1195.)

FITTERS, TURNERS AND BLACKSMITHS (GRIMSBY, IMMINGHAM AND NEW HOLLAND).—The Amalgamated Engineering Union v. The London and North Eastern Railway. *Difference*.—Claim that the London and North Eastern Railway, Great Central Section, should pay advance conceded in the Port of Grimsby on 23rd June, 1925, in accordance with agreement of 8th August, 1916. *Decision*.—The Court decided that effect should be given to the agreement of 23rd June, 1925, in so far as it is applicable to the grades concerned in the steam ship and hydraulic departments of the Company's establishment at Grimsby, Immingham and New Holland. Issued, 17th March, 1926. (1196.)

SAWMILLING INDUSTRY, SHEFFIELD.—The Amalgamated Society of Woodcutting Machinists v. The Sheffield and District Sawmill Proprietors' Association. *Difference*.—Application for (1) advance in wages to 1s. 8d. per hour minimum; (2) one week's holiday per year with pay. *Decision*.—The Court decided against the claims. Issued, 17th March, 1926. (1197.)

FOREMEN OF STOREHOUSES, INSPECTORS OF STOREHOUSEMEN ASSISTANT FOREMEN OF STOREHOUSES, ADMIRALTY.—Staff Side v. Official Side, Admiralty Administrative Whitley Council. *Difference*.—Salary scales—Claims for increase. *Decision*.—The Court awarded the following basic scales of pay:—

Principal Foreman of Storehouses ...	£400 (fixed) per annum.
Senior " " " "	£220-10-320 " "
" " " "	£180-10-220 " "
Inspectors of Storehousemen ...	£120-7-10s.-180, " "
Assistant Foremen of Storehouses	" " " "

Operative on 1st March, 1926. Issued, 22nd March, 1926. (1198.)

ESTABLISHED BALLISTIC ASSISTANT IN NAVAL ORDNANCE DEPARTMENT, ADMIRALTY.—National Union of Scientific Workers v. Admiralty. *Difference*.—Salary scale—Claim for increase. *Decision*.—The Court awarded the following basic scale of pay:—Established Ballistic Assistant, Naval Ordnance Department, Admiralty, £160-15-400 a year.

Operative on 1st March, 1926. (1199.)

RAILWAY SHOPMEN—CLASSIFICATION OF ARDSLEY REPAIR WORKSHOP.—The Amalgamated Engineering Union v. The London and North Eastern Railway. *Difference*.—Claim for the payment of running shed differential rate. *Decision*.—The Court were of opinion that the claim had not been substantiated. Issued, 25th March, 1926. (1200.)

PAPERMAKING TRADE.—The National Union of Printing, Book-binding, Machine Ruling and Paper Workers, and the Amalgamated Society of Papermakers v. The Employers' Federation of Paper-makers of the United Kingdom. *Difference*.—Rate of Wages—Claim for increase. *Decision*.—The Court decided that no case had been established for any alteration in minimum rates for Class I and Class II adult male workers, or for boys and youths or girls. The minimum rates in the sliding scale for adult male shift workers should be increased by ½d. per hour, and for Class III adult male day workers and for women, by ¼d. per hour. Operative as from the beginning of the first full pay period following 20th March, 1926. Issued, 26th March, 1926. (1201.)

RAILWAY SHOPMEN—BOILERMAKERS IN LOCOMOTIVE DEPARTMENT, FURNACE SECTION OF LONDON MIDLAND AND SCOTTISH RAILWAY.—The Boilermakers' Society v. The London Midland and Scottish Railway. *Difference*.—Withdrawal of allowance for dirty work. *Decision*.—The Court decided that the withdrawal of the allowance in question was not justified and should be restored, and continued until the matter has been determined by agreement between the parties, or failing agreement, by a further decision of the Court. Issued, 26th March, 1926. (1202.)

PAINTERS, INVERNESS.—Scottish Painters' Society (Inverness Branch) v. Inverness Master Painters' Association. *Difference*.—Rate of pay—Claim for advance. *Decision*.—The present rate of 1s. 5d. per hour shall be advanced by ¼d. per hour. Issued, 26th March, 1926. (1203.)

SOUTHERN RAILWAY—SUB-STATION ATTENDANTS.—Electrical Trades Union v. The Southern Railway. *Difference*.—Claim for advance in wages. *Decision*.—The Court decided against the claim. Issued, 30th March, 1926. (1204.)

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

BOOT AND SHOE TRADE: LONDON.—The two sides of the Standing Committee for the London Wholesale Hand-Sewn Louis XV. Heel Trade, also the two sides of the Board of Conciliation for the Boot and Shoe Trade of London. *Difference*.—Motions by the Workers' Side of the Committee and the Board and amendments by the Employers' Sides in connection with the provision of Factory Workshops for the Operatives. Being unable to agree, the respective parties made application in accordance with their Rules for the appointment of an Umpire under the Industrial Courts Act, 1919. The Minister appointed Mr. W. Addington Willis, C.B.E., to act in this capacity. *Award*.—The Umpire was of opinion that the Workers had established a case for at least an effort to be made towards effecting the change and laid down conditions to be satisfied before such change should become effective. Dated 15th March, 1926.

IRON AND STEEL TRADES: SOUTH WALES.—National Union of Blastfurnacemen and Kindred Trades v. Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds, Ltd., Dowlais Works, Dowlais. *Difference*.—Claim for increases to Electric Pig Bed Crane Drivers, Lamp Attendants and Oilers at Blastfurnaces. *Board of Arbitration* consisting of Mr. A. M. Langdon, K.C. (Chairman) Mr. G. Pate, O.B.E. (Employers' Representative) and the Rt. Hon. John Hodge (Workpeople's Representative) appointed under Section 2 (2) (c) of the Industrial Courts Act, 1919. *Award*.—Claim refused. Dated 29th March, 1926.

(C.)—OTHER SETTLEMENTS.

OMNIBUS WORKERS: EAST HAM.—Transport and General Workers' Union v. Britannia Omnibus Company. *Difference*.—Application for operation of the London Omnibus agreement. *Settlement*.—It was agreed to pay an all round advance of 10s. per week, no application for an alteration to be made by either side for at least six months. Settled 3rd March, 1926.

SPORTS GOODS MANUFACTURERS.—National Amalgamated Furnishing Trades Association v. Association of British Manufacturers of Sports and Games. *Difference*.—Refusal of the Union to accept certain alterations in the Schedule of prices agreed between the parties in October, 1924. *Settlement*.—The alterations were accepted with modifications. Signed 4th March, 1926.

VINEGAR WORKERS: LONDON.—Workers' Union v. Sir Robert Burnett and Company, Ltd., Vauxhall Distillery and Vinegar Works, London. *Difference*.—Application on behalf of inside workers for an increase of 10s. per week, and for recognition of the Union. *Settlement*.—Application for recognition conceded, the wages claim to be the subject of further consideration. Settled 9th March, 1926.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY EMPLOYEES: KIPPAX.—National Union of Distributive and Allied Workers v. Kippax Co-operative Society. *Difference*.—Refusal of the Society to allow certain employees to work out their period of notice. *Settlement*.—It was agreed to withdraw the notices and to discuss the question of the retention or otherwise of the employees concerned at a later date. Settled 9th March, 1926.

TRADE BOARDS ACTS.

Orders, Notices, etc., Recently Issued.

I.—CONFIRMING ORDERS.

Rope, Twine, and Net Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order R. (44), dated 31st March, 1926, confirming the variation of general minimum time rates, piece-work basis time rates, general minimum piece rates and overtime rates for certain classes of female workers, and specifying the 12th April, 1926, as the date from which such rates shall become effective.

Copies of the Order R. (44), which contains all the rates at present effective in the trade (including the rates mentioned above), may be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office or through any bookseller, price 3d.

Boot and Shoe Repairing Trade Board (Northern Ireland).

Order N.I.B.S. (12), dated the 22nd March, 1926, confirming minimum rates of wages as varied for male and female workers in the boot and shoe repairing trade in Northern Ireland, and specifying the 12th April, 1926, as the date from which these rates become effective.

W.C.—C.I. Drainage, etc.: Matthew Hall & Co., London, W. Syston Telephone Exchange—Erection: J. Jelley & Son, Leicester. Taunton Telephone Repeater Station—Asphalter: The Western Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co., Ltd., Cardiff. Plasterer: E. Wensley & Son, Taunton. Plumber: F. J. Lock, Taunton. Teddington P.O.—Steelwork: Rubery, Owen & Co., London, W.C. Tonypandy Employment Exchange—Alterations: John Price, Tonypandy.—**Engineering Services:** Edinburgh, Royal Botanic Garden—Boilers, etc.: The Brightside Foundry & Engineering Co., Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne. Imperial Institute, S.W.—Wiring: F. Troy & Co., Ltd., London, N.W. Somerset House, W.C. West Wing—Heating: Cannon & Hefford, London, S.E. Wakefield P.O., etc.—Heating: A. Grindrod & Co., Sheffield.—**Miscellaneous:** Cabinets (Card Index): Roneo, Ltd., London, E.C. Cable: Lydbrook Cables, Ltd., Lydbrook. Casements (Steel), etc.: Williams & Williams, Ltd., Chester. Chimney Sweeping: F. Harding, London, N.; T. James & Sons, Sutton Coldfield; Phillips & Lewis, London, S.W.; T. L. Freebury, Senr., London, W.; The Westminster Chimney Sweeping Co., London, S.W. Cupboards (Steel): G. A. Harvey & Co. (London), Ltd., London, S.E. Fire Extinguishers, etc.: Mather & Platt, Ltd., London, S.W. Horses, Carts, etc. (Hire of): C. H. Abrahams, London, N. Kerosene: The Anglo-American Oil Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; The Scottish Oil Agency, Ltd., Glasgow. Linoleum: Barry, Ostlere & Shepherd, Ltd., Kirkcaldy; Michael Nairn & Co., Ltd., Kirkcaldy. Manhole Covers, etc.: McDowell, Stevens & Co., London, E.C. Polishes: Lane Bros., London, S.W. Spirit (Motor): Shell Mex, Ltd., London, W.C. Window Cleaning: The Great Metropolitan Cleaning Co., Ltd., London, S.W.

CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

Asbestos cement sheets: Bell's Poilite & Everite Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Barge, twin screw disinfecting:** The Clayton Fire Extinguishing & Disinfecting Company, London, W.C.—**Beds, etc.:** Whitfields Bedsteads Limited, London, W.C.—**Blankets:** T. & D. Lee, Earlshealton, Dewsbury.—**Boilers:** John Thompson (Wolverhampton) Ltd., Wolverhampton.—**Boilers, Cochran:** Cochran & Company (Annan), Annan, Scotland.—**Boilers, Vertical Cross Tube:** W. W. Coltman & Co., Ltd., Loughborough.—**Boots, etc.:** Adams Brothers Ltd., Raunds, Wellingborough.—**Cables:** The British Insulated Cables, London, W.C.—W. T. Henley's Telegraph Works, London, E.C.—**Cable:** The Standard Telephones & Cables, Ltd., London, W.C.—**Cable, etc.:** St. Helens Cable & Rubber Co., Ltd., Slough, Bucks.—**Calico:** R. Haworth & Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Candles:** Prices Patent Candle Company, London, E.C.—**Cement:** Cement Marketing Co., London, S.W. T. Beynon & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Clothing:** Milns, Cartwright, Reynolds & Co., Ltd., London, S.W.; Toller & Lancaster, Leicester; T. Briggs, Ltd., London, E.C.; Midland Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Ardwick, Manchester; Hobson & Sons, London, S.E.—**Coaching Stock:** The Gloucester Rly. Carr. & Wagon Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Coal:** Pyman & Watson & Co., Ltd., Cardiff; A. & G. Anderson, Glasgow.—**Copper Wire, etc.:** The Shropshire Iron Co., Hadley, Nr. Wellington, Salop.—**Cranes Electric Portal:** William Arrol & Co., Ltd., Glasgow; Wellman, Smith & Owen Engineering Corporation, London, W.C.—**Crane, Loco. Grab:** Priestman Brothers, Ltd., Hull.—**Culverts:** Walls, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Dixies:** Froggat & Tyler, Ltd., Bilston.—**Dog Spikes:** Chas. Richards & Sons, Darlaston.—**Drill:** J. H. Greenhow & Co., Manchester; E. Spinner & Co., Manchester; Tootal Broadhurst Lee, Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Electrical Materials:** F. Smith & Co., Ltd., Salford.—**Equipment:** Barrow, Hepburn & Gale, London, S.E.—**Gelignite:** Nobel Industries Ltd., London, S.W.—**Hose:** F. Reddaway & Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—**Iron and Steel:** P. & W. Maclellan, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Launches:** J. S. White & Co., Ltd., East Cowes, Isle of Wight.—**Locomotive Engines and Tenders:** Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth & Co., Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne.—**Lorry, Sanitary:** Shelvoke & Drewry, Ltd., New Icknield Way, Letchworth, Herts.—**Machines, Block and Slab Making:** Winget (1924) Ltd., London, S.W.—**Marquees:** Silver & Edgington, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Metal, Expanded:** Wm. Jacks & Co., London, E.C.—**Meters, Water, etc.:** Tylors (W. & S.), Ltd., London, N.—**Motor Rollers:** Aveling & Porter, Ltd., Rochester, Kent; Barford & Perkins, Ltd., Peterborough.—**Needles and Syringes, Hypodermic:** Burroughs, Wellcome & Co., London, E.C.—**Oil, Engine:** C. C. Wakefield & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Paint:** Indestructible Paint Co.,

London, E.C.; Torbay Paint Co., London, E.C.; Wilkinson Heywood & Clark, London, W.C.—**Paper:** Wiggins, Teape & Alex. Pirie (Sales), Ltd., London, E.—**Patent Metals:** Manganese Bronze & Brass Co., London, S.W.—**Pipe, Cast Iron, etc.:** Cochrane & Co., Ltd., Middlesbrough-on-Tees.—**Pipes, Galvd., etc.:** Scottish Tube Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Plant, Limehardening and Purification:** The Paterson Engineering Co., London, W.C.—**Printing Machine:** Furnival & Co., Ltd., Reddish, Nr. Stockport.—**Quinine:** Howards & Sons, Ltd., Ilford.—**Repp, Carriage:** John Holdsworth & Co., Ltd., Halifax.—**Rope:** J. E. Wright, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Saddlery:** W. Jenkinson & Co., London, E.C.; F. R. Pardow & Co., Walsall.—**Sanitary Fittings:** Doulton & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Serge:** J. W. Whitworth & Co., Luddendenfoot S.O., Yorks.—**Sheets, Galvd., Ridging, etc.:** Wolverhampton C.I. Co., Ltd., Ellesmere Port, Nr. Birkenhead.—**Signalling Materials:** The Westinghouse Brake & Saxby Signal Company, London, N.—**Slates, etc.:** Turner Bros., Asbestos Co., London, E.C.—**Spares for Dredger "King George":** Lobnitz & Co., Renfrew, N.B.—**Stationery:** Waterlow & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Steel Fencing and Gates:** Wm. Bain & Co., Ltd., Coatbridge.—**Steel Framed Building:** The Tees Side Bridge & Engineering Co., Ltd., Middlesbrough.—**Steel Round Bars:** H. J. Skelton, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Steel Sleepers:** Bolckow, Vaughan & Co., London, S.W.—**Steelwork:** F. Morton & Co., Ltd., Garston, Liverpool; F. Braby & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Tees Side Bridge & Engineering Works, Ltd., Middlesbrough.—**Stonebreakers:** Goodwin, Barsby & Co., Leicester.—**Surgical Instruments:** Down Brothers, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Switches and Crossings:** The Isca Foundry, Ltd., Newport, Mon.—**Tar:** Gas Light & Coke Co., London, E.C.—**Tarpaulins:** Waterproofing Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Timber:** C. Leary & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Tools, etc.:** V. & R. Blakemore, London, E.C.—**Tubes, Water:** Stewarts & Lloyds, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Tubular Poles:** Siemens Brothers & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Tyres:** Cammell, Laird & Co., Ltd., Sheffield.—**Tyre Boring Machine, etc.:** Craven Bros. (Manchester), Reddish, Stockport.—**Vaccine:** Lister Institute, London, S.W.—**Wagons, Tank:** C. Roberts & Co., Ltd., Horbury Junction, Nr. Wakefield.—**Wagons, Bogie Covered Goods:** Metropolitan Carr. W. & F. Co., London, S.W.—**Wire, Copper:** R. Johnson, Clapham & Morris, Newton Heath, Manchester; Elliott's Metal Co., Ltd., Birmingham.

METROPOLITAN POLICE.

Ironmongery Contract, 1926/27: Pryke & Palmer, London, E.C.

H.M. CUSTOMS & EXCISE.

Supply of Coal for Customs Launches on Thames: Wm. Cory & Son, Ltd., London, E.C.

BOARD OF CONTROL.

Fish: R. Pearson, Grimsby.

NOTICE.

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