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

EMPLOYMENT.

THE improvement in employment, which had been in progress since the beginning of the year, continued during April.

Among the 11,892,000 workpeople insured against unemployment under the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the percentage unemployed at 26th April, 1926, was 9·2, as compared with 9·8 at 22nd March, 1926, and 10·9 at 27th April, 1925. The total number of applicants for employment registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 26th April, 1926, was approximately 1,034,000, of whom 800,000 were men and 172,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls; at 29th March, 1926, it was 1,070,000, of whom 842,000 were men and 175,000 were women; and at 27th April, 1925, it was 1,251,000, of whom 948,000 were men and 231,000 were women.

Employment in April was good with brickmakers and with skilled building trades operatives, and fairly good in some sections of the metal, printing and clothing trades, in the furnishing trades, and with coachbuilders and millsawyers. In coal mining it was fair; but in iron and steel manufacture, shipbuilding, marine engineering, and the linen and jute trades it remained bad. Among the principal industries there was an improvement in coal mining, building and public works contracting, shipbuilding, and the clothing trades. In the jute industry there was a marked decline in employment.

WAGES.

In the industries for which statistics are regularly compiled by the Department, the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation during April resulted in an aggregate reduction of £20,500 in the weekly full-time wages of 291,000 workpeople, and in an increase of nearly £2,400 in those of 30,000 workpeople. The reductions mainly took effect under agreements whereby wages are adjusted in correspondence with movements in the cost of living or in the selling price of iron and steel.

The principal groups for whom reductions were reported included over 40,000 workpeople employed at iron puddling furnaces and iron and steel rolling mills in the Midlands, about 75,000 workpeople employed in the textile bleaching, dyeing, printing, etc. trades in Yorkshire, Lancashire, and Scotland, and over 50,000 hosiery workers. In the case of the iron and steel workers in the Midlands there was a reduction of 3½ per cent. in the current rates of wages; textile bleachers, dyers, etc., had their current rates reduced by about 3 per cent. in Yorkshire, and by 1s. 9d. or 1s. 10d. per week in the case of men and 1s. per week in the

case of women in Lancashire and Scotland. The bonus paid to hosiery workers in the Midlands was reduced by 1d. on each shilling earned. Other bodies of workpeople whose wages were reduced included coal miners in the Radstock district, steel workers in South Wales and Monmouthshire, bobbin makers, chain makers, carpet makers, seed crushers and oil millers, men employed by public works contractors in London, wholesale warehouse workers at Manchester, and men employed by waterworks undertakings in London and various provincial districts.

The groups of workpeople whose wages were increased included about 15,000 men employed by electrical contractors in England and Wales, who received an increase of ½d. per hour, and over 10,000 steel sheet millmen and galvanisers in various districts, whose wages were increased by 1½ per cent. on current rates.

During the first four months of 1926 the changes reported to the Department, in the industries for which statistics have been compiled, have resulted in a net increase amounting to £11,700 in the weekly full-time wages of 106,000 workpeople, and in a net reduction of £33,000 in those of 354,000 workpeople.

COST OF LIVING.

At 1st May 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 67 per cent. above that of July, 1914, as compared with 68 per cent. a month ago and 73 per cent. a year ago. The corresponding figures for food alone were 58, 59 and 67 respectively.

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

TRADE DISPUTES.

The number of trade disputes involving stoppages of work reported to the Department as beginning in April, was 42. In addition, 26 disputes, which began before April, were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The number of workpeople involved in all disputes in April (including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes) was about 51,000; the estimated aggregate duration of all disputes during April was about 424,000 working days.

NOTE.—Publication of this issue of the MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE has been delayed, owing to the general strike. An article on the coal mining dispute and the general strike will be published in the June issue.

REPORT ON AN ENQUIRY INTO UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG BOYS AND GIRLS.*

An Enquiry was made in June and July, 1925, into the personal circumstances and industrial history of 3,331 boys and 2,701 girls, this being ten per cent. of the boys and girls registered for employment at the Ministry of Labour Employment Exchanges and at the Juvenile Employment Bureaux of Local Education Authorities. The Employment Exchanges are concerned with boys and girls in rather more than half of England and Wales, including London, and in the whole of Scotland, except Edinburgh. Elsewhere in England and Wales the place of Employment Exchanges is taken, so far as boys and girls under 18 are concerned, by the Juvenile Employment Bureaux of Local Education Authorities.

Every care was taken to ensure the trustworthiness of the sample; but caution is necessary in interpreting the figures. In particular, it should be remembered that there is always a sudden influx of school leavers at the four main school-leaving periods, and particularly at the end of July. This particular enquiry was made at the end of June and the beginning of July; hence the proportion of younger boys and girls was lower than it would have been at the end of July.

It should also be noted that boys and girls do not become insurable until they reach the age of 16. Consequently, while boys and girls in an insured trade (and some of those in uninsured trades) normally register for employment when unemployed, boys and girls of 14 and 15 need not come to an Exchange or Bureau. Hence, of the boys and girls interviewed, only about 28 per cent. were under 16, as against 72 per cent. who were over 16.

Of the boys and girls interviewed 2 per cent. were still at school, 14.7 per cent. had not been employed since they left school, and 83.3 per cent. had had employment or were still in employment.

Physical Characteristics and Appearance.—Nearly 70 per cent. of the boys and girls interviewed were described as of "good" physique, and over 84 per cent. as in "good" health; only 5.5 per cent. were of "poor" physique, and only 2 per cent. in "poor" health. The physique and health of the older boys and girls were markedly superior to those of the younger. 13 per cent. of the boys and 8.5 per cent. of the girls were suffering from physical defects; but cases of poor eyesight accounted for half of these.

Only 6 per cent. of the boys and 2 per cent. of the girls were described as "slovenly" in their appearance.

Home Circumstances.—77.9 per cent. of the boys and girls interviewed had both parents living. 13.9 per cent. had lost their fathers, 5.7 per cent. their mothers, and 2.5 per cent. both parents. The families contained, on average, three members, other than the parents and the boy or girl interviewed.

One or both parents of 68.3 per cent. of the boys and 73.6 per cent. of the girls interviewed were in employment. In one out of every five of the families represented, unemployment benefit, other than that, if any, drawn by the boy or girl interviewed, was being received by the family. 6 per cent. of the families were drawing Poor Relief.

School Records.—About 94 per cent. of the boys and girls were educated in elementary or primary schools, and 5 per cent. at secondary schools. Of those at elementary or primary schools 79.2 per cent. were in Standard VI or above before they left. About 74 per cent. left school between 14 and 14½, and 11 per cent. at an earlier age; 15.6 per cent. had left school at or since Christmas, 1924. Of those who had left school, 13.2 per cent. had remained voluntarily at school after the normal school-leaving age.

Industries.—The principal industries for which the unemployed boys, who had had employment, were registered were engineering (12 per cent.), colliery workers (9.7 per cent.), shipbuilding (6.8 per cent.), transport (6.6 per cent.), and the building industry (5.4 per cent.). 7.2 per cent. were registered for employment as errand boys.

The figures for first situations after leaving school are very different. Of the boys, 16.1 per cent. became errand boys in their first situation; 8.3 per cent. entered the engineering industry and 6 per cent. shipbuilding; 8 per cent. became colliery workers, 7.6 per cent. shop boys, and 6.8 per cent. undefined factory workers and labourers. The textile industries took 5.2 per cent. of the boys in their first situations; and 5.1 per cent. became clerks. In this connection it should be noticed that apprenticeship (where it exists), especially for boys, often does not begin until some time after the school leaving age; only 5 per cent. of the first situations for boys were, in fact, apprenticeships. Consequently there is a tendency for the first situations of boys, on the average, to be of a more temporary character than subsequent situations.

Of the girls who had had employment, 16.3 per cent. were registered for employment in domestic service, and 15.3 per cent. in the textile industries; 14 per cent. had been shop assistants; 9.4 per cent. had been in the dress trades, and 8.6 per cent. were undefined factory workers. The figures for first situations for girls did not show such a marked difference as those for boys; they were:—domestic servants, 20.2 per cent.; textile workers, 12.5 per cent.; dress trades, 12.1 per cent.; shop girls, 11 per cent.

In general, there was no long interval between the time of the boys' and girls' leaving school and the time of their obtaining

* Report on an Enquiry into the Personal Circumstances and Industrial History of 3,331 Boys and 2,701 Girls registered for Employment at Employment Exchanges and Juvenile Employment Bureaux. H.M. Stationery Office; price 1s. 9d. net.

employment. Slightly more than half of those who had had any employment obtained it within one month of leaving school, and about three-quarters within six months. In many cases, particularly among girls, employment probably was not sought immediately upon leaving school.

Most of the first situations (58.7 per cent.) were obtained unaided, 25.5 per cent. through relatives or friends, and 12.4 per cent. through the Employment Exchange or Juvenile Employment Bureau. Of all situations (including first situations), about 18 of 19 per cent. were obtained through the Exchanges or Bureaux. Nearly 40 per cent. of the boys and girls interviewed who had had any employment received recommendations as to their first situations from Juvenile Advisory or Employment Committees (including school conferences) or from head teachers. About 20 per cent. of the first situations were recommended.

The results obtained do not support the view that boys and girls tend to leave their first situations at the earliest possible moment from sheer love of change. More than two-thirds of the boys, and slightly less than two-thirds of the girls, held their first situations for more than six months. The textile, coal-mining and engineering industries in the case of boys, and the textile and dress trades in the case of girls, provided the highest proportion of first situations held for more than a year.

Industrial History.—Of the boys and girls interviewed, 52.8 per cent. had had one or two situations only, and the average number of situations since leaving school held both by boys and by girls was only two. The tendency to change jobs without good cause is not as marked as might have been expected when the apparently unsatisfactory character of a substantial proportion of the situations, and especially the first situations, is borne in mind. Only 16.8 per cent. of the situations held were definitely "educative," and 15.7 per cent. were seasonal or casual. The proportion of casual, seasonal, or temporary situations was higher for boys than for girls. The proportion of "educative" situations obtained through Exchanges or Bureaux was slightly above the average, and of those obtained unaided below the average.

The average number of weeks spent in each situation was about 41 in the case both of boys and of girls. As might have been expected, the analysis shows that the length of time a situation was held varied directly with its class.

In so far as the reasons for the termination of employment could be classified, 29.5 per cent. of the situations were left for reasons within the boys' or girls' own control, and 70.5 per cent. for reasons outside their control, of which trade depression accounted for 35.7 per cent. A higher proportion of boys than of girls became unemployed because of misconduct, or to obtain a better position, or because they had become "too old for the job," or because the wages were too low. Girls were more prone to leave because they were inefficient or inexperienced, or of their own accord, or for domestic reasons or reasons of ill-health, or because the work was found to be unsuitable or the hours too long. A higher proportion of girls than of boys were on short time, owing to the prevalence of systematic short time in the textile industries.

On the average, the boys interviewed had been unemployed since their last situation for 8.4 weeks and the girls for 7.2 weeks; older boys had been unemployed for longer periods than younger—boys of 17 for 11.3 weeks—but there was no appreciable difference between girls of from 15 to 17.

The enquiry throws some light on the alleged tendency of employers, and especially employers in occupations covered by Trade Boards, to discharge their young workers when they reach 16 years of age in order to avoid the cost of paying increased wages at that age, and the expense and trouble of carrying out their duties under the National Health and Unemployment Insurance Acts. An analysis of the schedules shows that 2.9 per cent. of the boys who had been in Trade Board occupations at 16 were discharged on reaching that age, and 6.6 per cent. of those who had been in other insurable occupations. The percentages of girls similarly discharged were 7.8 per cent. and 2.8 per cent., respectively.

Of the boys and girls interviewed, 11.1 per cent. of the boys and 5.4 per cent. of the girls had been apprenticed. The principal industries represented were engineering, shipbuilding, and building for boys, and dressmaking, millinery, and tailoring for girls. About 60 per cent. of the boys apprenticed commenced their apprenticeships at 15 years of age or over, but the more usual age of commencement for girls was under 15. Only 12.4 per cent. were apprenticed under an indenture or written agreement; 69.8 per cent. were dependent on a verbal understanding. About half of the apprentices were suspended without pay at the time of the enquiry.

Of all the boys and girls interviewed, 62.4 per cent. (70.6 per cent. of the boys and 52.2 per cent. of the girls) were insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts. Of the boys and girls interviewed of 16 and above, 86.4 per cent. (91.7 per cent. of the boys and 78.9 per cent. of the girls) were insured. Of the boys and girls of 16 and above claiming benefit, 41.8 per cent. had standard benefit authorised (*i.e.*, benefit payable in respect of contributions), and 37.8 per cent. extended benefit (*i.e.*, benefit in advance of contributions). 12.5 per cent. of the boys and girls of 16 and above claiming benefit were claiming benefit which had not been authorised at the time of the enquiry, and 7.9 per cent. had had their claims disallowed or had been disqualified or had had benefit suspended.

On the average each boy or girl interviewed, who had at any time drawn benefit, had paid 43 contributions and had received benefit for 42 days.

Employability.—The boys and girls were first classified as those who in normal times would probably (a) have taken up training in

EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCERATION AMONG COTTON SPINNERS.

The Home Secretary appointed a Departmental Committee on the 27th March, 1925, "to consider evidence at present available as to the occurrence of epitheliomatous ulceration amongst mule spinners (mule spinners' cancer), and to report what measures are practicable for the protection of the workers, and what Regulations (if any) are required." This Committee have now issued their Report.*

The disease, in its fully developed form, is a cancerous ulceration (epithelioma) affecting the skin of certain regions, especially that of the scrotum, the face and neck, and the arms. The evidence submitted to the Committee, supplemented by their own enquiries, showed that it is particularly liable to attack cotton mule spinners; between the ages of 45 and 55 the mortality from this disease among cotton spinners is sixty times, and between the ages of 55 and 75 a hundred times, as great as that in the general population. Other persons among whom the incidence of the disease is very high are chimney sweeps, and those engaged in the distillation of coal tar, the manufacture of patent fuels, and the refining of paraffin oils; the exciting causes being soot, cotton tans, pitch, and some mineral oils, respectively. In the case of cotton mule spinners the Committee conclude that the evidence is strongly in favour of this disease being due to the prolonged action of mineral oils, used in oiling the spindles of the mules, which get on to the men's clothing.

The Committee suggest a number of remedies, including (i) research with a view to finding oils that would be innocuous; (ii) development of a non-splash type of spindle bearing; (iii) prevention of oil splash by means of some form of guard; (iv) periodic medical examination of workers of 30 years of age and over; (v) distribution of leaflets to direct attention to importance of cleanliness and to danger of delay in securing early treatment. They suggest that the periodic medical examination should be voluntary at first, but should be made compulsory if, at the end of a specified period, the voluntary scheme were found unsuccessful. In this connection they refer to the voluntary scheme, which they describe as entirely successful, in force among the paraffin workers employed by Scottish Oils, Limited.

OVERSEA SETTLEMENT UNDER THE EMPIRE SETTLEMENT ACT IN 1925.

ACCORDING to the Report of the Oversea Settlement Committee for 1925,† the total number of British settlers who were assisted, under the Empire Settlement Act, to go overseas in 1925 was 43,057 (14,029 men, 11,821 women, and 17,207 children), as against 41,565 in 1924. Of these 43,057 settlers, 23,427 went to Australia, 8,051 to New Zealand, 11,442 to Canada, and 115 to South Africa. There has thus been a slight increase in the number of assisted passages; while unassisted migration (as will be seen from the Tables on page 162) fell in 1925. The Report states that there are indications of an increased outflow of settlers in the current year, partly as a result of improving trade and partly as a result of the agreements which have been made with the Governments of Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.

The Report refers to the new assisted rates to Canada which have come into force as the result of an Agreement made between H.M. Government, the Dominion Government, and the transatlantic shipping companies in December, 1925. Settlers going to Canada with assisted passages under the Empire Settlement Act can now travel to the eastern ports (Halifax, St. John or Quebec) for only £3, and to Vancouver for £9, with corresponding reductions to the intermediate points.

* During last year, 480 families were settled in Canada under a scheme, arranged in 1924, for the settlement of 3,000 families on the land; only a very small proportion of these families have abandoned their holdings.

A new Agreement between H.M. Government and the Australian Government was signed in April, 1925, under which the Commonwealth Government undertakes to raise loans, not exceeding £34,000,000, for issue to the Governments of the several Australian States at a low rate of interest. The scheme aims at the settlement in Australia within the next five years of 450,000 assisted migrants from the United Kingdom, including 34,000 families.

The Committee have always taken the view that any prolonged training for settlement on the land in the Dominions should be undertaken overseas; but they consider that a brief course of training or testing in this country, both for men and for women, would have many advantages. They refer to the training given at Catterick to soldiers during their last year of service who wish to settle in the Dominions, and to the Ministry of Labour training centres at Claydon and at Weeting Park. Training centres would, they suggest, be valuable as a means (i) to encourage applications from those who would otherwise regard themselves as not qualified, (ii) to increase the number of acceptable applicants, (iii) to eliminate those who prove unsuitable, and (iv) to facilitate the actual process of settlement overseas.

* H.M. Stationery Office; price 1s. net.
† Cmd. 2640. H.M. Stationery Office; price 9d. net.

a trade, commercial occupation or profession; (b) have entered an occupation providing for steady employment; or (c) have taken up any job that was available.

Of the boys and girls interviewed, 37.2 per cent. of the boys and 24.9 per cent. of the girls were found to be in the highest class, and 25.1 per cent. of the boys and 24.2 per cent. of the girls in the lowest class.

Employability was then assessed in relation to the type of situation obtained and the number of situations held. The results indicated that there were more boys and girls of the best type than there were situations of the best type; that there was in general a substantial correspondence between the type of boy or girl and the type of situation obtained, but that a comparatively high proportion of boys (though not of girls) of the best type had obtained casual or seasonal situations, or had had four, five, six or more situations.

The boys interviewed had been employed on the average for 89.8 weeks and unemployed for 37.9 weeks. The figures vary, as might be expected, with age; the corresponding figures for boys of 17 and above are 124 weeks and 49.9 weeks. The girls interviewed had been employed on the average for 67.8 weeks and unemployed for 46.5. The corresponding figures for girls of 17 and above are 115.6 weeks and 59.7 weeks. The periods of unemployment include periods when the boy or girl may not have been seeking work, because they were occupied at home, or for other reasons.

As might be expected, it was found that, in general, the worse the physique, health or appearance of the boy or girl, the longer was the average total period of unemployment; the boy with poor physique, for example, is unemployed for a total period nearly twice as long as that of the boy with good physique.

A separate examination of the schedules of those who were pursuing a course of continued education discloses that a quarter of the boys and a third of the girls of the best type were continuing their education, usually at evening classes.

A separate examination was also made of the schedules of the boys and girls interviewed who had had no employment, 14.7 per cent. of the total number. Nearly half of these boys and girls had been unemployed for less than four months, but a few of them had been unemployed for considerable periods: 44 boys and 97 girls for more than 18 months. A classification by employability discloses that all the boys and girls in this group, whatever their age, were on the average of a better type than all the boys and girls interviewed of corresponding age. Further, their physique, health and appearance did not differ markedly from those of all the boys and girls interviewed.

General observations.—The results of the enquiry suggest that the great bulk of the boys and girls who were registered for employment were simply young workers of ordinary type who had been unemployed for a comparatively short period: there is no indication of a large class of boys and girls, verging on the unemployable, who have deteriorated markedly in consequence of long-continued unemployment. On the other hand, the enquiry shows that there is a residue of difficult cases, which in themselves constitute a problem of the first magnitude. Perhaps the most significant fact disclosed is the unsatisfactory character of much of the employment which the boys and girls were seeking, and the apparently high proportion of situations, which, though providing possibly some security of tenure, offered few or no prospects of training for a definite occupation.

EMPLOYMENT OF DISABLED EX-SERVICE MEN.

KING'S NATIONAL ROLL.

THE latest returns show that there are approximately 28,000 firms on the King's National Roll. The number of disabled ex-Service men employed by these firms is approximately 370,000. The numbers of Local Authorities and Royal Warrant Holders now on the Roll are 1,417 and 652 respectively.

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING.

At 27th April, 1926, the number of men in training was 1,846, and the number awaiting training, 192. Since 1st August, 1919, 97,832 men have terminated training.

WAGES IN THE DRAPERY AND CATERING TRADES.

E R R A T A .

The following corrections are necessary in the article on Wages and Hours of Employment in the Drapery, Meat, Grocery, and Catering Trades which appeared in the April issue of this GAZETTE. In the Table in the second column on page 121 the lower quartile rate for males, aged 18 to 20 years, in the drapery trade should be 20s., and not 10s., as printed. In the Table in the second column on page 122 the lower quartile rates for females, aged 18 to 20 years, in the non-licensed catering trade should be 17s. (for cash receipts only) and 25s. (for total remuneration), instead of 18s. and 24s., as printed.

The corresponding corrections in the Reports reviewed in the article referred to should be made on page 9 (paragraph 35) of the Drapery Trade Report, and on pages 14 and 15 (paragraphs 46a and 46b) of the Catering Trade Report.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION IN 1925.

THE issues of the *Board of Trade Journal* for the 11th, 18th and 25th March, and for the 1st April, give particulars of the passenger movement by sea into and from Great Britain and Northern Ireland, with some particulars of the movement into and from the Irish Free State. The statistics show (i) the movement of passengers generally, whether they were emigrants or immigrants, or whether they were travelling on business or for pleasure. Figures are given for British subjects only, and also for all passengers (British and aliens combined). The statistics also show (ii) the emigration and immigration of British subjects, and give particulars of the occupations and ages of migrants.

Passenger Movement.—The total number of outward passengers from Great Britain and Northern Ireland to non-European countries during the year 1925 was 354,923, of whom 250,314 were of British nationality; and the total number of inward passengers from non-European countries was 241,189, of whom 163,258 were of British nationality. These figures were all rather lower than in 1924, chiefly owing to a great decrease in the movement to and from British North America; this, however, was largely counterbalanced, so far as the outward movement was concerned, by a considerable increase in the number of passengers to the United States. This increase was due to the early filling of the quota in the United States fiscal year 1923-4, which reduced the 1924 figures abnormally. The most marked feature of the Irish Free State figures was also a great increase in the number of outward passengers to the United States, who, in fact, more than doubled. The British subjects who may be regarded as travelling on business or for pleasure, included in the above figures for Great Britain and Northern Ireland, were 102,319 outward and 105,814 inward in 1925. All the above figures are exclusive of passengers who travelled via ports on the Continent.

Emigration.—The number of British subjects who were recorded as leaving permanent residence in Great Britain and Northern Ireland to take up permanent residence (i.e., residence for a year or more) in non-European countries was 140,594 in 1925, as compared with 155,374 in 1924 and with 256,284 in 1923. The number of British subjects who were recorded as leaving permanent residence in non-European countries to take up permanent residence in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was 56,335 in 1925, as compared with 64,112 in 1924 and with 57,606 in 1923. The following Table shows the emigration figures for the principal countries concerned in each of the last two years, figures for the Irish Free State being also given:—

Country of Future Permanent Residence.	Emigrants from Great Britain and Northern Ireland.*		Emigrants from Irish Free State.†	
	1924.	1925.	1924.	1925.
British North America	63,016	38,662	5,237	1,861
Australia	38,599	35,006	1,138	1,076
New Zealand	11,061	11,730	192	290
Other parts of British Empire	19,541	19,827	361	416
Total, British Empire	132,217	105,225	6,928	3,643
United States	17,315	29,549	12,016	26,416
Other Foreign Countries	5,842	5,820	133	108
Total, All Destinations	155,374	140,594	19,077	30,167

The most marked feature of this Table is the great reduction in the emigration to British North America, partly offset by an increase in the emigration to the United States. The figures for emigration to the United States were disproportionately low in 1924 owing to the operation of the quota system in that country. Under that system, the number of immigrants of each nationality to be admitted in any fiscal year (1st July to 30th June) is restricted, the limit during the present year being 34,007 for Great Britain and 28,567 for the Irish Free State. The limit for the financial year 1923-4 had already been reached in the autumn of 1923, so that emigration was practically at a standstill in the early months of 1924. Since the 1st July, 1924, the quota has been spread compulsorily over the whole United States fiscal year, and the number of emigrants leaving this country and the Irish Free State for the United States has not differed materially from one quarter to another.

Occupations.—The figures which are summarised in the following Table relate to British subjects of 18 years of age and upwards, who left Great Britain or Northern Ireland to take up permanent residence in non-European countries, or who entered Great Britain or Northern Ireland from non-European countries to take up permanent residence. They are thus not comparable with those relating to the British Isles (i.e., Great Britain, Northern Ireland and the Irish Free State) which were published on page 311 of the September, 1925, issue of this GAZETTE.

* In addition there were 17 emigrants from Great Britain and Northern Ireland in 1925 and 25 in 1924, who departed from ports in the Irish Free State.

† The figures in the Table show the total number of emigrants, whether travelling direct from ports in the Irish Free State or via ports in Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

‡ Inclusive of migrants of 12 years of age and over whose ages were not specified.

Occupations.	Emigrants from Great Britain and Northern Ireland.		Immigrants into Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	
	1924.	1925.	1924.	1925.
Males (18 years and over):—				
Agriculture	12,222	9,912	2,510	2,403
Commercial, finance and insurance	8,922	8,574	4,581	4,217
Professional	3,483	3,543	2,702	2,568
Skilled Trades:—				
Mining and quarrying	2,745	3,612	1,331	856
Metal and engineering	7,487	7,515	4,065	3,019
Building	1,397	1,008	677	387
Other	6,650	5,030	3,244	1,955
Transport and communication	2,604	2,198	1,102	830
Labourers not in agriculture or transport	5,505	4,224	1,638	1,401
Other and ill-defined occupations	7,908	6,183	4,492	3,662
‡Total, males	58,903	51,799	26,342	21,298
Females (18 years and over):—				
Domestic, hotel, etc., service	13,125	11,789	3,028	2,793
Commercial, finance and insurance	2,901	3,399	1,078	1,025
Professional	2,483	2,747	1,637	1,660
Clothing trades	1,407	1,593	361	306
Wife or housewife (not otherwise described)	28,567	24,958	12,957	12,903
Other and ill-defined occupations	7,010	6,756	5,221	3,781
‡Total, females	55,493	51,242	24,282	22,468

There were noticeable variations in the proportions in the several occupational groups as between England and Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland. High proportions of the total number of male emigrants in each of the years 1924 and 1925 were recorded in the case of agricultural workers and labourers (not in agriculture or transport) from Northern Ireland, in the agricultural and in the metal and engineering groups from Scotland, and in those employed in agriculture and in commerce, finance and insurance from England and Wales.

Age Groups.—The following Table shows the number of British male and female emigrants and immigrants during the years 1924 and 1925, divided into seven age groups:—

Age Groups. (Ages at last birthday.)	Emigrants from Great Britain and Northern Ireland.		Immigrants into Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	
	1924.	1925.	1924.	1925.
Males:				
Under 12 years	13,929	12,614	5,636	5,426
12 to 17	8,358	7,866	1,124	962
18 to 20	7,400	6,562	985	823
21 to 25	15,643	15,685	3,789	2,846
26 to 30	10,889	9,945	4,821	3,902
31 to 45	17,328	14,699	10,145	8,118
46 years and over	7,527	6,834	6,552	5,577
‡Total	81,190	72,279	33,102	27,686
Females:				
Under 12 years	13,821	12,253	5,538	5,028
12 to 17	4,870	4,820	1,190	1,153
18 to 20	4,092	3,855	809	733
21 to 25	10,728	9,844	2,678	2,574
26 to 30	11,907	11,053	4,553	4,192
31 to 45	19,327	17,417	9,751	8,913
46 years and over	9,338	8,991	6,414	6,041
‡Total	74,184	68,315	31,010	28,649

It will be seen that about 42 per cent. of the male and 36 per cent. of the female emigrants were within the group 18 to 30 years in these two years. Children under 12 years of age averaged about 17 per cent. of the males and 18 per cent. of the females, and the age group 12 to 17 years averaged about 11 per cent. of the males and 7 per cent. of the females, during these years.

The figures show considerable variations as between England and Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland, the principal difference being a specially high proportion of persons of 18 to 30 years of age among the emigrants from Northern Ireland.

The net loss by excess of emigration over immigration was 91,262 in 1924, and 84,259 in 1925. Such loss in each age group is shown below:—

Age Groups. (Ages at last Birthday.)	Net Loss.			
	Males.		Females.	
	1924.	1925.	1924.	1925.
Under 12 years	8,293	7,188	8,283	7,225
12 to 17	7,254	6,904	3,680	3,667
18 to 20	6,417	5,739	3,283	3,122
21 to 25	11,854	10,839	8,050	7,270
26 to 30	6,068	6,043	7,354	6,861
31 to 45	7,183	6,581	9,576	8,504
46 years and over	975	1,257	2,924	2,950
‡Total	48,088	44,593	43,174	39,666

From these figures it appears that in each of the years under review about 60 per cent. of the net loss of males and 53 per cent. of the females of 12 years of age and upwards was accounted for by persons between the ages of 18 to 30 years.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BILL, 1926.

A BILL to extend the periods of operation of certain provisions of the Unemployment Insurance Acts was introduced into the House of Commons by the Minister of Labour on the 4th May, and received its second reading on the 11th May.

The Bill will extend until the 31st December, 1927, the following periods:—

(1) the period (prescribed by Section 1 of the Unemployment Insurance (No. 2) Act, 1924) during which benefits may be paid under the Unemployment Insurance Acts;

(2) the period (prescribed by Section 3 (2) of the same Act as amended by Section 2 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1925) during which the Minister may waive the satisfaction of the first statutory condition for the receipt of benefit (which requires the payment of 30 contributions within a prescribed recent period);

(3) the period (prescribed by Section 5 (1) of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1925) during which arrangements with Associations for the administration of State unemployment benefit may be made or allowed to continue on the same conditions as at present in regard to the amount of supplementary benefit to be paid from the association's private funds.

JOINT INDUSTRIAL COUNCILS: RECENT PROCEEDINGS.

THE Joint Industrial Council for the Glove Making Industry held its annual meeting on 22nd March, when a report was presented covering the Council's activities during the past year. Among the matters dealt with were home production, imports and misdescription of gloves; the preparation and presentation to the Board of Trade of a claim for the application to the industry of the Safeguarding of Industries procedure, resulting in the imposition for a period of five years of a duty of 33½ per cent. on all leather and fabric gloves imported into this country.

The Council has agreed upon rates of wages for youths who are not apprenticed and female learners.

Consideration has also been given to the question of improving organisation on both sides.

At the thirty-seventh meeting of the National Council of the Pottery Industry, held on 14th April, satisfaction was expressed at the joint decision of the manufacturers and the operatives for the second year in succession following the protracted wages negotiations in 1924, not to give notice for either increases or decreases of wages.

Consideration was also given to the provision of protective clothing for "batters-out" and "mould runners"; the prevention and removal of dust, and the functions of Works Committees.

The Council decided to draw the attention of employers to a possible solution of the difficulties in regard to the engagement of operatives, the procedure being for employers to acquaint the Employment Exchange of their vacancies and the days on which their factories are working and for the Exchanges to send to such works persons registered as entirely unemployed or working part time and who are suitable for the occupations in question.

There was also some discussion of the position of the industry in relation to the Merchandise Marks Bill.

WIDOWS', ORPHANS', AND OLD AGE CONTRIBUTORY PENSIONS ACT, 1925.

THE Minister of Health has issued a notice drawing attention to the conditions on which old age pensions may be granted to insured persons who are of the age of 70 or over under the Contributory Pensions Act. Briefly stated the position is that from 2nd July, 1926, old age pensions at the full rate of 10s. a week will be payable without any inquiries about means or nationality to men and women who are then at least 70 years of age, and have been continuously insured under the National Health Insurance Acts from the 29th April, 1925, to the date of their 70th birthday. Persons who become 70 between 2nd July, 1926, and 2nd January, 1928, and who have been insured from 29th April, 1925, until the age of 70, will be entitled to pensions at the full rate of 10s. a week on attaining the age of 70.

A leaflet explaining the position in greater detail can be obtained at any Post Office.

WAGES POSITION IN THE SCOTTISH SHALE OIL INDUSTRY.

A COURT of Investigation was set up by representatives of the employers and of the workers engaged in the Scottish shale oil industry, as the result of an agreement signed between the parties on the 11th December, 1925, to consider certain matters in dispute between them. The Court issued, on the 13th March, 1926, their Report, from which the following particulars are taken:—

The shale mining industry is carried on in Westlothian, Midlothian, and Lanarkshire by six companies, all of which are now controlled by Scottish Oils, Limited. This company holds all the ordinary shares in the six shale mining companies, and the second-charge mortgage debentures of one company, but not their preference shares, nor (where these exist) the remainder of their debentures; it also owns and operates a refinery at Grangemouth for the refining of crude oil imported from the Persian oilfields.

The total number of workers employed at the mines operated by the six companies, and at the shale oil works, candle house, and acid works in connection therewith, was nearly 6,900 in October, 1925. This is exclusive of about 250 employed at Grangemouth at the refineries engaged in refining Persian crude oil, and of about 500 coal miners employed at two coal mines also owned by the companies. The men employed at the shale mines work the same hours as at coal mines, viz., a nominal seven-hour day, if underground workers, and 46½ hours a week, if surface workers. At the retorting and refining works the processes are continuous; 1,240 process workers and others work a seven-day week.

Wages reached their highest point in 1920, when the nominal shift rate for workers at the face touched 19s. There were three reductions (of 2s., 4s., and 3s., respectively) in 1921, and further reductions in 1923. The average rates earned by the various workers during the four weeks ended the 3rd November, 1925, were as follows:—

	Average Earnings.	
	Per Week.	Per Shift.
At the mines:—		
Miners	£ s. d.	s. d.
Drawers	3 19 3	14 3½
Youths	2 15 0	10 0½
On-cost below ground:—		
Men	1 11 6	5 9½
Boys under 18	2 13 0	8 8½
On-cost above ground:—		
Men	1 6 10	4 7½
Boys under 18	2 9 5	7 10½
	0 16 11	2 11½
All classes at mines	2 17 11	10 0½
At shale oil works, candle house, and acid works:—		
Men	2 15 3	18 3½
Boys under 18	0 16 11	2 10
All classes at works*	2 12 2	7 10½
All classes—mines and works	2 14 11	9 2½

The industry is at present suffering from serious depression, owing to the unremunerative prices obtained for the oil products and for sulphate of ammonia. Whereas in 1913-14 the products from a ton of shale brought in 12s. 6d., at a cost of 9s. 11d., in the half-year ended September, 1925, the corresponding figures were 12s. 5d. and 14s. 2d.; in other words, a profit of 2s. 7d. per ton had been turned into a loss of 1s. 9d. a ton. Wages during the half-year ended September, 1925, represented nearly half the cost of production; and coal, chemicals, pitwood and timber, and other mining and manufacturing stores, a further 35 per cent.

For about twenty years prior to April, 1925, the shale companies had supplied the Admiralty with fuel oil. The contracts, which had at one time been favourable to the Admiralty, had latterly proved favourable to the companies; and in the summer of 1925 the Admiralty intimated that the contract which had expired on 31st March, 1925, would not be renewed. In view of the heavy losses which they were incurring the companies put before the men's representatives proposals for reductions in wages and the closing of certain of the least remunerative undertakings. Negotiations followed, and the notices of reductions were postponed from time to time until 8th November, 1925, when the companies, having then obtained a provisional undertaking from the Admiralty to purchase a quantity of fuel oil from the 1st April, 1926, made an offer to the men to continue work at all mines and works, at least until the end of March, 1926, provided that, as from 11th November, the workers would accept a reduction of wages of 10 per cent., with a minimum shift rate of 6s. 8d. for men and 2s. for boys. These terms were not acceptable to the men, and an almost complete stoppage took place at the mines and works as from the 11th November.

The stoppage was brought to an end on the 11th December, 1925, when an agreement was signed between the parties, setting up a Court of Investigation and providing for the immediate resumption at the old wage rates of the preparatory work and the ultimate full resumption at all except the poorest undertakings, the latter to be reopened when they could be operated without loss. It was assumed that the Court would report in time to enable the new rates to be fixed for work other than the preparatory work which, it was estimated, it would take several weeks to complete.

The Court was set up—

(a) To afford the Union an opportunity to prove that Scottish Oils, Limited, and the shale oil Companies . . . are a single unit so far as the shareholders and debenture holders are con-

* Including a very few women.

cerned and should be a single unit so far as the workers are concerned, and that therefore it is possible legally for the employers to maintain the present rates of wages paid by them in the shale oil industry from revenue derived from that industry or from revenue derived by Scottish Oils, Limited, from the business carried on by them or their shareholding companies.

(b) To afford employers an equal opportunity to demonstrate the negative of (a).
(c) To report whether any external assistance is required to allow of the present rates of wages to the workers being maintained.

On the 21st December, the parties made a further agreement, under which the immediate reduction (pending the decision of the Court) was to be 5 instead of 10 per cent., which percentage was to be returned if the decision was in favour of the workers. This enabled the Companies to restart the main body of workers, other than preparatory workers, who otherwise could not have resumed until the issue of the Report.

The decision of the Court, issued on 13th March, 1926, was, by a majority, against the workers on the first point. As regards the question of external assistance, the Court suggested that Scottish Oils, Limited, and the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (which owns all the ordinary shares in Scottish Oils, Limited), might consider the possibility of offering some assistance (on lines explained in detail in the Report), and that H.M. Government should also consider the granting of a more favourable Admiralty contract. They recommended such assistance on the ground that it is in the national interest that the shale mines of the Lothians should not be allowed to become derelict, and having regard to the serious loss to the population of the Lothians if the shale industry were to disappear.

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 26th April, 1926, differed from the figures for 22nd March, 1926, to the extent of 1,000 or more. The Table shows the increases and decreases for males and females separately, together with the total net variation for all insured industries.

Table with columns: Industry, Males, Females, Total. Includes rows like Coal Mining, Building, Distributive Trades, etc., and a net variation summary at the bottom.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE: DRAFT CONVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY THE SEVENTH SESSION (MAY-JUNE, 1925).

At the Seventh Session of the General Conference of the International Labour Organisation (May-June, 1925) four draft conventions and four recommendations were adopted.† On 15th April, 1926, a White Paper‡ was laid on the table of both Houses of Parliament setting forth the action proposed by H.M. Government in respect of these draft conventions and recommendations.

It was stated that, at the expiration of a period of 21 days from that date, it was proposed to proceed with the ratification of the two following draft conventions:—

(1) Draft convention concerning workmen's compensation for occupational diseases;

* These groups, which include miscellaneous industries, correspond with those under the same headings in the Table on pages 176 and 177. † For a report of the proceedings at this Conference, see the July, 1925, issue of this GAZETTE, pages 235-6. The text of the four draft conventions and of the four recommendations has been published in Cmd. 2536: H.M. Stationery Office; price 9d. net. ‡ Cmd. 2633. H.M. Stationery Office; price 1d. net.

(2) Draft convention concerning equality of treatment for national and foreign workers as regards workmen's compensation for accidents;

and to accept the two following recommendations:—

(1) Recommendation concerning workmen's compensation for occupational diseases;

(2) Recommendation concerning equality of treatment for national and foreign workers as regards workmen's compensation for accidents;

and to forward to the Secretary-General of the League of Nations a communication showing the action taken, and notifying the unacceptability of the two remaining draft conventions, viz.:—

(1) Draft convention concerning workmen's compensation for accidents;

(2) Draft convention concerning night work in bakeries;

and the two remaining recommendations, viz.:—

(1) Recommendation concerning minimum scale for workmen's compensation;

(3) Recommendation concerning jurisdiction in disputes on workmen's compensation.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION IN THE UNITED STATES.*

THE study of legislation dealing with compensation for industrial accidents in various countries issued by the International Labour Office in 1925, and noted in this GAZETTE for November, 1925, page 384, did not deal with the United States. This is done in the volume which is the subject of the present notice. The analysis in the present study is limited to a consideration of the principal features of workmen's compensation legislation. It is stated that the time and resources available for the preparation of the Report made impossible the original investigation necessary for an adequate study of the subject. No attempt was made, therefore, to cover the operation of workmen's compensation, and it was found necessary to omit certain items of legislation. Complete or accurate statistics are nowhere collected for the country as a whole; nor are they, in most cases, available for individual States. Attempts to secure information have made clear the need of further improvements in statistical procedure, and of a central agency for collating and analysing such statistics for the entire country.

The study, after a brief consideration of the constitutional aspect, deals with the subject from the point of view of scope and application, benefits, the security of payments, administration and settlement of disputes. Appendices deal with the number of persons subject to compensation Acts, the provisions of laws governing specified occupational diseases or processes, and comparative benefit costs.

In spite of earlier controversies, the principle of workmen's compensation legislation would appear to be so far accepted in the United States that only six States and the District of Columbia are now without such legislation. Maritime employment falling under the jurisdiction of the Admiralty Courts and employment in inter-State commerce (e.g., railways) are not covered by compensation laws.

WAGES IN THE NETHERLANDS MINING AND METAL AND ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES.

THE April issue of the Maandschrift, the journal of the Netherlands Central Bureau of Statistics, gives particulars of the earnings of workers in the mining and the metal, engineering and shipbuilding industries of the Netherlands. (Corresponding details for earlier periods were published in this GAZETTE for December, 1925, and January, 1926).

MINING.

The following Table shows the average earnings of underground and surface workers, and of all miners together, in February, 1926:—

Table with columns: Category and Occupation, Average Earnings per Shift, Gulden. Includes rows for Foremen-hewers, Shotfirers and foremen, etc., and a summary for all underground and surface workers.

* Workmen's Compensation in the United States. By Ralph H. Blanchard, Ph.D., Columbia University. International Labour Office, Studies and Reports, Series M. (Social Insurance), No. 5. Geneva, 1926; price 1s. 6d. † 100 cents = 1 gulden (or florin) = 1s. 8d. approximately. ‡ These averages include the earnings of other mining workers not shown in the Table.

METAL, ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING INDUSTRIES.

The information under this head was extracted by the Netherlands Bureau of Statistics from the bulletin (Mededeelingen No. 21) issued by the Bureau for the Standardisation of Working Conditions in the Metal and Engineering Industries, an office established by the Metaalbond (an association of employers in the metal, engineering and shipbuilding industries). The data relate to 104 undertakings employing 34,131 workmen, of whom 27,163 were adults. Of the latter number 12,582 were skilled (or qualified) workers, 8,457 semi-skilled (or experienced) and 6,124 unskilled (or labourers).

The following Table affords a comparison of the actual hourly earnings of adult workmen of the above mentioned categories during the second half of 1925, compared with the average of the hourly rates actually paid at 1st January 1926, and the average minimum hourly wage recognised by the Metaalbond.

For the purpose of regulating wages, the various centres of the metal, engineering and shipbuilding industries in the Netherlands have been divided by the Metaalbond into four groups. Class I includes Amsterdam, Rotterdam and Schiedam; Class II, Utrecht, Haarlem, Dordrecht, Hengelo, Flushing, etc.; Class III, Breda, Winschoten, Deventer, Kinderdijk, etc.; while Class IV comprises less important towns.

Table with columns: Class of Town, Skilled, Semi-skilled, Unskilled. Includes rows for Actual Earnings per Hour, Average of the Hourly Rates actually paid at 1st January, 1926, and Average Minimum Hourly Rate Recognised by the Metaalbond.

The next Table contains particulars of the average hourly earnings of adult workmen in these industries in six towns during the second half of 1925, distinguishing skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled. The number of workpeople in each class who earned the average wages shown is also indicated, as also the class in which each town is graded. The towns are arranged in the order of the hourly earnings of the skilled workmen.

Table with columns: Name of Town, Class of Town, Skilled, Semi-skilled, Unskilled. Includes rows for Amsterdam, Schiedam, Haarlem, Rotterdam, Flushing, Kinderdijk.

The following Table shows the course of money wages, taking the year 1910 as a base, in the metal, engineering and shipbuilding industries in the Netherlands for the years 1920, 1921 (a peak period), 1923 (a period of depression), 1924 and 1925:—

Table with columns: Year, Number of Workers, Average Hourly Wage, Average Weekly Wage. Includes rows for 1910, First half year, 1920, etc.

During the second half of 1925, the average earnings of 12,582 skilled men employed in these industries were 65 cents per hour and 31.21 gulden per week; of 8,457 semi-skilled men, 58 cents per hour and 27.62 gulden per week; and of 6,124 unskilled men, 47 cents per hour and 22.72 gulden per week.

* These are the rates shown in the middle column under each category increased by payments for piecework, contract work, bonuses, etc., but excluding payments for overtime. † 100 cents = 1 gulden (or florin) = 1s. 8d. approximately.

THE FAMILY WAGE SYSTEM IN GERMANY.

AN article published in the Reichsarbeitsblatt for 24th January last contains some information on the family wage system (the so-called "social wage") in Germany which supplements that contained in this GAZETTE for March, 1923, pages 86-87.

Statistics given in the article show that while, during the period of currency collapse and economic depression (especially in the years 1922-3), a large proportion of the workers were successful in securing the inclusion of provision for social wages in collective agreements, the family wage is much less extensively paid under the more stable economic conditions now prevailing.

The following Table, based upon an analysis of collective agreements in force in various trades, shows the extent to which provision was made for social wages in these trades in 1922-3 and 1924-5:—

Table with columns: Industry, 1922-1923, 1924-1925. Includes rows for Mining, Metal, Chemical, Paper, etc., and Total.

The rates vary considerably both as between different industries and also as between various branches of the same industry; but in general the social wage takes the form of an addition to the standard wage, as fixed by collective agreement, based upon the number of dependent children supported by the worker; while in certain trades a further "household allowance" is paid in respect of the worker's wife; in some cases this is reduced or is not payable if the wife also works as a wage-earner.

As a general rule, in 1924-25, married manual workers received about 1 pfennig an hour as allowance for wife and 1 pfennig an hour as allowance for each child. These allowances varied slightly up and down. Non-manual workers received a family allowance (combined wife and children's allowance) of about 10 per cent. of the monthly salary. Considerably higher rates, sometimes twice as high, prevailed for both manual and non-manual workers in the public services.

APPOINTMENT OF A COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY INTO PRODUCTION IN GERMANY.*

A GERMAN Act, dated 15th April, 1926, provides for the setting up, within a month, of a Committee of Inquiry into conditions affecting production and marketing in German industry. This Committee is to consist of 11 members nominated by the Reichstag, 9 nominated by the Provisional Federal Economic Council, and 2 members appointed by the Government. A further 6 members may be appointed by the Government on the proposal of the Committee either to serve during the whole term or for limited periods, or in connection with specific questions which may arise. Sub-committees may be formed from among the members of the Committee to investigate special questions, and the Act specifically prescribes that such a sub-committee must be appointed to inquire into the effect on output of the "duration of working time" and of methods of remuneration on the basis of the experience acquired during recent years.

The Committee and its sub-committees are empowered to summon witnesses, to inspect undertakings and to require the production of accounts, etc. Persons supplying incorrect information are liable to fine or imprisonment. Meetings are to be public unless otherwise decided by a two-thirds majority of the Committee or on the request of the Chairman. The findings of the Committee and of sub-committees are to be reported to the Government, which will communicate them to the Provisional Federal Economic Council, the Federal Council and the Reichstag; minority reports are to be submitted if necessary.

* Reichsarbeitsblatt, 1st May, 1926. Berlin.

CHANGES IN COST OF LIVING: STATISTICS FOR 1st MAY.

Summary : Average Increases since July, 1914.

Table with 3 columns: Item, Percent Increase, and Reference. Rows include 'All Items included' at 67% and 'Food only' at 58%.

FOOD.

At 1st May the average level of retail prices of the principal articles of food showed a further slight reduction as compared with 1st April. Milk, butter, cheese, potatoes and fish were all somewhat cheaper on the average than a month earlier, but, on the other hand, there was a slight advance in the average prices of flour, bread, and bacon.

As a net result of all the changes recorded, the average increase over the level of July, 1914, in the retail prices (in Great Britain and Northern Ireland) of the articles of food included in these statistics was about 58 per cent. at 1st May, as compared with about 59 per cent. at 1st April, and 67 per cent. at the corresponding date in 1925.

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

Table with 6 columns: Article, Average Price (per lb. unless otherwise indicated—to the nearest 1d.), Average Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) at 1st May, 1926, as compared with July, 1914, and 1st April, 1926. Rows include Beef, Mutton, Bacon, Flour, Bread, Tea, Sugar, Milk, Butter, Cheese, Margarine, Eggs, and Potatoes.

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

Table with 5 columns: Article, Average Percentage Increase at 1st May, 1926, as compared with July, 1914 (Large Towns, Small Towns and Villages, General Average), Corresponding General Average for 1st April, 1926. Rows include Beef, Mutton, Bacon, Fish, Flour, Bread, Tea, Sugar, Milk, Butter, Cheese, Margarine, Eggs, Potatoes, and All above articles of Food.

* If this kind is seldom dealt with in a locality, the returns quote the price of another kind locally representative. † The description of cheese specified for quotation is Canadian or American, but where such cheese is seldom sold in a locality the returns quote the price of another kind locally representative. ‡ There was an average increase of less than 1d. per 4 lb.

RENT, CLOTHING, FUEL AND LIGHT.

As regards rents, inquiries which have been made into the changes which have taken effect under the Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Acts indicate that rents (including rates) of working-class dwellings rose slightly during the month, and at 1st May were approximately 49 per cent. above the level of July, 1914.

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

In the fuel and light group the average prices of coal and gas at 1st May remained unchanged at about 95 per cent. and nearly 55 per cent., respectively, above the pre-war level; and candles, lamp oil and matches also showed no appreciable change in prices during the month. Taking the fuel and light group as a whole, the average increase at 1st May as compared with July, 1914, was about 85 per cent.

ALL ITEMS.

If the average increases in the cost of all the foregoing items are combined in accordance with their relative importance in pre-war working-class family expenditure, allowance being also made for the increase in the prices of soap, soda, domestic ironmongery, brushware and pottery, tobacco, fares and newspapers (averaging about 80 per cent.), the resultant general average increase for 1st May is, approximately, 67 per cent.* over the level of July, 1914, as compared with 68 per cent. at 1st April and 73 per cent. at the corresponding date in 1925.

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

SUMMARY TABLE: 1915 TO 1926.

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

Table with 13 columns: Month, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926. Rows include Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May, June, July, Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov, Dec.

NOTE.

A brief Statement of the method of compiling these statistics was given on page 236 of the July, 1923, issue of this GAZETTE. A more detailed account was given in the issue of February, 1921.

* If allowance is made for the changes in taxation since July, 1914, on the commodities included in these statistics the average increase is about 2 per cent. less.

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

EMPLOYMENT showed a further improvement during April; it was good with brickmakers and with skilled operatives in the building trades, and fairly good in some sections of the metal, printing, and clothing trades, in the furnishing trades, and with coachbuilders and mill-sawyers. In coal mining it was fair; but in iron and steel manufacture, in shipbuilding, marine engineering, and in the linen and jute trades it was bad. Among the principal industries there was an improvement in coal mining, building and public works contracting, in shipbuilding, and in the clothing trades. In the jute industry there was a marked decline in employment; a decline was also reported in the tinplate trade.

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 26th April, 1926, was 9.2, as compared with 9.8 at 22nd March, 1926, and with 10.9 at 27th April, 1925. For males alone the percentage at 26th April was 10.1, as compared with 10.9 at 22nd March; for females the figure at 26th April was 6.7, as compared with 7.1 at 22nd March. The total number of persons (insured and uninsured) registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 26th April, 1926, was approximately 1,034,000, of whom 800,000 were men and 172,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls; at 29th March, 1926, it was 1,070,000, of whom 842,000 were men and 175,000 were women; and at 27th April, 1925, it was 1,251,000, of whom men numbered 948,000, and women 231,000.

The following Table shows, month by month since April, 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.

Table with 7 columns: Month, Trade Unions returning, Percentages unemployed (Males, Females, Total), Numbers registered at Local Offices (Insured and Uninsured). Rows include months from April 1925 to April 1926.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

Mining and Quarrying.—Employment at coal mines showed a further improvement and was fair on the whole. The total number of wage-earners on the colliery books at 24th April was 1,107,129, a decrease of 0.4 per cent. as compared with 27th March, 1926, and of 0.1 per cent. as compared with April, 1925. In the fortnight ended 24th April, 1926, the average number of days worked per week was 5.57, as compared with 5.30 in March, 1926, and 5.28 in April, 1925.

At iron mines in Cleveland employment showed a further slight improvement but was still bad; in other districts it was reported as moderate to fair. At the mines covered by the returns received there was an increase of 0.3 per cent. in the number employed as compared with the previous month, but a decrease of 7.6 per cent. as compared with April, 1925. The average number of days worked per week by the mines that were working was 5.70 in April, 1926, 5.81 in March, 1926, and 5.47 in April, 1925. Returns received from the shale mines in West Lothian that had reopened showed a slight increase in employment compared with the previous month. At limestone quarries in the Tyne and Wear districts employment was bad; in the Clitheroe district it was moderate. At slate quarries in North Wales it continued fairly good. At whinstone quarries in the East of Scotland and at chalk quarries employment

was reported as slack. At tin mines and at china clay quarries in Devon and Cornwall employment continued good and fairly good respectively.

Manufacture of Pig Iron, Iron and Steel, and Tinplate.—In the pig-iron industry out of a total of 475 furnaces the number in blast at the end of April was 147, as compared with 151 in March, 1926, and 158 in April, 1925. In the iron and steel trades employment continued bad, short time working being reported in many districts. Employment in the tinplate trade showed a decline compared with the previous month, and a number of mills were idle owing to a dispute; in the steel sheet trade it continued fair. The number of tinplate mills in operation at the end of April, 1926, was 345, as compared with 391 at the end of March, 1926, and with 357 in April, 1925. The number of steel sheet mills in operation at the end of April, 1926, was 124, as compared with 122 in March, 1926, and 109 in April, 1925.

Engineering, Shipbuilding, and Metal Trades.—Employment in the engineering trade continued bad on the whole, but showed a further improvement. In the marine engineering section it was still very bad, and in the textile machinery branch considerable short time was worked. In the electrical section and on motor and cycle work employment remained fair. At railway works it declined, some short time being worked at certain centres. In the shipbuilding and ship-repairing trades employment showed a slight improvement in most districts, but was still very bad. In the other metal trades employment continued fair on the whole. It was good in the lock, latch and key trades; 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, wire, cutlery, file and farriery trades; and bad in the jewellery and plated ware, copper, and chain and anchor trades.

Textile Trades.—In the cotton trade employment continued slack except with spinners of Egyptian cotton, who were fairly well employed. In the American spinning section the 35-hour week was in force throughout the month, and, in addition, the Short-Time Committee of the Master Cotton Spinners' Federation, with a view to curtailing production, issued a recommendation to all spinners of American cotton to close down their mills for one week beginning on 3rd May. In the wool textile industry employment showed a further slight improvement. Employment in the hosiery trade showed a decline as compared with the previous month. In the silk and artificial silk trades, taken together, employment continued fair; in the lace trade employment was bad, with much short time and unemployment; in the linen trade it was bad but showed a further slight improvement; in the jute trade it was bad and showed a marked decline as compared with the previous month. In the textile bleaching, printing, dyeing, etc., trades employment continued slack generally, short-time working being still fairly general.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the retail bespoke branch of the tailoring trade showed a seasonal improvement and was fair on the whole; in the wholesale bespoke and ready-made branch it continued good. Further seasonal improvement was reported in the dressmaking and millinery trades, and employment was fairly good. In the corset and shirt and collar trades it also showed some improvement and was fairly good. In the felt-hat trade employment showed a further improvement, but short time was still worked. In the boot and shoe trade employment was generally moderate, but in nearly all districts there was a slight improvement as compared with the previous month in factories making light footwear.

Leather Trades.—In the tanning and currying, and portmanteau, trunk and fancy leather sections employment showed little change; with saddlery and harness makers it was still slack, but showed some improvement.

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

Employment in the furnishing trade was fairly good on the whole; with coachbuilders there was a further improvement and employment was fairly good; with mill sawyers it continued fairly good; with coopers and packing-case makers it was bad.

Paper Manufacture, Printing, and Bookbinding.—Employment in the paper trade continued fair generally. In the letterpress printing trade employment on the whole remained fairly good; a decline, however, was reported at several centres. Electrotypers and stereotypers continued well employed; with lithographic printers and with bookbinders employment was fair on the whole; with lithographic artists it was fair in London, and moderate in Manchester.

* At 21st December. † At 22nd February. ‡ At 22nd March. § Not yet available: see explanatory paragraph on page 168.

Pottery and Glass.—Employment in North Staffordshire showed a further improvement, and though still slack on the whole, was reported as good in the sanitary ware and tile branches. In the glass trades, employment continued bad in the bottle-making section, and fair on the whole in other sections.

Agriculture and Fishing.—In agriculture in England and Wales the supply of labour was generally sufficient for requirements. With fishermen employment continued fair.

Dock Labour and Seamen.—Employment with dock labourers was moderate and showed little change as compared with the previous month; with seamen it continued slack on the whole.

TRADE UNION PERCENTAGES OF UNEMPLOYED.

OWING to the strike, many of the Trade Unions who supply information to the Department as to the number of their members unemployed at the end of each month have been unable, up to the date of going to press, to furnish returns relating to the end of April. The usual statistical Table showing the percentages unemployed among members of Trade Unions cannot, therefore, be given this month.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED INDUSTRIES.

THE percentage unemployed among workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was 9.2 per cent. (males 10.1 per cent., females 6.7 per cent.) at 26th April, 1926, as compared with 9.8 per cent. (males 10.9 per cent., females 7.1 per cent.) at 22nd March, 1926, and 10.9 per cent. (males 11.7 per cent., females 8.8 per cent.) at 27th April, 1925. Tables showing the numbers and percentages unemployed in the principal industries appear on pages 176 to 179.

SUMMARY OF EMPLOYERS' RETURNS.

INFORMATION as to the state of employment in certain industries in April, derived from returns furnished by employers and employers' associations, is summarised below. Further details are given on pages 169 to 174.

(a) CERTAIN MINING AND METAL TRADES.

Trade.	Workpeople included in the Returns for April, 1926.	April, 1926.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	
			Month ago.	Year ago.
		Days Worked per week by Mines.	Days.	Days.
Coal Mining	1,107,129	5-57	+ 0-27	+ 0-29
Iron "	7,052	5-70	- 0-11	+ 0-23
Shale "	2,607	5-76	+ 0-01	- 0-09
Pig Iron .. .. .	...	Furnaces in Blast 147	Number.	Number.
Tinplate and Steel Sheet ... ..	...	Mills Working 469	- 44	+ 3
Iron and Steel	75,050	Shifts Worked (one week) 404,480	Per cent.	Per cent.
			+ 0-5	+ 4-6

(b) OTHER TRADES.

Trade.	Number of Workpeople Employed.		Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 24th April, 1926.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended 24th April, 1926.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.*	Per cent.
Textiles—		Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Cotton	85,678	+ 0-0	155,691	+ 0-2	- 5-1
Woolen... ..	64,903	+ 0-4	132,720	+ 1-9	+ 3-5†
Worsted... ..	94,399	+ 0-6	187,289	+ 2-2	+ 7-5†
Boot and Shoe	52,700	+ 0-9	123,382	+ 2-4	+ 7-5
Pottery	12,242	+ 0-1	23,241	+ 1-3	+ 2-4
Brick	9,421	+ 0-6	25,423	- 2-2	+ 6-7

* Comparison is affected by changes in rates of wages in some cases.
† Computed as explained in the article on page 83 of the March, 1926 GAZETTE.

UNEMPLOYMENT CHART.

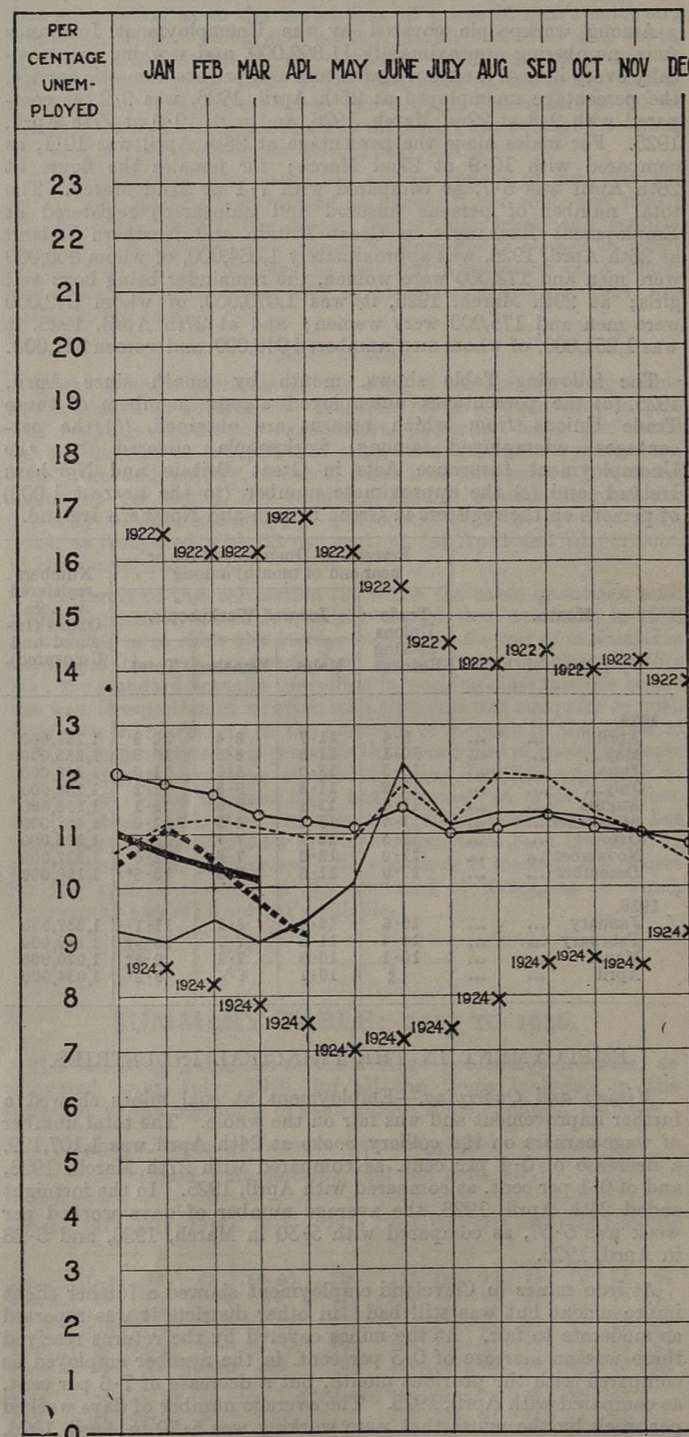
(1) PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT THE END OF EACH MONTH AMONG MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS:—

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

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

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

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



NOTE:

The figures relate to Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The Trade Union Returns are furnished by various Trade Unions which pay unemployment benefit to their members. Persons on strike or locked out, sick or superannuated, are excluded from the figures.

The figures for insured workpeople are briefly explained, and are analysed in detail, on pages 176 to 179.

DETAILED REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN SOME OF THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

NOTE.—The numbers of workpeople given in the following Tables represent the numbers covered by the Returns received and (except as regards coal mining) not the total numbers employed in the various industries. The comparisons of numbers employed and wages paid at different dates relate to the same firms at each date, and cover all the wage-earners, irrespective of age, sex, or occupation, employed by these firms. In comparing the earnings in different industries, it should be remembered that any averages calculated from these figures will be affected not only by the variations in the state of employment and in rates of wages, but also by differences in the proportions of males to females, of adults to juveniles, and of skilled to unskilled workers in the respective industries.

COAL MINING.

EMPLOYMENT during April showed a further improvement and was fair on the whole. In Yorkshire, Derbyshire, Leicester and Warwickshire it was good. In Durham it was still affected by stoppages of work owing to disputes.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 7.9 at 26th April, 1926, as compared with 9.3 at 22nd March, 1926, and 11.6 at 27th April, 1925.

The total number of wage earners on the colliery books at 24th April, 1926, showed a decrease of 0.4 per cent. as compared with 27th March, 1926, and a decrease of 0.1 per cent. as compared with 25th April, 1925.

The average number of days worked per week in the fortnight ended 24th April, 1926, was 5.57, an increase of 0.27 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 27th March, 1926, and an increase of 0.29 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 25th April, 1925.

The following Table shows, for the principal coal-mining districts, the total number of wage-earners on the colliery books and the average number of days worked per week* during the fortnight ended 24th April, 1926, as shown by returns obtained by the Mines Department. Small numbers of workpeople employed at coal mines in raising or handling minerals other than coal are included in the totals:—

Districts.	Total Number of Wage Earners on Colliery Books at		Average Number of Days worked per Week by the Mines.*	
	24th April, 1926.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago.	Fortnight ended 24th April, 1926.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago.
ENGLAND AND WALES:				
Northumberland ...	57,454	+ 0.2	5-48	+ 0-17
Durham	155,808	- 1.0	5-09	+ 0-16
Cumberland and Westmorland	11,557	+ 0-3	5-69	+ 0-18
South Yorkshire ...	123,400	+ 0-3	5-58	+ 0-22
West Yorkshire ...	65,932	- 0-4	5-75	+ 0-43
Lancs. and Cheshire ...	96,388	- 1.0	5-49	+ 0-59
Derbyshire	63,164	- 0-6	5-65	+ 0-41
Notte and Leicester...	68,302	- 0-4	5-55	+ 0-44
Warwick	19,846	- 0-7	5-93	+ 0-30
North Staffordshire...	35,448	- 0-5	5-66	+ 0-47
South Staffs, Worcs and Salop	35,663	- 0-1	5-95	+ 0-23
Glos. and Somerset ...	13,584	- 0-3	5-77	+ 0-63
Kent	1,872	+ 0-8	4-82	+ 0-08
North Wales	17,674	- 0-5	5-73	+ 0-18
South Wales and Mon.	216,031	+ 0-1	5-84	+ 0-16
England and Wales ...	982,103	- 0-3	5-59	+ 0-29
SCOTLAND:				
Mid & East Lothians ...	15,060	- 2-2	5-30	+ 0-18
Fife and Clackmannan	27,797	- 1-7	5-42	+ 0-16
Rest of Scotland ...	82,169	- 0-8	5-40	+ 0-07
Scotland... ..	125,026	- 1-1	5-40	+ 0-11
GREAT BRITAIN ...	1,107,129	- 0-4	5-57	+ 0-27

The average number of coal-winding days lost in Great Britain during the fortnight ended 24th April, 1926, was 0.19 of a day per week, of which 0.12 was due to want of trade and transport difficulties, and 0.06 of a day to disputes. The figures for the fortnight ended 27th March, 1926, were 0.46 of a day per week, of which 0.35 was due to want of trade and transport difficulties, and 0.08 of a day to disputes; for the fortnight ended 25th April, 1925, the average time lost was 0.43 of a day per week, of which 0.43 was due to want of trade and transport difficulties. The average non-winding time for each of the three periods under review was about one-quarter of a day per week.

The output of coal for Great Britain for the four weeks ended 24th April, 1926, which was affected by the Easter Holidays, was reported to the Mines Department as 19,599,500 tons, as compared with 21,353,000 tons in the four weeks ended 27th March, 1926, and with 18,328,300 tons in the four weeks ended 25th April, 1925.

The exports of coal, including coal shipped for the use of steamers engaged in foreign trade, and the coal equivalent of coke and manufactured fuel, amounted to 5,800,363 tons in April, compared with 4,660,051 tons in March.

The percentages unemployed among insured workpeople in different areas are shown in the following Table:—

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

Area.	Percentage Unemployed at 26th April, 1926.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Total percentages as compared with a	
	Wholly Unemployed (incl. Casuals).	Temporary stoppages.	Total.	Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND AND WALES:					
Northumberland ...	7-8	0-1	7-9	- 1-6	- 13-2
Durham	15-1	0-1	15-2	- 0-7	- 2-4
Cumberland and Westmorland	7-8	0-1	7-9	- 1-8	- 4-1
Yorkshire	2-3	0-2	2-5	- 0-1	- 0-6
Lancs. and Cheshire ...	5-5	0-8	6-3	- 4-1	- 2-9
Derbyshire	1-2	0-1	1-3	...	- 0-4
Notte and Leicester...	0-9	0-1	1-0	- 0-4	- 5-3
Warwick	1-3	0-0	1-3	+ 0-1	- 0-1
Staffs, Worcester and Salop	4-4	0-3	4-7	- 0-8	- 0-9
Glos. and Somerset ...	6-3	1-0	7-3	- 12-3	- 3-1
Kent	3-2	...	3-2	- 1-0	- 3-8
Wales and Monmouth ...	9-6	0-9	10-5	- 2-7	- 3-3
England and Wales ...	7-0	0-5	7-5	- 1-6	- 2-9
SCOTLAND	9-7	1-3	11-0	- 0-3	- 8-8
GREAT BRITAIN	7-3	0-6	7-9	- 1-4	- 3-7

IRON AND SHALE MINING.

Iron Mining.

EMPLOYMENT in the Cleveland district continued to improve, but was still bad; in other districts also there was an improvement in the numbers employed, reports of fair or moderate employment conditions being in the majority. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed in iron-ore and ironstone mining and quarrying, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 16.1 at 26th April, 1926, as compared with 17.0 at 22nd March, 1926, and 17.7 at 27th April, 1925.

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

Districts.	Number of Workpeople employed at Mines included in the Returns.		Average No. of Days worked per week by the Mines.*		
	Fortnight ended 24th April, 1926.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago.	Fortnight ended 24th April, 1926.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago.	Year ago.
Cleveland and Lancashire ...	3,320	+ 0-3	6-00	+ 0-11	+ 0-79
Other Districts ...	1,203	+ 17-8	5-52	- 0-27	- 0-48
ALL DISTRICTS	7,052	+ 0-3	5-70	- 0-11	+ 0-23

Shale Mining.

From those West Lothian mines that had reopened, returns were received showing that 2,607 workpeople were employed during the fortnight ended 24th April, 1926, an increase of 0.8 per cent. in the number employed compared with the previous month, but a decrease of 36.2 per cent. compared with April, 1925. The average number of days * worked by the mines was 5.76 in April, 1926, compared with 5.75 in March, 1926, and 5.85 in April, 1925.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during April continued bad. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 13.3 on the 26th April, 1926, as compared with 15.4 on the 22nd March, and with 20.4 on the 27th April, 1925. According to returns received by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers from 83 firms employing at the end of April 17,791 workpeople, a decrease of 1.3 per cent. is shown compared with March, and a decrease of 11.3 per cent. compared with April, 1925.

* See Note * in previous column.

The total number of furnaces in blast at the end of the month as shown by the returns collected by the Federation was 147, a net decrease of 4 compared with the number in blast at the end of March, and a decrease of 11 compared with April, 1925. The following table shows the number of furnaces in blast :-

District.	Total Number of Furnaces.	Number of Furnaces in blast at end of			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Apr., 1926.	Mar., 1926.	Apr., 1925.	Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
Durham and Cleveland	110	38	38	38	...	...
Cumberland and West Lancs. ...	46	12	12	13	...	- 1
Other parts of Lancs and Yorks (including Sheffield) ...	34	10	14	18	- 4	- 8
Derby, Leicester, Nottingham and Northants ...	71	33	33	38	...	- 5
Lincolnshire ...	23	13	13	10	...	+ 3
Staffs, Shropshire, Worcester and Warwick ...	57	10	10	11	...	- 1
South Wales ...	33	8	8	9	...	- 1
Total, England and Wales	374	124	128	137	- 4	- 13
SCOTLAND						
...	101	23	23	21	...	+ 2
Total ...	475	147	151	158	- 4	- 11

The production of pig iron in April amounted to 539,100 tons, as compared with 568,500 tons in March, and 569,800 tons in April, 1925.

IRON AND STEEL TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT continued bad during April but showed an improvement as compared with a year ago. Short-time working was reported in many districts.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the number of unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 20.3 on 26th April, 1926, as compared with 20.1 on 22nd March, 1926, and 26.7 on 27th April, 1925.

According to returns received from firms employing 75,050 workpeople, the volume of employment in the week ended 24th April, 1926 (as indicated by the number of workpeople employed, combined with the number of shifts during which work was carried on in each department), increased by 0.5 per cent. as compared with March and by 4.6 per cent. as compared with a year ago. The average number of shifts during which the works were open was 5.4 in April, 1926, as compared with 5.3 in March, 1926, and 5.2 in April, 1925.

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

DEPARTMENTS.	No. of Workpeople employed by firms making returns.		Aggregate number of Shifts.*		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a		Per cent.	
	Week ended 24th April, 1926.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Week ended 24th April, 1926.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Open Hearth Melting Furnaces ...	8,574	- 4.6	+ 6.7	48,754	- 4.5	+ 7.0	- 4.5	+ 7.0
Puddling Forges ...	3,231	+ 6.2	- 5.8	13,952	+ 5.5	- 3.5	+ 5.5	- 3.5
Rolling Mills ...	28,384	+ 2.4	+ 3.7	144,454	+ 4.8	+ 8.9	+ 4.8	+ 8.9
Forging and Pressing... Founding ...	3,402	- 2.2	+ 6.5	18,153	+ 0.4	+ 0.9	+ 0.4	+ 0.9
Other Departments ...	8,120	+ 1.2	+ 1.4	46,456	+ 1.4	+ 2.8	+ 1.4	+ 2.8
Mechanics, Labourers... TOTAL ...	7,315	+ 0.2	+ 0.3	40,666	+ 0.3	+ 3.8	+ 0.3	+ 3.8
	16,024	- 2.9	+ 0.3	92,045	- 2.7	+ 2.4	- 2.7	+ 2.4
	75,050	- 0.3	+ 1.9	404,480	+ 0.5	+ 4.6	+ 0.5	+ 4.6
DISTRICTS.								
Northumberland, Durham, and Cleveland	16,235	+ 2.8	+ 12.7	91,143	+ 3.6	+ 15.1	+ 3.6	+ 15.1
Sheffield and Rotherham ...	18,889	+ 1.2	+ 4.5	99,937	+ 2.5	+ 8.4	+ 2.5	+ 8.4
Leeds, Bradford, etc. ...	1,921	- 17.5	- 4.4	10,378	- 17.2	- 4.6	- 17.2	- 4.6
Cumberland, Lancs and Cheshire ...	6,818	- 4.5	- 17.5	35,225	- 4.4	- 17.8	- 4.4	- 17.8
Staffordshire ...	6,413	- 1.6	+ 2.5	34,039	- 1.7	+ 1.6	- 1.7	+ 1.6
Other Midland Counties	4,017	+ 4.0	+ 3.2	21,590	+ 3.5	+ 2.5	+ 3.5	+ 2.5
Wales and Monmouth	8,959	+ 0.2	+ 2.3	48,985	+ 1.0	+ 3.5	+ 1.0	+ 3.5
Total, England and Wales	63,232	+ 0.0	+ 2.6	341,097	+ 0.7	+ 4.4	+ 0.7	+ 4.4
Scotland ...	11,818	- 1.6	- 1.6	63,383	- 0.4	+ 5.8	- 0.4	+ 5.8
TOTAL ...	75,050	- 0.3	+ 1.9	404,480	+ 0.5	+ 4.6	+ 0.5	+ 4.6

The production of steel ingots and castings as returned by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, amounted to 661,000 tons in April, 1926, as compared with 784,100 tons in March, 1926, and 597,600 tons in April, 1925.

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

TINPLATE AND STEEL SHEET TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in the tinplate trade during April showed a decline. A number of mills were idle owing to a trade dispute involving a stoppage of work by locomotive drivers. At the end of April 345 tinplate mills were reported to be in operation at works for which information is available, as compared with 391 at the end of March and with 357 a year ago. Employment in the steel sheet trade continued fair. At the end of April the number of mills in operation was 124, as compared with 122 at the end of March, and with 109 in April, 1925.

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

Works.	Number of Works Open			Number of Mills in Operation		
	At end of April, 1926.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.	At end of April, 1926.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.
Tinplate ...	66	- 6	- 4	345	- 46	- 12
Steel Sheet ...	13	...	+ 2	124	+ 2	+ 15
TOTAL ...	79	- 6	- 2	469	- 44	+ 3

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 16.0 on 26th April, 1926, as compared with 13.1 on the 22nd March, and with 36.8 on 27th April, 1925.

ENGINEERING.

EMPLOYMENT during April, though still bad on the whole, showed a further improvement. In the marine engineering section employment was still very bad and in the textile machinery section considerable short time was worked. In the electrical section and on motor and cycle work employment remained fair. At railway works employment declined a little, some short time being worked at certain centres.

Compared with a year ago employment was a little better on the whole, but in the marine engineering section it was much worse and there was a slight decline in electrical engineering.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed at 26th April, 1926 :-

Divisions.	Number of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 26th April, 1926.						Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	
	A Month ago.		A Year ago.		Percentage Unemployed at 26th April, 1926.	Percentage Unemployed at 26th April, 1926.	A Month ago.	A Year ago.
	Total	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Month ago.	Total	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Year ago.				
London ...	5,989	+ 4.86	75	127	1,635	8,312	- 452	- 2,514
South-Eastern ...	1,984	279	128	51	724	3,166	416	- 1,126
South-Western ...	1,680	82	452	54	883	3,151	- 223	- 271
Midlands ...	5,890	1,256	58	590	5,642	13,436	- 100	- 2,268
North-Eastern ...	18,945	804	7,527	948	931	29,155	- 922	+ 122
North-Western ...	18,578	1,660	195	185	1,545	22,161	- 3,151	- 3,629
Scotland ...	14,157	408	3,883	1,229	640	20,317	- 1,447	- 285
Wales ...	944	31	38	67	178	1,258	+ 53	- 86
Northern Ireland	2,046	23	1,369	14	238	3,690	- 212	+ 552
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND ...	70,213	5,029	13,725	3,265	12,414	104,646	- 6,870	- 9,505

Divisions.	Percentages Unemployed at 26th April, 1926.											
	A Month ago.		A Year ago.		Percentage Unemployed at 26th April, 1926.	Percentage Unemployed at 26th April, 1926.	A Month ago.	A Year ago.				
	Total	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Month ago.	Total	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Year ago.								
London ...	6.8	5.2	11.5	5.1	4.8	6.2	- 0.3	- 1.9				
South-Eastern ...	4.7	3.0	3.7	10.0	3.0	4.0	- 0.5	- 1.6				
South-Western ...	4.7	2.9	7.1	7.8	4.3	4.7	- 0.4	- 0.7				
Midlands ...	6.3	5.2	3.6	9.3	6.2	6.2	...	...		
North-Eastern ...	15.0	10.2	31.6	13.6	8.5	16.5	- 0.6	+ 0.3				
North-Western ...	13.3	8.5	15.9	8.2	7.9	12.1	- 1.8	- 2.0				
Scotland ...	16.6	12.2	20.9	20.2	6.3	16.5	- 1.1	- 0.1				
Wales ...	13.0	9.7	13.6	8.7	9.6	12.0	+ 0.5	- 0.3				
Northern Ireland	27.4	11.0	24.1	46.7	14.6	24.6	- 1.4	+ 4.0				
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND ...	11.2	6.6	22.2	12.5	5.8	10.4	- 0.7	- 1.1				
<i>Ditto, Mar. 1926</i>	<i>12.0</i>	<i>6.7</i>	<i>24.1</i>	<i>12.8</i>	<i>5.9</i>	<i>11.1</i>	<i>...</i>	<i>...</i>				
<i>Ditto, Apr. 1925</i>	<i>13.1</i>	<i>5.6</i>	<i>18.3</i>	<i>13.9</i>	<i>6.3</i>	<i>11.5</i>	<i>...</i>	<i>...</i>				

On the North-East Coast employment remained bad generally and very bad in marine engineering, although showing an improvement in that section. In Yorkshire it was still very moderate, though a little improvement was experienced at some centres. In Lincolnshire it was fair on the whole. In Lancashire and Cheshire employment in general engineering showed an improvement, but in the textile machinery section short time was still worked and extended holidays were resorted to at Easter. In the motor section employment was fair and showed an improvement; in the locomotive section it was fair, but some short time was reported.

In the Birmingham and Wolverhampton district employment in general engineering remained moderate, but showed a slow improvement. Employment on motor and cycle work was still good at Wolverhampton, but declined to fair at Birmingham. On electrical work conditions remained fairly good. At Coventry employment generally remained good, but showed some falling off. A slight falling off was also experienced at Derby and Leicester, where employment was fair. At Nottingham employment remained

fair on the whole, being still good in the motor and cycle section and bad in the lace machinery section.

In London and in the Eastern and Southern Counties employment continued fair. It remained good in the electrical section and showed continued improvement on motor work. In South Wales employment remained bad and showed some decline.

In Scotland conditions were still depressed although showing a slight upward tendency. At Belfast employment remained bad.

SHIPBUILDING AND SHIP-REPAIRING.

EMPLOYMENT remained very bad during April, but showed a slight improvement in most districts compared with the previous month. Compared with a year ago there was a decline on the whole.

On the North-East Coast employment continued very bad; there was however a slight improvement on new work at some of the yards. On the East Coast, the Thames and the South Coast employment remained slack on the whole. At the Bristol Channel Ports it was very bad, and showed a slight decline compared with the previous month. On the Mersey it continued bad, but showed a slight improvement.

In Scotland and in Northern Ireland employment remained very bad, but again showed a slight improvement.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed at 26th April, 1926 :-

Divisions.	Number of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 26th April, 1926.						Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	
	A Month ago.		A Year ago.		Percentage Unemployed at 26th April, 1926.	Percentage Unemployed at 26th April, 1926.	A Month ago.	A Year ago.
	Total	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Month ago.	Total	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Year ago.				
London ...	3,101	+ 82	- 785	24.9	+ 0.6	- 2.3	...	...
South-Eastern ...	621	- 249	- 91	8.3	- 2.5	- 1.2	...	...
South-Western ...	3,377	545	765	15.8	- 2.1	- 1.0	...	...
Midlands ...	41	- 21	- 44	14.6	- 2.1	- 2.1	...	...
North-Eastern ...	30,609	- 2,010	+ 1,488	45.7	- 3.0	+ 4.2	...	...
North-Western ...	10,609	- 518	+ 664	32.4	- 1.6	+ 3.1	...	...
Scotland ...	24,261	- 1,436	+ 3,572	37.5	- 2.3	+ 6.0	...	...
Wales ...	4,486	+ 52	+ 1,112	41.2	+ 0.5	+ 11.3	...	...
Northern Ireland	6,191	- 162	- 1,480	33.3	- 0.9	- 2.4	...	...
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND ...	83,896	- 4,807	+ 3,671	34.7	- 2.0	+ 3.3	...	...

WOOL TEXTILE INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT in April showed a further slight improvement on the whole compared with March; it was also better than a year ago in the majority of districts.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges was 9.7 on 26th April, 1926, as compared with 10.2 on 22nd March, 1926, and with 16.6 on 27th April, 1925.

Employment with wool-sorters and woolcombers showed little change as compared with March, but was better than a year ago; in the wool-combing section of the Bradford trade merino workers were on full time, with some firms working overtime, but in the crossbred and preparing sections employment continued bad. The returns received from employers show that in the sorting, combing and preparing departments of the worsted trade about 20 per cent. of the workpeople worked short time in the week ended 24th April, to the extent of about 13½ hours each on an average; while about 11 per cent. worked overtime to the extent of about 8 hours each. In worsted spinning employment was fair on the whole, and slightly better than in the previous month; in botany spinning and twisting it was fairly good; in Huddersfield and Halifax employment in coloured yarn spinning was still only fair, but better than a month earlier. The returns received from employers for the week ended 24th April show that about 20 per cent. of the workpeople employed in worsted spinning worked short time to the extent of 9½ hours each on an average, while about 11 per cent. worked overtime to the extent of about 5 hours each.

In worsted manufacturing there was a slight improvement in nearly all districts, employment being a little more regular than in the previous month. Employment improved on the whole in the fine cloth trade of Huddersfield and in the men's wear trade of Halifax, Leeds, Bradford and Keighley; looms were more fully employed in these districts and there was less waiting for warps. Employment was fair in the dress goods trade of Bradford, Silsden and Keighley, and slightly better than a month earlier.

In the woollen section of the industry employment on the whole was moderate, but there was a slight improvement on a month earlier in the majority of the districts. Overtime was worked by a few firms, but short time to the extent of about 11 hours per week, on an average, was worked by over one-third of the operatives in the spinning departments. Employment in the Huddersfield district and in the Colne Valley was about the same as a month earlier; while in the Yealand and Guseley districts there was a decline. In the heavy woollen district of Dewsbury and Batley there was a distinct improvement, but employment was still poor and nearly one-half of the operatives covered by the returns received were on short time. Except for a slight improvement at Witney, there was no change in the blanket industry, employment remaining very slack on the whole. In the flannel trade of Rochdale and of Saddleworth employment was bad and worse than a month earlier; in the Stockport district it remained good.

At Stroud there was a slight improvement during April and few operatives remained wholly unemployed. In Wales the depression of the last few months continued except for a slight improvement at Aberystwyth. In Scotland employment varied as between different districts. Short time was still being worked in some of the tweed mills at Galashiels, but more looms were brought into operation during the month. The mills in the surrounding towns were working full time, and were in some cases exceptionally busy; skilled workers (particularly weavers and darners) were being transferred from Galashiels to Innerleithen, Peebles and Selkirk. At Dumfries, on the other hand, employment was not so good.

The following Table shows, for the principal districts and departments of the industry, the percentage changes between the week ended 20th March and the week ended 24th April, in the numbers of workpeople employed and in the total wages paid by firms from whom information has been obtained :-

Departments :	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 24th April, 1926.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a month ago.	Index figure. (Jan. 1926 = 100.)	Week ended 20th March, 1926.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a month ago.	Index figure. (Jan. 1926 = 100.)
WORSTED SECTION :						
Wool Sorting and Combing ...	11,647	+ 0.5	100.9	30,164	+ 1.9	100.4
Spinning ...	45,659	+ 0.6	99.6	73,669	+ 1.2	101.7
Weaving ...	20,441	+ 0.9	102.2	43,469	+ 3.4	105.1
Other Depts. ...	15,126	...	102.1	35,595	+ 2.5	104.8
Not specified ...	1,526	+ 4.9	106.1	3,392	+ 6.6	100.2
Total—Worsted	94,399	+ 0.6	100.8	187,289	+ 2.2	102.8
WOOLLEN SECTION :						
Wool Sorting ...	1,114	- 3.6	97.1	2,554	+ 0.4	102.6
Spinning ...	15,136	...	99.3	31,429	+ 2.1	104.3
Weaving ...	23,718	+				

Table with columns: Department, Numbers (excluding Casuals) on the Register at 3rd May, 1926. Sub-headers: Wholly Unemployed, Temporarily Stopped, Total. Rows include Wool Sorting, Wool Washing and Preparing, Wool Combing, etc.

The following Table shows the increases and decreases as compared with 5th April, 1926:—

Table with columns: Department, Wholly Unemployed, Temporarily Stopped, Total. Rows include Wool Sorting, Wool Washing and Preparing, Wool Combing, etc.

COTTON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT continued slack during April, except with spinners of Egyptian cotton, who were fairly well employed. In the American spinning section the 35-hour week was in force throughout the month.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 9.8 on the 26th April, 1926, as compared with 9.6 on 22nd March, 1926, and with 7.1 on the 27th April, 1925.

In the Oldham, Ashton and Stalybridge districts employment in the spinning department was reported as bad, and worse than in March. There was, however, a slight improvement at Stockport.

At Bolton and Leigh employment continued fairly good; some short time was reported among card-room workers at Leigh. At Rochdale employment with spinners was bad and worse than a month earlier.

In Yorkshire there was a slight improvement at Halifax and Sowerby Bridge, but a decline at Mirfield, and some other centres.

In the principal weaving districts employment with weavers remained slack; the position in respect of the coarser classes of cloth became worse, and there was no change with operatives engaged in the manufacture of "fancies" and the higher grade cloths.

At Blackburn there was much intermittent employment and under-employment. A number of mills on plain cloths extended the holiday at Easter.

Employment remained fairly good in London. At Leicester it continued good, most factories being on full time and some on overtime; employment was noticeably better than last year, and there was a good demand for skilled women workers.

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

Table with columns: DEPARTMENTS, DISTRICTS, Number of Workpeople, Total Wages paid to all Workpeople. Rows include Preparing, Spinning, Weaving, etc.

Returns from firms employing nearly 81,500 workpeople in the week ended 24th April showed that about 22 per cent. of these workpeople were on short time in that week, to the extent of about 13 1/2 hours on the average.

The following Table shows the number of men and of women (other than casuals) on the registers of Employment Exchanges in the principal cotton trade centres at 3rd May, 1926:—

Table with columns: Department, Numbers (excluding Casuals) on the Register at 3rd May 1926. Sub-headers: Wholly Unemployed, Temporarily Stopped, Total. Rows include Card and Blowing, Spinning, etc.

The following Table shows the increases and decreases as compared with 5th April, 1926:—

Table with columns: Department, Wholly Unemployed, Temporarily Stopped, Total. Rows include Card and Blowing, Spinning, etc.

BOOT AND SHOE INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT was generally moderate during April, but in nearly all districts there was a slight improvement on the previous month in factories making light footwear.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 7.2 on 26th April, compared with 7.4 on 22nd March and with 10.2 on 27th April, 1925.

Employment remained fairly good in London. At Leicester it continued good, most factories being on full time and some on overtime; employment was noticeably better than last year, and there was a good demand for skilled women workers.

labour was, however, reported at this centre. At Earls Barton and Irthlingborough employment was fair. At Kettering it was fair.

There was again general slackness in the heavy boot factories at Leeds, and a good deal of short time was worked; factories producing light footwear and sports goods continued busy.

There was a slight decline in Scotland, on the whole. Employment was described as fair, or as fairly good, at Kilmarnock, Glasgow and Maybole; and as slack at Arbroath.

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

Table with columns: England and Wales, Scotland, Great Britain, No. of Workpeople, Total Wages paid to all Workpeople. Rows include London, Leicester, etc.

Returns from firms employing over 48,500 workpeople showed that nearly 18 per cent. of these workpeople were on short time in the week ended 24th April, losing about 9 1/2 hours each, on an average.

The following Table shows the number of men and of women (other than casuals) on the register of Employment Exchanges in the principal centres of the boot and shoe industry at 3rd May, 1926.

Table with columns: Department, Numbers (excluding Casuals) on the Register at 3rd May 1926. Sub-headers: Wholly Unemployed, Temporarily Stopped, Total. Rows include Boot and Shoe Manufacture, Preparing Department, etc.

The following Table shows the increases and decreases as compared with 5th April, 1926:—

Table with columns: Department, Wholly Unemployed, Temporarily Stopped, Total. Rows include Boot and Shoe Manufacture, Preparing Department, etc.

PAPER MANUFACTURE, PRINTING, AND BOOKBINDING.

In the paper trade employment during April continued fair generally.

In the letterpress printing trade employment on the whole continued fairly good; a decline, however, was reported at several centres, including Leeds and Sheffield, where employment was reported as moderate, and Birmingham, where it was slack.

Employment continued fair on the whole with lithographic printers and bookbinders. With lithographic artists, it was fair in London and moderate at Manchester.

The percentage unemployed among insured workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts in the printing and book-binding trades was 4.2 at 26th April, compared with 4.4 at 22nd March, and 5.4 at 27th April, 1925.

The following Table shows the percentages unemployed at the end of April and at the end of March, 1926, among members of those Trade Unions from which returns for both dates have been received.

Table with columns: Trade Unions, No. of Members of Unions at end of April, 1926, Percentage Unemployed at end of April, 1926, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on a. Rows include Letterpress Printing, Lithographic Printing, etc.

BUILDING TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT continued to improve during April, especially in the painting and decorating section. It was generally good with skilled workers and moderate, in most districts, with unskilled workers.

As regards individual occupations, employment remained very good, at most centres, with bricklayers and plasterers; it was good, on the whole, with masons, carpenters and joiners and fairly good with slaters.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts who were unemployed at 26th April, 1926:—

Table with columns: OCCUPATIONS, DIVISIONS, Estimated Number of Insured Workpeople at 26th April, 1926, Total Number Unemployed at 26th April, 1926, Number Included in Previous Column who were Temporarily Stopped, etc.

* From July, 1923, to September, 1925, the only available occupational figures for the numbers insured were derived from estimates framed in 1922, but except in the case of carpenters and plumbers among skilled operatives, the present ratios in the main differ only slightly from those used in the past two years.

BUILDING PLANS APPROVED.

Returns from Local Authorities in 133 of the principal urban areas (except the London County Council area), with a total population of 15,291,000, show that in April, 1926, plans were passed for buildings of an estimated cost of £5,169,600, as compared with £6,403,200, in March, 1926, and £5,490,700 in April, 1925. Of the total for April, 1926, dwelling-houses accounted for £3,716,400; factories and workshops for £183,200; shops, offices, warehouses and other business premises for £201,200; and other buildings, and additions and alterations to existing buildings, for £1,063,800.

BRICK TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT during April continued good on the whole, full time being worked in most districts.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed in the brick, pipe, tile, etc., trades, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, at 26th April, 1926, was 6.0 as compared with 6.5 at 22nd March, 1926, and 7.1 at 27th April, 1925.

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

Districts.	Number of Workpeople.		Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.	
	Week ended 24th April, 1926.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended 24th April, 1926.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.
Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire.	2,115	+ 0.4	5,576	+ 0.6
Midlands and Eastern Counties.	5,491	- 0.9	15,158	- 3.8
South and South-West Counties and Wales.	1,651	- 0.1	4,269	- 1.0
Scotland	164	- 9.4	420	- 14.8
TOTAL	9,421	- 0.6	25,423	+ 6.7

POTTERY TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in North Staffordshire showed a further improvement, and, though still slack on the whole, was reported as good in the sanitary ware and tile branches. At Worcester employment was good; at Derby it was fairly good.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 13.2 at 26th April, 1926, as compared with 14.1 at 22nd March, 1926, and with 15.2 at 27th April, 1925.

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

Districts.	Number of Workpeople.		Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.	
	Week ended 24th April, 1926.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended 24th April, 1926.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.
BRANCHES.				
China Manufacture ...	1,275	- 2.9	2,341	+ 2.9
Earthenware Manufacture ...	9,114	+ 0.3	17,340	+ 1.1
Other Branches (including unspecified) ...	1,853	+ 1.2	3,560	+ 1.4
TOTAL	12,242	+ 0.1	23,241	+ 2.4
DISTRICTS.				
North Staffordshire ...	9,524	+ 0.3	16,955	+ 0.9
Other Districts	2,718	- 0.9	6,286	+ 2.5
TOTAL	12,242	+ 0.1	23,241	+ 2.4

Returns from employers relative to short time working showed that of 11,032 workpeople employed by firms furnishing information, 3,404, or 31 per cent., were working on an average about 11 hours less than full time in the week ended 24th April, 1926.

SEAMEN.

EMPLOYMENT during April remained slack on the whole. Among insured workpeople in the shipping service the percentage unemployed at 26th April was 17.8, compared with 18.2 at 22nd March, and 21.0 at 27th April, 1925.

The demand for men on the Thames declined in the first half of April, but increased subsequently, being described as fairly active at the end of the month. It was moderate on the Tyne, and quiet on the Wear. The demand was insignificant on the Tees, and generally quiet at Hull. It was moderate on the whole at Southampton, and moderate to poor at Bristol. The demand at Avonmouth was fairly active during the greater part of the month, but declined in the closing stages; it was again good at Newport. At Cardiff the demand was very slack at the beginning and at the end of April, but it was fairly good in the middle of the month. It was very fair to good at Swansea. In the foreign-going trade on the Mersey the demand was again moderate to fair, but declined towards the end of the month. It was quiet to fair at Manchester, and quiet to moderate on the Clyde. The demand at Leith was

* Comparison of earnings is affected by changes in rates of wages in some districts.

quiet on the whole, and at Belfast it was moderate during the greater part of April, but declined at the end of the month.

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

Principal Ports.	Number of Seamen* shipped in			
	April 1926.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.	Four months ended April, 1926.
ENGLAND & WALES:				
Liverpool	11,277	- 444	- 376	43,264
Manchester	840	+ 2	- 8	3,197
London	7,656	- 830	- 48	32,062
Southampton	10,004	+ 1,476	+ 229	32,895
Tyne Ports	2,023	- 146	+ 311	7,496
Sunderland	295	+ 28	+ 94	1,121
Middlesbrough	301	- 74	- 91	1,565
Hull	824	- 766	- 554	5,211
Bristol	1,141	+ 17	- 8	4,033
Newport, Mon.	1,067	- 128	+ 365	4,238
Cardiff	2,839	- 82	+ 399	10,207
Swansea	781	+ 220	+ 197	3,251
SCOTLAND:				
Leith	258	- 151	- 169	1,343
Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth	483	+ 228	+ 150	1,411
Glasgow	2,713	+ 556	+ 106	9,870
NORTHERN IRELAND:				
Belfast	199	+ 110	+ 15	490
TOTAL for above Ports	42,701	+ 16	+ 612	161,654

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

EMPLOYMENT during April was moderate. Among insured workpeople in the canal, river, harbour and dock service, 27.9 per cent. were unemployed at 26th April, 1926, as compared with 28.3 per cent. at 22nd March, 1926, and with 31.1 per cent. at 27th April, 1925.

London.—The following Table shows the average daily numbers of dock labourers employed at docks and wharves in respect of which returns were received for each week of the month:—

Period.	Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London.			At Wharves making Returns.	Total Docks and Principal Wharves.
	By the Port of London Authority or through Contractors.	By Ship-owners, etc.	Total.		
Week ended—					
3rd April, 1926 ...	4,057	1,570	5,627	7,854	13,481
10th " ...	4,300	2,864	7,164	8,011	15,175
17th " ...	4,123	2,713	6,836	8,226	15,062
24th " ...	4,110	2,463	6,573	8,229	14,802
Average for 4 weeks ended 24th April, 1926	4,144	2,420	6,564	8,093	14,657
Average for Mar., 1926	4,640	1,950	6,590	7,900	14,490
Average for Apr., 1925	4,091	2,406	6,497	8,025	14,522

Tilbury.—The mean daily number of dock labourers employed in April was 1,119, as compared with 996 in the previous month, and with 1,038 in April, 1925.

East Coast.—With coal trimmers and teamers on the Tyne and Wear employment was still fair, though not quite so regular as in March. It was fair with other classes of dock workers on the Tyne. On the Wear it was moderate, and at Blyth it remained slack. At Middlesbrough employment was fair, but showed some decline. At Hull it was slack for coal workers. At the East Anglian ports it remained fair generally.

Liverpool.—Employment at Liverpool was slack and worse than in March. The average weekly number of dock labourers registered at the clearing-houses under the Liverpool Docks Scheme as employed in the five weeks ended 30th April was 15,615, compared with 16,058 in March, and with 16,084 in April, 1925. The average weekly amount of wages paid to these men through the clearing-houses was £39,598 in the five weeks ended 30th April, compared with £43,118 in March, and with £40,260 in April, 1925.

Other Ports in England and Wales.—Employment was slack at the South Wales ports with coal workers, but fair on imports of timber and grain. At Bristol, Avonmouth, Southampton and Plymouth and other South-Western ports employment was slack.

Scottish and Irish Ports.—Employment continued to be fair at Glasgow. At Leith it was slack. At Dundee the decline reported last month continued, and employment was slack at the end of April. At Aberdeen it continued good. At Belfast it was moderate.

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

TRADE DISPUTES IN APRIL.*

Number, Magnitude and Duration.—The number of trade disputes involving a stoppage of work, reported to the Department as beginning in April in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was 42, as compared with 35 in the previous month and 44 in April, 1925. The total number of workpeople involved in these disputes (including about 4,000 thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, though not themselves parties to the disputes) was approximately 33,000. In addition, about 18,000 workpeople were involved, either directly or indirectly, in 26 disputes which began before April and were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The number of new and old disputes was thus 68, involving about 51,000 workpeople, and resulting in a loss during April of about 424,000 working days. The figures for April are not affected by the stoppage in the coal-mining industry, or by the general strike, which began in May and will be dealt with in the June issue of this GAZETTE.

The following Table analyses the disputes in progress in April in Great Britain and Northern Ireland by groups of industries:—

Groups of Industries.	Number of Disputes in progress in April.			Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress in April.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress in April.
	Started before 1st April.	Started in April.	Total.		
Mining and Quarrying... Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding ...	11	10	21	26,000	252,000
Textile	3	9	12	9,000	70,000
Transport	1	2	3	2,000	20,000
Other	1	9	10	9,000	23,000
	10	12	22	5,000	59,000
Total, April, 1926	26	42	68	51,000	424,000
Total, March 1926	28	35	63	37,000	460,000
Total, April, 1925	26	44	70	25,000	122,000

Causes.—Of the 42 disputes beginning in April, 8, directly involving 6,000 workpeople, arose out of demands for advances in wages; 11, directly involving 7,000 workpeople, on other wages questions; 8, directly involving 3,000 workpeople, on questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons; 7, directly involving 8,000 workpeople, on details of working arrangements; and 8, directly involving 5,000 workpeople, from other causes.

PRINCIPAL DISPUTES INVOLVING STOPPAGES OF WORK DURING APRIL, 1926.

Occupations and Locality.†	Approximate Number of Workpeople Involved.		Date when Dispute		Cause or Object.‡	Result.‡
	Directly.	Indirectly.‡	Began.	Ended.		
MINING AND QUARRYING:—			1925.	1926.		
Coal miners, etc.—Consett, Co. Durham.	7,000§		22 June—6 July.	...	Against proposed increase in working hours, revision of piece-work rates, etc.	See Note §.
Coal miners, mechanics, enginemen, etc.—Boldon, Co. Durham.	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, enginemen, etc.—South Shields.	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.
METAL, ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING INDUSTRIES:—			1926.			
Locomotive men and steel and tinplate workers at steel and tinplate works—Llanelli (one firm).	13	1,433	12—13 Apr.	||	Dispute as to number of locomotive men required at work subsequent to a reduction in the number of steel furnaces in operation.	See Note ||.
Workpeople employed in railway wagon and carriage works. — Newton Heath, Manchester.	3,000	...	23 April	1 May	For advance in wages of a number of female french polishers.	Work resumed pending negotiations.
Earlestown, Lancs.	1,700	...	24 April	1 May	In sympathy with workpeople involved in above dispute.	
OTHER INDUSTRIES:—						
Brickmakers, etc.—Sittingbourne and District.	2,500	...	1 April	24 April	For advance in wages and six days' annual holiday with pay.	Agreement effected.
Tape sizers, cotton spinners, weavers, etc.—Preston.	9	1,830	15 April	23 April	Against promotion of a learner when unemployed tape sizers were stated to be available.	Question left for decision by the chairman and secretary of the Employers' Association. Amended notice substituted.
Railway warehouse and dock workers—Hull.	3,000	...	29 April	29 April	Against the removal from official notice boards of a Trade Union notice to which the Company took exception.	

* 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. Workpeople involved in more than one dispute are counted more than once in the totals; the amount of such duplication is, however, very slight.

‡ 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.

§ This was the number originally involved. At four of the five pits involved, employing about 4,500 workpeople, settlements were effected in April.

|| Tinplate workers resumed work on 3rd May.

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 26th April, 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 insured 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 179 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 26TH APRIL, 1926.

INDUSTRY.	GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.									GREAT BRITAIN ONLY.		
	WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED (Including Casuals).			TEMPORARY STOPPAGES.			TOTAL.			WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED, TEMPORARY STOPPAGES, AND CASUALS.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Fishing ...	3,388	71	3,459	22	5	27	3,410	76	3,486	3,326	74	3,400
Mining:—												
Coal Mining ...	90,467	479	90,946	6,863	71	6,934	97,330	550	97,880	97,247	550	97,797
Iron Ore and Ironstone Mining and Quarrying ...	2,428	...	2,428	172	...	172	2,600	...	2,600	2,548	...	2,548
Lead, Tin and Copper Mining ...	502	2	504	42	1	43	544	3	547	544	3	547
Stone Quarrying and Mining ...	2,116	11	2,127	611	...	611	2,727	11	2,738	2,444	10	2,454
Slate Quarrying and Mining ...	169	1	170	170	...	170	339	1	340	339	1	340
Other Mining and Quarrying ...	2,008	43	2,051	202	8	210	2,210	51	2,261	2,136	51	2,187
Clay, Sand, Gravel and Chalk Pit Digging ...	439	14	453	73	1	74	512	15	527	490	14	504
Non-Metalliferous Mining Products:—												
Coke Ovens and By-Product Works	1,136	19	1,155	191	...	191	1,327	19	1,346	1,327	18	1,345
Artificial Stone and Concrete Manufacture ...	1,513	46	1,559	277	14	291	1,790	60	1,850	1,773	60	1,833
Cement, Limekilns and Whiting Works ...	698	55	753	113	...	113	811	55	866	772	51	823
Brick, Tile, etc., Making ...	3,679	557	4,236	333	135	468	4,012	692	4,704	3,720	692	4,412
Pottery, Earthenware, etc. ...	2,559	2,350	4,909	1,784	2,970	4,754	4,343	5,320	9,663	4,323	5,320	9,643
Glass Trades:—												
Glass (excluding Bottles and Scientific Glass) Manufacture ...	1,740	263	2,003	430	41	471	2,170	304	2,474	2,164	304	2,468
Glass Bottle Making ...	2,157	69	2,226	657	9	666	2,814	78	2,892	2,808	78	2,886
Ammunition, Explosives, Chemicals, etc.:												
Chemicals Manufacture ...	5,684	777	6,461	611	112	723	6,295	889	7,184	6,213	878	7,091
Explosives Manufacture ...	1,102	321	1,423	11	11	22	1,113	332	1,445	1,105	332	1,437
Paint, Varnish, Japan, Red and White Lead Manufacture ...	638	154	792	4	1	5	642	155	797	635	155	790
Oil, Grease, Glue, Soap, Ink, Match, etc., Manufacture ...	3,975	948	4,923	640	135	775	4,615	1,083	5,698	4,560	1,051	5,611
Metal Manufacture:—												
Pig Iron Manufacture (Blast Furnaces)	2,862	30	2,892	533	1	534	3,395	31	3,426	3,390	31	3,421
Steel Melting and Iron Puddling Furnaces, Iron and Steel Rolling Mills and Forges ...	21,774	160	21,934	18,598	190	18,788	40,372	350	40,722	40,344	350	40,694
Manufacture of Brass, Copper, Zinc, Tin, Lead, etc. ...	3,196	166	3,362	653	24	677	3,849	190	4,039	3,828	190	4,018
Manufacture of Tin Plates ...	1,634	158	1,792	2,281	544	2,825	3,814	702	4,516	3,812	702	4,514
Iron and Steel Tube Making ...	2,663	101	2,764	1,694	15	1,709	4,357	116	4,473	4,350	116	4,466
Wire, Wire Netting, Wire Rope Manufacture ...	1,350	270	1,620	1,074	50	1,124	2,424	320	2,744	2,414	320	2,734
Engineering, etc.:—												
General Engineering; Engineers' Iron and Steel Foundry ...	56,379	1,214	57,593	12,330	290	12,620	68,709	1,504	70,213	66,670	1,497	68,167
Electrical Engineering ...	3,621	736	4,357	477	195	672	4,098	931	5,029	4,075	931	5,006
Marine Engineering, etc. ...	13,086	43	13,129	580	16	596	13,666	59	13,725	12,299	57	12,356
Constructional Engineering ...	2,840	42	2,882	371	12	383	3,211	54	3,265	3,197	54	3,251
Construction and Repair of Vehicles:—												
Construction and Repair of Motor Vehicles, Cycles and Aircraft ...	10,082	907	10,989	1,273	152	1,425	11,355	1,059	12,414	11,123	1,053	12,176
Construction and Repair of Carriages, Carts, etc. ...	1,630	129	1,759	236	12	248	1,866	141	2,007	1,769	141	1,910
Railway Carriage, Wagon and Tramcar Building ...	2,125	16	2,141	764	4	768	2,889	20	2,909	2,844	20	2,864

INDUSTRY.	GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.									GREAT BRITAIN ONLY.		
	WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED (Including Casuals).			TEMPORARY STOPPAGES.			TOTAL.			WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED, TEMPORARY STOPPAGES, AND CASUALS.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing ...	81,993	244	82,237	1,648	11	1,659	83,641	255	83,896	77,458	247	77,705
Metal Trades:—												
Stove, Grate, Pipe, etc., and General Iron Foundry ...	6,370	365	6,735	921	169	1,090	7,291	534	7,825	7,127	534	7,661
Electrical Wiring and Contracting ...	1,033	22	1,055	36	...	36	1,069	22	1,091	1,026	22	1,048
Electrical Cable, Wire and Electric Lamp Manufacture ...	3,045	1,856	4,901	145	206	351	3,190	2,062	5,252	3,175	2,062	5,237
Hand Tool, Cutlery, Saw, File Making	2,198	723	2,921	1,426	273	1,699	3,624	996	4,620	3,615	996	4,611
Bolts, Nuts, Screws, Rivets, Nails, etc., Manufacture ...	1,293	826	2,119	519	108	627	1,812	934	2,746	1,808	934	2,742
Brass and Allied Metal Wares Manufacture ...	1,469	923	2,392	220	217	437	1,689	1,140	2,829	1,685	1,140	2,825
Heating and Ventilating Apparatus	349	67	416	73	11	84	422	78	500	414	78	492
Watches, Clocks, Plate, Jewellery, etc., Manufacture ...	2,040	1,251	3,291	508	486	994	2,548	1,737	4,285	2,520	1,737	4,257
Other Metal Industries ...	7,854	4,111	11,965	1,824	834	2,658	9,678	4,945	14,623	9,514	4,942	14,456
Textile Trades:—												
Cotton ...	7,491	10,451	17,942	11,483	27,283	38,766	18,974	37,734	56,708	18,909	37,731	56,640
Woolen and Worsted ...	4,997	4,154	9,151	5,619	10,242	15,861	10,616	14,396	25,012	10,501	14,325	24,826
Silk ...	530	689	1,219	943	1,146	2,089	1,473	1,835	3,308	1,473	1,835	3,308
Linon ...	5,102	10,846	15,948	952	3,018	3,970	6,054	13,864	19,918	490	1,326	1,816
Jute ...	1,814	3,282	5,096	1,568	4,927	6,495	3,382	8,209	11,591	3,382	8,209	11,591
Hemp Spinning and Weaving, Rope, Cord, Twine, etc., Making ...	712	1,654	2,366	181	367	548	893	2,021	2,914	667	1,374	2,041
Hosiery ...	530	1,919	2,449	616	3,009	3,625	1,146	4,928	6,074	1,116	4,811	5,927
Lace ...	826	440	1,266	958	570	1,528	1,784	1,010	2,794	1,783	1,010	2,793
Carpet Manufacture ...	490	486	976	543	1,152	1,695	1,033	1,638	2,671	1,031	1,634	2,665
Other Textile Industries ...	899	2,489	3,388	402	885	1,287	1,301	3,374	4,675	1,180	2,787	3,967
Textile Bleaching, Printing, Dyeing, etc. ...	3,879	1,710	5,589	6,186	2,448	8,634	10,065	4,158	14,223	9,350	3,565	12,915
Leather and Leather Goods:—												
Tanning, Currying and Dressing ...	2,573	568	3,141	991	230	1,221	3,564	798	4,362	3,559	797	4,356
Saddlery, Harness and other Leather Goods Manufacture ...	1,108	672	1,780	173	172	345	1,261	844	2,125	1,244	841	2,085
Clothing Trades:—												
Tailoring ...	3,563	2,480	6,043	175	1,007	1,182	3,738	3,487	7,225	3,373	3,332	6,705
Dress and Mantle Making and Millinery ...	592	2,318	2,910	7	281	288	599	2,599	3,198	578	2,398	2,976
Hat and Cap (including Straw Plait) Manufacture ...	440	396	836	145	165	310	585	561	1,146	583	560	1,143
Blouses, Shirts, Collars, Underclothing, etc., Making ...	445	1,877	2,322	18	697	715	463	2,574	3,037	282	1,213	1,495
Other Dress Industries ...	717	491	1,208	113	245	358	830	736	1,566	811	734	1,545
Boot, Shoe, Slipper and Clog Trades	5,690	1,169	6,859	2,415	1,139	3,554	8,105	2,308	10,413	7,852	2,291	10,143
Food, Drink and Tobacco:—												
Bread, Biscuit, Cake, etc., Making ...	7,894	2,599	10,493	190	194	384	8,084	2,793	10,877	7,283	2,667	9,950
Grain Milling ...	1,462	116	1,578	105	24	129	1,557	140	1,697	1,431	134	1,565
Cocoa, Chocolate and Sugar Confectionery ...	1,503	2,504	4,007	327	1,551	1,878	1,830	4,055	5,885	1,803	4,040	5,843
Other Food Industries ...	4,474	5,301	9,775	149	372	521	4,623	5,673	10,296	4,479	5,551	10,030
Drink Industries ...	4,670	1,475	6,145	142	159	301	4,812	1,634	6,446	4,286	1,601	5,887

NUMBERS INSURED AND PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED.

Table with columns: INDUSTRY, ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AT JULY, 1925, and PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 26TH APRIL, 1926. Includes sub-sections like Fishing, Mining, Non-Metalliferous Mining Products, etc.

Table with columns: GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND, ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AT JULY, 1925, and PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 26TH APRIL, 1926. Includes sub-sections like Food, Drink and Tobacco, Sawmilling, etc.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES.

At 26th April, 1926, the total number of persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain was 981,877; in Great Britain and Northern Ireland it was 1,034,433.

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 26th April, 1926.

Table showing Employment Exchanges data for Great Britain and Northern Ireland, including columns for 29th March 1926, 26th April 1926, and Total.

Table showing Applications from Employers, Vacancies Filled, and Number of Workpeople on Registers for Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

* 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.

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 26th April, 1926. In certain cases (e.g., Bristol, Birmingham, Sheffield, Liverpool, Glasgow, etc.) the figures cover more than one Exchange area :—

Area.	Number of Persons on Registers at 26th April, 1926.				Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) as compared with 29th Mar. 1926.
	Men.	Women.	Juveniles.	Total.	
London Division ...	87,404	18,914	9,129	115,447	— 3,231
South-Eastern Division	24,316	4,579	3,692	32,497	— 2,875
Brighton ...	1,169	297	336	1,802	— 244
Chatham ...	1,523	213	471	2,207	— 146
Ipwich ...	1,835	201	103	2,139	— 161
Norwich ...	1,832	291	46	2,169	— 15
Rest of South-Eastern	17,957	3,577	2,646	24,180	— 2,309
South-Western Division	42,263	6,090	4,133	52,486	— 4,068
Bristol ...	9,547	1,493	859	11,899	— 668
Plymouth ...	4,378	386	484	5,248	+ 45
Portsmouth ...	3,992	390	421	4,803	+ 200
Reading ...	710	93	224	1,027	— 10
Southampton ...	4,389	420	505	5,314	— 570
Swindon ...	395	40	87	522	+ 15
Rest of South-Western	18,852	3,268	1,553	23,673	+ 2,900
Midlands Division ...	74,571	25,389	4,614	104,574	— 1,099
Birmingham ...	14,217	5,145	235	19,597	— 967
Coventry ...	1,117	484	57	1,658	+ 528
Cradley Heath ...	2,526	460	74	3,060	— 110
Derby ...	1,459	425	249	2,133	+ 274
Leicester ...	1,616	852	18	2,486	+ 444
Northampton ...	1,118	232	60	1,410	+ 114
Nottingham ...	4,871	1,561	257	6,689	— 331
Smethwick ...	1,957	668	92	2,717	+ 109
Stoke-on-Trent ...	7,109	3,995	503	11,607	+ 278
Walsall ...	3,257	721	254	4,232	+ 9
West Bromwich ...	2,932	503	131	3,566	+ 158
Wolverhampton ...	2,801	772	298	3,871	+ 35
Rest of Midlands	30,591	9,773	2,386	42,750	— 856
North-Eastern Division	194,055	24,106	13,172	231,333	— 4,238
Barnsley ...	1,106	202	28	1,336	— 104
Bradford ...	5,167	1,592	249	7,008	— 384
Darlington ...	1,334	170	27	1,531	— 198
Dewsbury ...	1,119	1,485	159	2,763	— 308
Doncaster ...	449	171	240	860	+ 76
Gateshead ...	8,060	520	960	9,540	— 124
Grimsby ...	2,192	155	376	2,723	— 181
Hullfax ...	1,563	467	36	2,066	+ 9
Hartlepool ...	6,883	137	419	7,439	— 462
Huddersfield ...	2,817	1,334	204	4,355	— 36
Hull ...	8,258	550	953	9,761	+ 92
Leeds ...	9,192	1,792	236	11,220	+ 220
Lincoln ...	1,621	198	91	1,910	— 84
Middlesbrough ...	7,799	291	427	8,517	+ 388
Newcastle-on-Tyne ...	12,845	1,105	1,028	14,978	— 300
Rotherham ...	1,738	150	242	2,130	— 61
Sheffield ...	18,686	2,457	1,304	22,447	+ 678
South Shields ...	9,119	516	682	10,317	+ 44
Stockton-on-Tees ...	6,724	154	364	7,242	— 677
Sunderland ...	15,686	697	696	17,079	— 472
York ...	1,423	448	207	2,078	— 158
Rest of North-Eastern	69,483	9,896	4,101	83,480	+ 2,048
North-Western Division	144,582	48,712	13,037	206,331	— 5,927
Accrington ...	2,191	731	145	3,067	+ 192
Ashton-under-Lyne ...	1,958	1,017	130	3,105	+ 1
Barrow ...	4,242	149	258	4,649	— 189
Birkenhead ...	4,891	330	137	5,358	— 422
Blackburn ...	2,117	1,497	214	3,828	— 64
Blackpool ...	605	334	145	1,084	+ 200
Bolton ...	4,583	1,381	273	6,241	+ 1,131
Burnley ...	2,187	3,246	210	5,643	— 1,605
Bury ...	920	636	57	1,613	— 320
Chorley ...	857	413	52	1,322	— 205
Liverpool ...	41,080	5,224	4,140	50,444	+ 359
Manchester ...	17,223	5,505	1,311	24,039	+ 251
Nelson ...	672	262	17	951	+ 137
Oldham ...	5,868	2,710	285	8,863	+ 1,211
Preston ...	2,239	934	108	3,281	— 1,688
Rochdale ...	2,477	1,356	125	3,958	+ 777
St. Helens ...	2,069	155	493	2,717	+ 173
Salford ...	7,259	2,517	763	10,539	+ 732
Stockport ...	2,493	1,681	314	4,488	— 523
Warrington ...	1,585	213	211	2,009	+ 134
Wigan ...	2,321	2,574	442	5,247	+ 610
Rest of North-Western	33,815	15,843	3,207	52,865	— 2,977
Scotland Division ...	134,949	25,851	9,741	170,541	— 4,572
Aberdeen ...	4,110	699	143	4,952	— 741
Clydebank ...	2,642	191	209	3,042	— 178
Dundee ...	6,280	6,679	1,205	14,164	+ 2,265
Edinburgh ...	10,965	1,554	707	13,226	— 1,131
Glasgow ...	54,367	8,128	3,466	65,961	+ 3,027
Greenock ...	843	530	410	1,783	— 559
Motherwell ...	2,879	159	196	3,234	+ 16
Paisley ...	3,969	503	246	4,718	— 202
Rest of Scotland	42,894	7,408	3,159	53,461	+ 1,015
Wales Division ...	62,052	3,142	3,474	68,668	— 5,722
Cardiff ...	5,668	515	533	7,716	— 59
Llanelli ...	2,252	166	156	2,574	+ 546
Newport ...	2,699	150	219	3,068	— 300
Swansea ...	4,365	331	509	5,205	— 257
Rest of Wales	46,068	1,980	2,057	50,105	— 5,652
Northern Ireland ...	35,635	15,624	1,397	52,656	— 3,823
Belfast ...	23,510	10,613	1,022	35,145	— 1,005
Londonderry ...	2,278	434	70	2,782	— 286
Lurgan ...	644	642	34	1,320	— 264
Lisburn ...	618	239	17	874	+ 43
Newry ...	1,017	315	15	1,347	— 357
Rest of Northern Ireland	7,568	3,281	239	11,088	— 1,959
Great Britain and Northern Ireland ...	799,827	172,307	62,299	1,034,433	— 35,560

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE STATISTICS: GREAT BRITAIN.

ON page 176 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 26th April, 1926, for the total of each group included in those statistics. Lines 2 to 5 make up the number of persons on the register; while, by omitting the uninsured persons (line 5) and including lines 1 and 6, the number of books lodged, or, in other words, the number of insured persons recorded as unemployed, is obtained.

	Men.	Boys.	Women.	Girls.	Total.
1. Unemployed — Special Schemes ...	2,081	9	263	8	2,361
2. Claims admitted or under consideration ...	671,604	10,724	130,717	8,802	821,847
3. Claimants disqualified, but maintaining registration ...	73,070	708	9,295	398	83,471
4. Insured non-claimants on main file ...	12,000	1,464	1,873	1,382	16,719
5. Uninsured persons on Register ...	7,518	16,057	14,898	21,367	59,840
6. Two months file ...	64,516	3,633	38,237	3,732	110,118
Persons on Register (lines 2-5) ...	764,192	28,953	166,783	31,949	981,877
Books lodged (lines 1-4 and 6) ...	823,271	16,538	180,385	14,322	1,034,516

NUMBER OF CLAIMS TO BENEFIT.

During the five weeks ended 26th April, 1926, 724,869 fresh claims were added to the register, while 788,736 claims were removed from the register. At 26th April, 1926, the number of claims current at Employment Exchanges was 905,318, as compared with 969,185 at 22nd March, 1926.

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. The following Table gives an analysis of the recommendations of these Committees in Great Britain during the period 9th March to 12th April, 1926 :—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Applications considered by Committees during period ...	247,734	33,262	280,996
Applications admitted by Committees during period ...	55,737	2,319	58,056
(a) For 12 weeks ...	153,989	18,913	172,902
(b) For less than 12 weeks ...	—	—	—
Applications definitely recommended for disallowance during period :—	—	—	—
General Conditions :			
Not normally insurable and not seeking to obtain a livelihood by means of insurable employment ...	1,942	985	2,927
Insurable employment not likely to be available ...	1,566	390	1,956
Not a reasonable period of insurable employment during the preceding two years ...	13,221	1,968	15,189
Not making every reasonable effort to obtain suitable employment or not willing to accept suitable employment ...	9,102	2,981	12,083
Special Conditions :	6,051	2,185	8,236
Single persons residing with relatives	...	...	...
Married women who could look for support from their husbands ...	...	2,201	2,201
Married men who could look for support from their wives ...	246	...	246
Working short time but earning sufficient for maintenance ...	3,585	779	4,364
Aliens ...	8	1	9
Total definitely recommended for disallowance ...	35,721	11,490	47,211
Applications during the period recommended for postponement for a definite time ...	2,287	540	2,827

During the five weeks ended 1st May, 1926, the receipts and payments of the Unemployment Fund were approximately as shown in the following Table; figures for the four weeks ended 27th March, 1926, and for the five weeks ended 2nd May, 1925, are also given for purposes of comparison :—

	Five weeks ended 1st May, 1926.	Four weeks ended 27th Mar., 1926.	Five weeks ended 2nd May, 1925.
Contributions (Receipts) :—			
By Employers ...	£ 1,510,000	£ 1,260,000	£ 1,810,000
Employed Persons ...	1,330,000	1,100,000	1,630,000
Service Departments (Admiralty, War Office and Air Ministry) ...	20,000	60,000	10,000
Exchequer ...	1,180,000	1,030,000	1,240,000
Total ...	4,040,000	3,450,000	4,690,000
Payments :—			
Benefit ...	3,360,000	2,900,000	4,350,000
Other payments* ...	470,000	460,000	680,000
Total ...	3,830,000	3,360,000	5,030,000
Treasury Advances outstanding ...	7,470,000	7,510,000	7,650,000

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

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 April in Great Britain and Northern Ireland resulted in an aggregate increase of nearly £2,400 in the weekly full-time wages of 30,000 workpeople and in a reduction of £20,500 in the weekly wages of 291,000 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.
Metal ...	11,000	71,500	£ 630	£ 5,200
Textile ...	2,000	150,000	75	10,900
Building & Allied Trades ...	15,250	7,000	1,500	700
Public Utility Services ...	500	16,500	40	1,300
Other ...	1,750	46,000	130	2,400
Total ...	30,500	291,000	2,375	20,500

The principal reduction in the metal trades affected workpeople employed at iron puddling furnaces, and in iron and steel rolling mills in the Midlands, over 40,000 of whom sustained a reduction equivalent to 3½ per cent. on current rates. There was a small reduction (under 1 per cent.) in the wages of over 10,000 blastfurnacemen and iron and steel workers in South Wales and Monmouthshire. About 6,000 workpeople employed in the bobbin making industry had their wages reduced by 1s. and 6d. per week in the case of men and women respectively. The increases in this group mainly affected steel sheet millmen and galvanisers in various districts, whose wages were increased by an amount equivalent to 1½ per cent. on current rates.

In the textile group there were reductions in the cost-of-living wages of about 75,000 workpeople employed in the bleaching, dyeing, etc., trades, the reductions in Yorkshire amounting to about 3 per cent. on current rates, and in Lancashire and Scotland to 1s. 9d. or 1s. 10d. per week in the case of men and 1s. per week in the case of women. Over 50,000 hosiery workers in the Midlands had their bonus reduced by 1d. on each shilling earned. There was also a reduction in the wages of about 13,000 carpet makers, amounting to 10 per cent. on basic rates.

There was an increase of ½d. per hour in the wages of about 15,000 men employed by electrical contractors in England and Wales. About 7,000 men employed by public works contractors in London sustained a reduction of ½d. per hour.

The principal body of workpeople affected by changes in the public utility services were men employed by waterworks undertakings,

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

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics.)
Coal Mining	Radstock ...	1 April	Workpeople employed in or about coal mines.	MINING AND QUARRYING. Decrease of 1-64 per cent. on standard base rates of 1918, leaving wages 4s. 4-01 per cent. above the standard.
Lead Mining	Wearhead and Alledale.	12 April	Underground and surface workers	Bonus reduced from 6s. to 4s. 6d. per week. Rates after change (including bonus) for labourers :

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

Table with columns: Industry, Locality, Date from which Change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of Change. Includes sections for OTHER METAL TRADES, TEXTILE TRADES, and various manufacturing sectors.

* Certain firms—members of the Galvanising Conciliation Board. † Under selling prices sliding scale arrangements. ‡ Under cost-of-living sliding scale arrangement. § Excluding certain workpeople employed at Blackburn and Garston. ¶ The change applied to workers employed by firms who are members of the British Cotton and Wool Dyers' Association, Ltd. (Slubbing Section), the Leeds Dyers' and Finishers' Federation, the Yorkshire Indigo, Scarlet, and Colour Dyers, Ltd., the Leeds and District Worsteds Dyers' and Finishers' Association, Ltd., the Huddersfield and District Master Dyers' Association, the Yorkshire Dyers' Federation, the West Riding of Yorkshire Master Slubbing Dyers' Association, The Bradford Dyers' Association, Ltd., and the Employers' Federation of Cotton Yarn Bleachers, Dyers, and Sizers (certain firms).

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

Table with columns: Industry, Locality, Date from which Change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of Change. Includes sections for TEXTILE TRADES, CLOTHING TRADES, FOOD, DRINK AND TOBACCO TRADES, WOODWORKING AND FURNITURE TRADES, PAPER, PRINTING, AND ALLIED TRADES, and BUILDING AND ALLIED TRADES.

* Under cost-of-living sliding scale arrangements. † Areas administered by Rural District Councils and areas with a population not exceeding 4,000 (as returned at the last census), administered by Urban District Councils or other Local Authorities. ‡ The change took effect under an arrangement made by the Joint Industrial Council for the Seed Crushing and Compound Cake Manufacturing Industry. § Barnsley, Bradford, Bridlington, Doncaster, Halifax, Harrogate, Huddersfield, Hull, Leeds, Sheffield, Wakefield, and York. ¶ It was provided that no increase in wages should be granted to any man in receipt of earnings as high as the new scale, and that no man in receipt of higher wages in accordance with the previous agreement should suffer any reduction in wages by alteration in the Grading Scheme; also that no alteration should be made in existing piecework rates.

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

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics.)
TRANSPORT TRADES.				
Road Transport.	Nottingham...	1st pay day after 26 April.	Road transport workers ...	<i>Decrease* of 1s. per week for those 18 years of age and over, and of 6d. per week for those under 18 years. Rates after change: one-horse drivers, 52s. per week; two-horse drivers, 57s. 1 petrol wagon drivers—2 tons and over, 62s.; 15 cuts. to 2 tons, 57s.; under 15 cuts., 52s.</i>
	Bristol ...	1 April	Casual day work carters ...	Rates adopted of 11s. per day from Monday to Friday, and 8s. per day on Saturday.
	Isle of Man (Eastern Area). Isle of Man (Northern, Southern and Western Areas).	1st pay day in April.	Carters and labourers ...	<i>Decrease* of 1s. per week (43s. to 42s.).</i> <i>Decrease* of 1s. per week (40s. to 39s.).</i>
PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES.				
Waterworks Undertakings.	Certain undertakings in the North-East, Yorkshire, and Midland Areas.†	1st full pay in April.	Adult male manual workers ...	<i>Decrease* of 1d. per hour. Rates after change for labourers; North-East Area, majority rate, 1s. 1½d. per hour; Yorkshire Area, 1s. 0½d. to 1s. 3d.; Midlands, minimum rates—Zone A, 1s. 1d.; Zone B, 1s. 0d.; Zone C, 10½d.; Zone D, 9½d.</i>
	London ...	3 April	Able-bodied male manual workers employed by the Metropolitan Water Board.	<i>Decrease* of 1s. 11½d. per week leaving the bonus 23s. 6d. per week for men over 21 years of age, 17s. 6d. for youths 18 to 21 years of age doing full men's work, and 11s. 9d. for youths 18 to 21 years of age not doing full men's work. Rates after change: stokers, 36s. 6d. per week; labourers, 31s. 6d.; plus, in each case, bonuses as above.</i>
Electricity Supply Undertakings.	Certain undertakings in the South Midland Area.†	1st full pay week in April	Adult male manual workers ...	<i>Decreases* of 9d. per week for Grade D Areas and of 10d. for Grades C and B; and of 8d. for Grade A. Minimum weekly rates after change for labourers—Grade D, 50s. 6d.; Grade C, 49s. 7d.; Grade B, 48s. 0d.; Grade A, 41s. 7d.†</i>
	Home Counties ...	1st pay in April.	Able-bodied male manual workers ...	<i>Decrease* of 1s. per week for Grade D Area. Scheduled minimum rate after change for labourers, Grade D, 54s. 6d.</i>
Non-Trading Services of Local Authorities.	Certain undertakings in the East Midland Area.	4 Feb.	Meter fixers and readers ...	Increase of 1d. per hour. Scheduled minimum rates after change: meter fixers—Grade I, 1s. 5½d.; Grade II, 1s. 4d.; meter readers, Grade I, 1s. 4½d.; Grade II, 1s. 3d.
	Certain undertakings in Devonshire and Cornwall.‡	25 Mar.	Cleaners ...	Rates of wages fixed at 1s. 2d. per hour for Grade 2 undertakings.
	West Hartlepool ...	1 April	Manual workers ...	<i>Decrease* of 1d. per hour. Scheduled minimum rates after change for general labourers—Zone A, 52s. 1½d. per week; Zone B, 48s. 1½d.; Zone C, 44s. 1½d.‡</i>
	Certain Authorities in the South Midland Area.‡	1st pay in April.	Able-bodied male manual workers ...	<i>Decrease* of 3d. per hour. Rates after change: street sweepers, 11½d. per hour; general labourers, 1s. 2d.; roadmen, 1s. 3d. † ‡ † ‡</i>
Miscellaneous Trades.	Reading ...	1st pay day in April.	Manual workers employed in drainage, highways, and parks departments.	Increase of 1s. per week. Rates after change: labourers, carters and scavengers, 52s. per week; steam wagon and roller drivers, 61s.
	Barking ...	1 April	Manual workers ...	<i>Decrease* of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: labourers, 1s. 3½d. per hour; scavengers, 1s. 2½d.</i>
	Certain Authorities in Kent, Surrey and Sussex.†	1st pay after 1 April.	Able-bodied male manual workers employed in Grade V. area.	<i>Decrease* of 2s. per week for unskilled men and of 2s. 6d. for skilled. Minimum rates after change in Grade V. area: skilled, 66s.; unskilled, 55s. 4</i>
	Hastings ...	1 April	Women employed in all areas ...	<i>Decrease* of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: Grade V. area, 7½ per hour; Grades IV. and III.a, 7d.; Grades III. and II., 6½d.; Grade I., 5½d.†</i>
Miscellaneous Trades.	Certain Authorities in Cornwall, Devon and Dorset.**	1st full pay in April.	Manual workers employed in non-trading and water departments.	<i>Decrease* of 2s. per week. Rates after change: road labourers and sweepers, 48s. 7d. per week; general yard and waterworks labourers, 49s. 6d.</i>
	Plymouth ...	29 April	Able-bodied male manual workers...	<i>Decrease* of 1s. per week. Scheduled minimum rates after change: Grade A, 53s.; Torquay, 47s. 6d.; Grade B, 45s.; Grade C, 38s. Seaton, 36s.; Grade D, 33s.**</i>
	Edinburgh ...	1 April	House refuse collectors, sweepers, etc.	<i>Decrease* of 2½ per cent. Rate after change, 49s. 4d. per week.</i>
	Edinburgh ...	1 April	Unskilled and semi-skilled workers employed in non-trading and water departments, also paviors and settbeaters.	<i>Decrease* of 1s. per week. Rates after change: road labourers, scavengers and waterworks labourers, 53s.; pipe joiners, 56s. 3d. to 60s. 3d.; paviors, 71s.; settbeaters, 51s. 6d. per week.</i>
Miscellaneous Trades.	Fifeshire (Dunfermline District).	19 April	Manual workers employed by County Council.	<i>Decrease* of 2s. per week. Rates after change: scavengers, 51s. per week; roadmen, 56s.; carters and refuse collectors, 58s. 6d.; tractor and roller drivers, 66s.</i>
	Londonderry ...	1 April	Manual workers ...	<i>Decrease* of 1s. per week. Rates after change: scavengers, 44s. per week; road labourers, 44s. and 46s.; ashpitmen, 46s.</i>
MISCELLANEOUS TRADES.				
Roller Leather Manufacture.	Lancashire, Cheshire, and North Wales.	1st pay day in April.	Workpeople employed in roller leather manufacture.	"Cost-of-living" wage reduced* from 75 per cent. to 70 per cent. on basic rates. Minimum rates after change: Men—skilled, 9d. per hour; semi-skilled, 6d. to 7½d.; Women—5d.; plus, in each case, 10 per cent.
Warehousing	Manchester ...	1st pay day in April.	Workpeople employed in wholesale warehouses (clothing, millinery, cotton, etc.).	<i>Decrease* of from 3d. to 1s. 3d. per week for male workers, and of from 3d. to 8d. per week for female workers. Minimum rates after change: male workers:—10s. 6d. at 14 years, increasing to 51s. 6d. at 23 and over; female workers:—10s. at 14 years, increasing to 29s. at 21 and over.</i>

* Under cost-of-living sliding scale arrangements.
† The increase affected those undertakings in the areas mentioned which follow the wages agreements of the National Joint Industrial Council for the Waterworks Industry.
‡ The undertakings affected are those which follow the wages agreements of the South Midlands Joint Industrial Council for the Waterworks Industry and include: Grade D, Southampton (town area); Grade C, Reading (pays higher rates); Grade A, Southampton (country area).
§ The undertakings affected are those which follow the wages agreements of the Devon and Cornwall District Joint Industrial Council for the Electricity Supply Industry and include: Zone A, Plymouth; Zone B, Exeter (pays 1d. per hour above Zone rates).
|| The Authorities affected are those which follow the wages agreements of the Provincial Council for the South Midlands Division for Local Authorities' Non-Trading Services and include:—Grade A1, Bourne-mouth, Oxford; Grade B1, Basingstoke, Winchester, Farnborough, Slough; Grade B2, Marlow; Grade C1, Southampton C.C.; Grade C2, Windsor R.D.C. The rates paid by some of the Authorities differ slightly from the minimum rates quoted above.
¶ The Authorities affected are those which follow the wages agreements of the Kent, Surrey and Sussex Joint Industrial Council for Local Authorities' Non-Trading Services, and include:—Men: Grade V, Barnes, Croydon, Women: Grade V, Barnes, Croydon; Grade IV, Beckenham, Northfleet; Grade IIIa, Brighton, Eastbourne.
** The Authorities affected are those which follow the wages agreements of the Provincial Joint Industrial Council for Cornwall, Devon and Dorset Local Authorities' Non-Trading Services, and include:—Grade B, Bideford, Exeter, Ilfracombe, Newton Abbot, Weymouth; Grade C, Tiverton, Llaneston; also Torquay and Seaton. In the case of those towns printed in Italics, the rates paid to labourers are higher than the respective Grade rates quoted in the table.

CHANGES IN WAGES TAKING EFFECT IN MAY, 1926.

The following groups of workpeople are among those affected by changes in wages already reported as having been arranged to take effect in May. *Increase.*—Employees of electricity supply undertakings in the Home Counties Area; building trade operatives at Liverpool. *Decreases.*—Blastfurnacemen in Scotland; steel smelters and millmen in various districts in England and Scotland; dyers and dry cleaners; furniture trade operatives at Manchester and Birmingham, and in Scotland; road transport workers in Scotland; omnibus drivers and conductors in London; and employees of local authorities in Northumberland and Durham and in Yorkshire. Reductions have also taken effect in May in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts for the following trades: boot and shoe repairing, paper bag, paper box, perambulator and invalid carriage, cément making, and brush and broom.

PRICES AND WAGES IN THE IRON AND STEEL TRADE.

The following Table shows the results of recent ascertainties of selling prices of pig iron and manufactured iron and steel in certain districts:—

Product and District.	Price according to last Audit.*		Inc. (+) or Dec. (–) of last Audit* on	
	Period covered by last Audit.	Average selling price per ton.	Previous Audit.	A year ago.
Pig Iron.—	1926.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Cleveland (No. 3) ...	Jan.–Mar.	65 10½	+ 0 1½	– 12 8½
Cumberland... ..	Jan.–Feb.	75 5½	+ 0 2½	– 12 9½
(Hematite mixed num- bers).	Jan.	75 6	+ 0 9	– 13 0½
North Staffordshire... Northamptonshire ... Lincolnshire ...	Jan.–Mar. Jan.–Mar. Oct.–Dec. '25	69 1½ 59 0½ 63 9	– 0 2 – 0 3½ – 2 10½	– 15 4½ – 13 8½ – 18 5½
West of Scotland ...	Jan.–Mar.	77 10	– 2 11½	– 13 9
Manufactured Iron:—				
North of England ...	Jan.–Feb.	239 2½	+ 3 8½	– 12 10½
(Bars and angles). West of Scotland ...	Jan.–Feb.	235 7½	– 1 0	– 11 0½
(Rounds, flats, tees, angles, hoops and rods). Steel:—				
South Wales and Monmouthshire. (Steel rails and steel tin bars).	Dec.–Feb.	133 5	– 0 10½	– 15 10½
South-West Wales ... (Steel tin bars).	Oct.–Dec. '25	124 5½	– 4 7½	– 40 9½

The variations in prices indicated in the above Table resulted, as regards the price of Cumberland pig-iron, in increases varying from 1d. to 1d. per shift in February, in the wages of iron-ore miners in Cumberland, followed by reductions of similar amounts in March. The Cumberland ascertainment also resulted in an increase in the wages of blastfurnacemen in West Cumberland and North Lancashire, the increase amounting to ¼ per cent. on the output bonus earnings of keepers, slaggers, fillers, and certain other classes of men. The North Staffordshire ascertainment resulted in a reduction of ¼ per cent. on standard rates, but this was only applied to men on tonnage rates. The Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire ascertainments warranted reductions of 3½ per cent. and ½ per cent. respectively on the standard rates of blastfurnacemen and ironstone miners in those counties, but these were not enforced. In the case of blastfurnacemen in Cleveland, limestone quarrymen in West Cumberland and iron-ore miners in Furness, no change in wages was made as a result of the above ascertainments. The West of Scotland ascertainment resulted in a reduction of 3 per cent. on standard rates of blastfurnacemen. The ascertainment for manufactured iron resulted in an increase of 2½ per cent. in standard rates for iron puddlers and millmen in the North of England; in the West of Scotland no change resulted from the ascertainment. The South Wales and Monmouthshire ascertainment resulted in a reduction of ½ per cent. in the standard rates of blastfurnacemen and of workpeople in steel melting shops and iron and steel rolling mills in that area. In the case of Siemens steel workers in South-West Wales the ascertainment warranted a reduction of 2½ per cent., but this was not enforced.

ASSISTED PASSAGES UNDER THE EMPIRE SETTLEMENT ACT, 1922.

The number of assisted passages granted during April, 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:—

Assisted Passage Schemes.	Assisted Passages Granted in April, 1926.	Total Assisted Passages Granted.		Departures in April, 1926.		Total Departures.	
		1922 to 1925.	Jan.–April, 1926.	1922 to 1925.	Jan.–April, 1926.		
To Australia ...	2,563	82,168†	10,269†	1,899	78,689	11,160	
" New Zealand ...	658	25,706†	3,017†	1,760	22,625	4,409	
" Canada:—							
Dominion of Canada	4,231	21,488†	11,318†	3,890	21,489	6,496	
Province of Ontario	...	1,367	...	...	1,356	...
South Africa ...	15	167	130	30	79	30	
Minor Schemes ...	86	5,582	181	44	4,939	101	
Total ...	7,553	136,478†	24,915†	7,623	129,177	22,196	

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

* Stated to the nearest farthing.
† Revised figures.

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 April, 1926, was 47. Thirteen deaths were reported during the month, two due to lead poisoning, three due to arsenical poisoning, and eight* due to epitheliomatous ulceration. In addition, four cases of lead poisoning (including one death) among house painters and two cases (including one death) among house plumbers came to the knowledge of the Home Office during April, but notification of these cases is not obligatory.

(a) CASES OF LEAD POISONING.	HOUSE PAINTING ...	4
Among Operatives engaged in—	HOUSE PLUMBING ...	2
Smelting of Metals ...		
Plumbing and Soldering ...		
Shipbreaking ...		
Printing ...		
Tinning of Metals ...		
Other Contact with Molten Lead ...		
White and Red Lead Works ...		
Pottery† ...		
Vitreous Enamelling ...		
Electric Accumulator Works ...		
Paint and Colour Works ...		
Indiarubber Works ...		
Coach and Car Painting		
Shipbuilding ...		
Paint used in Other Industries ...		
Other Industries ...		
TOTAL OF ABOVE ...	17	17

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 April, 1926, was 187, as compared with 234 in the previous month and with 188 in April, 1925. Fatal accidents to seamen numbered 50 in April, 1926, as compared with 68 in the previous month; comparable figures for April, 1925, are not available.

RAILWAY SERVICE.	FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS (continued):
Brakemen and Goods Guards ...	Locomotives, Railway and Tramway Carriages, Motors, Aircraft ...
Engine Drivers ...	Other Metal Trades ...
Firemen ...	Shipbuilding ...
Guards (Passenger) ...	Wood ...
Permanent-Way Men ...	Gas ...
Porters ...	Electric Generating Stations
Shunters ...	Clay, Stone, Glass, etc. ...
Mechanics ...	Chemicals, etc. ...
Labourers ...	Food and Drink ...
Miscellaneous ...	Paper, Printing, etc. ...
Contractors' Servants ...	Tanning, Currying, etc. ...
TOTAL, RAILWAY SERVICE	Rubber Trades ...
	Other Non-Textile Industries ...
MINES.	PLACES UNDER SS. 104-106, FACTORY ACT, 1901.
Underground ...	Docks, Wharves, etc. ...
Surface ...	Buildings ...
TOTAL, MINES ...	Warehouses and Railway Sidings ...
QUARRIES over 20 feet deep	TOTAL, FACTORY ACTS ...
	FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.
Cotton ...	Construction or Repair of Tunnels ...
Wool, Worsted and Shoddy	
Other Textiles ...	
Textile Bleaching & Dyeing	Total (excluding Seamen) ...
Metal Extracting and Refining ...	SEAMEN.
Metal Conversion, including Rolling Mills and Tube Making ...	Trading Vessels, Sailing ...
Metal Founding ...	" " Steam ...
Engineering and Machine Making ...	Fishing Vessels, Sailing ...
Boiler Making and Constructional Engineering...	" " Steam ...
	TOTAL, SEAMEN ...
	Total (including Seamen) ...

* Seven of these refer to cases previously reported and have been obtained from returns of deaths in 1925 supplied by the Registrar General to the Home Office.
† Of the four persons affected in the Pottery industry, three were females.
‡ In addition to these cases reported under the Act, one case of anthrax among dock labourers was reported.

POOR LAW RELIEF IN GREAT BRITAIN.

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

The number of persons* relieved on one day† in April, 1926, in the thirty-one selected areas named below was 802,247 or 0.8 per cent. less than in the previous month, but 12.4 per cent. more than in April, 1925. The numbers relieved at these three dates were equivalent, respectively, to rates of 450, 453 and 402§ per 10,000 of the estimated population.

In the twenty-five selected areas in England and Wales the number of persons relieved in April was 659,956, or 418 per 10,000 of the estimated population, a decrease of 3 per 10,000 as compared with a month ago, but an increase of 38 per 10,000 as compared with a year ago. In the six areas in Scotland the number relieved was 142,291, or 696 per 10,000 of the estimated population, a decrease of 7 per 10,000 as compared with a month ago, but an increase of 129 per 10,000 as compared with a year ago.

Recipients of indoor relief in the thirty-one districts in April numbered 127,858, or 0.9 per cent. less than in the previous month, but 2.6 per cent. more than in April, 1925. Recipients of outdoor relief numbered 674,389, or 0.8 per cent. less than in the previous month, but 14.5 per cent. more than a year ago.

Sixteen areas showed small decreases and thirteen areas showed small increases in the number per 10,000 relieved in April, 1926, as compared with the previous month. Compared with a year ago twenty-five areas showed increases, the most noteworthy being Newcastle (276 per 10,000), Glasgow (208 per 10,000), East London (204 per 10,000) and Paisley and Greenock (190 per 10,000); one area showed no change, and five areas showed small decreases.

Table with 6 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. Rows include England and Wales, Metropolitan, West District, North District, Central District, East District, South District, TOTAL, Metropolitan, West Ham, Other Districts, Glasgow District, Paisley and Greenock District, Dundee and Dundfermline, Aberdeen, Coatbridge and Airdrie, TOTAL for above 31 Districts in April, 1926.

* 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 24th April, and those for Scotland to 15th April. ‡ 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.

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 7 columns: Country, July 1922, July 1923, July 1924, July 1925, Latest figures available, Rise, Date. Rows include United Kingdom, Foreign Countries (Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Holland, Italy, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United States), British Dominions & Co. (Australia, Canada, India, 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 7 columns: Country, Items on which computation is based, July 1922, July 1923, July 1924, July 1925, Latest figures available, Rise, Date. Rows include United Kingdom, Foreign Countries (Belgium, Chile, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Holland, Italy, Luxembourg, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, United States), British Dominions & Co. (Australia, Canada, India, 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 light are also included in these figures. § Figure for August, 1913; France, Poland, Australia and South Africa, average for 1914; Belgium, April, 1914; Greece, March, 1914; Milan, January to June, 1914; Germany, Egypt, Hungary, average, 1913-1914; Switzerland and Luxembourg, June, 1914; United States and Chile, 1913; Poland, January, 1914. ** Figure for 3rd Quarter.

EMPLOYMENT OVERSEAS.

[N.B.—The following paragraphs include an abstract of such official information as is available with regard to the state of employment abroad, in order to indicate, as far as possible, the fluctuations in employment in each country from period to period. The bases of the official statistics published in the various countries are, however, not the same as those of the United Kingdom statistics; and therefore the figures quoted below cannot properly be used with those on pp. 167-168 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 April.—The total number of unemployed persons remaining on the "live register" of the Exchanges on 1st May, 1926, was 10,369 (6,342 men and 4,027 women). At the end of March the corresponding total was 10,146 and at the end of April (on 2nd May), 1925, 11,639. The total number of vacancies remaining unfilled on the same date was 12,305 (7,256 for men and 5,049 for women), as compared with 12,777 at the end of March and 8,235 at the end of April (2nd May), 1925. During the last week of April the Exchanges succeeded in placing 28,075 persons in situations, including 9,781 dock workers at seaports, and in addition found employment for 2,591 foreign immigrants.

GERMANY.†

Employment in March.—During March there was an improvement in the labour market, which is reflected in the statistics. This improvement did not, however, extend to the "key industries" such as mining, metal, textile or building.

The membership of health insurance societies showed a steady advance during the month under review: on 1st April the total membership of societies making returns was 12,560,798, as compared with 12,447,103 on 1st March, an increase of 0.9 per cent.

Returns relating to unemployment were received from 39 trade unions, with an aggregate membership of about 3.4 millions. Of these members 21.4 per cent. were entirely unemployed on March 31st, as compared with 22.0 per cent. at the end of February and 5.8 per cent. in March, 1925.

Table with 5 columns: Unions, Membership reported on at end of March, 1926, Percentage Unemployed at end of Month, Mar., 1926, Feb., 1926, Mar., 1925. Rows include Porcelain, Glass, Metal, Textile, Clothing, Food, Tobacco, etc., and various other categories.

In addition, 21.7 per cent. of the members of these unions were working short time at the end of the month, as compared with 21.6 per cent. at the end of the February and 5.1 per cent. at the end of March, 1925.

Figures relating to the number of persons in receipt of benefit in respect of complete unemployment are available for 15th April, on which date the total was 1,883,626: on 1st April the corresponding total was 1,942,048, and on 15th March, 2,016,590.

At the end of March the employment exchanges making returns had 2,520,394 persons on their "live register," as against 2,549,004 at the end of February. On an average there were in March 680 applicants for every 100 vacancies registered at the Exchanges, as compared with 780 in February.

AUSTRIA.

Unemployment in March.—According to the issue of Statistische Nachrichten (the journal of the Austrian Department of Statistics) for 25th April, 1926, the number of persons in receipt of unemployment benefit in Austria was 202,387 at the end of March, as compared with 228,763 at the end of the preceding month and 175,580 at the end of March, 1925. In Vienna alone there were 91,964 persons in receipt of benefit at the middle of April and 99,126 at the end of March.

* Bulletin du Marché du Travail, 7th May, 1926. Paris. † Reichsarbeitsblatt, 1st May, 1926. Berlin. ‡ "Members" of these societies are persons under obligation to pay insurance premiums. During unemployment they are relieved of this obligation; hence paying members are assumed to be in employment.

ITALY.

Unemployment in February.—According to a report issued by the Italian Unemployment Insurance Department,* 125,803 workpeople were totally unemployed on 28th February, 1926, as compared with 156,139 at the end of January, and 156,659 at the end of February, 1925. In addition 8,016 were partially unemployed at the latest date, 9,284 on 31st January and 11,702 on 28th February, 1925. During the month 27,447 totally unemployed persons were in receipt of benefit under the statutory unemployment insurance scheme, as compared with 24,221 in the preceding month and 23,445 in February, 1925.

BELGIUM.†

Unemployment in March.—Returns received by the Ministry of Industry and Labour from 146 approved unemployment insurance societies, with an aggregate membership of 599,726, show that 8,489, or 1.42 per cent. of the total were totally unemployed on 31st March, as compared with 1.62 per cent. in the preceding month and 1.50 per cent. in March, 1925. The total days lost through unemployment in March numbered 336,104 or 1.87 per cent. of the possible days which could in the aggregate be worked by the insured persons; in the preceding month the percentage was 2.57, and in March, 1925, 3.00.

HOLLAND‡

Unemployment in March.—The Journal of the Dutch Statistical Office contains preliminary figures compiled by the State Department of Unemployment Insurance and Employment Exchanges, which show that out of 278,675 members of subsidised unemployment funds making returns for the week ended 27th March, 1926, 15,982 (5.7 per cent.) were unemployed during the whole week, and 5,541 (2.0 per cent.) for less than six days. In the corresponding week of the preceding month (ended 27th February) the percentages were respectively 7.4 and 2.3.

POLAND.§

Unemployment in March.—According to reports furnished to the Central Statistical Office by the Polish Ministry of Labour, there were approximately 346,400 persons unemployed throughout the country on 27th March, as compared with 357,900 at the end of the preceding month. The reduction of 11,500 was to a great extent attributable to the public works undertaken by the State and communes, to seasonal work in agriculture and to emigration to France and Germany. These figures cover manual and non-manual workers in mining and other industries, including agriculture.

DENMARK.||

Unemployment in March.—Returns supplied to the Danish Statistical Department by trade unions and by the Central Employment Exchange show that out of 268,940 workpeople, 23.2 per cent. were unemployed on 26th March as against 28.3 per cent. at the end of the preceding month, and 14.7 per cent. at the end of March, 1925.

SWEDEN.¶

Unemployment in March.—Trade unions with an aggregate membership of 236,911 reported 14.7 per cent. of this total as unemployed on 31st March, 1926, as compared with 14.4 per cent. on 28th February, and 12.0 per cent. on 31st March, 1925.

NORWAY.

Unemployment in March.—According to information supplied by the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics, out of 14,370 members of trade unions (including 7,094 metal workers) making returns, 24.1 per cent. were unemployed on the last day of March. The corresponding figure for the end of February was 22.9 per cent. and that for March, 1925, 7.4 per cent.

UNITED STATES.**

Employment in March.—Figures relating to the volume of employment in March, based on returns from 9,701 establishments in 53 industries, are published by the Federal Bureau of Labour Statistics. These establishments reported 2,997,486 persons employed in March as against 2,985,729 in February, or an increase of 0.6 per cent. The aggregate wages paid for March show an increase of 0.2 per cent. as compared with February, and the average weekly earnings an increase of 0.9 per cent.

As regards comparison between the month under review and the corresponding month of 1925, there was an increase of 1.5 per cent. in the number employed, of 2.6 per cent. in the aggregate wages paid, and of 1.1 per cent. in the average weekly earnings. The most notable increases in employment in March, 1926, as compared with March, 1925, are shown in the machine tool (25.3 per cent.), automobile (21.1 per cent.), agricultural implement, fertiliser and electrical machinery industries. The greatest decline in employment is shown in the woollen and worsted goods industry (15 per cent.), other marked decreases being in the millinery and lace goods industries (13.5 per cent.).

Index Number of Employment, March.—If the monthly average index number of employment in manufacturing industries in 1923 be taken as 100, the corresponding index number for March, 1926, is 93.7, as compared with 94.3 in February and 92.3 in March, 1925.

* La Disoccupazione in Italia, 28th February, 1926. Rome. † Revue du Travail, 30th April, 1926. Brussels. ‡ Maandchrift van het Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek, 30th April, 1926. The Hague. § Statystyka Pracy, April, 1921. Warsaw. ¶ Statistiske Efterretninger, 21st April, 1926. Copenhagen. ** Information supplied by the Swedish Department of Social Affairs. *** Employment in Selected Industries, March, 1926. Washington.

CANADA.

Employment in April.—For 1st April, 1926, returns were received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from 5,730 firms, with an aggregate of 749,223 upon their pay rolls. On 1st March the same firms reported 749,350 employed and the total for April thus shows practically no change. If employment in the week ended 17th January, 1926, be represented by 100, the index number of employment for 1st April, 1926, is 91.4, as compared with 91.5 at the beginning of the preceding month and 87.2 on 1st April, 1925.

Trade Union Unemployment in March.—On 31st March, 1926, 7.3 per cent. of the aggregate membership of trade unions making returns were unemployed, as compared with 8.1 per cent. at the end of February, and 8.5 per cent. in March, 1925.

COMPARATIVE REAL WAGES IN LONDON AND CERTAIN CITIES ABROAD.

The series of computations of comparative "real wages" in London and certain other cities abroad, compiled by the International Labour Office from returns supplied by official statistical departments in the various cities, is carried down to 1st January, 1926, in the April issue of the *International Labour Review* published by that Office. Corresponding index numbers for 1st October, 1925, were reproduced in the issue of this GAZETTE for February last (p. 66). For particulars of the origin, method of compilation, significance and limitations of these index numbers reference should be made to the issue of this GAZETTE for November, 1924. These figures have for their object a comparison of working-class real wages, so far as these can be gauged by the purchasing power (in terms of food) of the wage paid for an hour's work at the normal time rate (*i.e.*, apart from extra payment for overtime) in certain typical occupations for male adult workers which are common to large cities. In the index numbers shown in the following Table, which is taken from the *International Labour Review*, an attempt has been made to measure the purchasing power of wages in each city, not only by the working-class standard of food consumption of the country in which the city is situated, but also by corresponding standards appropriate to the various groups of countries, and, finally (columns 7 and 8), by an international standard of working-class food consumption.

Index Numbers of Comparative Real Wages (or Comparative Purchasing Power of Money-Wages) in London and certain Cities Abroad at 1st January, 1926.

Average for all Occupations covered by the Inquiry. (London = 100.)†

City.	Index Numbers based on Quantities of each Kind of Food Consumed in Working-class Households in							
	Belgium and France.	Central European Countries.	Great Britain.	Southern European Countries.	Scandinavian Countries.	Oversea Countries (Canada and U.S.A.).	General Average Index Nos. (based on food only).	General Average Index Nos. (with allowance for rent).
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
London ...	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Amsterdam ...	87	91	79	84	93	85	87	87
Berlin ...	65	85	66	69	83	72	73	70
Brussels ...	56	56	52	53	60	54	55	59
Copenhagen ...	108	144	111	111	148	123	124	128
Lodz ...	42	56	40	46	52	47	47	52
Madrid ...	59	66	52	58	62	56	59	73
Milan‡ ...	44	52	42	46	50	46	47	43
Oslo ...	91	110	90	93	118	100	100	102
Ottawa ...	141	143	146	145	163	156	149	147
Philadelphia ...	168	161	174	176	197	184	177	177
Prague ...	51	58	49	53	56	52	53	58
Riga ...	41	57	42	43	52	47	47	50
Stockholm|| ...	78	87	83	82	105	91	88	86
Sydney ...	135	125	122	148	140	151	137	137
Tallin (Reval) ...	36	46	37	38	45	41	41	42
Vienna ...	39	53	41	41	54	47	46	52
Warsaw¶ ...	41	52	36	44	49	44	44	46

If comparisons are made between these figures and corresponding index numbers for earlier dates previously published, it should be noted that the differences between the index numbers for any city at different dates may indicate a change in the levels of real wages either in that city or in London, or in both cities. In other words, the difference in the figures compared may be due to changes in money wages and food prices in either or both cities, and not necessarily to changes in one of them alone.

* The April Employment Situation, 1926. Ottawa.

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

‡ Although London is taken arbitrarily as base (= 100), the ratios would be the same whichever city were chosen as base.

§ The figures for Milan are relatively low. This may be accounted for in part by the differences in the items of food consumption in the southern countries from those ordinarily consumed in most of the other countries included in the Table. The budgets used in the comparisons do not make adequate allowance for the consumption of vegetable foods in Southern European countries.

|| The figures for Stockholm are based on wages in the building, furniture-making, and printing industries only. For other cities the metal industry is also included.

¶ The figures for Warsaw are based on a weighted average wage. For other cities an unweighted average of the wages has been used.

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. 622/26 (17/4/26). Section 7 (1) (ii) of the Principal Act—Not Unemployed—Daily Average of Remuneration.

RIVETTER PLAYED FOOTBALL PROFESSIONALLY ON SATURDAYS, AND TRAINED TWO EVENINGS WEEKLY—WEEKLY REMUNERATION, CALCULATED ON RESULT OF EACH MATCH, HELD TO REPRESENT PAYMENT FOR PRACTICES AS WELL AS PLAY—NOT UNEMPLOYED IN ANY WEEK WHEN REMUNERATION IN EXCESS OF £1.

The applicant, whose usual occupation was that of a rivetter, was reported also to be a professional footballer for a Northern Rugby Union League Club. He lost his principal employment on the 15th December, 1925, and on the following day lodged a claim for unemployment benefit, which was disallowed in respect of each week in which he was in receipt, as a football player, of remuneration in excess of £1.

It appeared that the applicant had played football professionally for five years, concurrently with his usual occupation. His agreement in respect of the current season was not produced, but it was elicited that his remuneration when playing for the first team was £4 if the match was won (or, if drawn, away), and £2 if lost (or, if drawn, at home). When playing for the reserve team this remuneration was halved. It was stated that he was required to undergo training on Tuesday and Thursday evenings of each week, and that the rule book, which was not produced for inspection, specifically laid down this condition.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim should be disallowed in respect of Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday in each week in which the applicant received remuneration which, when averaged among the three days, exceeded 3s. 4d. a day. The Court were of the opinion that if he had not trained he would not have been chosen to play.

The Insurance Officer disagreed with the Court's recommendation. He assumed, although the current agreement was not produced, that the agreement took the form of contracts hitherto in use by Northern Union League clubs. Notwithstanding the fact that the applicant's football occupation was subsidiary, the Insurance Officer was of the opinion that the case was governed by Decision No. 2230/1925, and that the claim should be totally disallowed.

Decision.—“On the facts before me my decision is that, if the above-named employed person had made a claim for unemployment benefit, the claim would have been disallowed in respect of any week the applicant's remuneration as a football player exceeds £1.”

“The applicant has ordinarily followed the occupation of a professional football player (Northern Rugby Union), in addition to his usual employment. The agreement is not in the same form as in most of the cases that have been considered. The applicant agrees to play during the season, and to obey all lawful orders of the Committee; and, in consideration of such services, his employers agree to pay him £2 or £4 for each match in which he plays, and half of those sums when playing with the second team.

“It is clear that, though the remuneration is calculated at so much per match, it is paid in respect of practice as well as play; and I assume that it is paid weekly, so that in respect of each week in which he plays a match he receives a sum of from £1 to £4.

“I think therefore that the case falls within the principle of Decisions 926/25 and 895/3, and that the applicant's claim must be disallowed for the whole of any week in respect of which he receives remuneration exceeding £1 as a football player.”

Case No. 820/26 (14/4/26). Section 7 (1) (iv) of the Principal Act—(as Amended).

GENERAL CLERK, UPON REDUCTION IN HUSBAND'S INCOME, HAD SOUGHT WORK THROUGH ASSOCIATION, AND BY ANSWERING ADVERTISEMENTS—USUAL METHOD OF OBTAINING WORK OF THIS KIND—ONUS ON APPLICANT TO PROVE THAT SHE WAS “GENUINELY SEEKING WORK.”

The applicant in this case had been employed as a clerk until the 18th December, 1925, when she left her employment to be married. On the 23rd February, 1926, she lodged a claim for benefit, at the same time registering for employment as a clerk. She had apparently made no effort to find work since her discharge in December,

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

and her claim was disallowed as from the 23rd February on the ground that she was not genuinely seeking work.

The applicant appealed to the Court of Referees against the disallowance, and at the hearing on the 19th March, stated that she was attending the offices of her Union daily to seek employment. It was also elicited that she had tried to get work by answering advertisements in the press, but that she had made no personal calls. She was not willing to take other than clerical work.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim should be disallowed. The Court considered that the applicant was not making reasonable efforts to obtain employment. She should at least have made personal calls, and should be prepared to take work of another kind. The applicant's Association appealed to the Umpire. They stated that it had become necessary for the applicant to look for work in order to assist in supporting herself, since her husband, after a period of unemployment, had had to accept work at a wage insufficient to support them both. She had tried to obtain work through the usual channels, namely, the Employment Exchange, her Association, and newspaper advertisements; and she would be willing to accept suitable work, other than clerical, if it were offered. The Association contended that no evidence had been produced indicating that the applicant was not making every effort to find work, although the Court of Referees had been challenged to produce such evidence.

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.”

I do not agree with the Association's contention that the onus is on the Insurance Officer or the Court of Referees to produce evidence that the applicant is not genuinely seeking work; the onus is on the applicant to show affirmatively that he or she is genuinely seeking work. But in this case, I think the applicant does show that she was genuinely seeking work. Her only experience has been as a clerk, and she states that she has been trying to obtain work through her Association and by answering advertisements. That is the usual way of obtaining employment of this kind, and I cannot say that she fails to show that she is genuinely seeking work merely because she has not been round calling on employers who have not notified any vacancies.”

Case No. 829/26 (15/4/26). Section 8 (1) of the Principal Act—Trade Dispute.

HEWEE LAST EMPLOYMENT OWING TO DISPUTE AND OBTAINED WORK AS LAMPLIGHTER—ONLY PART TIME OCCUPATION AND NOT CONTINUOUS THROUGHOUT YEAR—NOT REGULARLY ENGAGED IN SOME OTHER OCCUPATION.

The applicant, who had lost his usual employment as a coal hewer owing to a trade dispute, obtained work as a lamplighter. This employment ceasing, he lodged a claim for unemployment benefit on the 17th February, 1926, which was disallowed on the ground that he had lost employment by reason of a stoppage of work due to a trade dispute.

It appeared that the applicant had carried on the work of lamplighting for about six weeks up to the 15th February when the employment terminated. The applicant stated that the employer had been able to engage a younger man at a lower rate of wage. He announced his intention not to seek further work in the mines if he could obtain employment elsewhere.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim should be allowed. The Court were of the opinion that the applicant had become regularly engaged in another occupation, and that the trade dispute disqualification should accordingly be removed.

The Insurance Officer disagreed with the Court's recommendation, pointing out that the applicant's normal occupation was that of a miner, which he lost owing to a trade dispute. In his opinion his employment as a lamplighter, which was of a temporary nature, could not be held to be regular employment.

Further information showed that the applicant commenced lighting the lamps about 4 p.m. during the period in question, and extinguished them at 11 p.m., the whole of the work occupying about 2½ hours daily.

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

The applicant, a miner, lost employment by reason of a stoppage of work which was due to a trade dispute at the colliery at which he was employed, and during the stoppage of work he obtained work for about 2½ hours each evening as a lamp lighter for a gas company. The work was of the nature of a part-time employment, and would presumably not be continuous throughout the year. It is clearly not work which an able-bodied man would take up as a regular occupation, and in my opinion the applicant does not satisfy the condition of having become “regularly engaged in some other occupation.”

Case No. 854/26 (17/4/26). Section 7 (1) (iv) of the Principal Act (as Amended)—Unable to obtain Suitable Employment.

CABINET CASE MAKER, TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED, REFUSED OTHER EMPLOYMENT WHICH WOULD HAVE COMMENCED AT 8 A.M.—HAD DELICATE CHILD WHO NEEDED ATTENTION BEFORE GOING TO SCHOOL.

The applicant, a cabinet case maker, was offered, on the 25th February, apparently suitable employment, which she refused. Her claim for unemployment benefit was accordingly disallowed, on the ground that she was not unable to obtain suitable employment.

It appeared that the applicant, who was a married woman, had been unemployed since the 18th December. She failed to accept the employment offered because she could not commence work at 8 a.m. as required. She stated that she had a delicate child who required attention before going to school, and accordingly it was impracticable for her to commence work before 9 o'clock.

Her former employer, knowing her domestic circumstances, had, as a special concession, allowed her to start work at 9. She stated that she was only temporarily suspended, and when trade improved she would be re-engaged. This statement was confirmed by the employer.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim should be allowed. The Court considered that employment which commenced at 8 a.m. was not suitable owing to the applicant's domestic circumstances.

The Insurance Officer disagreed with the Court's recommendation. He was of the opinion that the applicant should have engaged the services of some relative or friend to assist the delicate child to school, as is commonly done by women workers with children of school age.

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

The applicant had been for two months out of work, and so long as she cannot start work till 9 a.m. there seems to be very little chance of her getting employment. She had no immediate prospect of returning to her late employers, who, as a special concession, allowed her to start at 9. She does not seem to have tried to make any arrangement (such as is sometimes made in such cases) for some neighbour to get her child off to school; and in these circumstances I think she fails to show that she was unable to obtain suitable employment.”

Case No. 945/26 (28/4/26). Section 8 (1) of the Principal Act and Section 4 (1) of the 1924 (No. 2) Act—Trade Dispute.

OVERLOOKER LOST EMPLOYMENT THROUGH LOCK-OUT DUE TO WEAVERS' DISPUTE—OVERLOOKERS AT MILL WHERE DISPUTE BEGAN DID NOT REPORT FOR WORK, TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF NON-UNION WEAVERS WERE AVAILABLE TO COMMENCE WORK—ISSUE OF DISPUTE WOULD AFFECT WAGES—APPLICANT THEREFORE BELONGS TO GRADE OR CLASS PARTICIPATING IN AND DIRECTLY INTERESTED IN DISPUTE.

The applicant, an overlooker in a weaving shed, became unemployed on the 13th March, 1926, and his claim for unemployment benefit, which was treated as a test case, was disallowed on the ground that he had lost his employment by reason of a stoppage of work which was due to a trade dispute.

It appeared that a dispute commenced in a mill other than that where the applicant was employed, but in the same district. The Weavers' Association gave notice on the 20th February, 1926, that, as the employers had refused the weavers' claim for increased piece rates as compensation for alleged bad material, their members in the mill concerned would cease work. The local Employers' Association thereupon notified the weavers that, if they did not continue to work, the employees at all the mills in the district would be locked out. Nevertheless, the employees ceased work on the 27th February, and accordingly the Employers' Association caused lock-out notices to be posted in all mills in the district, to take effect as from the 13th March.

It was stated that the applicant belonged to another Union, which was not involved in the dispute, and was not supporting the weavers in any way; but that, since his wages were based on a fixed percentage of the total earnings of the weavers, he would benefit by any increase paid to the weavers. He stated that he was willing to work if his employer would allow him to do so.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim should be allowed. The Court were of the opinion that the applicant's Union was not involved in the dispute, and accordingly he was entitled to the relief afforded by Section 4 (1) of the 1924 Act.

The Insurance Officer did not agree with the Court's recommendation. In his opinion the lock-out notices posted by the employers covered all grades and classes of work, and therefore the applicant was disqualified under Section 8 (1), and the provisions of Section 4 (1) of the 1924 Act were not applicable.

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

On the 27th February there was a stoppage of work in one shed of a mill, which was due to a trade dispute between the weavers at that shed and their employers on a question of earnings; and the first question is whether two overlookers, who were employed in the shed, were participating in the dispute.

By a notice of February 25th (two days before the stoppage of work) the Employers' Association threatened a general lock-out of weavers in the district if the local dispute of the weavers was not settled. This shows that up to that date the overlookers, who belong to a separate Union, were not regarded by the employers as participating. But on the morning of the stoppage of work the two overlookers did not turn out for work, though the non-unionist weavers employed there did. It is said that they stayed away because there was no work for them to do. It may be so; but it seems to me more probable that they stayed away because they were in sympathy with the weavers. If they had wanted to go to work they would surely have turned out to see whether there were enough weavers to carry on. Accordingly, the applicant

fails to show to my satisfaction that these two overlookers were not participating in the dispute. Further, it is clear that these two overlookers had a direct interest in the dispute, as they were paid by poundage on the earnings of the weavers, and the amount of their wages depended directly on the earnings of the weavers. If these two overlookers were participating in and directly interested in the dispute, it follows that the applicant (who is an overlooker but was employed elsewhere) belongs to a grade or class, members of which were participating in, and directly interested in, the dispute."

INSURANCE YEAR REGULATIONS, 1926.

The Unemployment Insurance (Insurance Year) Regulations, 1926,* dated March 24th, 1926, made by the Minister of Labour under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920 (10 & 11 Geo. 5, c. 30).

THE Minister of Labour, by virtue of the powers conferred on him by Sections 35 and 47 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, and of all other powers enabling him in that behalf, hereby makes the following regulations:—

1. The period commencing on the 5th day of July, 1926 (being the day next after the last day of the preceding Insurance Year), and ending on the 3rd day of July, 1927, shall be an Insurance Year.
2. These Regulations may be cited as the Unemployment Insurance (Insurance Year) Regulations, 1926, and shall come into force on the date hereof.

Signed by Order of the Minister of Labour this twenty-fourth day of March, 1926.

T. W. PHILLIPS,
Deputy Secretary of the Ministry of Labour.

RETURN OF CONTRIBUTIONS REGULATIONS, 1926.

The Unemployment Insurance (Return of Contributions) Regulations, 1926,† dated March 31st, 1926, made by the Minister of Labour under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920 (10 & 11 Geo. 5, c. 30).

THE Minister of Labour (hereinafter called the Minister) by virtue of the powers conferred on him by Section 28 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, as amended by Section 16 of and the Second Schedule to the Unemployment Insurance (No. 2) Act, 1924, and all other powers enabling him in that behalf, hereby makes the following Regulations:—

1. Regulation 4 of the Unemployment Insurance (Repayment and Return of Contributions) Regulations, 1920; the Unemployment Insurance (Repayment and Return of Contributions) (Amendment) Regulations, 1923; and the Unemployment Insurance (Repayment and Return of Contributions) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations, 1924, are hereby revoked; but such revocation shall not affect any right, privilege, obligation or liability acquired, accrued, or incurred under any of those Regulations.
2. Where any contributions have been paid in respect of any person under the erroneous belief that the contributions were payable in respect of that person under the general provisions of the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1925, that person and his employer or either of them may make application to the Minister for the return of the contributions so paid by them respectively; and the Minister, if he is satisfied that the contributions paid were, in fact, so paid as aforesaid and that they were not payable under the general provisions of the said Acts, shall repay to the applicants or either of them a sum equal to the amount of the contributions so paid by them respectively. Provided that—

- (1) in calculating the amount of any repayment to be made to a person under this Regulation there shall be deducted the amount (if any) paid to that person by way of Unemployment Benefit in respect of or by reason of those contributions, and
- (2) the Minister may repay to the employer instead of to the employed person the contributions erroneously paid by the employer on behalf of the employed person and not recovered from him.

3. Application for the return of any contribution paid in respect of any person under the erroneous belief that contributions were payable in respect of him under the general provisions of the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1925, shall be made within six years from the date on which that contribution was paid, and shall be made in such form as the Minister may direct.

4.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Unemployment Insurance (Return of Contributions) Regulations, 1926, and shall come into force on the date hereof.

(2) The Interpretation Act, 1889, applies to the interpretation of these Regulations as it applies to the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.

Signed by Order of the Minister of Labour this 31st day of March, 1926.

T. W. PHILLIPS,
Deputy Secretary of the Ministry of Labour.

* Statutory Rules and Orders, 1926, No. 392 of 1926. H.M. Stationery Office; price 1d. net.
† Statutory Rules and Orders, 1926, No. 437 of 1926. H.M. Stationery Office; price 1. net.

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

Recent Proceedings.

(A.)—INDUSTRIAL COURT DECISIONS.

WARRINGTON CORPORATION.—The United Road Transport Workers' Association of England v. The Corporation of Warrington. *Difference.*—Annual holidays of Drivers in Sanitary Works Department. *Decision.*—The Court awarded that the holidays of drivers shall be six consecutive days with pay and Christmas Day, Good Friday and Walking Day, with pay. Effective as from the date of issue. Issued 16th April, 1926. (1207.)

RAILWAY SHOPMEN—MILLWRIGHTS' LABOURERS, HORWICH.—The National Union of General and Municipal Workers v. The London, Midland and Scottish Railway. *Difference.*—Grading. *Decision.*—The Court decided that the men concerned should be graded as Grade I labourers. Effective as from the date of issue of Decision No. 760, viz., 2nd February, 1923. Issued 20th April, 1926. (1208.)

RAILWAY SHOPMEN—DRIVERS IN POWER HOUSE, HORWICH.—The National Union of General and Municipal Workers v. The London, Midland and Scottish Railway. *Difference.*—Holiday payment. *Decision.*—The Court decided that for the purpose of Condition 7, Schedule F, of Decision No. 728, the normal working week is suspended during the Horwich Annual Holidays. Issued 20th April, 1926. (1209.)

CHEMISTS, CLASS II—GOVERNMENT LABORATORY.—Staff Side v. Official Side of the Government Chemist Departmental Whitley Council. *Difference.*—Increment in salary scale—proposed reduction in respect of new entrants. *Decision.*—Increment for chemists, Class II, appointed before date of award shall be £20 per annum. Increments for those appointed after the date of award shall be £15, save that unestablished assistant chemists employed before this date shall have £20 increment if, and when, they become Chemists, Class II. Issued 26th April, 1926. (1211.)

RAILWAY SHOPMEN—WATCHMEN, TWICKENHAM.—The National Union of Railwaymen v. The Southern Railway. *Difference.*—Rate of pay for Sunday duty. *Decision.*—The Court decided that all time worked by the men concerned, outside the rostered ordinary 47 hours' week is properly payable at double ordinary day rate. As regards duties performed on Sunday within the ordinary 47 hours' week, the evidence as to basis upon which the inclusive rates at present paid were fixed was not sufficient to enable the Court to determine the extent to which allowance has been made in those rates for Sunday duty. The Court accordingly referred the question back to the parties for further consideration in order to agree the inclusive weekly rate for a 47 hours' week, taking into account the fact that the men are employed on rotating shifts, including Sunday shift. Issued 28th April, 1926. (1212.)

CIVIL ENGINEERING STAFF, ADMIRALTY.—Institution of Professional Civil Servants v. Admiralty. *Difference.*—Salary scales—claim for increase. *Decision.*—The Court awarded the following basic salary scales:—

Assistant Civil Engineer	... ..	£250-15-450 per annum.
Civil Engineer	... ..	£400-20-600 ,, ,,
Superintending Civil Engineer,		
Grade II	... ..	£625-25-750 ,, ,,

The provision of a house or house allowance in respect to the two last named, to be continued. Operative on 1st April, 1926. Issued 30th April, 1926. (1213.)

CIVIL ENGINEERING STAFF, AIR MINISTRY.—Institution of Professional Civil Servants v. Air Ministry. *Difference.*—Salary scales—claim for increase. *Decision.*—The Court awarded the following basic salary scales:—

Assistant Civil Engineer	... ..	£250-15-450 per annum.
Civil Engineer	... ..	£450-20-650 ,, ,,
Superintending Civil Engineer,		
Grade II	... ..	£675-25-800 ,, ,,

Operative on 1st April 1926. Issued 30th April, 1926. (1214.)

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

CONSTRUCTIONAL ENGINEERING: LONDON.—Constructional Engineering Union v. Nortons (Tivdale) Limited. *Difference.*—As to the classification, wages, and allowances of certain men employed on the Poplar Borough Generating Station contract. *Board of Arbitration* consisting of Mr. C. E. Dyer, 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* fixed classification, rates of wages and allowances. Dated 3rd April, 1926.

PAINTERS: LONDON.—National Society of Painters v. River Thames Dry Dock Proprietors' and Shiprepairers' Association. *Difference.*—As to whether the application of Bitumastic to Brine Grids is Painters' work in accordance with an Agreement between

the parties dated 21st January, 1920. Mr. D. C. Cummings, C.B.E., appointed under Section 2 (2) (b) of the Industrial Courts Act, 1919, to act as *Arbitrator* to determine the matter. *Award.*—The application of Bitumastic to Brine Grids is not work which, under the Agreement, is proper to be regarded solely as painters' work and accordingly its application is not limited to painters. Dated 20th April, 1926.

(C.)—OTHER SETTLEMENTS.

PACKING CASE MAKING: ABERDEEN.—Amalgamated Packing Case Makers' Society v. Messrs. C. Lyon and Co. *Difference.*—Strike against reduction of piecework prices. *Settlement.*—Piecework prices agreed. Joint committee to be set up to consider any difference that may arise at the Works. Settled 10th April, 1926.

SACK AND BAG MANUFACTURE: LONDON.—Workers' Union v. The Thames Sack and Bag Company, Blackwall. *Difference.*—Strike in consequence of alleged victimisation and over question of piecework prices. *Settlement.*—Workers reinstated. Question of piecework prices to be referred to a Joint Conference under the chairmanship of an officer of Industrial Relations Department. Settled 16th April, 1926.

BRICK MANUFACTURE: KENT.—Workers' Union v. Messrs. Smeed, Dean and Co. and Messrs. Eastwoods, Sittingbourne. *Difference.*—Strike to enforce claim for 5 per cent. increase in wages and one week's holiday with pay. The strike later extended to the cement workers employed by Messrs. Smeed, Dean and Co. *Settlement.*—Bonus to be paid in lieu of holidays. In the case of the cement workers it was agreed to operate the Working Rules and General Conditions of employment laid down by the Cement Joint Industrial Council. Settled 24th April, 1926.

RAILWAYS ACT, 1921.

NATIONAL WAGES BOARD.

FINDINGS have recently been issued by the National Wages Board on a number of cases referred to the Board by the National Union of Railwaymen, as follows:—

Men employed at Poplar, and the Victoria and Albert Docks: Application to be brought under the Railway-owned Docks Agreement.—The men concerned were paid under the agreements for the conciliation grades and claimed to be brought under the agreement for Railway-owned Docks. The Board came to the conclusion that such of the men as are engaged normally on waterside work in the process of loading or unloading ships or barges or any kind of vessel, and men temporarily so employed on any day for four hours or more, should be paid at the rates set out in the Railway-owned Docks Agreement.

Rates of Pay—Cleaners—London and North Eastern Railway.—The question submitted to the Board was whether cleaners who attained the age of 20 years on and after 1st April, 1922, should be paid the same rates as cleaners who were 20 years of age on that date. The Board expressed the view that the application of their Scottish Award does not preclude engine cleaners on reaching the age of 20 from receiving a rate of pay which includes an amount in respect of war wage, and that cleaners who reached the age of 20 on and after 1st April, 1922, should be paid at the same rates of their respective companies as cleaners who were that age before that date.

Pointmen, Down Hill Sidings, Edge Hill.—The application in this case was that the pointmen at these sidings, being paid at the rate applicable to Class III shunters, should be paid the rate of Class I shunters, having regard to an agreement that pointmen should "be paid the same rate of pay as the lower-rated shunters in the yard where the pointman's box is situated" and to the fact that Class I shunters alone are employed at the sidings. The Board took the view that, under the relevant agreements, the lower rate of pay for the yard in question is Class III and such rate exists, although, in fact, only leading shunters are employed there. The Board find that the pointmen in question are properly paid at the rate applicable to Class III shunters.

Attendants on Motor Vehicles, Lawley Street, Birmingham—London, Midland and Scottish Railway.—The Union raised for the ruling of the Board the question of the employment of juniors as attendants on road motor vehicles at this depot. The Board ruled that there is nothing in the text of the Agreement of 20th March, 1920, which precludes the employment of juniors on road motor vehicles. The questions whether road motors should be provided with attendants or not, and, if so, whether adult or junior grades should be employed, depend upon the circumstances of each case. The Board consider, however, that in view of the rapid extension of road motor transport it would be desirable for the Railway Companies and the Trade Union to discuss the possibility of laying down some guiding principles.

Signalmen's Settlement: Claim for an Allowance of marks for booking certain signalling operations.—A claim was made by the signalmen employed at Low Fell Station Box on the London and North Eastern Railway that an allowance of marks should be made for booking the following signalling operations—blocking back, cancel and shunt. The Board decided that the claim had not been made out.

Spread-over Turns of Duty: Question of Retrospective Payment.—Running Foreman, Newton Heath: Claim that up-grading should be made retrospective.—After the hearing, a settlement was effected between the parties and these cases withdrawn by mutual consent.

TRADE BOARDS ACTS.

Orders, Notices, etc., Recently Issued.

I.—CHANGES IN MINIMUM RATES DUE TO AN ALTERATION IN THE COST-OF-LIVING INDEX FIGURE.

Lower wage rates have become operative in the undermentioned trades as from 1st May, 1926. The minimum rates of wages now applicable are those appropriate to the cost-of-living figure of 68, and are set out in the Confirming Orders quoted below:—

Boot and Shoe Repairing Trade Board (Great Britain), D (24), (25) and (26), col. 3. D (23), col. 3. D (29), col. 2.
Brush and Broom Trade Board (Great Britain), M (39), (40) and (41), col. 11.
Paper Bag Trade Board (Great Britain), p. (13), col. 9.
Paper Box Trade Board (Great Britain), B (11), col. 4.
Perambulator and Invalid Carriage Trade Board (Great Britain), I (14), col. 6.

II.—NOTICES OF PROPOSAL.

Perambulator and Invalid Carriage Trade Board (Great Britain).

Proposal I (16), dated 1st May, 1926, to fix and vary for periods dependent upon the cost-of-living figure minimum rates of wages for male and female workers, and to cancel minimum rates of wages for certain classes of Indentured Apprentices.
Objection period expires 30th June, 1926.

Laundry Trade Board (Great Britain).

Proposal W (16), dated 30th April, to vary overtime rates of wages for male and female workers employed on time work.
Objection period expires 30th June, 1926.

Aerated Waters Trade Board (England and Wales).

Proposal A (9), dated 4th May, to vary general minimum time rates and piecework basis time rates for male and female workers.
Objection period expires 4th July, 1926.

Boot and Shoe Repairing Trade Board (Northern Ireland).

Proposal N.I.B.S. (N.13), dated 31st March, 1926, to fix piecework basis time-rates for male and female workers.

Aerated Waters Trade Board (Northern Ireland).

Proposal N.I.A. (N.5), dated 30th April, 1926, to fix and to vary minimum rates of wages for certain male and female workers.

III.—ORDERS DISSOLVING TRADE BOARDS.

In accordance with paragraph 14 of the respective regulations governing the constitution and proceedings of the Grocery and Provisions Trade Boards for England and Wales and for Scotland, the Minister of Labour has made Orders, dated 9th April, 1926, dissolving the Boards.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

INDUSTRIAL DISEASES.—*Report of the Departmental Committee appointed to consider evidence as to the occurrence of epitheliomatous ulceration among mule spinners.* Home Office. (S.O. publication; price 1s.) (See page 161.)

INDUSTRIAL FATIGUE.—*Industrial Fatigue Research Board. Report No. 36 On the design of machinery in relation to the operator.* (S.O. publication; price 1s. 3d.)

JUVENILE EMPLOYMENT.—*Report on an enquiry into the personal circumstances and industrial history of 3,331 boys and 2,701 girls registered for employment at employment exchanges and juvenile employment bureaux, June and July, 1925.* Ministry of Labour. (S.O. publication; price 1s. 9d.) (See page 160.)

MINING.—*The electric ignition of firedamp: alternating and continuous currents compared.* Safety in Mines Research Board. Paper No. 20. (S.O. publication; price 1s.)

OVERSEA SETTLEMENT.—*Report of the Oversea Settlement Committee for the year ended 31st December, 1925.* (Cmd. 2640; price 9d.) (See page 161.)

SAFEGUARDING OF INDUSTRIES.—*Report of the Committees on (a) enamelled hollow-ware, (b) worsted.* (Cmd. 2634, 2635; price 3d. and 6d. respectively.)

Contain estimates of the volume of employment in the industries and comparisons of wages and hours with those of foreign competitors.

SEA FISHERIES.—*Sea fisheries: statistical tables, 1925.* Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Fisheries Department. (S.O. publication; price 3s. 6d.)

Includes estimated number of fishermen employed in sea fishing, 1910-14 and 1919-24.

STATISTICAL ABSTRACT.—*Statistical Abstract of the United Kingdom, 1910-1924, 69th number.* (Cmd. 2620; price 5s.)

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.

LIST OF NEW CONTRACTS, APRIL, 1926.

ADMIRALTY.

(Civil Engineer-in-Chief's Department.)

Chatham: **Portland Cement**: British Standard Cement Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Pembroke: Cast Iron Pipes and Valves**: Sheepbridge Coal & Iron Co., Ltd., Chesterfield.—**Portsmouth: Portland Cement**: Cement Marketing Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**H.M. Naval Establishments Abroad: Constructional Steel and Ironwork**: Walker Bros., Ltd., Walsall. **Portland Cement**: Cement Marketing Co., Ltd., London, S.W.

(Contract and Purchase Department.)

Aluminium Ware: M. J. Hart & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham; Bulpitt & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham. **Angles, H. T. and Channel Bars**: Park Gate Iron & Steel Co., Ltd., Rotherham; Steel Co. of Scotland, Ltd., Glasgow; D. Colville & Sons, Ltd., Glasgow. **Apparatus, Pneumatic Transmission**: Starveant Engineering Co., Ltd., London. **Apparatus, Transmission**: MacTaggart Scott & Co., Ltd., Edinburgh. **Balata Belting**: Barrow Hepburn & Gale, Ltd., London, S.E. **Barrels, Elm**: W. Ryan & Co., London, E. **Beds, Air and Water, etc.**: James Lyne Hancock, Ltd., London, E.C.; India Rubber, Gutta Percha and Telegraph Works, Ltd., London, E.C.; J. G. Ingram & Son, Ltd., London, E.; Chas. Macintosh & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; North British Rubber Co., Ltd., Edinburgh. **Blankets**: L. Harwood & Co., Ltd., Luddendenfoot. **Brass Fittings**: Bailey & Mackey, Ltd., Birmingham; J. & E. Bates & Sons, Ltd., Wolverhampton; J. Collins (Birmingham), Ltd., Birmingham; Gabriel & Co., Birmingham; W. McGeoch & Co., Ltd., Birmingham; T. Pemberton & Sons, Ltd., West Bromwich; Player & Mitchell, Birmingham; W. Rowley, Ltd., Birmingham; E. Showell & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham; Winfields Rolling Mills, Ltd., Birmingham; Tanks (Birmingham), Ltd., Birmingham; Worcester Brass Co., Ltd., Birmingham. **Cable, Electric**: W. T. Glover & Co., Manchester. **Caps, Forage**: L. Silberston, London, E. **Casks**: W. Ryan & Co., London, E. **Castings, Malleable Cast Iron**: Clegg & Howgate, Ltd., Keighley. **Cloth, Blue**: J. Hainsworth & Sons, Farsley; A. W. Hainsworth & Sons, Ltd., Farsley; J. Halliday & Co., Ltd., Pudsey; Wm. Lupton & Co., Leeds; W. & T. Huggan, Leeds. **Cloth, Linen Duck**: Richards, Ltd., Aberdeen; Ulster Weaving Co., Ltd., Belfast; A. Blyth & Co., Kirkcaldy. **Coats, Waterproof**: B. Birnbaum & Son, Ltd., London, E.C. **Cocks, Steam, G.M., Torpedo Fittings, etc.**: Wm. Baines & Co., Ltd., Rotherham; P. Brotherhood, Ltd., Peterborough; J. Carter (Stalybridge), Ltd., Stalybridge; Gummers, Ltd., Rotherham; Hayward, Tyler & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Sir J. Laing & Sons, Ltd., Sunderland; Shiphams & Co., Ltd., Hull; Smith Bros. & Co., (Hyson), Ltd., Nottingham; Stroud Metal Co., Ltd., Gloucester; C. Winn & Co., Ltd., Birmingham. **Compressors, Portable Oil-driven**: G. & J. Weir, Ltd., Glasgow. **Covering, White, Table**: Rexine, Ltd., Manchester. **Cranes, Modifications to**: MacTaggart Scott & Co., Ltd., Edinburgh. **Cutlery, Stainless, E. P. Handled**: Harrison Bros. & Howson, Sheffield; Walker & Hall, Ltd., Sheffield. **Deck Fittings, Gunmetal**: Carron Co., Falkirk; Sir J. Laing & Sons, Ltd., Sunderland; Mechans, Ltd., Glasgow; Steven & Struthers, Ltd., Glasgow; J. & J. Woods, Ltd., Liverpool. **Electric Fires**: Berry's Electric, Ltd., London, W. **Flour**: J. Rank, Ltd., London, E.C.; W. Vernon & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.; W. Vernon & Sons, Ltd., Liverpool; Grace Bros., Bristol. **Glass, Table**: Edinburgh & Leith Flint Glass Works, Edinburgh; J. Fleming & Co., Stourbridge; T. J. Hands & Son, Ltd., Birmingham; H. G. Richardson & Sons, Stourbridge; Stevens & Williams, Ltd., Brierley Hill; Stuart & Sons, Ltd., Stourbridge; Webb's Crystal Glass Co., Ltd., Stourbridge; T. Webb & Corbett, Ltd., Stourbridge. **India Rubber Goods**: C. Macintosh & Co., Ltd., Manchester; North British Rubber Co., Ltd., Edinburgh; C. E. Heinke & Co., Ltd., London, S.E. **Insulators, Aerial**: G. H. Williams & Co., London, S.W. **Jean, Blue**: Dyson & Co., Kearsley; J. Bright & Bros., Ltd., Rochdale; The Dacca Twist Co., Manchester. **Jean, Brown**: The Union Mill Co., Manchester. **Leather Belting**: Harbord & Poole, Ltd., London, S.E. **Lifts**: Express Lift Co., Ltd., London, S.W. **Machine, Milling**: J. Holroyd & Co., Ltd., Milnrow, nr. Rochdale. **Mitre Wheels**: Clegg & Howgate, Ltd., Keighley. **Motor Generators**: Newton Bros. (Derby), Ltd., Derby. **Mustard**: J. & J. Colman, Ltd., Norwich. **Nets, Protective**: Warrington Wire Rope Works, Ltd., Liverpool. **Oil, Lubricating**: J. Light & Son, Ltd., Liverpool. **Overcoats, Seamen's**: J. Smith & Co. (Derby), Ltd., Derby. **Paint, White Oxide of Zinc**: Burrell & Co., Ltd., London, E.; N. J. Fenner and H. B. Alder & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Locke, Lancaster & W. W. and R. Johnson & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C. **Pepper**: J. Travers & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C. **Polish, Metal**: Reckitt & Sons, Ltd., London, W.C. **Pumps, 5-ton Reciprocating**: Worthington Simpson, Ltd., London, W.C. **Rations, Meat and Vegetable**: J. Moir & Son, Ltd., London, E. **Regulator Units**: E. N. Bray, Ltd., London, E. **Ribbons, Hat**: W. H. Grant & Co., Coventry; G. Kenning & Son, Coventry; T. Stevens (Coventry), Ltd., Coventry. **Salt**: Weston & Westall, Ltd., London, E.C. **Scuttles, Side**: J. Roby, Ltd., Liverpool; Sir J. Laing & Sons, Ltd., Sunderland. **Serge, Blue**: William Edleston, Ltd., Sowerby Bridge; James Casson, Ltd., Elland; J. Shaw &

Sons, Ltd., Stainland; Henry Booth & Sons, Gildersome; Fox Bros. & Co., Ltd., Wellington. **Smiths' Work**: Blake & Son, Gosport; Bullers, Ltd., Tipton; Carron Co., Falkirk; Douglas Bros. Ltd., Blaydon-on-Tyne; Fellows Bros. Ltd., Cradley Heath; Horseley Bridge and Eng. Co. Ltd., Tipton; Hughes, Johnson, Stamping, Ltd., Birmingham; Laird & Son, Ltd., Irvine; Nixon & Whitfield, Blaydon-on-Tyne; Ruston & Hornsby, Ltd., Grantham; W. Renwick, Blaydon-on-Tyne; Vaughan Bros., Willenhall; T. B. Wellings & Co., Ltd., Old Hill. **Steel, Tool**: W. Jessop & Sons, Ltd., Sheffield; H. Rossell & Co., Ltd., Sheffield; A. Balfour & Co., Ltd., Sheffield; T. Firth & Co., Ltd., Sheffield; Cammell, Laird & Co., Ltd., Sheffield; S. Osborn & Co., Ltd., Sheffield. **Switches**: Whipp & Bourne, Ltd., Manchester. **Tape, Worsted**: G. Hattersley & Sons, Ltd., Keighley; E. H. Price and Holmes Smith, Ltd., Manchester. **Tractor, Electric**: Electromobile, Ltd., Otley, Yorks. **Transmitters (W/T)**: Gambrell Bros. Ltd., London, S.W.; H. W. Sullivan, Ltd., London, E.C.; Plessey Co. (1925), Ltd., Ilford, Essex. **Tubes, Copper**: J. Wilkes, Sons & Mapplebeck, Ltd., Birmingham. **Tubes, Deck and Bulkhead Glands, etc.**: Bowen & Co., Ltd., London, W.C.; Hawkers, Ltd., Birmingham; Fairless Engineering Co., Ltd., Stockton-on-Tees; Highton & Son, Ltd., London, E.; W. McGeoch & Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Player & Mitchell, Birmingham. **Tubes, Steel**: Tubes, Ltd., Birmingham; Stewarts & Lloyds, Ltd., Glasgow; Perfecta Seamless Steel Tube and Conduit Co. (1923), Ltd., Birmingham; Talbot Stead Tube Co., Ltd., Walsall. **Vinegar**: Champion & Sle, Ltd., London, S.E. **Watchcoats**: Milns, Cartwright, Reynolds, Ltd., London, S.W. **Water Jackets, Parts for**: Sir William Arrol & Co., Ltd., Glasgow. **Wire, Enamelled Copper**: British Insulated & Helsby Cables, Ltd., Helsby. **W/T Boards**: Dorman & Smith, Ltd., Manchester; Whipp & Bourne, Ltd., Manchester; Veritys, Ltd., Birmingham. **W/T Fittings**: Player & Mitchell, Birmingham.

WAR OFFICE.

Acetylene Gas and Cylinders: Allen Liversidge & Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Cooking Apparatus**: Adams & Son, London, S.W.; Richmond Gas Stove & Meter Co., Ltd., Warrington.—**Cresoli**: Roxburgh, Morgan & Co., Glasgow.—**Dowlas Tan**: A. Blyth & Co., Kirkcaldy.—**Flannelette**: Compton & Horrocks, Ltd., Radcliffe.—**Gas Cylinders**: British Mannesmann Tube Co., Ltd., Newport, Mon.—**Glassware**: Stevens & Williams, Ltd., Brierley Hill.—**Lathe and Motor**: J. Lang & Sons, Ltd., Johnstone.—**Magnesium Powder**: Magnesium Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Pins, Tent, Wood**: Geo. Page, Henley; D. Vanderstegen, Reading.—**Plant Pulverising**: A. Herbert, Ltd., Coventry.—**Pneumatic Covers**: Dunlop Rubber Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Saddlery**: Barrow, Hepburn & Gale, Ltd., London, S.E.; D. Mason & Sons, Ltd., Walsall.—**Sheets, Cotton M.S.**: G. I. Sidebottom & Co., Manchester.—**Steel, Bright Bars**: Steel Nut & Jos. Hampton, Ltd., Wednesbury.—**Surgical Dressings, etc.**: A. Berton, Ltd., London, E.C.; R. Bailey & Son, Ltd., Stockport; S. Maw, Sons & Sons, Ltd., London and New Barnet; J. T. Smith & Nephew, Ltd., Hull.—**Tyres, Solid**: Dunlop Rubber Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Valves, Wireless**: British Thomson Houston, Ltd., Coventry.—**Waxes**: W. Ryan & Co., London, E.—**Works Services: Maintenance Works**: Okehampton: W. T. Avery, Okehampton. Edinburgh: J. Baxter & Sons, Dunfermline, Plymouth: Carkeek & Sons, Ltd., Redruth. Strensall: York: J. W. Maw & Sons, Ltd., York. Taunton: F. C. Spear, Taunton. Devonport: F. J. Stanbury, Plymouth. Bodmin: J. & H. Webster, Bodmin. Bristol: T. Weeks & Sons, Ltd., Bristol. Preston: T. Whittaker & Son, Fleetwood. Berwick: A. Williams, Berwick-on-Tweed. Exeter: Woodman & Son, Exeter. **Building Works and Services**: Wrexham—Dining Room: T. G. Huxley & Co., Chester. Preston Fulwood Barracks: Thomas Obank & Sons, Ltd., Bradford. Catterick Camp—Re-conditioning of Roads: Tarslag (1923), Ltd., Stockton-on-Tees.

AIR MINISTRY.

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