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## EMPLOYMENT, WAGES, COST OF LIVING, AND TRADE DISPUTES IN FEBRUARY.

### EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

THE fluctuations in the course of employment observed in January continued during February, but by the end of the month there had been a slight net increase in the numbers unemployed.

Among workpeople insured against unemployment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the percentage unemployed in all industries taken together was 21·7 at 23rd February, 1931, as compared with 21·5 at 26th January, 1931, and 12·9 at 24th February, 1930. For males alone the percentage at 23rd February, 1931, was 22·6, and for females 19·6. At 26th January, 1931, the corresponding percentages were 22·1 and 19·9.

*Insured Persons in Work in Great Britain.*—It is estimated that on 23rd February, 1931, there were approximately 9,224,900 insured persons aged 16 to 64 in work in Great Britain. This was 96,600 more than a month before, when the figures were affected by the cotton dispute, but 791,800 less than a year before.

*Numbers Unemployed (excluding Persons normally in Casual Employment).*—At 23rd February, 1931, there were 1,888,716 persons on the Registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain who were out of a situation. This was 13,386 more than a month before and 804,821 more than a year before. The total on 23rd February, 1931, included 1,374,855 men, 58,228 boys, 406,433 women and 49,200 girls. It was made up approximately of 1,323,300 insured persons who had paid at least 30 contributions during the preceding two years and therefore satisfied the full contributions condition for the receipt of unemployment benefit; 465,300 insured persons who had paid less than 30 contributions during the preceding two years; and 100,100 uninsured persons. The claimants for benefit, numbering 1,714,556, included 234,949 men, 6,050 boys, 45,473 women and 3,468 girls who had been on the Register for less than one month.

*Numbers Temporarily Stopped.*—At 23rd February, 1931, there were registered as unemployed in Great Britain 406,249 men, 12,415 boys, 182,989 women and 12,039 girls who were on short time or were otherwise suspended from work on the definite understanding that they were shortly to return to their former employment. The total of 613,692 was 6,249 more than a month before, and 246,848 more than a year before.

*Numbers Unemployed normally in Casual Employment.*—At 23rd February, 1931, there were on the Registers in Great Britain 112,713 men, 315 boys, 2,201 women, and 21 girls who normally seek a livelihood by means of jobs of short duration; these are mainly employed in dock, harbour, river and canal service. The total of 115,250 was 5,373 more than a month before, and 26,724 more than a year before.

*Industries in which Principal Variations occurred.*—There were increases in the numbers unemployed in coal mining, in the manufacture of glass, pig iron, non-ferrous metals, tin plate, and iron and steel tubes; in engineering, shipbuilding and ship repairing, the

motor vehicle industry, the hosiery and carpet trades, textile bleaching, dyeing and finishing, paper manufacture, and dock and harbour service.

There was a further improvement, however, in the pottery, steel, silk and artificial silk industries. The numbers unemployed also decreased in the building trade, public works contracting, and cement manufacture, and in the cotton, woollen and worsted, linen, lace, boot and shoe, and clothing industries.

### 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 February resulted in an estimated decrease of £47,800 in the weekly full-time wages of about 570,000 workpeople, and in an increase of £2,050 in those of 64,000 workpeople.

The principal industry affected by reductions was the building trade, in which at most towns in England and Wales there were decreases of  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. an hour for craftsmen and  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. or  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. an hour for labourers. Reductions also occurred in the wages of coal miners in Warwickshire, iron puddlers and iron and steel millmen in the Midlands, Siemens steel workers in South-West Wales, tinsplate makers, chain makers, certain classes of linen workers in Northern Ireland, silk workers at Macclesfield, and brush and broom makers.

The principal increase concerned men employed in steel melting shops and rolling mills in various districts, whose wages were increased, under a sliding scale based on selling prices, by an amount equivalent in most cases to 1 per cent. on current rates.

### COST OF LIVING.

At 28th February, the average level of retail prices of the commodities taken into account in the statistics compiled by the Ministry of Labour (including food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, and miscellaneous items) was approximately 50 per cent. above the level of July, 1914, as compared with 52 per cent. a month ago, and 61 per cent. a year ago. For food alone the corresponding figures were 34, 36 and 50.

These statistics are designed to indicate the average increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the pre-war standard of living of working-class families. Accordingly, the changes in the prices of the various articles included are combined proportionately to the relative importance of those items in pre-war working-class family expenditure.

### TRADE DISPUTES.

The number of trade disputes, involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as beginning in February was 24. In addition, 10 disputes which began before February were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The number of workpeople involved in all disputes in February (including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes) is estimated at about 127,000, and the aggregate duration of all disputes in February at about 1,500,000 working days: these totals are almost wholly accounted for by the dispute in the cotton industry.



eight hours, compared with about 4s. 6d. to 7s. for a day of usually 9 to 10½ hours in 1914. In the case of seamen, the standard rates in December, 1930, were £9 a month for able seamen and £9 10s. for firemen, compared with £5 to £5 10s. and £5 10s. to £5 respectively in August, 1914, the average increase being between 65 and 70 per cent. In the road transport industry the average of the weekly rates of wages for one-horse drivers in twelve of the principal towns was 52s. 6d. a week at the end of December, 1930, compared with 25s. 7d. in 1914, an increase of 105 per cent., weekly hours being 48 in 1930 as compared with 56 and upwards, usually, in 1914. In the tramway services it is estimated that the average weekly rates of wages at December, 1930, in over 50 large towns, were about 60s. for drivers and 56s. 6d. for conductors, compared with 30s. 11d. and 27s. 5d. at August, 1914, showing increases of 94 and 106 per cent. respectively; as, however, the weekly hours of labour had been reduced, from 54 to 60 in 1914 to generally 48 in 1930, the average increases in hourly rates of wages were about 129 and 143 per cent. respectively.

**Agriculture.**—The rates of wages of ordinary agricultural labourers in England and Wales at December, 1930, ranged from 30s. to 36s. a week, including the value of certain allowances. In the same districts in 1914 the cash rates of wages (which were subject to the addition of certain allowances) ranged from 13s. to 21s. a week. It is estimated by the Ministry of Agriculture that the average of the minimum rates of wages for ordinary labourers in England and Wales at December, 1930, was 31s. 7½d., representing an increase of about 76 per cent. over the average of the cash rates and allowances in 1914, which was 18s. a week. This comparison takes no account of overtime payments, nor of extra earnings at special seasons; and no allowance is made, in the percentage increase quoted, for the reductions in normal weekly working hours which have been made since 1914.

**Other Industries.**—In the following Table particulars are given of the rates of wages at 4th August, 1914, and at December, 1930, of some of the principal classes of workpeople in the printing and bookbinding, furniture making, and baking trades in a number of towns:—

Trade and Occupation.	Average (unweighted) of recognised Weekly Time Rates of Wages in certain Large Towns* at		Average Percentage Increase over Pre-war Rates at 31st Dec., 1930.
	4th Aug., 1914.	31st Dec., 1930.	
	s. d.	s. d.	
<b>Printing and Bookbinding:—</b>			
Hand Compositors on Book and Jobbing Work	35 8	73 10	107
Bookbinders and Machine Rulers	33 11	73 7	117
<b>Furniture Making:—</b>			
Cabinet Makers	39 5	72 5	83
Upholsters	38 8	72 0	86
French Polishers	37 5	71 11	92
<b>Baking:—</b>			
Table Hands	30 1	63 5	111

The hours of labour in a normal full week at December, 1930, were generally 48 in the printing and baking trades, and 44 to 47 in the furniture trade, compared with 50 or 51 in the printing trades, 48 to 60 for bakers, and 46½ to 54 in the furniture trade at August, 1914. The percentage increases in hourly rates are thus greater than those in weekly rates shown in the Table, averaging (in the towns to which the Table relates) about 119 per cent. for compositors, 129 per cent. for bookbinders, 105 per cent. for cabinet makers, 110 per cent. for upholsters, 115 per cent. for french polishers, and 134 per cent. for table hands in the baking trade.

In the pottery industry, the general level of rates of wages is 50 to 61½ per cent. (in different sections) above the pre-war level, but increases in basic rates have been granted, in addition, to certain classes of workpeople. For labourers in the heavy chemical trade the increase on the 1914 weekly rates of wages amounts to between 105 and 115 per cent. The hours of labour have been reduced in the pottery industry from 52 in 1914 to 47 per week, and in the chemical industry from 12 to 8 per shift for shift workers and from 53 or 54 to 47 per week for day workers.

For unskilled labourers in the non-trading departments of Local Authorities in 28 large towns, the average weekly rate of wages shows an increase of about 96 per cent. over that for August, 1914, from 26s. 9d. to 52s. 5d. Hours of labour having been reduced without any reduction in weekly rates of wages, the increase in hourly rates is about 117 per cent. on the average. The average rate for unskilled labourers in the electricity supply industry in over 50 towns at December, 1930, was about 55s. 6d. a week, compared with 26s. 7d. a week in August, 1914, showing an increase of 109 per cent.† In this case also the hours of labour have been reduced, and the increase in hourly rates averages 139 per cent.

\* The averages are based on the rates current in 26 towns in the printing and bookbinding and baking trades, and in 20 towns in the furniture trade. † A general reduction of ¼d. per hour took effect on 1st January, 1931.

SUMMARY.

Both the amounts and the corresponding percentages of increase over pre-war rates show a wide diversity among different classes of workpeople. In some cases the increases in full-time weekly rates at the end of December, 1930, were equivalent to less than 20 per cent. on the pre-war rates. On the other hand, they were equivalent in some cases to over 100 per cent. on the pre-war rates. The information at the disposal of the Department is insufficient to enable the average percentage increase for all industries and occupations to be calculated exactly, but it is estimated that at the end of December, 1930, weekly full-time rates of wages, for those classes of adult workpeople for which information is available, averaged between 70 and 74 per cent. above the level of August, 1914, as compared with 170 to 180 per cent. at the end of December, 1920, when wages generally were at their highest level. As considerable reductions in normal weekly working hours were made in nearly all industries in 1919 and 1920, the percentage increase in hourly rates of wages, since 1914, is substantially greater; while it is not practicable on the basis of available information to make any precise calculation, it seems probable that at the end of December, 1930, the average level of hourly rates was between 90 and 100 per cent. above that of August, 1914. These figures, it should be noted, relate to the wages of similar grades of workpeople at both dates.

The corresponding percentages of increase in weekly full-time rates of wages at the end of each half-year since 1920, as compared with the beginning of August, 1914, is estimated, on the basis indicated above, to have been approximately as shown in the following Table:—

Year.	Estimated Average Percentage Increase in Weekly Full-Time Rates of Wages at end of	
	June.	December.
1920	150-155	170-180
1921	145-155	110-115
1922	85-90	70-75
1923	65-70	65-70
1924	70	70-75
1925	75	75
1926	75	75
1927	70-75	70-75
1928	70-75	70-75
1929	70-75	70-74
1930	70-74	70-74

It should be observed that the foregoing particulars relate to recognised rates of wages for full-time working, and for corresponding grades of workpeople at each date. They do not take account of changes in average earnings resulting from variations in the state of employment or from the operation of other factors such as changes in the proportions of workers in different industries and occupations or changes in the proportions paid at time and at piece rates of wages, as to which comprehensive data are not available.

COMPARATIVE LEVELS OF REAL WAGES IN 1914 AND IN 1921-31.

In the House of Commons on 5th March, Mr. A. M. Samuel asked the Minister of Labour: (i) whether she would make an approximate estimate of the rates of wages in all industries where data are available on the basis of a normal working week, adjust them to the cost of living, and then state the value of real wages at March, 1931, as compared with July, 1914 (= 100), allowing for a cut-through average rate to cover hourly as well as weekly wages; and (ii) if she would state the over-all average value of real wages covering the ten-years period February, 1921, to February, 1931, inclusive, as compared with the similar value (= 100) at July, 1914, after combining rates of wages for a normal working week and cost-of-living index. The Minister's reply was as follows:—

"The information in my possession is insufficient to provide a basis for a precise calculation of the average increase in rates of wages since July, 1914, but it is estimated, from such particulars as are available, that at 1st February, 1931, the latest date for which figures can at present be given, the average level of weekly full-time rates of wages was between 70 and 74 per cent. above the level of July, 1914, for workpeople of corresponding grades at the two dates. The increase in hourly rates of wages is estimated to have been between 90 and 100 per cent. The average level of working-class cost of living at the same date, as indicated by the statistics compiled by the Ministry of Labour, was approximately 52 per cent. above that of July, 1914. On this basis, the average increase in "real" rates of wages would appear to have been about 13 per cent. in the case of weekly full-time rates of wages and between 25 and 30 per cent. in the case of hourly rates of wages. Over the whole period from 1st February, 1921, to 1st February, 1931, the level of real rates of wages for a full normal week is estimated to have averaged about 3 per cent. above the level of July, 1914. These figures take no account of changes in average earnings resulting from increased unemployment and short-time working, from changes in the proportions of workers paid at time and piece rates of wages, or from changes in the proportions of workers in different industries and occupations, as to which statistics are not available."

THE DISPUTE IN THE COTTON INDUSTRY.

THE normal practice in the cotton textile industry is for weavers to work four looms at rates of pay in accordance with various agreed piece price lists. In April, 1929, following negotiations between the Burnley Master Cotton Spinners' and Manufacturers' Association and the Burnley Weavers' Association, an agreement was reached whereby certain Burnley firms began to run 4 per cent. of their looms with eight looms to a weaver, on a wage of 50s. per week of 48 hours, with the understanding that piece price lists should be discussed after three months of the experiment.

At the end of the three months, however, neither side was in a position to deal with the question, owing to the dispute in the industry due to failure to reach agreement regarding a general reduction of wages. The dispute was terminated by the appointment of a Board of Arbitration, presided over by the Hon. Mr. Justice Rigby Swift, which issued an award proposing reduced rates of wages as from the early part of September.\* This award was applied throughout the industry, and the rate of 50s. for weavers working eight looms was reduced by 6·4 per cent., making it 46s. 10d.

The Burnley experiment was due to expire on 31st March, 1930. Following the dispute in August, 1929, prolonged negotiations took place between the parties, but with no definite result. On 29th March, 1930, the General Council of the Amalgamated Weavers' Association adopted a resolution instructing their Central Committee not to enter into any agreement, and calling upon each district association to oppose its introduction; but pending further negotiations the firms who had been engaged in the experiment continued working as before. In the absence of agreement, and in accordance with the rules for the settlement of disputes in the industry, a meeting between the Cotton Spinners' and Manufacturers' Association and the Northern Counties Textile Trades Federation was held on 15th August. No settlement could be effected, and the joint rules for the prevention of strikes and lock-outs having thus been observed, each side was free to take whatever course it thought fit.

The employers appointed a special committee to proceed with the drafting of a list of new piece rates, and on 31st October the list was sent to the Weavers' Amalgamation with a letter asking for a joint meeting "for the purpose of enabling the employers to put forward an application for the adoption of a new basis of payment to weavers engaged on a system of working more looms than what is the present practice." This joint meeting was held on 14th November, and eventually the weavers' representatives decided to refer the matter to a meeting of their General Council. On 1st December the decision of the General Council—a refusal to give authority to the Central Committee to negotiate on the proposals—was conveyed to the employers in a formal letter.

On 5th December the Central Committee of the Cotton Spinners' and Manufacturers' Association and representatives of the Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' Associations met, and after considering the letter informed the weavers that unless an agreement was reached in the meantime they intended to "recommend the members of their local associations to introduce (where they desire to do so) the system of 'more looms to a weaver' at their mills on and after 5th January, 1931, on the terms and percentages set out in the list already submitted. . . ."

On 16th December the Manufacturers' Associations met the Northern Counties Textile Trades Federation for the purpose of acquainting the workers' representatives in all sections of the weaving mills of the position. The Federation's reply to the employers at this meeting was contained in the following resolution:—

"The resolution of the Central Board of the Northern Counties Textile Trades Federation is that we give a short reply to the employers to the effect that we give the weavers support in opposing the present proposals."

On 20th December the employers posted notices of the intended introduction of the new list, and later in the month the weavers stated that action should be taken at any individual firm that endeavoured to introduce the system by immediately withdrawing the members.

On 2nd January, 1931, arrangements were made for the Cotton Spinners' and Manufacturers' Association to meet the full Executive of the Weavers' Amalgamation. No agreement was reached at this meeting, and on 5th January a strike of weavers began at nine mills in Burnley. On 7th January, the Burnley Master Cotton Spinners' and Manufacturers' Association resolved that members should close their mills on 10th January until further notice, unless in the meantime the strike at the other mills in the town had been settled. On 8th January the Central Board of the Northern Counties Textile Trades Federation reaffirmed their previous decision, to render all possible support to the Amalgamated Weavers' Association. On 9th January, the manufacturers' county committee resolved that members of the local associations be "strongly recommended to close their mills on Saturday, 17th January, 1931," unless the strikes at Burnley and elsewhere were settled in the meantime; and the general committee of the Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' Associations also resolved that:—"This general committee recommends members who are manufacturers to close their weaving section when called upon to do so . . . ." The Burnley lock-out began on Monday, 12th January.

On 13th January, the Weaving Committee of the Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' Associations met, and endorsed their resolution of 9th January recommending members to close their weaving machinery when called upon to do so. On 14th January a

\* For an account of this dispute, and of the award of the Board of Arbitration, see the issues of this GAZETTE for August and September, 1929, pages 272 and 315.

joint meeting of representatives of the Cotton Spinners' and Manufacturers' Association, and the Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' Associations was held, and Mr. Grey, acting chairman of the Manufacturers' Association stated that an invitation by the Ministry of Labour to a joint conference with representatives of the Weavers' Amalgamation had been accepted, and that a joint committee of the two employers' organisations had been appointed for the purpose. In the afternoon the joint meeting was held, and views were exchanged.

On 15th January the General Council of the Weavers' Amalgamation decided that a ballot vote of the members should be taken. Thus, in accordance with the decision of 1st December, the Executive remained without authority to enter into negotiations.

At the invitation of representatives of the Ministry of Labour further discussions took place on 16th January, with a view to avoiding the general stoppage of the industry.

Finally the representatives of the Ministry of Labour submitted the following proposal to each party:—

"That work be resumed at mills where stoppages have occurred as a result of the difference on the more-looms-to-a-weaver system, and that all notices connected with that difference be postponed."

The operatives replied as follows:—

"Careful consideration has been given to the request of the representatives of the Ministry of Labour that work should be resumed at mills now stopped, and that the notices which expire tomorrow be postponed. We find ourselves unable to accede to the request that has been made, and, having already taken steps to obtain the opinion of our members upon the question of negotiations, the great need of the moment is the suspension of the county lock-out, pending the result of our ballot."

The employers replied:—

"We have given careful consideration to your suggestion that all notices connected with the difference on the more-looms-to-a-weaver question should be postponed. An unconditional "Yes" to the question would place us in exactly the same position that we were in last June. The operatives' methods of dealing with our application since that time, and the fact that so recently as yesterday they failed to secure powers to negotiate which they sought to obtain from their General Council, compel us regretfully to give a negative reply to your suggestion."

The general lock-out notices of the Cotton Spinners' and Manufacturers' Association became operative at noon on 17th January, and the dispute was thereby extended to other centres in Lancashire, Cheshire, Yorkshire and Derbyshire.

At this stage of the dispute further action was dependent upon the result of the weavers' ballot. This was officially declared at Accrington on 24th January, the figures being—

Against negotiating powers being given	90,770
For	44,990

On 29th January representatives of the parties in dispute met the Prime Minister, at his invitation, in London. On the next day the following statement was issued from Downing Street:—

"The conversations with both sides were continued throughout the day, when discussions took place on points of difference. The Government will continue to give its close attention to the matters in dispute, in the hope of an early settlement."

On 3rd February a joint meeting was held between the representatives of the Cotton Spinners' and Manufacturers' Association, the Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' Associations, and the Northern Counties Textile Trades Federation. The meeting considered a full report of the events since the last joint meeting, and particularly of the previous week's conversations with the Prime Minister. After retiring to consider the statement the operatives' representatives returned with the following reply:—

"We have heard with great respect the statement, and given consideration thereto; but as there is to be a meeting of the General Council of the Weavers' Amalgamation on Saturday next we are not disposed to depart from our position at this juncture."

The General Council of the Weavers' Amalgamation met on Saturday, 7th February, and after a long session an official report of the meeting was given by Mr. Naesmith, the general secretary, in which the following passages appear:—

"The General Council have had placed before them a full report of the London conversations between the Central Committee and the Prime Minister and other members of the Cabinet, and have accepted the report after discussion."

"The General Council have discussed at length the situation created by the lock-out, and after a very protracted discussion have emphatically declared that they are not prepared to give their Central Committee authority to proceed with a ballot of the members of the Amalgamation upon the question of a scientific experiment on the more-looms-to-a-weaver system."

Following this decision the Central Board of the Northern Counties Textile Trades Federation met on 9th February to receive a statement from the Weavers' Amalgamation on the situation, and after some discussion the report was accepted.

Thus a state of deadlock existed. On 13th February, the Central Committee of the two employers' organisations met, and decided to call off the lock-out which had begun on 19th January. This decision was conveyed in the following statement made by Mr. Grey, the chairman of the Cotton Spinners' and Manufacturers' Association:—

"When the central committee of the employers' organisations met on Tuesday last we had to consider the position created by the decision of the General Council of the Weavers' Amalgamation, refusing again to give powers to their executive committee either to continue negotiations or to take a ballot with the object of securing those powers. Their action created a deadlock, which made it impossible for negotiations or discussions between the two parties

to be conducted in any way. We consequently decided to take the opinions of all the local associations affiliated to the Cotton Spinners' and Manufacturers' Association, and also of the manufacturing representatives of the Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' Associations, and to call a further meeting of the central committee of the Cotton Spinners' and Manufacturers' Association, together with representatives of the Federation, in order to consider the replies of the various local associations, and the views that they took of the situation as a whole.

"Those replies, and the decisions taken at those various meetings, have been under review this morning, and notwithstanding the reports of defections and intentions to open up mills which have been prevalent during this week, they showed on the part of the members of our associations a determination to carry out whatever policy the central committee recommended, and to adhere to their instructions and keep closed their mills until directed to act otherwise.

"The central committee have given very serious consideration to the whole question this morning, and have unanimously decided that the lock-out shall be withdrawn, and that the more-ooms-to-a-weaver experiment at Burnley shall be discontinued, and that the mills shall be opened for work on Monday morning. The employers have decided to take this action after taking into consideration every aspect of the situation. We could undoubtedly have continued this dispute for many weeks to come, and had we decided to do that we should have had behind us the loyal backing of the great majority of the members of our association; but we took the view that in the circumstances in which the leaders of the operatives' unions found themselves it would be a long time before they were in a position to settle this dispute by arrangement, during which time the industry would suffer irreparable injury out of all proportion to the object that we had in view.

"We are not out to fight, and have not been from the commencement, merely for the sake of fighting. We consider that we have an obligation to take a wide industrial and national view of the situation. This is an obligation to which the operatives' leaders themselves have an equal responsibility. The fact that the action of their members has made it impossible for them to exercise that obligation has rendered it all the more imperative that we as employers should do so, and this has been the primary consideration that has dictated our action this morning. We have been further impressed by the very grave warning as to the condition of industry and finance generally in this country that was given by Mr. Snowden in the House of Commons on Wednesday, and that again we had an obligation to consider the effects of a continuance of this dispute in its relation to that appeal.

"Furthermore, we are holding in London next week an exhibition, which has for its primary object the advertisement to all the buyers of the world, as well as to people in this country, of the excellence of Lancashire's products; and we have realised the inconsistency of a situation whereby we are seeking to increase our sales to the world by this great exhibition effort, and at the same time giving to the world an exhibition of folly in continuing this suspension of the industry's activity over a relatively minor question which ought to have been capable of mutual adjustment.

"Furthermore, we received this morning from the Earl of Derby a very eloquent appeal by telegram to consider the serious effects upon this exhibition which a continuance of this dispute would have. We regret that there should ever have been a dispute on this particular question, and still consider that with good will on both sides it could have been avoided. The more-ooms-to-a-weaver system cannot be ignored. It has proved itself to be successful both technically and economically, and in our opinion is bound ultimately to extend; but we also recognise that in the present atmosphere, or certainly in the atmosphere which a prolonged dispute would engender, it would not be possible to arrive at a fair consideration and agreement as to its further extension.

"We feel certain that the Lancashire weavers are just as competent to handle any technical system of weaving as any weavers in the world, and when we see that this system of weaving is being adopted in many foreign countries where the technical training is much less efficient than it is in this country there can be no question as to the weavers' competency to undertake it here. A great deal has been said during this dispute on the question of industrial reorganisation. We recognise that much will have to be done in this direction, but there is one thing that we shall have to bear in mind, namely, that the cause of this dispute was a sincere attempt on the part of the employers to bring down the costs of production without at the same time reducing individual earnings.

"The question of our ability to compete abroad still remains, and will have to receive the very earnest consideration of all connected with the industry. We are prepared to discuss with our operatives the question of technical reorganisation and to take into consideration many aspects of the industry when the proper atmosphere for doing so has been re-established. By our action this morning in calling off this lock-out we are making a gesture of goodwill. We desire to see good feeling restored to the industry, and we have every confidence that the operatives will respond."

The Weavers' Amalgamation met forthwith to consider the new situation created by the employers' decision, and decided to recommend their members to resume work on Monday, 16th February. The recommendation was made in the following terms:—

"The weavers' central committee welcome this decision of the representatives of the employers, and hope that means will be devised by joint consultations, by which machinery will become operative that will prevent a recurrence of such events as led to the present dispute. The central committee are instructing all their district associations to recommend members to present themselves for work in the mills on Monday morning when they reopen."

## DIAGRAMS ILLUSTRATING LABOUR STATISTICS.

A SPECIAL Supplement, which is included with the present issue of this GAZETTE, contains a selection of diagrams, etc., illustrating some of the principal official statistics relating to labour conditions. Explanatory notes with regard to each of these diagrams are given below.

### Changes in Working-Class Cost of Living.

The first diagram shows the general movement of working-class cost of living and retail prices of food since 1914. The curves are based on the Ministry of Labour cost-of-living index-numbers for "All Items" and "Food only," which are compiled for the purpose of indicating the fluctuations in the cost of maintaining unchanged the pre-war standard of living of working-class families, and published each month in this GAZETTE (see, e.g., page 118 of the present issue).

### Changes in Wages and "Real Wages."

This diagram shows the average movement of weekly rates of wages and "real wages" in Great Britain and Northern Ireland in the past eleven years, the average levels at the end of each month in the years 1920-1930 being expressed as a percentage of the average level in 1924 (taken as 100).

A detailed account of the nature of the information used in arriving at the figures relating to rates of wages utilised for the purpose of this diagram is given in the article on "Relative Levels of Rates of Wages, etc." on pages 86 to 88. Briefly it may be said that the figures refer to workers of unchanged grade, and almost wholly to those industries or sections of industries in which organised arrangements exist for the negotiation of changes in rates of wages on a collective basis, and that they relate to rates of wages for a full week and not to actual earnings.

The figures serving as a basis for the "real wages" curve are calculated by combining the foregoing figures relating to rates of wages with the Ministry of Labour cost-of-living index-numbers.

### International Comparison of Levels of Real Wages, July, 1930.

This graph is constructed from the figures in the last column of the Table in the article entitled "International Comparison of Real Wages," which appeared on page 404 of the November, 1930, issue of this GAZETTE. In the Table referred to, figures for Denmark and Sweden were also given; but, as these figures were based on actual hourly earnings and are not, therefore, comparable with those given for other countries, which are based on hourly rates of wages, they have not been used in the construction of the graph. The figures used, however, have been supplemented by index numbers for Australia and France relating to January, 1930, which appeared on page 165 of the May, 1930, issue of this GAZETTE. For further information on this subject, and for particulars of the sources of information and the methods employed in computing the figures referred to, reference should be made to the October and December, 1929, and the April and October, 1930, issues of the *International Labour Review*, published by the International Labour Office.

In comparing the levels indicated by the diagram it should be noted that the figures on which the graph is based are subject to important reservations, and, owing to their limitations, can only be approximate. The "wage" measured is an average of the hourly rates of wages in about 30 typical male occupations in a number of selected towns in the countries represented. The index numbers are calculated by determining the number of times the average "wage" in each country will purchase an international budget of commodities, at the average retail prices ruling in the selected towns in each country. The international budget comprises food, soap, fuel, and light, in quantities which are the averages of the quantities usually consumed by working-class families in the countries concerned.

### Number of Persons on the Registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain.

The figures on which these diagrams are based relate to the total number of persons (whether insured against unemployment or not, and including short-time workers and others temporarily stopped from the service of their employers, not actually employed on the dates to which the returns relate), registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain at the end of each month in the period 1921-30. The figures are communicated regularly to the Press, and published monthly in this GAZETTE (see, for example, page 103 of this issue). In one diagram separate lines are given for men and for women, and in the other the totals wholly unemployed (i.e., those out of a situation), including casuals, are distinguished from the totals temporarily stopped. This classification was first introduced in January, 1926.

### Unemployment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

A diagram is given showing the fluctuations in the percentages unemployed (a) in the period 1912-1930 among workpeople insured against unemployment under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, and (b) in the period 1900-1926 among certain trade unions.

As regards insured workpeople, statistics showing the percentages unemployed are published regularly in this GAZETTE (see, for example, pages 95 and 107 of the present issue), and figures for the earlier years covered by the diagram will be found in the *Eighteenth and Nineteenth Abstracts of Labour Statistics*. It should be noted, in connection with these figures, that under the original National Insurance Act, which came into operation in 1912, unemployment insurance applied only to certain industries, and to about 2½ million workpeople. In July, 1916, the scope of

unemployment insurance was extended to include workpeople employed on munitions work and in certain other industries, and this extension brought the total number insured up to about 3½ millions at the end of 1916. In 1920, unemployment insurance was extended to substantially all industries, except private domestic service and agriculture, and the number of workpeople covered in 1930 was over 12 millions. Persons aged 65 and over ceased to be insured as from 2nd January, 1928.

As regards unemployment among members of trade unions, returns were regularly collected by the Department from certain unions (mainly of skilled workers) which paid out-of-work benefit to their members, and the percentages unemployed as shown by these returns were published monthly in this GAZETTE until the end of 1926, when the series was discontinued. The figures will be found in the *Nineteenth Abstract of Labour Statistics*.

### Claimants for Standard and Transitional Unemployment Benefit.

This diagram indicates the changes from October, 1929, to December, 1930, in the number of claimants for "standard" and "transitional" benefit, respectively, and in the number of insured non-claimants.

The figures on which the diagram is based relate to insured persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges in respect of whom the position under the first statutory condition for the receipt of benefit had been determined. (The number of claimants on the register whose position relative to that condition had not been determined at any given date, was usually not more than 90,000.)

The figures for October, 1929, February, 1930, and May, 1930, on which the diagram is based were obtained from sample inquiries, the results of which were published in the issues of this GAZETTE for January, 1930, and October, 1930, respectively (pages 9 and 358). For subsequent dates the figures have been published regularly in this GAZETTE (see, for example, the Table on page 109).

The first statutory condition requires the payment of not less than 30 contributions in the preceding two years, and claimants for "standard" benefit are those who have satisfied that condition. In cases where the condition is not satisfied, adults, but not boys and girls, may receive benefit conditionally upon the fulfilment of the special "transitional" conditions, which require that not less than 8 contributions must have been paid in respect of them during the preceding two years, or not less than 30 contributions at any time, and that they are normally insurable and will normally seek to obtain a livelihood by means of insurable employment. Insured non-claimants include those adults who have failed to satisfy the "transitional" conditions, and juveniles who have failed to satisfy the full first statutory condition.

### Number of Persons Insured against Unemployment in Great Britain.

This diagram shows the estimated number of persons, aged 16 to 64 inclusive, insured against unemployment in Great Britain from July, 1923, to the end of 1930, divided into four sections representing respectively the numbers in employment, the numbers directly involved in trade disputes, the numbers recorded as unemployed and the numbers absent from work through sickness or other temporary reasons except holidays. The section representing absences through sickness and other forms of unrecorded non-employment (except holidays) has been based on a uniform allowance of 3½ per cent. of the numbers insured. The numbers unemployed include not only those wholly unemployed but also those temporarily stopped who were not at work on the day of the count. Persons aged 65 and over ceased to be insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts as from 2nd January, 1928, and their estimated numbers have therefore been excluded from the totals for earlier years. The diagram does not include persons employed in agriculture, private domestic service, and other classes excepted from unemployment insurance. The detailed figures for the period July, 1928, to December, 1930, with a reference to those for earlier dates, will be found on page 13 of the January, 1931, issue of this GAZETTE.

As regards persons directly involved in trade disputes, the monthly points from which the curve has been plotted have been joined by broken lines. Except for the general strike in May, 1926, and the cotton dispute in July-August, 1929, these lines, however, do not necessarily indicate the numbers involved at intermediate dates.

### Industrial Disputes.

Statistics are regularly compiled by the Ministry of Labour, based on returns obtained from the employers, or their associations, and from the trade unions concerned, as to the numbers of workpeople involved in industrial disputes causing stoppages of work, and as to the numbers of working days lost owing to disputes, at establishments where the disputes occur. Statistics for February, 1931, will be found on page 117 of this issue of the GAZETTE.

The diagram contained in the Supplement, showing the aggregate duration, in working days, of the disputes reported in the years 1900-1930, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, is based on the statistics so compiled. The actual figures for these years (up to 1929) were published, together with other statistics on this subject, in the May, 1930, issue of this GAZETTE; and preliminary figures for the year 1930 were given on page 6 of the issue for January, 1931.

### Trade Unions.

The curves illustrating the changes in the membership of Trade Unions in Great Britain and Northern Ireland are based on the statistics given in an article in the October, 1930, issue of this GAZETTE (page 362). The figures relate to the total membership of all employees' societies—including those of salaried and professional workers, as well as those of manual wage-earners—known to include among their functions that of negotiating with employers with the

object of regulating conditions of employment. All such societies with headquarters in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, whether registered under the Trade Union Acts or not, are included.

### Profit-Sharing.

This diagram is based on the statistics contained in the annual article on Profit-sharing and Co-partnership which appeared in the July, 1930, issue of this GAZETTE (pages 238 to 242). It shows the number of employees participating (or entitled to participate) in schemes of profit-sharing or of co-partnership reported to the Department as in operation in Great Britain and Northern Ireland in the years 1910 to 1929. The figures illustrated are exclusive of profit-sharing and co-partnership schemes in co-operative societies, as to which statistics are not available for the whole period covered.

## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT, 1931.

THE Unemployment Insurance Act, 1931, received the Royal Assent on 3rd March.\*

Section 1 of the Act raises to £90,000,000 the limit on the amount of the advances by the Treasury to the Unemployment Fund which may be outstanding during the "deficiency period." The "deficiency period" is defined, in section 16 of the Unemployment Insurance (No. 2) Act, 1921, as the period between the passing of that Act and the date when the Treasury certify that the Unemployment Fund is solvent. Such certificate may not be given while any advances to the Fund are outstanding.

Section 2 of the Act extends the period during which unemployment benefit may be paid under the "transitional" provisions of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1927, as amended by subsequent Acts. Section 14 of the Act of 1927 provided that persons over 18 years of age, making claims for unemployment benefit within twelve months of the coming into force of the Act (on 19th April, 1928), should be exempted for a further twelve months from compliance with "the first statutory condition," which requires the payment of 30 contributions in the two years preceding the claim. Such claimants, during the "transitional" period, have been required to prove the payment of only 8 contributions in the previous two years, or of 30 contributions at any time, provided they can show that they are normally employed in insurable employment, and will normally seek to gain their livelihood by such employment. The period of twelve months after the passing of the Act was extended by subsequent enactments to 36 months; but, in the absence of fresh legislation, insured persons at present drawing benefit under the "transitional" provisions would have begun to fall out of benefit at various dates beginning on 19th April next. The present Act maintains the right of such persons to claim benefit, by extending the transitional period for another six months.

## FATAL ACCIDENTS IN MINES AND QUARRIES IN 1930.

THE Mines Department have issued a preliminary statement† of the number of deaths caused by accidents in and about the mines and quarries of Great Britain, together with the Isle of Man, during the year 1930. The principal statistics are given below; the figures for 1930 are subject to minor corrections on the receipt of the final returns for the Annual Report:—

	No. of separate Fatal Accidents in			No. of Deaths caused by Fatal Accidents in		
	1930.	1929.	1928.	1930.	1929.	1928.
Mines under the Coal Mines Act, 1911 ... ..	938	1,012	954	1,012	1,076	989
Mines under the Metalliferous Mines Regulation Act, 1872 ... ..	12	19	24	12	19	25
Quarries under the Quarries Act, 1894† ...	69‡	66	63	70‡	69	66
Totals ... ..	1,019	1,097	1,041	1,094	1,164	1,080

Of the 1,012 deaths from accidents at mines under the Coal Mines Act in 1930, over one-half (514) were due to falls of ground, including 360 at the working face, and 154 on underground roads. Haulage accidents underground accounted for 241 deaths, including 211 caused by persons being run over or crushed by trams or tubs. Of the remainder, 33 were due to shaft accidents and 70 to explosions of firedamp or coal dust. Miscellaneous accidents underground accounted for 81 deaths, and accidents on the surface for 73 deaths.

It is estimated that for mines under the Coal Mines Act, 1911, the death-rate in 1930 per thousand persons employed was 1.06, as compared with 1.11 in 1929 and with 1.04 in 1928. Taking 100,000 man-shifts worked as the basis, the death-rate was 0.43 in 1929 and 1930, and 0.42 in 1928. The death-rate per million tons of minerals raised was 4.03 in 1930, as against 4.05 in 1929 and 4.04 in 1928.

Falls of ground accounted for 6 out of a total of 12 deaths from accidents in metalliferous mines, and for 22 out of a total of 70 deaths from accidents in quarries.

\* 21 Geo. 5, ch. 8. H.M. Stationery Office; price 1d. (1½d. post free).

† H.M. Stationery Office; price 1d. (1½d. post free).

‡ The Quarries Act, 1894, applies only to quarries more than 20 feet deep; in addition, 5 accidents, causing 5 deaths, at quarries 20 feet deep or less were reported in 1930.







ENGINEERING.

EMPLOYMENT during February remained bad on the whole, and showed a general decline. The decline was most marked in the motor vehicle section, where employment was bad; in general, marine and constructional engineering employment was very bad. In textile engineering employment was still bad. In electrical engineering, though slack and declining, it was much better than in other sections.

Compared with a year ago employment was much worse in all sections and in all areas.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, at 23rd February, 1931, and the increase or decrease as compared with a month before and a year before:—

Table with 10 columns: Division, General Engineering, Iron and Steel Founding, Electrical Engineering, Marine Engineering, etc., Constructional Engineering, Motor Vehicles, Cycles, and Aircraft, Total, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a month before, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a year before. Includes data for London, South-Eastern, etc., and Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

but employment in the section spinning Egyptian cotton was again reported as fairly good. At Shaw irregular short time working continued. At Bolton employment remained slack or bad in all the principal departments, but a slight improvement was shown towards the end of the month.

At Preston the mills with few exceptions resumed work; but there was still much under-employment, as there had been before the dispute. At Blackburn there was a general resumption of work at those mills which were working immediately prior to the dispute.

In Yorkshire employment remained extremely bad, and showed a decline at most centres. There was, however, a slight improvement at Hebdon Bridge and at Sowerby Bridge.

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

Table with 10 columns: DEPARTMENTS, Districts, Total, etc. Includes sub-tables for 'Number of Workpeople' and 'Total Wages paid to all Workpeople' with columns for Week ended, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a month before, and Per cent.

Returns from firms employing over 57,000 operatives in the week ended 23rd February showed that about 23 per cent. were on short time in that week, with a loss of 15 hours each, on an 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 23rd February, 1931:—

Table with 7 columns: Department, Wholly Unemployed (Men, Women, Total), Temporarily Stopped (Men, Women, Total), Total. Includes Card and Blowing Room, Spinning, etc.

The following Table shows the increases and decreases as compared with 26th January, 1931:—

COTTON INDUSTRY.

SINCE the settlement, in the middle of the month, of the dispute in the weaving department of the industry,\* there has been some improvement in all sections. Nevertheless employment continued to be extremely depressed.

The percentage of insured workpeople recorded as unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 41.4 at 23rd February, 1931, as compared with 43.9† at 26th January, 1931, and with 24.2 at 24th February, 1930.

At Ashton-under-Lyne employment remained very bad, and was much below the already unsatisfactory level of February, 1930. At Stockport further suspensions were reported. At Glossop and Hyde an improvement was recorded; but irregular short time was still worked in these districts and at Stalybridge.

\* See the article on page 87 of this issue. † Excluding those disqualified for unemployment benefit by reason of the dispute.

Table with 7 columns: Department, Wholly Unemployed (Men, Women, Total), Temporarily Stopped (Men, Women, Total), Total. Includes Card and Blowing Room, Spinning, etc.

The imports (less re exports) of raw cotton (including cotton linters) were 71,868,900 lbs. in February, 1931, compared with 109,192,700 lbs. in the previous month and with 122,283,200 lbs. in February, 1930.

The exports of cotton yarn were 9,261,200 lbs. in February, 1931, compared with 11,336,500 lbs. in January, 1931, and with 12,225,800 lbs. in February, 1930.

The exports of cotton piece goods in February, 1931, were 146,336,000 square yards, compared with 155,629,900 square yards in the previous month, and 299,519,300 square yards in February, 1930.

WOOL TEXTILE INDUSTRY.

COMPARED with a month earlier there was little change in the worsted section and a slight improvement in the woollen section. Employment generally was still very depressed, and much below the level of February, 1930.

In the carpet trade employment continued slack, and was much worse than a year ago.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed in the woollen and worsted industries, including those temporarily stopped, was 30.0 at 23rd February, 1931, as compared with 31.3 at 26th January, 1931, and with 21.1 at 24th February, 1930.

Worsted Section.—Employment continued bad, and showed little change as compared with a month earlier.

At Bradford a slight improvement was reported, less short time being worked. At Keighley increased activity was reported in the fancy worsted trade. At Huddersfield short time continued, and there was no improvement. In the worsted section, as a whole, returns from employers for the week ended 21st February showed that about 40 per cent. of the operatives worked short time,\* losing about 14 hours each on an average; about 6 per cent. were on overtime, to the extent of 6 hours each.

With wool sorters employment continued slack; it was better than in January, but worse than a year ago; in addition to much unemployment, about 15 per cent. of those at work were on short time. In the combing department machinery in the merino section continued to be well employed, but there was still much short time in the carding crossbred and preparing sections. About 37 per cent. of the operatives covered by the employers' returns in the wool sorting, combing, and preparing departments lost, on an average, about 11 hours each in short time in the week ended 21st February.

In the worsted spinning department employment was bad generally, and showed little change as compared with the previous month. Spinners of hosiery yarns at Halifax, however, continued to be fairly well employed. About 40 per cent. of the operatives covered by the employers' returns worked short time in the week ended 21st February, losing, on an average, about 13 hours each; about 6 per cent. worked overtime, to the extent of nearly 6 hours each.

In the worsted weaving department employment showed a further decline, and was very slack. About 40 per cent. of the operatives covered by the employers' returns worked short time in the week ended 21st February, losing, on an average, about 17 hours\* each; about 10 per cent. worked overtime to the extent of nearly 6 hours each.

Woollen Section.—Employment showed some improvement in all the principal departments, but was still very slack. Employers' returns for the week ended 21st February showed that about 49 per cent. of the workers in the spinning department, and about 51 per cent. of those in the weaving department, were on short time,\* losing, on an average, about 13 hours each in both departments. In the woollen section, as a whole, about 47 per cent. of the operatives lost, on an average, about 12 hours each in short time,\* in the week ended 21st February. There was practically no overtime except in the spinning department, in which 6 per cent. of the operatives worked overtime to the extent of 8 hours each.

In the Huddersfield and Colne Valley district employment showed a slight improvement; several firms were working overtime, and one or two were running night shifts; at Elland, in particular, there was increased activity. In the Heavy Woollen District (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.) employment continued very slack. Employment in the rag trade remained very slack. At Leeds employment remained bad;

\* The figures given in this article as to short time do not take into account other forms of under-employment such as "playing for warps," and tending one instead of two looms.

but in the Yeadon and Guiseley districts an improvement was reported, and employment was good.

In the Stockport district employment with woollen workers was very slack, and worse than in the previous month. At Rochdale also there was an increase in short time working; some firms were running only half time. At Saddleworth employment with flannel workers was bad; worse than in January and worse also than a year ago; about 85 per cent. of the operatives were on short time.

In the West of England employment showed signs of improvement at Trowbridge, Westbury, and Frome, and little change elsewhere. In Wales there was no general improvement, though in Cardiganshire employment was fairly good.

In Scotland employment on the whole continued slack, and output in the tweed trade was far below the capacity of the looms; there was a decline at Alloa, with large numbers working short time.

Carpet Section.—Employment continued very slack, and was much worse than a year ago. At Kidderminster employment continued bad; most firms were on short time in some departments. In Yorkshire employment continued very quiet. At Halifax the trade was said to be in a very depressed state; many men had been discharged, and there was also an increase in short time working. In Scotland employment was still slack, but showed an improvement with one or two firms.

In the carpet industry as a whole about 57 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the employers' returns were on short time in the week ended 21st February, losing about 14 hours each on an average; practically no overtime was reported.

The following Table summarises the returns received from employers:—

Table with 10 columns: Departments, Number of Workpeople (Week ended, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-)), Index figure (Jan. 1926 = 100), Total Wages paid to all Workpeople (Week ended, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-)), Index figure (Jan. 1926 = 100). Includes Worsteds Section, Woollen Section, Carpet Section, etc.

\* Comparison with 1926 is affected by reductions in rates of wages. † Most of the districts are indicated by the names of their principal towns, but neighbouring towns and areas are included in each case.



The following Tables show, by districts and departments, the percentage increases and decreases in the numbers employed in the week ended 21st February, 1931, by those firms who supplied returns for the purpose of the foregoing Table (excluding the carpet section), as compared with the week ended 24th January, 1931:—

	Percentage Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in numbers employed as compared with previous month. (... signifies "no change"; - without a figure, signifies "few or no workpeople returned.")				
	Wool Sorting and Combing.	Spinning.	Weaving.	Other Depts.	All Depts. (including not specified).
<b>WORSTED SECTION:</b>					
Bradford ...	- 0.9	- 2.1	- 1.8	- 1.3	
Huddersfield ...	- 1.0	- 0.5	- 0.6	- 1.7	
Leeds ...	+ 2.0	- 0.4	- 0.4	- 1.2	
Halifax ...	- 0.1	- 2.5	- 0.7	- 0.5	
Leeds ...	+ 3.7	- 6.3	- 2.3	- 1.8	
Heavy Woolen (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.) ...	- 0.7	- 0.8	- 2.2	- 1.3	- 1.5
Total, West Riding ...	- 0.7	- 0.8	- 2.2	- 1.3	- 1.5
West of England and Midlands ...	- 10.8	+ 2.1	- 0.2	- 5.9	- 2.4
Lancashire ...	+ 0.4	-	- 0.4	- 0.7	- 1.7
Scotland ...	- 1.0	- 2.8	-	- 0.4	- 1.7
<b>TOTAL</b> ...	- 1.1	- 0.7	- 2.0	- 2.1	- 1.2

	Percentage Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in numbers employed as compared with previous month. (... signifies "no change")			
	Spinning.	Weaving.	Other Depts.	All Depts. (including not specified).
<b>WOOLEN SECTION:</b>				
Huddersfield ...	+ 1.2	+ 0.2	+ 0.8	+ 0.5
Heavy Woolen (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.) ...	+ 1.8	+ 1.7	+ 2.0	+ 1.8
Leeds ...	+ 6.9	+ 4.4	+ 1.5	+ 4.0
Halifax and Calder Vale ...	+ 5.8	+ 0.4	+ 2.7	+ 2.5
Bradford ...	+ 7.9	- 3.5	- 0.5	- 2.4
Total, West Riding ...	+ 2.7	+ 1.5	+ 1.4	+ 1.7
Lancashire ...	+ 4.3	+ 2.4	- 2.0	+ 1.8
West of England and Midlands ...	- 2.0	- 1.2	- 1.0	- 2.0
Scotland ...	+ 2.4	- 2.9	- 4.8	- 2.2
Wales ...	+ 13.0	+ 25.0	-	+ 9.6
<b>TOTAL</b> ...	+ 2.4	+ 0.5	- 0.6	+ 0.5

The following Table shows the number of men and of women (other than casuals) on the registers of Employment Exchanges in the principal wool textile trade centres at 23rd February, 1931:—

Department.	Numbers (excluding Casuals) on the Registers at 23rd February, 1931.						
	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.			Total.
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	
Wool Sorting ...	373	7	380	355	4	359	739
Wool Washing and Preparing ...	823	1,018	1,841	809	540	1,349	3,190
Wool Combing ...	490	785	1,275	904	606	1,510	2,785
Wool Carding ...	819	283	1,102	934	157	1,091	2,133
Woolen Spinning ...	646	399	1,045	503	386	889	1,934
Worsted Drawing and Spinning ...	1,011	5,157	6,168	520	4,232	4,752	10,920
Wool Winding and Warping ...	190	67	257	469	110	579	836
Worsted Winding and Warping ...	226	992	1,218	353	1,292	1,645	2,863
Woolen Weaving ...	329	2,686	3,015	964	3,317	3,881	6,896
Worsted Weaving ...	392	1,576	1,968	270	4,616	4,886	6,854
Other Processes ...	1,570	264	1,834	1,721	434	2,155	3,989
<b>Total</b> ...	6,869	13,234	20,103	7,402	15,694	23,096	43,199

The following Table shows the increases and decreases as compared with 26th January, 1931:—

Department.	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.			Total.
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	
Wool Sorting ...	- 29	- 1	- 30	- 139	+ 1	- 138	- 168
Wool Washing and Preparing ...	+ 78	+ 7	+ 85	- 108	- 102	- 210	- 125
Wool Combing ...	+ 64	- 12	+ 52	- 178	- 202	- 380	- 328
Wool Carding ...	- 49	- 4	- 53	- 16	- 56	- 72	- 125
Woolen Spinning ...	- 62	+ 8	- 54	- 335	- 114	- 449	- 503
Worsted Drawing and Spinning ...	+ 16	- 4	+ 12	- 263	- 923	- 1,186	- 1,174
Wool Winding and Warping ...	+ 29	- 19	+ 10	+ 23	- 95	- 72	- 62
Worsted Winding and Warping ...	- 38	+ 47	+ 9	- 24	- 213	- 237	- 228
Woolen Weaving ...	+ 22	+ 198	+ 220	- 101	- 832	- 933	- 713
Worsted Weaving ...	+ 29	- 41	- 12	- 112	+ 516	+ 404	+ 392
Other Processes ...	+ 78	+ 4	+ 82	- 128	+ 48	- 80	+ 2
<b>Total</b> ...	+ 138	+ 183	+ 321	- 1,381	- 1,972	- 3,353	- 3,032

The imports (less re-exports) of raw wool (sheep's or lambs') were 57,920,200 lbs., compared with 77,354,200 lbs. in the previous month, and 49,659,000 lbs. in February, 1930.

The exports of woollen and worsted yarns in February, 1931, were 1,914,100 lbs., compared with 2,391,600 lbs. in January, 1931, and with 2,977,000 lbs. in February, 1930.

The exports of woollen and worsted tissues in February, 1931, were 8,588,500 square yards, compared with 10,394,800 square yards in the previous month, and with 13,049,700 square yards in February, 1930.

The exports of blankets were 41,300 pairs, 50,699 pairs and 57,969 pairs in February, 1931, January, 1931, and February, 1930, respectively.

### BOOT AND SHOE INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during February continued slack generally, although there was a slight improvement at some centres; it was below the level of February, 1930, in practically all districts.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 19.6 at 23rd February, 1931, as compared with 21.3 at 26th January, 1931, and with 12.0 at 24th February, 1930.

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

	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 21st Feb., 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 21st Feb., 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month before.	Year before.		Month before.	Year before.
<b>England and Wales:—</b>						
London ...	1,753	+ 2.3	- 10.0	3,872	+ 11.7	- 13.8
Leicester ...	10,737	+ 3.3	- 0.5	25,677	+ 6.6	- 3.5
Leicester Country District	3,987	+ 0.2	+ 5.6	8,611	- 1.9	- 5.3
Northampton ...	8,651	- 1.9	- 7.0	19,047	+ 3.4	- 13.0
Higham, Rushden and District	5,095	- 1.3	- 4.7	11,058	- 2.1	- 8.1
Kettering and District	5,347	- 0.7	- 0.7	12,796	- 1.9	- 1.2
Rest of Northants ...	1,476	- 4.0	- 16.3	3,140	- 3.9	- 17.0
Stafford and District	2,491	0.8	- 0.5	4,541	+ 7.3	- 14.1
Norwich and District	5,856	+ 1.8	- 8.8	11,416	+ 6.9	- 15.4
Bristol, Kingswood and District	1,601	+ 4.4	- 4.2	2,696	+ 10.5	- 6.0
Leeds and District ...	1,706	- 0.8	- 2.3	3,280	- 4.5	- 17.4
Lancashire (mainly Rossendale Valley)	5,475	- 0.9	+ 0.6	10,162	- 0.3	- 11.3
Birmingham and District	1,162	-	- 5.1	2,111	- 4.7	- 13.6
Other parts of England and Wales ...	3,844	+ 0.9	- 3.8	7,888	- 2.0	- 12.3
<b>England and Wales</b> ...	59,181	+ 0.3	- 3.5	126,295	+ 2.2	- 9.4
Scotland ...	2,075	- 6.2	- 15.1	4,412	- 7.6	- 19.6
<b>Great Britain</b> ...	61,256	+ 0.1	- 3.9	130,707	+ 1.8	- 9.8

Returns received from firms employing about 58,100 workpeople in the week ended 21st February, 1931, indicated that about 47 per cent. of these operatives were on short time in that week, losing about 10 hours each on the average; very little overtime was worked.

Employment in London showed an improvement; it varied much from firm to firm and from section to section; speaking generally, it was considerably worse than in February, 1930. At Leicester also there was some improvement, and employment was moderate to fair; in the week ended 21st February about 42 per cent. of the operatives covered by the employers' returns were on short time, losing about 10½ hours each on the average. In the Leicester country district employment continued slack. At Northampton employment showed a slight improvement but was still bad or moderate, with a very large number of workpeople unemployed, and with much short-time among those who were still working; about 68 per cent. of the operatives covered by the employers' returns for the week ended 21st February were on short time, losing nearly 10 hours each on the average. There was little change in the Higham and Rushden and Wellingborough districts, and employment continued slack or moderate with a majority of firms. At Kettering employment was fairly good with some firms; employment generally was better than in most of the other Northamptonshire centres, and about the same as in February, 1930. At Stafford employment showed an improvement, several firms having reverted to full time; on the whole, however, it was still rather slack. At Norwich also there was an improvement in the earlier part of the month, but afterwards employment declined somewhat; at the end of the month it was slack, and much worse than in February, 1930.

In the Bristol and Kingswood district employment improved slightly but remained slack; more than four-fifths of the operatives covered by the employers' returns were working short time in the week ended 21st February, losing 12½ hours each on the average. At Leeds there was a slight decline, and employment remained bad. In the slipper trade in Lancashire there was little change, and employment generally continued very quiet, with nearly half the operatives on short time; at Preston, however, employment was still reported as good, and at Bury as fairly good; a slight improvement was reported at Bacup.

In Scotland there was a further decline; employment was bad at Glasgow with most firms, and slack at Edinburgh and Maybole.

The following Table shows the number of men and of women (other than casuals) on the registers of Employment Exchanges in the principal centres of the boot and shoe industry at 23rd February, 1931:—

Department.	Numbers (excluding Casuals) on the Registers at 23rd February, 1931.					
	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.		
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.
<b>Boot and Shoe Manufacture:</b>						
Preparing Department ...	205	78	283	97	63	160
Rough Stuff Department ...	513	47	560	283	21	304
Clicking Department ...	1,002	33	1,035	1,355	53	1,408
Closing Department ...	40	1,826	1,866	13	1,087	1,100
Making Department ...	2,553	100	2,653	1,874	33	1,907
Finishing Department ...	1,829	874	2,703	1,017	229	1,246
Slipper Making ...	419	206	625	1,045	1,029	2,074
Clog Making ...	12	2	14	1	2	3
Repairing and Hand-sewn Work ...	759	7	766	60	3	63
<b>TOTAL</b> ...	7,332	3,173	10,505	5,745	2,520	8,265

The following Table shows the increases and decreases as compared with 26th January, 1931:—

Department.	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.			Total.
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	
<b>Boot and Shoe Manufacture:</b>							
Preparing Department ...	+ 15	+ 4	+ 19	- 61	+ 10	- 51	- 32
Rough Stuff Department ...	+ 19	- 5	+ 14	- 40	- 11	- 51	- 37
Clicking Department ...	+ 8	+ 11	+ 19	- 69	+ 8	- 61	- 42
Closing Department ...	+ 4	- 63	- 59	- 7	- 596	- 603	- 662
Making Department ...	+ 22	+ 11	+ 33	- 690	- 11	- 701	- 668
Finishing Department ...	- 48	- 46	- 94	- 587	- 146	- 733	- 827
Slipper Making ...	+ 6	+ 17	+ 23	+ 2	+ 100	+ 102	+ 125
Clog Making ...	- 2	- 2	- 4	- 3	-	- 3	- 6
Repairing and Hand-sewn Work ...	- 66	- 1	- 67	-	+ 1	+ 1	- 66
<b>TOTAL</b> ...	- 40	- 74	- 114	- 1,455	- 645	- 2,100	- 2,214

The exports of boots and shoes in February, 1931, amounted to 63,715 dozen pairs, or 6,383 dozen pairs more than in January, 1931, but 33,890 dozen pairs less than in February, 1930.

### BRICK INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during February showed little change and remained slack on the whole. In the Peterborough district, however, it was fairly good.

The percentage of insured persons unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 20.5 at 23rd February, 1931, as compared with 20.1 at 26th January, 1931, and 13.0 at 24th February, 1930.

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

Districts.	Number of Workpeople.		Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.			
	Week ended 21st Feb., 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 21st Feb., 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month before.	Year before.		Month before.	Year before.
<b>Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire ...</b>	1,520	+ 5.2	- 16.3	3,621	- 6.4	- 18.2
<b>Midlands and Eastern Counties ...</b>	5,835	+ 0.8	- 13.6	15,627	+ 0.4	- 18.8
<b>South and South-West Counties and Wales ...</b>	1,901	+ 0.2	+ 3.4	4,299	- 3.3	- 2.3
<b>Scotland ...</b>	200	+ 1.5	- 7.4	481	+ 0.8	- 11.9
<b>TOTAL</b> ...	9,456	- 0.3	- 11.0	24,028	- 1.4	- 16.0

Returns from employers relative to short-time working, exclusive of time lost on account of bad weather, showed that, of 3,813 workpeople employed by firms furnishing information, 5½ per cent. were working on an average nearly 12 hours less than full time in the week ended 21st February, 1931; the amount of overtime worked was very small.

### BUILDING.

EMPLOYMENT during February showed a slight improvement, on the whole, but was still very slack or bad in most districts. It was reported as fair, however, at a few centres. Unfavourable weather conditions hampered outside work and caused considerable short-time working. As compared with February, 1930, employment was much worse in each administrative division.

As regards individual occupations, employment was very slack, on the whole, with bricklayers, masons and tradesmen's labourers, and bad, in most districts, with carpenters, slaters, plasterers, painters and plumbers. During the month there was a marked improvement with painters and a slight improvement with each of the other classes of operatives except plumbers. As compared with February, 1930, employment was slightly worse with plasterers and considerably worse with all the other classes.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts who were recorded as unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, at 23rd February, 1931, together with the increase or decrease as compared with the previous month and with February, 1930:—

OCCUPATIONS.	Estimated Numbers of Insured Workpeople at July, 1930.	Total Numbers Unemployed at 23rd Feb., 1931.	Number included in Previous Column who were Temporarily Stopped.	Percentage Unemployed.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Percentage as compared with a	
					Month before.	Year before.
<b>Carpenters ...</b>	125,700	28,970	1,471	23.0	- 0.7	+ 9.3
<b>Bricklayers ...</b>	75,790	14,724	1,075	20.0	- 1.3	+ 5.8
<b>Masons ...</b>	21,180	4,297	590	20.3	- 0.9	+ 6.7
<b>Slaters ...</b>	6,020	1,618	209	26.9	- 0.8	+ 10.0
<b>Plasterers ...</b>	24,250	6,310	516	26.0	- 0.5	+ 1.7
<b>Painters ...</b>	105,660	40,732	1,565	38.6	- 7.5	+ 13.4
<b>Plumbers ...</b>	32,850	7,067	570	21.5	+ 0.7	+ 8.1
<b>Labourers to above ...</b>	240,660	57,381	2,579	23.8	- 1.3	+ 5.6
<b>All other occupations ...</b>	202,150	51,162	2,583	25.3	+ 0.1	+ 5.4
<b>Total</b> ...	832,270	212,261	11,158	25.5		

PAPER MANUFACTURE, PRINTING, AND BOOKBINDING.

EMPLOYMENT during February continued moderate on the whole in the paper-making industry. A slight improvement on the previous month was reported in some districts, but in other districts there was much short time.

In the letterpress printing trade employment on the whole continued moderate. There was a slight improvement in London and at Leeds and Leicester. Employment continued bad, however, at Manchester and Glasgow, and was also reported as bad at Newcastle-on-Tyne, Sheffield and Bradford.

Employment with electrotypers and stereotypers continued moderate to fair on the whole, but it was reported as bad in London and was slack at Leeds, Bristol and Edinburgh.

Employment in the lithographic printing trade was again reported as bad in a number of the larger centres, including London, Birmingham, Liverpool, Manchester and Glasgow, while it was fair at a few of the smaller towns. With lithographic artists employment continued moderate on the whole. It was reported as slack in London and at Liverpool and Manchester, although improving during the month at the two last named centres; it was fairly good at Bradford and Nottingham.

Employment in the bookbinding trade showed a somewhat marked decline as compared with January, and was slack.

The percentage unemployed among insured workpeople in the paper and paper-board industries was 14.4 at 23rd February, 1931, compared with 12.2 at 26th January, 1931, and 5.9 at 24th February, 1930. In the printing and bookbinding industries the percentage was 10.1 at 23rd February, 1931, compared with 10.0 at 26th January, 1931, and 5.9 at 24th February, 1930. In the cardboard box, paper bag and stationery industries the percentage was 12.1 at 23rd February, 1931, compared with 11.9 at 26th January, 1931, and 6.1 at 24th February, 1930.

The following Table summarises the returns received from certain trade unions who furnished information for the three periods under review :-

Table with columns: No. of Members of Unions at end of February, 1931; Percentage Unemployed at end of Feb., 1931; Jan., 1931; Feb., 1930; Month before; Year before. Rows include Letterpress Printing, Midlands and Eastern Counties, Lithographic Printing, Bookbinding.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

EMPLOYMENT during February was very slack. Among insured workpeople in the dock, harbour, river and canal service, 41.6 per cent. were recorded as unemployed at 23rd February, 1931, as compared with 40.4 per cent. at 26th January, 1931, and with 33.5 per cent. at 24th February, 1930.

London.—Employment was slack generally. The following Table shows the average daily number of dock labourers employed at docks and wharves in respect of which returns were received :-

Table with columns: Period; Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London; In Docks (By Port of London Authority, By Ship-owners, etc.); At Wharves making Returns; Total; Total, Docks and Principal Wharves. Rows include 7th Feb, 1931; 14th Feb; 21st Feb; 28th Feb; Average for 4 weeks ended 28th Feb, 1931; Average for Jan., 1931; Average for Feb., 1930.

Tilbury.—The average daily number of dock labourers employed during February was 807, compared with 932 in January, 1931, and with 944 in February, 1930.

East Coast.—Employment remained moderate generally at the North-East Coast ports. Slack conditions continued to prevail at Grimsby, Yarmouth, Lowestoft and Lynn, and employment remained moderate at Hull and fair at Ipswich. Some improvement took place in the second half of the month at Goole.

Liverpool.—Employment was very slack, especially with coal trimmers, and worse than in January. The average weekly number of dock labourers registered at the clearing houses under the Liverpool Docks Scheme as employed in the four weeks ended 27th February, 1931, was 11,190, compared with 12,077 in January, 1931, and with 13,835 in February, 1930. The average weekly amount of wages paid to these men through the clearing houses was £24,353 in the four weeks ended 27th February, 1931, compared with £26,656 in January, 1931, and with £34,409 in February, 1930.

Other Ports in England and Wales.—Employment at the South Wales ports was slack, on the whole. After several months of activity employment at Avonmouth declined. It remained slack at Southampton and at Plymouth and other South-Western ports, with the exception of Weymouth, where it improved, and was fair.

Scottish and Irish Ports.—Employment remained bad at Glasgow, and was slack at Dundee, where it had declined. It was fair at Grangemouth and moderate at Leith. It continued fair at Belfast.

SEAMEN.

DURING February employment was very slack on the whole. The supply of seamen was more than adequate for requirements at most ports, and no shortages of ratings were reported. The demand was on a very low level generally at the beginning of the month, and showed little or no change until towards the end of the month, when some improvement took place at a number of ports.

Among insured workpeople in the shipping service the percentage recorded as unemployed at 23rd February, 1931, was 34.1, compared with 34.7 at 26th January, 1931, and 21.8 at 24th February, 1930.

The demand on the Thames was quiet generally, but with a slight upward tendency towards the end of the month. On the Tyne it was moderate until late in the month, when more activity was shown; on the Tees it was very quiet generally; on the Wear it was moderate until late in the month, when it slackened somewhat. At Hull the demand varied, and at the end of February was moderate. At Southampton some improvement took place during the first three weeks, but the demand declined sharply in the last week and was very slack at the close of the month. At Bristol the demand was slack in the early part of the month, but improved later; at Avonmouth it fluctuated, and at the end of the month was poor. At Newport it was fair generally; at Cardiff it was moderate to fair, except in the second week, when some decline took place; at Swansea it was fair except for some slackness about the middle of the month. On the Mersey the demand declined during the first two weeks, but recovered somewhat thereafter; at Manchester the demand showed a gradual improvement and at the end of February was fair. On the Clyde the demand declined steadily throughout the first three weeks, but improved during the last week; at Leith it was dull at the beginning of the month and declined until the last week, when some improvement took place. At Belfast the demand improved during the first half of February, but thereafter was very slack.

The following Table shows the number of seamen shipped in British registered foreign-going vessels at the undermentioned ports of Great Britain and Northern Ireland during February :-

Table with columns: Principal Ports; Number of Seamen\* shipped in (Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a, Two Months ended); Feb., 1931; Feb., 1930. Rows include ENGLAND AND WALES: Liverpool, Manchester, London, Southampton, Tyne Ports, Sunderland, Hull, Bristol, Newport, Mon., Cardiff, Swansea; SCOTLAND: Leith, Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth, Glasgow; NORTHERN IRELAND: Belfast; TOTAL for above Ports.

\* 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.

COMPOSITION OF UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS: GREAT BRITAIN.

ON page 104 an explanation is given of the unemployment statistics published weekly in the Press, and monthly in this GAZETTE. The following Table gives an analysis relating to 23rd February, 1931, of the composition of these statistics. Lines 2 to 4 make up the number of persons on the register; while, by omitting the uninsured persons (line 4) and including lines 1 and 5, the number of books lodged, or, in other words, the number of insured persons recorded as unemployed, is obtained :-

Table with columns: Men, Boys, Women, Girls, Tot. l. Rows include 1. Unemployed—Special Schemes; 2. Claims admitted or under consideration; 3. Insured non-claimants and claimants disqualified, but maintaining registration; 4. Uninsured persons on Register; 5. Two months' file; Persons on Register (lines 2-4); Books Lodged (lines 1-3 and 5).

NUMBERS ON THE REGISTERS OF EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES,\* AND VACANCIES NOTIFIED AND FILLED.

Numbers on Registers, 26th January, 1931, to 23rd February, 1931.

Table with columns: Date; Great Britain (Men, Boys, Women, Girls, Total); Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Rows include 26th January, 1931; 2nd February, 1931; 9th Feb; 16th Feb; 23rd Feb; Average (4 weeks).

Analysis of figures for 23rd February, 1931.

Table with columns: 23rd February, 1931; 26th Jan., 1931. Rows include Persons normally in Regular Employment; Persons normally in Casual Employment; Wholly Unemployed; Temporarily Stopped.

Table with columns: Great Britain; Men, Boys, Women, Girls, Total. Rows include Men, Boys, Women, Girls, Total.

Vacancies notified and filled. (Great Britain and Northern Ireland.)

Table with columns: Week ended; Applications from Employers during Week; Vacancies Filled. Rows include 26th January, 1931; 2nd February, 1931; 9th Feb; 16th Feb; 23rd Feb; Average (4 weeks).

Of the 146,062 vacancies filled, 90,545 were for men, 32,868 for women, and 22,649 for juveniles.

\* The term "Employment Exchange," as used in this connection, includes Ministry of Labour Employment Exchanges and Branch Employment Offices, and also Juvenile Employment Bureaux under the control of Local Education Authorities which are exercising powers under Sec. 107 of the Education Act, 1921, and Sec. 6 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1923. † "Vacancies filled" include certain types of cases (described as Class B placings) in which the work of the Exchanges was limited; for instance, obtaining for an employer former employees, or placing the same men in relief work in alternate weeks. During the five weeks ended 2nd February, 1931, the average number of such placings of men and women was 7,774 per week. The average number of placings of casual workers during the four weeks ended 23rd February, 1931, was 450 per week.

PERSONS ON THE REGISTERS AT PRINCIPAL TOWNS.

THE following Table shows for each of the Employment Exchange administrative areas in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and for the principal towns therein, the number of persons registered at Employment Exchanges on 23rd February, 1931. In certain cases (e.g., Bristol, Birmingham, Sheffield, Liverpool, Glasgow, etc.) the figures cover more than one Exchange area.

Table with columns: Area; Number of Persons on Register at 23rd February, 1931 (Men, Women, Juveniles, Total); Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with 26th Jan., 1931. Rows include London Division; South-Eastern Division; South-Western Division; Midlands Division; North-Eastern Division; North-Western Division; Wales Division; Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

[Percentage rates of unemployment, for each of 700 towns in Great Britain, are given in the monthly "Local Unemployment Index."]

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 23rd February, 1931, and the increase or decrease at that date in the total percentages unemployed compared with a month earlier, a year before, and two years before, 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 excepted from such compulsory insurance are juveniles under 16 years of age and (since 2nd January, 1928) persons aged 65 and over, 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 excepted.

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.

The files of "lodged" books at the Employment Exchanges thus furnish for each industrial group a record of the unemployment of insured persons. In arriving at this figure the books of those persons who are known to be working in an uninsured trade, or to be sick or deceased, or who are known to have emigrated or gone abroad, are of course excluded. In cases where information on these points is lacking the books remain in the "lodged" files, and are included in the statistics of unemployment, for a period of two months from the date on which the insured person was last in touch with the Employment Exchange.

The numbers unemployed given in the following Table relate only to persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts. They include insured persons who are maintaining registration at Employment Exchanges, together with those whose unemployment books remain lodged in the "two months" file referred to above. The figures given on page 103 relating to persons registered at Employment Exchanges include uninsured as well as insured persons who are maintaining registration for employment, but not insured persons whose books are in the two months file.

A Table showing the composition of the two series of figures is given on page 103.

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 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 numbers insured and the percentages unemployed.

Special Note. Persons aged 65 and over.

Under the provisions of the Widows', Orphans', and Old Age Contributory Pensions Act, 1925, all persons aged 65 and over ceased to be insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts as from 2nd January, 1928. (The employers of such persons, however, are required to pay contributions at the employer's rates.) The estimates of the numbers of insured persons in each industry prepared on the basis of the information obtained from the exchange of unemployment books, therefore, no longer include persons aged 65 and over. Such persons do not now appear in the statistics showing the number of insured persons recorded as unemployed and the figures for dates subsequent to 2nd January, 1928, are therefore not comparable with those for earlier dates. For all practical purposes, however, the percentages unemployed can be regarded as comparable with the corresponding figures published each month since July, 1923.

NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS RECORDED AS UNEMPLOYED AT 23rd FEBRUARY, 1931.

Table with columns: INDUSTRY, GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND (Wholly Unemployed, Temporary Stoppages, Total), GREAT BRITAIN ONLY (Wholly Unemployed, Temporary Stoppages, and Casuals).

Table with columns: INDUSTRY, GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND (Wholly Unemployed, Temporary Stoppages, Total), GREAT BRITAIN ONLY (Wholly Unemployed, Temporary Stoppages, and Casuals).

\* Including 118,591 Casuals (Males, 116,348; Females, 2,243).

NUMBERS INSURED AND PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED.

Table with columns: INDUSTRY, ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AGED 16-64 INCLUSIVE, AT JULY, 1930, PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 23RD FEBRUARY, 1931, INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN TOTAL PERCENTAGES COMPARED WITH 25TH JAN., 1931, 24TH FEB., 1930, 25TH FEB., 1929, GREAT BRITAIN ONLY PERCENTAGES AT 23RD FEB., 1931.

\* For 24th February, 1930, and 25th February, 1929, separate figures for each of the two sections are not available.

Table with columns: INDUSTRY, ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AGED 16-64 INCLUSIVE, AT JULY, 1930, PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 23RD FEBRUARY, 1931, INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN TOTAL PERCENTAGES COMPARED WITH 26TH JAN., 1931, 24TH FEB., 1930, 25TH FEB., 1929, GREAT BRITAIN ONLY PERCENTAGES AT 23RD FEB., 1931.

NUMBERS OF INSURED WORKPEOPLE UNEMPLOYED.

PROPORTIONS IN VARIOUS INDUSTRY GROUPS.

In the following Table the numbers of insured workpeople recorded as unemployed in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 23rd February, 1931, are analysed so as to show the proportion of the total unemployed classified as belonging to various industry groups :-

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

PRINCIPAL VARIATIONS IN NUMBERS UNEMPLOYED.

The following Table indicates for Great Britain and Northern Ireland the industries in which the numbers of insured persons recorded as unemployed at 23rd February, 1931, differed from the figures for 26th January, 1931, to the extent of 1,000 or more :-

Table with columns: Industry, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Numbers recorded as Unemployed at 23rd February, 1931, as compared with 26th January, 1931, Males, Females, Total.

JUVENILE UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS.

NUMBERS OF JUVENILES AGED 14 AND UNDER 18 ON THE REGISTERS OF EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES AND JUVENILE EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX AT 23RD FEBRUARY, 1931.

Table showing numbers of juveniles aged 14 and under 18 on registers of employment exchanges and juvenile employment bureaux at 23rd February, 1931. Columns include Division, Insured 16 and under 18, Uninsured 14 and under 18, Total, Insured 16 and under 18, Uninsured 14 and under 18, Total.

JUVENILES PLACED IN EMPLOYMENT. FIVE WEEKS ENDED 2ND FEBRUARY, 1931.

Table showing juveniles placed in employment, five weeks ended 2nd February, 1931. Columns include Division, Number of Vacancies Filled (Boys, Girls, Total), and Juveniles placed in first situation since leaving School (Boys, Girls, Total).

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

Table showing percentage rates of unemployment among insured juveniles aged 16 and 17. Columns include Division, Estimated number insured at July, 1930, and Percentage Unemployed at 23rd February, 1931 (Boys, Girls).

JUVENILES IN ATTENDANCE AT APPROVED COURSES OF INSTRUCTION DURING WEEK ENDED 25TH FEBRUARY, 1931.

Table showing juveniles in attendance at approved courses of instruction during week ended 25th February, 1931. Columns include Division, Average Daily Attendances (Junior Instruction Centres and Classes, Existing Educational Institutions), and Total No. of Separate Individuals who have attended since 1st April, 1930 (J.I. Centres and Classes, Existing Educational Institutions).

There were 73 Junior Instruction Centres for boys, 26 for girls, and 29 mixed centres open in Great Britain during the week. In addition, there were 13 Junior Instruction Classes for boys, 8 for girls, and 3 mixed classes. The number of other Institutions to which unemployed juveniles were admitted was: for boys, 67; for girls, 49; mixed, 112. The attendances at these Institutions are mainly in the evening.

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

DETERMINATION OF CLAIMS TO UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT IN GREAT BRITAIN.

13TH JANUARY, 1931, TO 9TH FEBRUARY, 1931.

The following Table gives for the period from 13th January, 1931, to 9th February, 1931, inclusive, the number of claims to benefit made at local offices in Great Britain, the average number of claims current during that period, an analysis of the decisions of Courts of Referees and of the Umpire, the number of cases disallowed by Insurance Officers under the trade dispute disqualification, and of the appeals against such disallowances dealt with by Courts of Referees.

A.—Number of Claims.

Table showing number of claims. Columns include Men, Women, Juveniles, Total. Rows include Fresh and renewal claims made, Average number of claims current.

B.—Decisions of Courts of Referees.

Table showing decisions of Courts of Referees. Columns include Ground on which referred, Benefit Allowed, Benefit Disallowed, Total. Rows include First Statutory Condition, Less than 8 contributions paid in past 2 years, Employment lost through misconduct, Failure or refusal to apply for or accept suitable employment, Not unemployed, Not capable of work, Other grounds.

C.—Trade Dispute\* Cases.

Table showing trade dispute cases. Columns include Benefit Allowed, Benefit Disallowed, Total. Rows include Cases dealt with by Insurance Officers, Appeals against disallowances by Insurance Officers dealt with by Courts of Referees, Total Appeals.

\* The decisions of Courts of Referees, and of the Umpire, on trade dispute disallowances refer largely to test cases. The total number of individuals affected by such decisions may be considerably in excess of the figures shown in the Table.

D.—Decisions by Umpire.\*

Table showing decisions by Umpire. Columns include Benefit Allowed, Benefit Disallowed, Total. Rows include Appeals by Insurance Officers, Appeals by Associations, Appeals by Claimants, Total.

CUMULATIVE FIGURES, 13TH MARCH, 1930, TO 9TH FEBRUARY, 1931.

Table showing cumulative figures from 13th March, 1930, to 9th February, 1931. Columns include Benefit Allowed, Benefit Disallowed, Total. Rows include Decisions of Courts of Referees, Trade Dispute\* Cases, Decisions by Umpire.\*

WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED BENEFIT CLAIMANTS.

ANALYSIS ACCORDING TO LENGTH OF TIME ON THE REGISTER.

The following Tables give an analysis of the claimants for unemployment benefit who were out of a situation and were on the Register of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain at 23rd February, 1931, according to the length of time they had been on the Register since they last became unemployed. While the figures give an indication of the number classified as wholly unemployed who have had recent employment, they do not purport to show the extent to which these individuals have experienced unemployment over an extended period.

Table showing analysis of wholly unemployed benefit claimants according to length of time on the Register. Columns include Not more than 1 week, 1 week and not more than 2 weeks, 2 weeks and not more than 3 weeks, 3 weeks and not more than 4 weeks, Total, 4 weeks or less, More than 4 weeks, Total.

\* The decisions of Courts of Referees, and of the Umpire, on trade dispute disallowances refer largely to test cases. The total number of individuals affected by such decisions may be considerably in excess of the figures shown in the Table.

Percentage who had been on the Register

Table showing percentage who had been on the Register. Columns include Not more than 1 week, 1 week and not more than 2 weeks, 2 weeks and not more than 3 weeks, 3 weeks and not more than 4 weeks, Total, 4 weeks or less, More than 4 weeks, Total. Rows include Men: 21-64, Young men: 18-20, Boys: 16-17, Women: 21-64, Young women: 18-20, Girls: 16-17, Total.

INSURED UNEMPLOYED.

POSITION UNDER FIRST STATUTORY CONDITION.

The following Table gives an analysis of the numbers of insured persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain at 23rd February, 1931, relative to their position with regard to the First Statutory Condition for the receipt of unemployment benefit, in all cases in which the position under that condition had been determined. In addition, there were on the registers at the same date 76,227 claims in which the position under the First Statutory Condition had not been determined, and on the assumption that the proportion of such cases in which the condition was satisfied was the same as among those in which the position had been determined, it may be estimated that of this number 65,250 will have satisfied the condition and 12,977 will have failed to satisfy it. This condition requires the payment of not less than 30 contributions in the preceding two years. In cases where this condition is not satisfied, adults, but not boys and girls, may receive benefit conditionally upon the fulfilment of the special "transitional" conditions set out in Section 14 (2) of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1927, as amended by the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1930.

The persons classified in the Table as "insured non-claimants" consist, in the case of adults, almost entirely of individuals who have failed to satisfy not only the first statutory condition, but also the "transitional" conditions. In the case of boys and girls they consist of individuals who have not satisfied the first statutory condition.

Table showing position under first statutory condition. Columns include Position with regard to First Statutory Condition, Men, Boys, Women, Girls, Total. Rows include Wholly unemployed claimants, Temporarily stopped claimants, Casual claimants, Insured non-claimants.

Percentages.

Table showing percentages of insured unemployed. Columns include Wholly unemployed claimants, Temporarily stopped claimants, Casual claimants, Insured non-claimants. Rows include Condition satisfied, Not satisfied, Total.

UNEMPLOYMENT FUND.

The following Table shows approximately the receipts and payments and the liabilities of the Fund:—

	Four weeks ended 28th February, 1931.	Five weeks ended 31st January, 1931.	Four weeks ended 22nd February, 1930.
	£	£	£
Contributions received from:—			
Employers	1,200,000	1,580,000	1,325,000
Employed Persons	1,010,000	1,335,000	1,125,000
Exchequer (including additional Exchequer contribution in respect of Transitional Benefit (U.I. Act, 1930))	3,040,000	3,600,000	4,290,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,250,000</b>	<b>6,515,000</b>	<b>6,740,000</b>
Unemployment Benefit			
Cost of Administration	8,860,000	10,890,000	4,295,000
Interest accrued on Treasury Advances	505,000	630,000	490,000
Other Items	245,000	290,000	145,000
	35,000	30,000	5,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,645,000</b>	<b>11,840,000</b>	<b>4,935,000</b>
Treasury Advances outstanding ...			
Other Liabilities (net), including accrued interest and deposits ...	69,260,000	65,040,000	37,030,000
	1,230,000	1,055,000	825,000

A detailed account of the Fund is presented to Parliament annually. (See House of Commons Paper No. 25 of 1931 for the period ended 31st March, 1930.)

ASSISTED PASSAGES UNDER THE EMPIRE SETTLEMENT ACT, 1922.

The following statistics relate to assisted passages from Great Britain and Northern Ireland in connection with agreed schemes under the Empire Settlement Act. The figures include both applicants and dependants of applicants to whom assisted passages have been granted. Approvals subsequently cancelled have been excluded. The figures are provisional and subject to revision.

Destination.	Applications Approved in Feb., 1931.	Total Applications Approved.		Departures in Feb., 1931.	Total Departures.	
		1922 to Feb., 1930.	Jan. to Feb., 1931.		1922 to Feb., 1930.	Jan. to Feb., 1931.
Australia ...	13	172,620	37	17	171,935	33
Canada ...	274	131,357	524	38	126,842	64
New Zealand ...	80	45,254	150	38	44,198	163
Africa and other parts of Empire	4	1,159	12	7	978	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>350,390</b>	<b>733</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>343,953</b>	<b>272</b>

LOCAL UNEMPLOYMENT INDEX.

SPECIAL SUBSCRIPTION SERIES FOR MANUFACTURERS, TRADERS, AND OTHERS.

A special subscription series of unemployment statistics was instituted in 1927 for the use primarily of manufacturers and distributors who desired to adjust their sales activities to the changing prosperity of the various local areas or to make due allowance for such changes in judging the effectiveness of their advertising or salesmanship. The series was also taken up by others who found this local information of value. The Index gives for 700 towns, and for each county area in Great Britain, the numbers of insured persons in each area, together with the percentage rates of unemployment for men, women and juveniles on the Monday nearest the 14th of each month. Comparisons with a month and a year before are also given. The arrangements for tabulating the returns from Employment Exchanges, preparing the figures, and printing and despatching the Index enable the information, as a general rule, to be in the hands of subscribers in about a fortnight from the date to which the figures relate.

The series has proved to be of considerable value to those who have taken up subscriptions, and it is accordingly being continued during the current year.

The subscription is £3 3s. per annum.

The Index will be issued to subscribers only. Subscriptions are received by H.M. Stationery Office, Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C. 2.

POOR RELIEF IN FEBRUARY.

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

Owing to the alterations made by the Local Government Act of 1929, which took effect in England and Wales on 1st April, 1930, and in Scotland on 16th May, 1930, comparable statistics are available only from those dates.

The statistics which appear in the Table below relate to the County of London and to those County Boroughs in England and Wales and Burghs in Scotland having an estimated population exceeding 100,000.

The number of persons\* relieved on one day† in February, 1931, in the forty-seven selected areas named below was 584,154, or 0·6 per cent. more than in the previous month. The numbers relieved at these two dates were equivalent, respectively, to rates of 352 and 350 per 10,000 of the estimated population.

In the forty-three selected areas in England and Wales the number of persons relieved in February, 1931, was 490,358, an increase of 0·5 per cent. as compared with January, 1931. In the four areas in Scotland the number relieved was 93,796, an increase of 1·1 per cent. as compared with January, 1931.

Recipients of indoor relief in the forty-seven areas in February numbered 121,838, or 0·1 per cent. less than in the previous month. Recipients of outdoor relief numbered 462,316, or 0·8 per cent. more than in the previous month.

	Number of Persons* in receipt of Poor Relief on one day† in February, 1931.			Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population.	Increase (+) or Decrease (−) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with Jan., 1931.
	Indoor.	Outdoor.	Total.		
<b>ENGLAND AND WALES.</b>					
County of London	52,666	93,475	146,141	330	+ 1
Birkenhead ...	926	3,913	4,839	307	− 2
Birmingham ...	5,823	14,379	20,202	209	+ 3
Blackburn ...	899	2,472	3,371	269	+ 1
Bolton ...	971	2,852	3,823	211	+ 8
Bradford ...	1,317	6,385	7,702	266	− 3
Brighton ...	1,160	2,091	3,251	221	+ 3
Bristol ...	2,286	6,502	8,788	225	− 2
Burnley ...	584	1,782	2,366	236	− 45
Cardiff ...	1,639	7,288	8,927	398	− 2
Coveynty ...	462	1,434	1,896	117	+ 1
East Ham ...	1,107	1,815	2,923	131	+ 4
Croydon ...	842	5,915	6,757	480	+ 3
Derby ...	683	2,468	3,151	213	+ 4
Gateshead ...	777	6,291	7,068	577	+ 11
Huddersfield ...	561	1,475	2,036	180	+ 7
Kingston-upon-Hull	1,919	15,613	17,532	585	+ 20
Leeds ...	2,971	11,350	14,321	299	− 2
Liverpool ...	801	4,111	4,912	200	+ 4
Manchester ...	4,181	29,269	33,450	448	+ 7
Middlesbrough ...	599	3,511	4,110	309	+ 2
Newcastle-on-Tyne	1,060	13,030	14,090	496	+ 1
Norwich ...	913	5,406	6,319	504	+ 6
Nottingham ...	1,946	8,811	10,757	405	+ 3
Oldham ...	983	1,098	2,081	146	+ 1
Plymouth ...	524	8,560	6,084	285	+ 6
Portsmouth ...	1,411	2,388	3,799	145	+ 1
Preston ...	725	748	1,473	117	− 11
St. Helens ...	546	4,072	4,618	423	+ 5
Salford ...	1,866	4,570	6,436	273	+ 11
Sheffield ...	1,939	26,192	28,131	543	+ 1
Southampton ...	1,405	2,472	3,877	225	+ 1
Southend-on-Sea ...	781	3,008	3,789	317	− 2
South Shields ...	652	1,129	1,781	139	− 1
Stoke-on-Trent ...	1,900	4,781	6,681	239	+ 5
Sunderland ...	1,205	8,102	9,307	506	+ 16
Swansea ...	747	5,338	6,085	374	− 3
Wallasey ...	252	1,127	1,379	136	+ 5
Walsall ...	613	3,511	4,184	418	+ 30
West Ham ...	2,393	10,666	13,059	425	+ 24
Wolverhampton ...	627	1,664	2,291	171	+ 3
<b>Total of the above-named County Boroughs ...</b>	<b>60,96</b>	<b>283,253</b>	<b>344,217</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>+ 3</b>
<b>Total, County of London and Selected County Boroughs ...</b>	<b>113,630</b>	<b>376,728</b>	<b>490,358</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>+ 2</b>
<b>SCOTLAND.</b>					
Glasgow ...	5,402	64,348	69,750	649	+ 10
Edinburgh ...	1,577	15,636	17,213	403	− 1
Dundee ...	757	3,188	3,945	236	+ 10
Aberdeen ...	472	2,416	2,888	183	− 6
<b>Total for the above Scottish Burghs</b>	<b>8,208</b>	<b>85,588</b>	<b>93,796</b>	<b>513</b>	<b>+ 5</b>
<b>TOTAL for above 47 areas in February, 1931.</b>	<b>121,838</b>	<b>462,316</b>	<b>584,154</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>+ 2</b>

\* The figures include dependants, but exclude persons in receipt of outdoor medical relief only and casuals. In England and Wales, patients in mental hospitals (formerly referred to as lunatics in asylums) and in Scotland, lunatics and mental defectives, are also excluded.  
† 28th February in England and Wales and 15th February in Scotland.

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 statistics relating to this country; and therefore the figures quoted below cannot properly be used with those on pp. 94-95 to compare the actual level of employment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland 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).]

GERMANY.\*

The general depression continued in January, and was intensified by the usual seasonal decline.

The total number of persons reported by the Employment Exchanges as available for and seeking work at the end of January, 1931, was 4,956,464, as compared with 4,438,910 at the end of December, and with 3,258,957 at the end of January, 1930. On 28th February, 1931, the total was 5,042,505 (provisional figure).

The total number of persons reported by the Employment Exchanges as unemployed was 4,886,625 at the end of January, 1931, 4,383,843 at the end of December, 1930, and 3,217,608 at the end of January, 1930. On 28th February, 1931, the provisional total was 4,972,000.

On the last day of January, 1931, 2,554,202 persons were in receipt of standard unemployment benefit and 810,568 in receipt of emergency benefit, giving a total of 3,364,770, as compared with 2,832,738 at the end of December, and with 2,482,648 at the end of January, 1930. The number in receipt of standard and emergency benefit on 28th February, 1931, was 3,496,619 (provisional figure).

Among 4,433,000 members of trade unions for which statistics are available, 34·2 per cent. were unemployed on 31st January, as against 31·7 per cent. on 27th December and 22·0 per cent. at the end of January, 1930. In addition, 19·2 per cent. were working short time, as compared with 16·9 per cent. at the end of December and 11·0 per cent. at the end of January, 1930. The following Table gives particulars for various groups of trade unions included:—

Groups of Trade Unions.	Membership reported on at end of Jan. 1931.	Percentage Wholly Unemployed and on Short Time at end of month.			
		Wholly Unemployed.		On Short Time.	
		Jan. 1931.	Dec. 1930.	Jan. 1931.	Dec. 1930.
Mining ...	147,300	11·6	9·9	31·4	24·7
Quarrying, stone, brick, pottery, etc. ...					
Workers subject to seasonal influences ...	143,300	65·0	51·7	6·7	12·3
Other workers ...	93,000	35·8	26·8	26·8	25·8
Engineering and metal ...	1,018,000	28·2	21·6	21·2	19·8
Chemical ...	117,000	21·7	20·3	45·5	43·3
Textile ...	348,800	21·5	20·2	27·7	21·5
Paper ...	119,100	35·1	33·2	26·4	24·7
Leather ...	304,100	48·7	45·4	14·7	13·5
Wood ...	298,100	30·2	26·3	18·7	14·6
Food, tobacco, etc. ...	155,200	35·5	35·4	38·9	39·4
Clothing, boots and shoes	662,100	74·8	65·4	1·2	1·4
Building ...	153,700	22·3	21·6	7·1	6·0
Printing ...	4,000	15·7	15·3	16·0	15·3
Miscellaneous ...	811,800	14·1	13·3	11·5	5·5
<b>All Unions making Returns</b>	<b>4,433,000</b>	<b>34·2</b>	<b>31·7</b>	<b>19·2</b>	<b>16·9</b>

SWITZERLAND.†

Unemployment increased in January, partly owing to seasonal causes.

At the end of January, 1931, 27,316 applications for employment (20·8 per thousand of the employed population according to the Census of 1920) were registered at Employment Exchanges, as compared with 23,045 at the end of December, and 14,846 at the end of January, 1930. Offers of situations at the dates mentioned above numbered 2,131, 1,488 and 3,601 respectively.

Returns from 181 subsidised unemployment funds show that out of an aggregate of 322,757 members, 6·6 per cent. were totally unemployed, and 10·4 per cent. partially so, at the end of December, 1930, as compared with 2·5 and 8·3 at the end of September, 1930, and 4·2 and 3·3 at the end of December, 1929.

AUSTRIA.‡

Unemployment increased during January. The total number of persons in receipt of unemployment benefit at the end of January, 1931, was 331,239 (including 116,905 in Vienna) as compared with 294,845 (105,955 in Vienna) at the end of December, 1930, and 273,197 (97,638 in Vienna) at the end of January, 1930.

FRANCE.§

Unemployment showed a further increase during February. The total number of persons on the registers of the Employment Exchanges on 28th February, 1931 was 59,500 (44,497 men and 15,003 women). At the end of January the corresponding total was 44,464, and at the end of February, 1930, 15,086.

\* Reichsarbeitsblatt, 25th February, 1931, and Reichsarbeitsmarkt-Anzeiger 10th March, 1931, Berlin.  
† La Vie Economique, February, 1931, Berne.  
‡ Statistische Nachrichten, 27th February, 1931, Vienna.  
§ Bulletin du Marché du Travail, 6th March, 1931, Paris.

A special official investigation (which is to be made monthly during the present period of economic depression) into the numbers employed and the hours worked in mining, industrial, transport and commercial undertakings employing at least 100 workers, shows that there was a decline of 4·2 per cent. in the number of persons employed at the beginning of January, 1931, in the undertakings covered, as compared with the number employed at the beginning of January, 1930. The number of workers on short time (i.e., working less than 48 hours) was 14 per cent. at the beginning of January, 1931, as compared with 3·4 per cent. at the same date in 1930. On the basis of these figures, it has been officially estimated that, at the date of the investigation, there were in France 350,000 persons wholly unemployed and 1,000,000 on short time.

BELGIUM.\*

Unemployment increased during December. Provisional returns received by the Ministry of Industry, Labour and Social Welfare from 168 approved unemployment insurance societies, with a total membership of 688,672, show that 9·3 per cent. of these were totally unemployed at the end of the month. In the preceding month the percentage was 6·1, and in December, 1929, 2·4. In addition, 17·0 per cent. of the membership was employed intermittently during the month. 11·2 per cent. of the aggregate possible working days were lost through unemployment in December, 1930; in the preceding month the percentage was 8·2, and in December, 1929, 2·17.

HOLLAND.†

Unemployment increased during December. According to figures compiled by the State Department of Unemployment Insurance and Employment Exchanges, out of 438,872 members of subsidised unemployment funds making returns for the week ended 27th December, 1930, 14·7 per cent. were recorded as unemployed during the whole week, and 4·0 per cent. for less than six days. In the corresponding week of the preceding month (ended 29th November, 1930) the percentages were 10·2 and 3·2, and in December, 1929, 12·3 and 3·1. At the end of the month 106,237 applicants were registered at public employment exchanges of whom 88,460 were actually unemployed.

ITALY.‡

Unemployment during January showed a further increase. According to statistics furnished by the National Social Insurance Fund, 722,612 workpeople were recorded as unemployed at the end of January, 1931, as compared with 642,169 at the end of December, 1930, and 466,231 at the end of January, 1930. The total for January, 1931, includes 208,918 engaged in agriculture and fishing, 93,399 in the textile industry, and 211,201 in the building, road construction, etc., industries. In addition, 27,924 persons were recorded as partially unemployed at that date as compared with 21,788 at the end of the preceding month, and 23,185 at the end of January, 1930.

SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES.

Unemployment increased in Norway during December; in Denmark it showed little change during January, but in Sweden there was a slight decrease.

*Denmark.*—Returns supplied to the Danish Statistical Department by trade unions and by the Central Employment Exchange show that out of 290,356 workpeople, 24·4 per cent. were unemployed at the end of January, 1931, as against 24·6 per cent. at the end of the preceding month, and 20·3 per cent. at the end of January, 1930.

*Norway.*—Out of 21,412 members of trade unions making returns, 21·8 per cent. were unemployed on the last day of December compared with 16·8 per cent. at the end of November and 14·5 per cent. at the end of December, 1929.

*Sweden.*—The percentage of members of trade unions making returns who were unemployed on 31st January, 1931, was 19·8 as compared with 22·6 on 31st December, 1930, and 13·9 on 31st January, 1930.

UNITED STATES.\*\*

According to returns received by the Federal Bureau of Labour Statistics, covering 41,118 establishments in 15 branches of industry and trade, these establishments employed 4,510,051 workpeople in January, 1931, a decrease of 4·2 per cent. as compared with the total for December, 1930. During the same period, the aggregate wages paid showed a decrease of 8·2 per cent.

If the monthly average index number of employment in manufacturing industries alone in 1926 be taken as 100, the corresponding figure for January, 1931, is 73·1 as compared with 75·1 in December, 1930, and 90·2 in January, 1930.

An investigation made by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company in December, 1930, among its policy holders in 46 large cities, is stated to have shown that among 213,787 families, with 355,759 wage or salary earners, 23·8 per cent. were wholly unemployed and 21·3 per cent. were working part time.

Among members of trade unions, in 24 cities, affiliated to the American Federation of Labour, 27 per cent. were reported to be unemployed in January, 1931, and varying proportions, ranging from 8 per cent. to 25 per cent., in different cities, were on short time.

\* Revue du Travail, January, 1931, Brussels.  
† Maandschrift van het Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek, 31st January, 1931, The Hague.  
‡ Bollettino Mensile di Statistica, February, 1931, Rome.  
§ Statistiske Efterretninger, 21st February, 1931, Copenhagen.  
¶ Information supplied by the Central Bureau of Statistics, Oslo.  
\*\* Information supplied by the Department of Social Affairs, Stockholm

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 February in Great Britain and Northern Ireland resulted in an aggregate decrease of about £47,800 in the weekly full-time wages of 572,000 workpeople, and in an increase of £2,050 in those of 64,000 workpeople.

Table with columns: Group of Industries, Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by (Increases, Decreases), Estimated Amount of Change in Weekly Wages (£, £).

The changes in the iron and steel group were nearly all due to the operation of sliding scale arrangements based on selling prices. The principal bodies of workpeople in this group whose wages were increased were men employed in steel melting shops and in steel rolling mills in various districts in England and Scotland, the increase amounting to 1 1/4 per cent. on the standard basis rates (generally equivalent to 1 per cent. on current rates).

In other metal industries the principal body of workpeople affected by reductions during February were tinplate workers in South Wales and Monmouthshire, for whom there was a slight reduction, equivalent to less than 1 per cent. on current rates, under a sliding scale based on selling prices.

In the textile group there was a reduction of 10 per cent. or 7 1/2 per cent. on current rates in the wages of workpeople employed in the preparing and spinning departments of the linen industry in Northern Ireland. Reductions also took place in the wages of silk workers at Macclesfield, and of enginemen, firemen, etc., employed in the woollen and worsted industry in Yorkshire.

Building trade operatives had their wages reduced at most towns in England and Wales, under a cost-of-living sliding scale, the

reductions amounting to 1/2d. per hour for craftsmen, and 1/4d. or 1/2d. per hour for labourers.

In the other industrial groups the principal bodies of workpeople affected by reductions during February included coal miners in Warwickshire, machinists, packing case makers, etc., employed in the mill-sawing and packing case making industries in Scotland and in the Manchester district, commercial road transport workers at various towns in Lancashire and Cheshire, leather belt makers, and workpeople employed in brush and broom making.

Of the estimated total decrease of £47,800 per week, about £39,200 took effect under cost-of-living sliding scales; this total includes £35,800 which took effect under scales arranged by conciliation boards or other joint standing bodies of employers and workpeople, other reductions agreed upon by such bodies accounting for £260; £3,350 of the total was the result of arbitration or mediation; £3,100 took effect under sliding scales based on selling prices (iron, steel, etc.); and the remaining sum was the result of direct negotiation between employers and workpeople, or of independent action on the part of employers.

Of the estimated total increase of £2,050 per week, about £100 was the result of an agreement made by a joint standing body of employers and workpeople; £50 was the result of direct negotiation between employers and workpeople; and practically the whole of the remaining sum took effect under sliding scales based on selling prices.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES REPORTED IN JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 1931.

Table with columns: Group of Industries, Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by Net (Increases, Decreases), Estimated Net Amount of Change in Weekly Wages (£, £).

In the corresponding two months of 1930, there were estimated net increases of £22,800 in the weekly full-time wages of 417,000 workpeople, and net decreases of £40,550 in those of 448,000 workpeople.

Hours of Labour.

No important changes were reported as taking effect in February.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING FEBRUARY, 1931.

Table with columns: Industry, Locality, Date from which Change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of Change (Decreases in italics).

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

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING FEBRUARY, 1931 (continued).

Table with columns: Industry, Locality, Date from which Change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of Change (Decreases in italics).

\* Under selling-price sliding-scale arrangements. † In addition to the above percentage on base rates, bonuses are paid to production men on basis rates up to 6s. 10d. per shift and to other men on basis rates up to 6s. 3d. per shift. The bonuses, which vary inversely in amount with the base rates, range from 1d. and 1d. per shift in the case of the higher-paid men to 1s. 5d. per shift for production men on a base rate of 3s. 10d., and 1s. 0d. or 1s. 1d. for other men on the same rates.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING FEBRUARY, 1931 (continued).

Table with columns: Industry, Locality, Date from which Change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of Change. Rows include Laminated Spring Manufacture, Woollen and Worsted Spinning and Manufacture, Flax Preparing and Spinning, Silk Manufacture, Machine Calico Printing, Baking and Confectionery, Mill-sawing, Packing Case Making, Furniture Manufacture.

\* The above reductions took effect under the terms of an Award of the Industrial Court. The reductions were to operate, pending a revision of the 1922 piece price list, the Court deciding that the new list should be framed so as to yield a normal plate (i.e., fitter and viceman) not less than 33 1/2 per cent. over their combined data rates, and fixing the latter at 61s. and 47s. for fitters and vicemen respectively for a week of 44 1/2 hours. The Court further decided that the new list should be subject to such percentage adjustment as might be necessary to secure that earnings were not less than those under the 1922 list with the percentage addition payable thereon at date of operating the new list.

† Following is a summary of the changes affecting silk workers at Macclesfield:— (a) Adult workpeople employed in the soft silk industry (changes to take effect from pay-day in week ending 14th February):— Manufacturing section.—Decreases for weavers of 3s. per week on time rates and 12 1/2 per cent. on piece rates; minimum rates for other female timeworkers reduced by 1s. or 1s. 6d. per week, leaving minimum 28s. for winders and pickers and 31s. 6d. for warpers, twistlers and enterers; a decrease of 7 1/2 per cent. in bonus for other female pieceworkers. Making-up section.—Decreases for timeworkers varying from 1s. per week on previous minimum of 29s. up to 2s. 6d. on rates over 36s. subject to a minimum of 31s. for machinists; piece rates to be adjusted on the basis of an average yield in earnings of 28s. per week, plus 20 per cent.; and new piece list adopted for handkerchiefs, mufflers, etc. Knitting section.—Decreases for timeworkers varying from 1s. 6d. to 2s. 6d. per week, subject to a minimum of 31s. per week; piece rates to be based on average earnings of 30s. per week, plus 20 per cent. Smallware section.—Decreases for timeworkers of 1s. per week in minimum rate (29s. to 28s.) and of 1s. 6d. on higher rates, subject to a minimum of 29s. for weavers; decrease of 5 per cent. in bonus of pieceworkers, and piece rates to be based on average earnings of 28s. per week, plus 20 per cent. Embroidery section.—Decrease for timeworkers of 1s. per week in minimum rate (29s. to 28s.), and of 3 1/2 per cent. on piecework earnings of Schiffl machine workers. Power loom takers.—Decreases (effective from pay-day in week ending 28th February) of 5s. per week for those 24 years of age and over (leaving minimum 71s. 6d.) and of 1s. 6d. to 2s. 6d. per week, varying according to age, for improvers.

(b) Adult workpeople employed in the thrown (or hard) silk industry (changes to take effect from pay-day in week ending 28th February):— Decrease of 1s. per week for throwing mill men and for female workers (the rates for male spinners and overlookers remaining unchanged). Rates after change include: throwing mill men, 45s.; doublers and reelers, 29s. 6d.; parters, 30s. 6d.; danters, 30s.; winders and cleaners, 28s. (c) Juniors in (a) and (b) above (to take effect from same dates as for adult workers in respective sections):— Scales of reduced rates adopted, starting at 10s. and 9s. per week for male and female workers respectively at 14 years, increasing to 27s. and 24s. at 18, and to 30s. and 28s. at 20; the scales to be subject to certain modifications in favour of those already employed.

‡ In respect of the preceding pay period. § Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements. ¶ Members of the Bristol Master Bakers' and Confectioners' Association. ¶¶ The above schedule was embodied in an agreement between the National Federation of Bedding and Allied Trades, Ltd., and the Mattress Makers' Trade Union, and applies to members of the Federation who are in the City and Administrative County of London. The cost-of-living sliding scale previously operating is discontinued.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING FEBRUARY, 1931 (continued).

Table with columns: Industry, Locality, Date from which Change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of Change. Rows include Furniture Manufacture, Building, Shop-fitting, etc., Tile Laying, Glassworking, Concrete Laying, etc., Asphaltting, Electricity Supply Industry, Road Transport.

\* Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements. † The change took effect under an agreement arrived at by the National Joint Council for the Building Industry. There was no change in wages at the following towns owing to their having been regraded from the same date as that from which the above reduction took effect:—MIDLAND COUNTIES: from A3 to A2—Lichfield, Droitwich, Newark, Wellingborough; from B to A3—Oakham; from B1 to B—Thrapston, Raunds, Uttroter; from B2 to B1—Church Stretton, Ludlow, Ashbourne, Wirksworth; EASTERN COUNTIES: from A3 to A2—Cambridge; from B to A3—Felixstowe, Hertford, Hoddeston, Tewin, Ware; from B1 to B—Baldoak, Braintree, Chelmsford, Dovercourt, Harwich, Hitchin, Letchworth, Silver End, Stevenage; from B3 to B2—Bury St. Edmunds, Witham; from C1 to C—Haverhill; SOUTHERN COUNTIES: from B1 to B—Chatham, Maidstone, Sevenoaks, Woking; from B2 to B1—Banbury, Basingstoke, Isle of Thanet; from B3 to B2—Arundel, Bognor Regis; SOUTH WESTERN COUNTIES: from B to A3—Teignmouth, Swindon; from B1 to B—Bideford, Barnstaple, Stroud; from B2 to B1—Buckfastleigh, Exmouth, Falmouth; from B3 to B2—Dorchester, Chippenham, Tiverton, Frome, Penzance, Trowbridge. In the case of Horncastle and Newport (Salop), which were regraded from B2 to B, and Weston-super-Mare, regraded from B to A2, there was a net increase in wages of 1d. per hour. The "exceptional rates" authorised in 1930 of 1d. per hour in excess of Grade A2 rates for Newton Abbot and Paignton and 1d. per hour in excess of A2 rates for Torquay were withdrawn, and Torquay was placed in Grade A1, with the result that there was a total reduction in these towns of 1d. per hour for craftsmen and 1d. per hour for labourers. In the Midland Counties, various other districts were regraded—Evesham, Henley-in-Arden and Gulsborough from B2 to B; Much Wenlock from B3 to B1; Daventry and Ironbridge from B3 to B—but insufficient information is available as to the extent to which the Grade rates are observed in these districts. In certain districts in England (including Bradford, Leeds, Sheffield, Leicester, Cambridge and Norwich) where separate agreements have been made between the local employers of plasterers and the National Association of Plasterers, Granolithic and Cement Workers (which is not affiliated to the National Joint Council for the Building Industry, which was not a party to the agreements) it is understood that the rates of wages thus fixed remain unaltered within the limits of operation of such agreements. Full information as to the scope of the reduction in its application to individual towns and each class of labour is not yet available, but it is hoped to publish a list of the new rates applicable in the various towns in the April issue of this GAZETTE.

‡ There had been no agreement relating to London plasterers since 30th April, 1930, when the previous agreement expired. This agreement fixed a rate of 1s. 11 1/2d. per hour. The above reduction took effect under an agreement arrived at by a National Joint Committee appointed by the National Federation of Building Trades Employers and the National Association of Plasterers, Granolithic and Cement Workers.

§ In the case of labourers the reduction was subject to a general provision that the rate should be, as previously, not less than 75 per cent. of the rate paid to craftsmen in each district. The reduction amounted to 1/2d. per hour in Grades A, A2, B, B2 and C, and to 1d. per hour in Grades A1, A3, B1, B3, and C1.

¶ The National Joint Council for the Building Industry was not a party to this arrangement. ¶¶ The change took effect under an agreement made between the Northern Master Asphalters' Association and the Asphalt Workers' Union. The districts covered by the agreement are:—Northumberland, Durham, Cumberland, Westmorland, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire (except Liverpool district), North Wales, Derbyshire, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, Shropshire and Staffordshire.

†† The above reduction became due under the terms of an Agreement made on 20th February, 1929, by the Lancashire and Cheshire Joint Road Transport Council. The parties to the Agreement were (1) on behalf of the workpeople, the Transport and General Workers' Union, and (2) on behalf of the employers, the following Associations—the Amalgamated Horse and Motor Owners' Association, Ltd. (covering Rochdale, Bury, Leigh and other districts); Ashton, Stalybridge, Mossley and District Master Carriers' and Horse and Motor Owners' Association; Bolton and District Horse and Motor Carriers' Association; Burnley and District Road Transport Association; East Lancashire Road Transport Association (covering Blackburn, Darwen, Accrington and other districts); Conference of Manchester Carriers; Manchester Transport (Owners') Association, Ltd.; Stockport and District Team Owners' Association; Warrington Horse Owners' and Motor Owners' Association.



PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING FEBRUARY, 1931 (continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics.)
Local Government (Non-Trading Services).	Dewsbury ...	1 Feb.	General yard labourers ...	Decrease of 3d. per hour (1s. 2½d. to 1s. 2d.).*
	Huddersfield ...	1 Feb.	Labourers employed in Highways, Sewage Works and Water Departments.	Decrease of 3d. per hour (1s. 2½d. to 1s. 2d.).*
	Certain Authorities in Lancashire and Cheshire.†	1 Feb.	General yard and road labourers ...	Decrease of 3d. per hour (1s. 2½d. to 1s. 2d.).†
	Blackburn ...	1 Feb.	Certain classes of manual workers employed in non-trading and water departments.	Decrease of 6d. or 1s. per week for refuse collectors, gang sweepers, etc., of 3d. per hour for craftsmen, and of 3d. per hour for labourers. Rates after change include: refuse collectors, 9s. 2d. per day; gang sweepers, 6s. 6d. per day; labourers, 1s. 2d. per hour. Decrease of 3d. per hour (1s. 0½d. to 1s. 0¼d.).*
	Hereford ...	1 Feb.	Labourers employed in non-trading and water departments.	Decrease of 3d. per hour. Rates after change include: refuse collectors, 61s.; general yard and road labourers, 1s. 2½d. scavengers and sweepers, 1s. 2d.
Leather Belt Manufacture.	Great Britain ...	1st pay day in Feb.	Workpeople employed in leather belt manufacture.	Percentage payable on base rates embodied in agreement of November, 1922, reduced† from 55 to 53 for pieceworkers and timeworkers, resulting for the latter in a decrease of 3d. per hour. Rates after change for timeworkers: skilled—London, 1s. 2½d.; Provinces, 1s. 1½d.; semi-skilled—London, 11½d.; Provinces, 10½d.
	Great Britain ...	1 Feb.	Workpeople employed in the brush and broom trade:— Certain classes of male timeworkers.‡ All other male timeworkers ...	Decreases in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of the following amounts for the classes named respectively (See Notice of Order on page 80 of February GAZETTE):— Decrease of 3d. per hour (1s. 2d. to 1s. 1½d.). Decrease of 3d. per hour for those 19 and under 20, and of 1d. per hour for those 20 and over, the rates for those under 19 remaining unchanged, leaving minimum rates as follows: 2½d. at under 14½, increasing to 10½d. at 21 and over. Decrease of 3d. or 1d. per hour in time rates and of 3d. per hour in piecework basis time rates. Decrease of 3d. per hour in time rates for those 21 years and over, and of 3d. per hour in the piecework basis time rate, the time rates for those under 21 remaining unchanged, leaving minimum time rates as follows: 2½d. at under 14½, increasing to 6½d. at 18 and over. Decrease in the minimum piece rates of 3 per cent., leaving wages 24 per cent. below the list. Decreases proportionate to the above.
Brush and Broom Manufacture.	Great Britain ...	1 Feb.	Female pan hands ...	Decrease of 3d. per hour in time rates for those 21 years and over, and of 3d. per hour in the piecework basis time rate, the time rates for those under 21 remaining unchanged, leaving minimum time rates as follows: 2½d. at under 14½, increasing to 6½d. at 18 and over.
			Female workers (other than pan hands and learners).	Decrease in the minimum piece rates of 3 per cent., leaving wages 24 per cent. below the list.
			Male and female pieceworkers	Decreases proportionate to the above.
Apprentices ...				Decreases proportionate to the above.

PRINCIPAL CHANGE IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN FEBRUARY, 1931.

Industry.	Locality.	Date.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change.
Coal Mining	North Staffordshire	9 Feb.	Underground workers ...	Hours changed to 7 hours 48 minutes per shift on ordinary week days and 6 hours on Saturdays, in lieu of 8 hours on ordinary week days and 5 hours on Saturdays previously worked.‡

\* The above reductions took effect under arrangements whereby the wages of the classes of workpeople concerned are regulated by movements in building trade wages (which were reduced in February). In addition to the classes mentioned road paviors and masons at each town sustained the reduction of 3d. per hour applicable to builders' masons. They are not, however, specially mentioned above, as the wages of such men are regulated by building trade wages in most towns in England and Wales.  
† The Authorities affected include those given in the following list. The rate quoted applies to both general yard labourers and road labourers, except in the towns printed in italics, where yard labourers were not affected by the reduction and the rate applies to road labourers only: Accrington, Bolton, Burnley, Bury, Darwen, Heywood, Hyde, Preston, Rochdale, Prestwich, Swinton and Pendlebury. There was also a reduction of 3d. per hour in the wages of road paviors and masons at all these towns (see note \* above).  
‡ Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements.  
§ Viz., those 21 and over with three years' experience in certain operations and those of all ages who have served at least five years' apprenticeship.  
|| The effect of the above arrangement was to leave the full normal working week of 45 hours unaltered.

PRICES AND WAGES IN THE IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRIES.

The following Table shows the results of recent ascertainment of selling prices of pig iron and of manufactured iron and steel upon which are based variations in the rates of wages of certain classes of iron and steel and other workers in particular districts. Details of the changes in wages consequent on these ascertainment are given after the Table:—

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:	1930.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Cleveland ...	Oct.-Dec.	58 8½	- 3 7½	- 9 6½
Cumberland (Hematite mixed numbers).	Nov.-Dec.	68 10½	- 2 0½	- 5 1
Lincolnshire ...	Oct.-Dec.	62 7½	- 0 8½	- 2 10½
Nottinghamshire ...	Oct.-Dec.	61 9	- 1 11½	- 1 1½
North Staffordshire ...	Oct.-Dec.	64 4½	- 1 9	- 9 0½
Northamptonshire ...	Oct.-Dec.	54 11½	- 2 9½	- 5 0½
West of Scotland ...	Oct.-Dec.	75 11	- 1 5	- 1 4
Manufactured Iron:				
North of England (Bars.)	Nov.-Dec.	180 7½	- 2 2½	+ 1 4½
West of Scotland (Rounds, flats, squares, angles, hoops, tees and rods.)	Nov.-Dec.	209 8½	+ 0 2½	- 1 9
Steel:				
South Wales and Monmouthshire (Steel rails and steel tin bars.)	Sept.-Nov.	157 7½	- 1 10½	+ 28 1
South-West Wales (Steel tin bars.)	Oct.-Dec.	105 6½	- 13 1½	- 18 7½

\* Stated to the nearest farthing.

The variation from the previous audit in the price of Cleveland pig iron resulted in a decrease of 3½ per cent. on the standard rates of blastfurnacemen in the Cleveland district. As a result of the Cumberland ascertainment workpeople employed at Cumberland blastfurnaces sustained a reduction of 2½ per cent. on their standard rates. The same ascertainment also resulted in a decrease of 1d. per shift for men employed at Cumberland iron ore mines and limestone quarries. The ascertainment for Lincolnshire resulted in a reduction of 2 per cent. on the standard rates of blastfurnacemen, ironstone miners and quarrymen in that area. In Nottinghamshire the ascertainment warranted a reduction in January of 1½ per cent. on the standard rates of blastfurnacemen in that area, but this was not enforced. The ascertainment for North Staffordshire resulted in a reduction of 2½ per cent. on the standard rates of blastfurnacemen in that area. In Northamptonshire the ascertainment resulted in a decrease of 2½ per cent. on the standard rates of blastfurnacemen, ironstone miners and limestone quarrymen. The ascertainment for Scotland resulted in a decrease of 1 per cent. on the standard rates of blastfurnacemen in that area. As regards manufactured iron, the ascertainment for the North of England resulted in a decrease of 2½ per cent. on the standard rates of iron puddlers and millmen in the North-East Coast Area; whilst the West of Scotland ascertainment did not warrant a change in wages. The ascertainment for South Wales and Monmouthshire warranted a decrease in January of 1 per cent. on the standard rates of men employed at blastfurnaces and in melting-shops and rolling-mills, but this was not enforced, wages having previously been stabilised at the level of January, 1927. In the case of Siemens steel workers in South-West Wales the ascertainment warranted a decrease of 6½ per cent. on standard rates, which was, however, not applied to the lowest-paid men, and was modified for certain others. Further details of the above changes will be found on page 71 of the February GAZETTE and pages 112-3 of the present issue.

TRADE DISPUTES IN FEBRUARY.\*

Number, Magnitude and Duration.—The number of disputes involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as beginning in February in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was 24, as compared with 37 in the previous month and 32 in February, 1930. In addition, 10 disputes which began before February were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The total number of workpeople involved in all these disputes (including those thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, though not themselves parties to the disputes) is estimated at approximately 127,000, and the aggregate number of working days lost at about 1,495,000.

The principal dispute in progress was that which began in January in the cotton manufacturing industry of Lancashire and parts of the adjoining counties, which is dealt with fully in the special article on pages 589-90 of this GAZETTE.

In the following Table is given an analysis of the disputes in progress in February in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, showing the number of workpeople involved at the establishments concerned and the approximate time lost during the month in all disputes in progress:—

Industry Group.	Number of Disputes in progress in Month.			Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress in Month.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress in Month.
	Started before beginning of Month.	Started in Month.	Total.		
Mining and Quarrying...	3	9	12	4,700	23,000
Textile ...	3	1	4	121,000	1,458,000
Other ...	4	14	18	1,300	14,000
Total ...	10	24	34	127,000	1,495,000

Causes.—Of the 24 disputes beginning in February, 7, directly involving 400 workpeople, arose out of proposed reductions in wages; 8, directly involving 1,300 workpeople, out of other wages questions; 2, directly involving 500 workpeople, on questions respecting working hours; 6, directly involving 700 workpeople, on questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons; and one, directly involving 100 workpeople, on a question of working arrangements.

Results.—The cotton\* dispute in Lancashire and parts of the adjoining counties terminated with the discontinuance of the more-looms-per-weaver experiment at Burnley. Settlements were effected in the case of 4 other old disputes, directly involving 2,100 workpeople, and 13 new disputes, directly involving 900 workpeople. Of these 17 disputes, 6, directly involving 500 workpeople, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 5, directly involving 1,400 workpeople, were settled in favour of the employers; and 6, directly involving 1,100 workpeople, were compromised. In the case of one dispute, directly involving 100 workpeople, work was resumed pending negotiations.

TOTALS FOR THE FIRST TWO MONTHS OF 1930 AND 1931.†

The following Table summarises the figures for Great Britain and Northern Ireland for the first two months of 1931, as compared with the corresponding period of 1930:—

Industry Group.	January and February 1930.			January and February, 1931.		
	No. of Disputes beginning in period.	Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.	No. of Disputes beginning in period.	Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.
Mining and Quarrying ...	24	9,100	18,000	25	161,600	2,081,000
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding	8	800	2,000	7	1,000	12,000
Textile ...	11	3,100	35,000	2	121,000	2,776,000
Woodworking, Furniture, etc.	6	400	3,000	1	400	2,000
Building, Public Works, Contracting, etc....	5	100	2,000	12	1,000	9,000
Transport ...	4	300	1,000	3	300	2,000
Other ...	13	5,300	62,000	11	500	9,000
Total ...	71	19,100	123,000	61	285,800	4,891,000

PRINCIPAL DISPUTES INVOLVING STOPPAGES OF WORK DURING FEBRUARY, 1931.

Occupations and Locality.	Approximate Number of Workpeople involved.		Date when Dispute		Cause or Object.	Result.
	Directly.	In-directly.†	Began.	Ended.		
COAL MINING:—			1931.	1931.		
Colliery workpeople—Barnsley ...		1,348	29 Jan.	2 Feb.	Dissatisfaction with amount of wages received by certain men.	Work resumed on Trade Union instructions.
Colliery workpeople—Barnsley ...		1,745	26 Feb.	7 March	Against employment of three men in a stall instead of two, alleged to result in decreased earnings.	Two men per stall to be employed normally, with a third man in certain circumstances if required by employers.
TEXTILE INDUSTRIES:—						
Workpeople in the cotton manufacturing industry—						
Burnley and certain other centres (certain firms).			5 Jan.	13 Feb.	Objection to proposed system of working more looms per weaver.	More-looms-per-weaver experiment at Burnley discontinued. (See article on pages 89-90.)
Burnley (other firms) ...			12 Jan. and subsequent dates.			
Other centres in Lancashire, Cheshire, Yorkshire and Derbyshire.			19 Jan. and subsequent dates.			
Colne ...		398	16 Feb.		Refusal to resume work on termination of above stoppage, failing reinstatement of a "sample weaver" who had declined employers' request to work during the stoppage.	No settlement reported.
Silk knitters and makers up—Macclesfield.		620	16 Oct. 1930.	25 Feb.	Against proposed reduction in wages.	Reduction accepted, with some modifications.
FURNITURE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY:—						
Cabinet makers, french polishers, machinists, etc.—Ponders End, Middlesex.		350	20 Feb. 1931.		Against proposal that short intervals for refreshment should be made up by working extra time, and other grievances.	No settlement reported.

\* 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. † 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.  
‡ The number varied at different dates. Full particulars are not yet available, but it has been provisionally estimated, for the purposes of the statistics given above, that the maximum number involved (excluding those unemployed when the dispute began) was about 120,000.  
§ Work was resumed generally on Monday, 16th February.

CHANGES IN COST OF LIVING: STATISTICS FOR 28th FEBRUARY.\*

Summary: Average Increases since July, 1914.

All Items included ... 50%
Food only ... 34%

FOOD.

DURING February there was a further fall in the general level of the retail prices of food, as a result of reductions in the average prices of eggs, bread and flour, butchers' meat and bacon, partly counterbalanced by increases in the prices of butter.

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 34 per cent. at 28th February, 1931, as compared with 36 per cent. at 31st January, 1931, and 50 per cent. at 1st March, 1930.

In the following Table is given a comparison of retail prices of these articles of food in July, 1914, and at 31st January and 28th February, 1931:—

Table with columns: Article, Average Price (per lb. unless otherwise indicated—to the nearest id.), Average Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) at 28th Feb., 1931, as compared with July, 1914. Rows include Beef, Mutton, Flour, Bread, Tea, Sugar, Milk, Butter, etc.

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

Table with columns: Article, Average Percentage Increase at 28th February, 1931, as compared with July, 1914. Rows include Beef, Mutton, Flour, Bread, Tea, Sugar, Milk, Butter, etc.

\* As 1st March fell on a Sunday, the statistics relate to 28th February, in accordance with the usual practice.
† If this kind is seldom dealt with in a locality, the returns quote the price of another kind locally representative.

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 the average increase in the controlled rents (including rates) of working-class dwellings between July, 1914, and 28th February, was approximately 49 per cent. When decontrolled rents are also included, the combined average increase in working-class rents since July, 1914, is approximately 54 per cent. This latter figure has been utilised in calculating the final percentage increase for all the items included in these statistics.

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 28th February 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 about 100 per cent. higher than in July, 1914.

In the fuel and light group the prices of coal at 28th February averaged about 85 per cent. above the level of July, 1914. The average price of gas was between 45 and 50 per cent. above the pre-war level. For the fuel and light group as a whole (including coal, gas, oil, candles and matches) the average increase at 28th February, as compared with July, 1914, was about 75 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 75 per cent.), the resultant general average increase for 28th February, 1931, is approximately 50 per cent.† over the level of July, 1914, as compared with 52 per cent. at 31st January, 1931, and 61 per cent. at 1st March, 1930.

The result of this calculation (in which the same quantities and, as far as possible, the same qualities of each item are taken in 1931 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 readjustments 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 those 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: 1920 to 1931.

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, 1920 to 1931:—

Table with columns: Month (beginning of), 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931. 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.

\* See note \* in previous column.
† If allowance is made for the changes in taxation since July, 1914, on the commodities included in these statistics, the average increase is about 1 per cent. less.

RETAIL PRICES OVERSEAS.

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

I.—FOOD.

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

Table with columns: Country, Percentage Increase as compared with July, 1914.\* (July 1927, July 1928, July 1929, July 1930, Latest figures available). Rows include Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Foreign Countries, British Dominions, &c.

II.—ALL ITEMS.

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

Table with columns: Country, Percentage Increase as compared with July, 1914.\* (July 1927, July 1928, July 1929, July 1930, Latest figures available). Rows include Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Foreign Countries, British Dominions, &c.

\* Exceptions to this are: Egypt, January 1913 to July 1914; France (other towns), August, 1914; Rome and Milan, January to June, 1914; Switzerland, June, 1914; Spain, South Africa, France (Paris, all items), Poland, 1914; Germany, average, 1913-1914; Amsterdam, 1911-1913; Belgium, April, 1914; Italy (food), United States (all items), Canada, 1913; Australia (all items), November, 1914. The Australian percentages for all items are a weighted average for the six capital cities. The percentages are calculated, in Czechoslovakia and Poland, on prices converted to their gold values, and, in the other countries, on prices in the ordinary currency.
† Fuel and light are also included in these figures.
‡ Figure for August.
§ Figure for June.
|| A = Food; B = House-Rent; C = Clothing; D = Fuel and light; E = Other or Miscellaneous Items.
¶ Figure for 3rd Quarter.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

The number of workpeople, other than seamen, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, reported during February, 1931, as killed in the course of their employment was 135, as compared with 197 in the previous month and with 218\* in February, 1930. Fatal accidents to seamen reported in February, 1931, numbered 33, as compared with 43 in the previous month and with 47 in February, 1930.

Table with columns: RAILWAY SERVICE, FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS (continued), MINES, QUARRIES over 20 feet deep, SEAMEN. Rows include Brakesmen and Goods, Guards, Engine Drivers and Motor-men, Firemen, etc.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.

The total number of cases† of poisoning, anthrax, and epitheliomatous and chrome ulceration in Great Britain and Northern Ireland reported during February, 1931, under the Factory and Workshop Act, or under the Lead Paint (Protection against Poisoning) Act, was 41 and the total number of deaths‡ reported was 9. In addition, two cases of lead poisoning among plumbers not employed in factories came to the knowledge of the Home Office during February, but notification of such cases is not obligatory.

Table with columns: I. Cases, I. Cases—(continued), II. Deaths. Rows include (a) LEAD POISONING, (b) OTHER POISONING, (c) ANTHRAX, (d) EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCERATION (SKIN CANCER), (e) CHROME ULCERATION, (f) LEAD POISONING, (g) OTHER POISONING.

\* The figure previously published for February, 1930, has been revised.
† Cases include all attacks reported during the month, and not previously reported, so far as is known, during the preceding 12 months. Deaths include all fatal cases reported during the month, whether included (as cases) in previous returns or not.
‡ The persons affected in the pottery industry were males.

**LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.****Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920.**

**EXCEPTED EMPLOYMENT—DOMESTIC SERVICE—EMPLOYMENT IN ANY TRADE OR BUSINESS CARRIED ON FOR THE PURPOSES OF GAIN.**

On 3rd and 4th March, 1931, Mr. Justice Roche gave judgment in twelve cases relating to the meaning of employment in domestic service in paragraph (b) of Part II of the first schedule of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920. By this paragraph the Act places among employments excepted from insurability "employment in domestic service, except where the employed person is employed in any trade or business carried on for the purposes of gain."

Five cases related to the position under this exception of persons employed by municipal corporations. In the first case, Barritt, the employee, was a lavatory attendant and a depot cleaner at the Blackpool Corporation's tramway depot; in the second case, Jackson was a lavatory attendant employed by the Liverpool Corporation at a tramway depot; in the third case, Welsby was employed in a refreshment room carried on in a public park at Manchester; in the fourth and fifth cases, Millard and Derez were waiters and waitresses employed in a beach café and a pavilion restaurant respectively carried on by the Bournemouth Corporation as part of their pier undertaking.

In giving judgment the learned Judge said that he was satisfied that the tramways conducted by both the Blackpool and Liverpool Corporations were trades or businesses carried on for the purposes of gain. Whether a trade or business was so carried on or not did not depend exclusively on whether a profit was made. People seeking to make a profit might sometimes make a loss.

The next question was: Were these men employed in the trade or business? In the Blackpool case this question hardly admitted of argument, because Barritt was employed in cleaning the depot as well as in looking after the lavatories. In the Liverpool case it was said that Jackson was only engaged in the lavatory, which was not part of the undertaking. He was of opinion that this case fell within the principle of Woodlands' case (see the issue of this GAZETTE for July, 1921, page 379), and for the same reasons as were applied in that case. A general argument had been put forward that the tramways undertakings were primarily intended to provide transport for the citizens and not to make a profit. This might be in a sense true; at the same time he thought the main object of the Corporations was the making of gain, gain which, no doubt, would ultimately find its way to reduction of rates. The tramways were undertakings for the purposes of gain, parallel, perhaps, with those carried on by private undertakings. He held, therefore, that Barritt and Jackson were insurable.

The same reasoning applied to the Bournemouth cases. The Corporation, in pursuit of its object, of the recreation of its visitors, desired to achieve that end, and succeeded in so doing, by conducting places of refreshment which it made a paying proposition. He could well understand that the Corporation might not desire to do otherwise. It might not be thought desirable unduly to compete with citizens who had refreshment businesses in the hotels and restaurants and other places in the town. At all events the places of refreshment concerned were obviously carried on for purposes of gain. In these two cases, therefore, Millard and Derez were insurable.

In the Manchester case the facts bore a superficial resemblance to the facts in the Bournemouth cases, but the park and the refreshment rooms in this case were in a district where competing places of refreshment were somewhat distant. The Corporation apparently, without motives of gain, supplied refreshment rooms, where some people bought their food from the Corporation and where others brought their own food and were provided by the Corporation with hot water and other facilities for consuming it. The refreshment room formed part of the amenities afforded by the park, where the Corporation desired to give such facilities as they could give to the public without gaining or losing. In such circumstances the serving of refreshments to the public was not a trade or business carried on for the purposes of gain. Miss Welsby was therefore not insurable.

Six further cases concerned four persons employed by Eton School Stores, and two employees of the London County Council. The cases raised the question whether employees in the bakery or laundry departments of these employers were excepted from the Act as domestic servants.

In the first case, Parker was employed as a foreman baker by the Eton School Stores, a society which conducted various activities, such as a tuckshop, laundry, and bakery for Eton College; in the second case, Bampton was employed as a bread roundsman and bakery assistant by the same body; in the third case, Alice Grace Mitchell was employed by the society as a laundry ironer; and in the fourth case, Addaway was employed by the society as a carman engaged in the delivery of laundry. In the fifth case, Edwards was employed as a foreman baker, and in the sixth case, Satchell was employed as an ironer by the London County Council at the South Grove Institution, which had been taken over by the Council from the Poor Law authorities under the Local Government Act, 1929.

The Minister of Labour had taken the view that the activities of the Eton College Stores were not "a trade or business carried on for the purpose of gain."

The learned Judge, in giving judgment, said that he would deal first with the London County Council cases. He had no doubt that, even though the work of a laundrymaid or ironer became highly specialized when carried on in a large institution, the persons so employed still remained in the same category, and were merely doing

on a large scale what a laundrymaid or ironer did in a private establishment. He had no doubt that such persons had the privilege of belonging to the class engaged in domestic service.

The position of a baker was not quite so easy to decide. It was beginning to be forgotten, particularly in the south of England, that baking was once one of the normal processes carried on in a private household. The case of Pharaoh and his bakers was perhaps too ancient to be regarded as a precedent to-day, but in recent years there had been establishments where confectionery had been part of the normal domestic service. He believed, therefore, that the baker also was engaged in domestic service and was exempt from insurance.

The same process of reasoning led him to decide that the four employees of the Eton School Stores were similarly, and for the same reasons, persons engaged in domestic service.

The real doubt which he had in the last group of cases arose from entirely different considerations. Persons employed in domestic service were exempt from insurance, except where they were employed in any trade or business carried on for the purposes of gain. The Ministry had so far treated the Eton College Stores as not being engaged in a trade or business carried on for those purposes, and he (his Lordship) was not prepared to differ from that view at the present moment.

The position at present was that certain persons connected with the school resorted to the stores. Any outside trading beyond that class of exceptional case would affect not merely the particular branch by which it was carried on, but, if it were carried on, the whole stores would pass into the category of a "trade or business carried on for the purpose of gain." He did not think that that stage had been reached, and he would assume that trading with the outside public was at present of so limited a nature that the Minister was justified in her view. If that position were altered by any extension of the trading, the Minister would not merely have the power to alter her decision, but she would be wrong if she did not.

The learned Judge further decided an appeal by the Church of England Incorporated Society for providing Homes for Waifs and Strays against a decision by the Minister of Labour that a master of the Society's Homes was not a domestic servant and was therefore insurable. In giving judgment he said that, while he had no doubt that some of the functions of the master of such Homes were domestic, he thought that the main functions were other than domestic. The main part of the domestic superintendence of these very valuable Homes was in the hands of the matron, who was generally the wife of the master, and the functions of the master were mainly disciplinary. The master was mainly responsible for the discipline rather than for the domestic comfort of the occupants of the Homes. In many ways these masters occupied the position which the housemaster at a school occupies in term time. It was true the masters of the Homes did no teaching, but, like the housemaster, they were responsible for the discipline and well-being of the boys morally in the absence of their parents. The decision of the Minister therefore was correct, and the appeal must be dismissed.

**Trade Boards Acts, 1909 and 1918.****BOOT AND SHOE REPAIRING TRADE.**

An employer was prosecuted for underpaying a worker and producing to an inspector a false record of payments of wages. He was fined 1s. on the first charge, and 40s. on the second. An order was made for the payment of £22 10s. 2d. arrears of wages.—*Re: v. Robert L. de Lap. Great Marlborough Street Police Court, London. 20th February, 1931.*

**WHOLESALE MANTLE AND COSTUME TRADE.**

Four partners were prosecuted for failing to keep wages records. The defendants pleaded guilty, and were each fined £1.—*Re: v. Abraham Mandel, Jacob Mandel, Philip Mandel, and Joseph Mandel. Glasgow Sheriff Court. 13th February, 1931.*

**Trade Boards Act (Northern Ireland), 1923.****LINEN AND COTTON HANDKERCHIEF AND HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND LINEN PIECE GOODS TRADE.**

Criminal proceedings were brought against a firm in the linen and cotton handkerchief and household goods and linen piece goods trade in Northern Ireland for (i) production of false records, and (ii) failure to pay wages at not less than the minimum rates fixed by the Trade Board.

The defendants pleaded guilty, and the Court imposed a fine of £5 for the production of false records and a fine of 10s. in each of the six cases of underpayment. In addition, arrears of wages to the amount of £18 7s. 1d. were ordered in respect of the workers concerned, and costs amounting to £4 7s. 6d. were allowed.

**Factory and Workshop Acts, 1901 to 1920.**

The occupiers of the factory referred to above were also proceeded against for the employment of three women after the legal period. A penalty of £2, with 12s. 6d. costs, was imposed.—*J. H. Craig v. Charlton Brothers. Belfast Petty Sessions. 17th January, 1931.*

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT.**

The Minister of Labour acknowledges the receipt, on 9th February, of £20, sent anonymously through the post in payment of a debt.

**UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTS, 1920-31.****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 claimant may also appeal if the decision of the Court was not unanimous.

The following recent decisions are of general interest:—

**Case No. 2407/31 (corrected). (7.2.31.)**

**SECTION 7 (1) (ii) OF PRINCIPAL ACT—NOT UNEMPLOYED—FORGE LABOURER FOLLOWED ADDITIONAL OCCUPATION AS PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALLER AND RECEIVED FIXED SUM PER MATCH—ARRANGED WITH EMPLOYER FOR TIME OFF WHEN CALLED UPON TO PLAY—COLLATERAL AGREEMENT REGARDING TRAINING—REMUNERATION HELD TO BE IN RESPECT OF WHOLE WEEK.**

The claimant, a barge labourer, whose usual hours of employment were from 7.30 a.m. to 4.45 p.m., followed a subsidiary occupation as a professional Rugby football player. Claimant was paid £3 for a win, £2 for a draw, 30s. when the team lost, and half pay when on reserve. The team trained from 6.0 p.m. to 8.0 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Claimant stated that this was his third season with the club, and that when employed he would require time off from his work on not more than six Saturdays a year. He further stated that the team had played one mid-week match this season and there would be no other, and that training was practically compulsory.

The Court of Referees decided that the claim should be disallowed in respect of Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. The Court had regard to decision 1152/30,† and was of opinion that claimant was substantially engaged three days a week.

The Insurance Officer formally appealed to the Umpire. He considered that where a claimant was a high class professional player in receipt of £3 to £4 per match, it was difficult to regard training as entirely outside the matters upon which the club and the player had come to an agreement. This was peculiarly so where the club had provided means for training and the player was required to train in accordance with the club's arrangements. Both parties admitted that training was compulsory. If so, the training must be compulsory in virtue of an obligation.

*Decision by the Umpire.*—"On the facts before me my decision is that the claim for benefit should be disallowed in respect of any week in which the claimant is entitled to receive remuneration for his services as a football professional."

"The claimant is a professional football player who is engaged by the Bramley Rugby Football Club, Limited, under a form of agreement similar to that discussed in Decision 16866/30.† It also contained identical terms clauses 1 and 3 which are set out in that decision. The effect of those clauses was there declared to be that the claimant must play for the club when called upon, unless he can justify a refusal to do so by showing that his absence from work for the purpose of playing would involve the risk of injuring him in his employment or would be likely to cause the loss of it altogether."

"It was found in that case, or inferred from the facts, that the claimant could ordinarily have followed his occupation under the agreement outside his ordinary working hours, that he could legitimately refuse to play when requested, and that there was no express or implied contractual obligation to train. It was, therefore, held that in all the circumstances the claimant was only employed on those days upon which he played in a match or was entitled to payment for acting as a reserve."

"The present case differs from that in several material particulars and it also brings to light certain considerations which, if not overlooked in Decision 16866/30, were not sufficiently emphasised."

"The claimant has made an arrangement with his employer for leave of absence during working hours, when necessary, in order to fulfil his football engagements. He would, therefore, not be justified under Clause 3 of his agreement in refusing to play when called upon, so that he is under obligation to play for the Club whenever required, and this may happen on any day of the week and during times necessitating an encroachment on working hours or what would be working hours if he were in employment."

"In these circumstances he fails to show that his additional occupation could ordinarily have been followed outside the ordinary working hours of his usual employment, so that his case does not fall within the provisions of Section 7 (2) (a) of the Act of 1920 (as amended) relating to additional occupations."

\* Volumes containing selected decisions of the Umpire are published annually by H.M. Stationery Office, the latest being a volume of selected decisions given during the year 1929 (price 7s. 6d. net). A volume containing a special selection of important decisions given by the Umpire prior to 19th April, 1928 (price 15s. net) and a volume containing selected decisions given from 19th April, 1928, to 12th March, 1930 (price 6s. net), have also been issued; also an analytical guide to decisions given before 13th March, 1930 (price 2s. 6d. net). Selected decisions are also issued monthly in pamphlet form, and may be obtained, as and when issued, on payment of an annual subscription, the latest pamphlet being that for January, 1931.  
† See page 18 (Pamphlet No. 1/1930) and U.I. Code 8a (Umpire's Selected Decisions).

† See page 190 (Pamphlet No. 11/1930), Umpire's Selected Decisions.

"The next question is whether the claimant is continuously employed or whether his employment is limited to specific days of the week."

"It has already been pointed out that he may be liable to be called upon to play on any day of the week, so that on this ground alone he cannot be deemed to be unemployed in respect of any week during which he is entitled to remuneration."

"In addition to playing the claimant also trains. In Decision 16866/30 it was said that there was nothing in the circumstances of that case and the agreement from which it could be implied that there was any obligation to train, and that the claimant's training was not under contractual obligation to attend for training."

"That decision was not intended to exclude from consideration the circumstances in any other case which might justify the implication of any agreement or the existence of a collateral agreement to train."

"In the present case the claimant admits that it is 'practically compulsory' to train, and for a first team player (such as the claimant is) in a club of the importance of the Bramley Club it may readily be inferred that the training is in fact compulsory under an agreement which is collateral to the written agreement."

"In my view of the facts of this case the claimant cannot be deemed to be unemployed in respect of any week during which he is entitled to receive remuneration from the club."

**Case No. 5088/31. (6.3.31.)**

**SECTION 8 (1) OF PRINCIPAL ACT—TRADE DISPUTE—SCOTTISH MINERS.**

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

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

"There are before me for determination a number of appeals relating to the claims of members of the West Lothian Mineworkers' Union, the Lanarkshire Mineworkers' Union, and the Fife, Clackmannan and Kinross Mineworkers' Union."

"The question at issue is whether these members of the different unions are entitled to unemployment benefit for the period from 1st to 7th December inclusive, when no work was performed at the pits at which they had been employed prior to 1st December."

"The Insurance Officer contends that for this period they are disqualified for the receipt of unemployment benefit under the provisions of Section 8 (1) of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, having 'lost employment by reason of a stoppage of work due to a trade dispute.'"

"The appeal of this claimant was argued at length, and was taken as a test case covering all the appeals to which I have referred; subject to this exception, that should my decision be adverse to the claimant there were further considerations to be applied to the cases of four other claimants. As my decision is favourable to the claimant it is not necessary to consider those four cases separately."

"On 8th August, 1927, an agreement was entered into between the coal owners of Scotland and the National Union of Scottish Mineworkers which regulated the conditions of employment which were to operate throughout Scotland. By Clause II of the agreement it was provided that 'in the event of the hours of work as herein determined being altered by statute, this agreement shall not be binding upon either of the parties in any of its terms.'"

"On 1st December, 1930, Part III of the Coal Mines Act 1930, came into operation, which enacted that the maximum number of hours during which a workman could be below ground in a coal mine for the purpose of his work and of going to and from his work was seven and a half hours in any consecutive twenty-four hours. This enactment was subject to certain exceptions and conditions mentioned in the proviso to Section 14 (1) of the Coal Mines Act, 1930, to which reference will be made hereinafter."

"Section 14 (1) automatically on 1st December, 1930, put an end to the agreement of 8th August, 1927, as the agreement provided for shifts of 8 hours duration."

"As it was realised some time prior to 1st December, 1930, that on that day the 1927 agreement would cease to be operative, various meetings were held at which endeavours were made, without success, to agree the terms of employment which should after that day prevail in the Scottish coalfields."

"It is unnecessary for the purpose of this decision to refer to those meetings or to the interim Report of the Coal Mines National Industrial Board which was issued on 28th November, 1930. The all-important meeting is the meeting of the Conciliation Board for the Coal Trade of Scotland which was held on 29th November, 1930, at Glasgow."

"At that meeting an endeavour was made to reach a temporary agreement for the continuation of work after 1st December, 1930, so that, while the temporary agreement subsisted, further discussions could take place with a view of arriving at a permanent agreement."

"It was categorically stated on behalf of the employers at the meeting of 29th November, 1930: 'We propose to open the pits on Monday' (that is, 1st December) 'on the same conditions as they are open to-day, except that we do not propose to work any pit more than eleven days in the fortnight.'"

"It was conceded on behalf of the Insurance Officer that this proposal offended against the provisions of Section 14 (1) of the Coal Mines Act, 1930, because it entailed working eight hours a day, and the proviso to that section could not operate as the Miners' Federation of Great Britain had previously refused their approval of what is popularly known as the 'spread over.' Indeed, at the meeting on 29th November, 1930, the employers admitted that 'our proposal is breaking the letter of the law.'"

"On 1st December notices were posted at the pits in Scotland in these terms:—

## NOTICE.

'Under Part III of the Coal Mines Act, 1930, the Hours of Underground Workers are reduced at 1st December, 1930, from 8 to 7½ per day, subject to a provision that the shorter time may, by agreement between the representatives of the Owners and the Workers, employed in or about Coal Mines in any district, be averaged over a fortnight instead of calculated on a daily basis. On this alteration in Hours the present Wages Agreement in Scotland terminates. Intimation is hereby made that fifteen days after this date the Wages to be paid at this Colliery will be as follows:—

## 'MINERS AND UNDERGROUND WORKERS.

- (1) If the 7½ hours per day are worked ... 76 per cent.  
above the 1888 basis.
- (2) If a spread-over of 11 days per fortnight  
of 8 hours per day is worked ... 95 per cent.  
above the 1888 basis.

## 'SURFACE WORKERS.

'The wages of Surface workers will be adjusted according to the usual practice in keeping with the percentage payable to Miners and Underground Workers.

## 'SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE.

'The scale of Subsistence Allowances will be correspondingly adjusted.

Colliery.  
1st December, 1930.'

"In passing it is to be observed that by error different notices were posted at a few pits, but they were removed shortly after having been posted, and it is admitted that they did not contain the terms on which the owners of those pits were prepared to afford employment, as all the owners were parties to the notices of 1st December, 1930, which I have quoted.

"It will have been noted that no reference is made in the notice of 1st December to the terms or conditions which were to prevail between 1st and 15th December. This is no doubt accounted for by the fact that the employers had announced two days previously at the meeting of the Conciliation Board that the pits would be worked on the terms and conditions prevailing previously to 1st December, subject to a limitation of the number of shifts to be worked in a fortnight. Also, I am informed that in some districts there were local agreements which dealt with matters not provided for in the National Agreement of 8th August, 1927, and that these Agreements required 14 days' notice in writing of any alteration of their terms, and that the employers desired that all the districts should work on the terms prevailing prior to 1st December for a fortnight after that date, subject to the limitation with regard to the number of shifts worked in a fortnight.

"It was suggested on behalf of the Insurance Officer that the temporary terms which the employers were offering for employment between 1st and 15th December were, either the first alternative referred to in the notice of 1st December 1930, or the temporary terms which were stated at the meeting of 29th November, 1930, and admitted to be in breach of the Statute.

"The reason for this suggestion being made is that towards the close of the meeting on 29th November the President of the National Union of Scottish Mineworkers asked the employers 'What are the best terms you are prepared to offer to operate the Act for a period of a fortnight or a month until we are able to consider a permanent settlement of the matter?' The employers' reply to this question was 'Our terms for the 7½ hours' day are 76 per cent. above basis,' to which the Mineworkers' President replied 'That was your proposal for a permanent settlement of the matter.'

"I am informed by a representative of the employers who attended the hearing of this appeal that the employers were not prepared to open their pits on 1st December, 1930, except on the 'spread-over' basis, as they had previously stated; so the question and answer to which I have referred cannot be taken as an offer of employment on 1st December on the 7½ hours' day basis.

"The Mineworkers refused to accept the employers' temporary terms of a 'spreadover' on and after 1st December, and a stoppage of work occurred which lasted from 1st to 7th inclusive, after which work was resumed on agreed temporary terms.

"It is not suggested that the stoppage of work occurred because of the alternative conditions which the notice stated would come into operation on 15th December, 1930, and it is agreed that the stoppage resulted from a refusal to accept the temporary terms and conditions which were offered for employment as from 1st December.

"In view of the employers' statement at the meeting of the Conciliation Board on 29th November 'We propose to open the pits on Monday on the same conditions as they are open today, except that we do not propose to work any pit more than 11 days in the fortnight,' and having regard to the statement made to me at the hearing of this appeal by the employers' representative, I find that the only offer of employment as from 1st December made by the employers was one which they admitted, and which the Insurance Officer admits, is in breach of Section 14 (1) of the Coal Mines Act, 1930.

"From this it follows, applying the principle of Umpire's Decisions 2358/20,\* 3015/20,† 6926/20,‡ 306/29,§ and 16509/30,|| that as the stoppage of work resulted from a refusal of the workmen to work under conditions which would have involved the breach of a statutory provision, employment was not lost by reason of a stoppage of work due to a trade dispute, and there is no disqualification for the receipt of unemployment benefit under the provisions of Section 8 (1) of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1930."

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

## Recent Proceedings.

## (A) INDUSTRIAL COURT DECISIONS.

**ELECTRICITY SUPPLY INDUSTRY.—National Joint Board of Employers and Members of Staff (Electricity Supply Industry): Employers' Side v. Employers' Side.** Difference.—The meaning of the words "normal rated output of the electrical generators" in relation to the capacity of the stations at Yoker and Clydesmill. (Award No. 1437.) Decision.—The Court took the view that as between a rating representing the maximum capacity of a generator, i.e., the "Continuous Maximum Rating," and a rating representing its maximum efficiency in relation to output, i.e., the "Service or Economic Rating," the words "normal rated output of the electrical generators" in the Agreement of 28th April, 1923, refer to the "Service or Economic Rating," namely, the rating representing maximum efficiency and not maximum capacity. The Court decided that in relation to the capacity of the stations at Yoker and Clydesmill as at the 1st July, 1923, the generators installed should be assessed accordingly. Award issued 3rd February, 1931. (1491.)

**SPRING FITTERS AND VICEMEN, LAMINATED SPRING TRADE.—Laminated Spring Manufacturers' Association v. Laminated and Coil Spring Workers' Union.** Difference.—Claim by the employers for the establishment of consolidated datal rates for spring fitters and vicemen, that piece-work prices shall yield to the normal worker 33½ per cent. on such datal rates, and that the whole or part of the 25 per cent. bonus and cost-of-living bonus be cancelled; and a claim by the Union that the employers should accept the responsibility of assembling and testing springs. Decision.—The Court took the view that negotiations in regard to a revision of the Piece Work Price List of September, 1922, should be re-opened. They awarded that piece work prices shall be such as to yield to a normal plate (i.e., spring fitter and viceman) not less than 33½ per cent. on the combined datal rates; for this purpose the consolidated datal rates shall be 61s. for spring fitters and 47s. for vicemen, per week of 44½ hours; that pending the revision of the Piece Work Price List of September, 1922, the 25 per cent. bonus shall be reduced to 15 per cent., and the cost-of-living bonus of 4s. per week shall cease as from the beginning of the first pay week following the date of the award; that the revised piece work prices shall be subject to adjustment to secure that the earnings of a plate shall not be less than they would have been on the original prices, plus percentage payable at the operative date of the revised list; that no further alterations shall be made in the revised list without due notice by the parties. On the claim that the employers should accept the responsibility of assembling and testing springs, the evidence before the Court as to the proposed devolution of duty is not such as to warrant any change in the existing practice. Award issued 20th February, 1931. (1492.)

**RAILWAY SHOPMEN, GRADE II MASON: CLAIM TO BE GRADE I.—National Union of Railwaymen v. Southern Railway.** Difference.—That A. A. Mitchell, Grade II Mason, employed by the Southern Railway on the Somerset and Dorset Joint Line at Radstock, shall be raised to Grade I. Decision.—The Court awarded that the mason shall be regraded as Grade I. Award issued 24th February, 1931. (1493.)

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

**COAL MINING—DURHAM.—Horton Coal Company, Limited, v. Workmen.** Difference.—With respect to Clause 4 of an Agreement dated 26th November, 1930, between the Durham Mining Federation Board and the Durham Coal Owners' Association. Mr. W. H. Stoker, K.C., appointed under the Industrial Courts Act, 1919, to act as independent Umpire to determine the matter. Award issued on 9th February, 1931.

**SAWMILLING AND PACKING—CASE MAKING, SCOTLAND.—(i) Scottish Timber Merchants' and Sawmillers' Association v. Amalgamated Society of Woodcutting Machinists; (ii) Scottish Employers' National Federation of Packing Case Makers v. Amalgamated Society of Woodcutting Machinists; (iii) Scottish Employers' National Federation of Packing-Case Makers v. Amalgamated Packing-Case Makers of Scotland Trade Society.** Difference.—In each of the above cases

\* See Vol. II, Umpire's Selected Decisions (Pamphlet No. 9) and U.I. Code 8.

† See Vol. II, Umpire's Selected Decisions (Pamphlet No. 9) and U.I. Code 8.

‡ See Vol. III, Umpire's Selected Decisions (Pamphlet No. 37).

§ See Vol. VIII, Umpire's Selected Decisions, page 12 (Pamphlet No. 1/1929) and U.I. Code 8a.

|| See page 185 (Pamphlet No. 11/1930) Umpire's Selected Decisions.

the difference arose out of a claim by the employers for a reduction in the hourly rate of wages, and a claim by the trade unions concerned for an increase in the hourly rate of wages, the institution of a 44-hour week, and the arrangement of 12 days' holiday, with pay, per annum, to which claim the union in the last-named case also included a request for the addition of 1d. per hour to the normal hourly rate for its members when on short time. Boards of Arbitration consisting in all three cases of Mr. James Macdonald, K.C. (Chairman); Mr. George Pate, O.B.E. (employers' representative), and Baillie William Leonard (workpeople's representative), were appointed under the Industrial Courts Act, 1919, to determine the differences. In no case were the members of the Boards able to come to a unanimous decision, and the matters were left to the Chairman to decide. His three Awards, which were issued on 19th February, 1931, decided that in each case the claims of the trade unions had not been established, and that the employers' claims had been established to the extent of a reduction of one penny per hour, with effect as from the beginning of the first full pay period following 23rd February, 1931.

## (C)—OTHER SETTLEMENTS.

[There were no cases under this heading during February.]

## RAILWAYS ACT, 1921.

## NATIONAL WAGES BOARD.

The National Wages Board sat on thirteen days during January and February, 1931, to hear parties in connection with claims relative to rates of pay and conditions of service of railway employees, referred to the Board by the railway companies covered by Part IV. of the Railways Act, 1921, and by the National Union of Railwaymen, the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen, and the Railway Clerks' Association, respectively.

The proposals made by the railway companies affected all staff whose rates of pay and conditions of service are subject to the jurisdiction of the Board, and the chief items of their claim were as follows:—

**Wages Grades.**—Reductions of 6s. per week in current and standard rates of pay of all adult male staff, subject to a minimum weekly rate of 38s.

Reduction of 5s. per week in the rates of pay of junior male staff and of female staff.

Alterations in the conditions of service affecting hours of duty, guaranteed day, guaranteed week, overtime, night duty, and duty performed on Sunday.

**Salary Staff and Staff paid on salary equivalent basis: Adult Male Staff.**—The present scale rates from £180 to £350 inclusive to be reduced by £20 per annum, and the salaries of staff at present in receipt of rates within this range to be reduced immediately by £15 per annum.

The present scale rates from £80 to £170 inclusive to be reduced by £10 per annum. The salaries of staff at present in receipt of rates within this range to be reduced immediately by £10 per annum.

The cancellation of the existing Class 5 scale for male clerical staff, and the substitution therefor of two classes, viz., Class 6 and Class 5. The new Class 6 scale to be from £70 per annum to £150 per annum. The new Class 5 scale to be from £160 per annum to £180 per annum.

**Women Clerks.**—The present scale rates from 47s. 6d. to 70s. per week inclusive to be reduced by 6s. per week, and the rates of staff at present in receipt of rates within this range to be reduced immediately by 4s. 6d. per week.

The present scale rates from 30s. to 45s. per week inclusive to be reduced by 3s. per week, and the rates of staff at present in receipt of rates within this range to be reduced immediately by 3s. per week.

The existing Class 2 scale for women clerks to be cancelled, and the substitution therefor of two classes, namely Class 3 and Class 2, for which scales are to be: Class 3, 27s. per week to 40s. per week; and, Class 2, 42s. per week to 54s. per week.

**Conditions of Service.**—Alterations were proposed in conditions of service affecting hours of duty, week-day duty and overtime, night duty, duty performed on Sunday, and aggregation allowances.

The chief proposals of the National Union of Railwaymen were for a minimum rate for adult grades of not less than £3 per week, that the rates for junior staff should be increased, that two weeks' holiday with pay should be given after twelve months' service to all employees embraced in the Conciliation Scheme grades, a guaranteed day and a guaranteed week for all grades, that hybrid grades should be abolished, that the basis of classification for shutters should be altered, and that in the case of signalmen there should be a revision of the marks basis.

The claims of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen were:—(i) Abolition of classification; (ii) guaranteed day for each time of booking on duty Sunday; (iii) rescinding of National Wages Board minute re extended rosters; and (iv) minimum firing rate to cleaners after seven years' service.

The claims of the Railway Clerks' Association were that any clerical or supervisory employee who has been standing on the maximum of his or her class for three years shall, if no promotion to a higher class is available, receive an advance of £10 per annum, and after a further period of three years, another advance of £10 per annum; that all regularly employed persons performing clerical

work who are now designated "unappointed," "supernumerary" or "temporary" staff be appointed to the salaried staff; that employees to whom the provisions of the present arrangement as regards higher class temporary duty are applied shall receive the appropriate increment in the higher class scale so soon as they have performed the higher duties for the qualifying incremental period; and that all time worked between Saturday midnight and Sunday midnight shall be paid for at the Sunday rates applicable to the grade, and that there should be an interval of two hours between each call of duty on Sunday.

The conclusions of the Board were as follows:—

"We have considered the various claims put forward by each side, and, whilst the representatives of the several interests are unable to agree that the terms set out below represent an adequate recognition of the respective cases, they are prepared to accept them as a whole as the finding of the Board.

"We therefore find as follows:—

"With regard to the claims of the Railway Companies:—

## "Conciliation Grades.

## "Conditions.

## "Overtime:—

Day ...	The rate of time-and-an-eighth shall be substituted for time-and-a-quarter.
Night ...	The rate of time-and-a-quarter shall be substituted for time-and-a-half.

"Night Duty.—The rate of time-and-an-eighth shall be substituted for time-and-a-quarter.

"Duty performed on Sunday, also on Good Friday and Christmas Day (England and Wales), January 1st and 2nd (Scotland).—The rate of time-and-a-third shall be substituted for time-and-a-half. In those cases where double time is paid, time-and-two-thirds shall be substituted therefor.

"Hours of Work.—A spread-over up to twelve hours a day may be put into operation in the case of all grades (except drivers, firemen, guards, and signalmen), subject to review by the Central Wages Board or, on appeal, the National Wages Board, in respect of any station where it is contended that such a spread-over is unreasonable.

"Earnings.—All earnings shall be subject to a deduction of 2½ per cent., with a further deduction of 2½ per cent. in respect of all earnings in excess of 40s. per week.

"For example, a man earning 50s. in a week would be subject to a deduction of 1s. 6d., made up as follows:—1s. 3d., being 2½ per cent. on 50s., plus 3d., being 2½ per cent. on 10s., the amount over 40s.

"Provided that in the case of male adults whose base rates are under 41s. per week the deductions shall not operate so as to reduce their earnings below their base rates, and provided further that in no case shall any deduction exceed the sum of 6s. per week.

"Clerical, Supervisory, and Other Salaried Staff, and Staff Paid on a salary equivalent basis.

"No change in conditions or classes.

"All earnings shall be subject to a deduction of 2½ per cent., with a further deduction of 2½ per cent. in respect of all earnings in excess of £100 per year, provided that in no case shall any deduction exceed the sum of £15 per year.

"Save as aforesaid we find against the claims of the companies.

"With regard to the claims of the National Union of Railwaymen, we find against them, except that we recommend to the companies that in those cases of crossing-keepers where it can be shown that the work at the crossing has materially increased owing to motor traffic, there shall be some additional weekly payment or arrangement made for relief duty.

"With regard to the claims of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen, we find that the classification as laid down in paragraph 61—III.—Enginemmen—Sub-paragraph (2) of the Board's Decision No. 12,\* should be cancelled.

"We find that the rates of pay to cleaners should be as follows:—

Age in years:—	
16 and under	... .. 4s. per day.
17 years	... .. 5s. "
18 and 19 years	... .. 6s. "
20 and 21 years	... .. 7s. "
22 years and over	... .. 8s. "

"We find against claims (2) and (3).

"With regard to the claims of the Railway Clerks' Association, on the claim regarding higher class temporary duty, we find that all employees to whom the provisions of the present arrangement are applied, when employed temporarily on higher class duty, shall receive the appropriate increment in the higher class scale as soon as they have performed the higher duties for the qualifying incremental period.

"We further find that, to determine the commencing salary on promotion to a higher class, all such temporary duty shall be aggregated, provided that it is for a continuous period of not less than four months.

\* This sub-paragraph refers to drivers on shunting engines (not performing train miles or working with a brake van), shed yard engines, and preparing or disposal of engines.

"With regard to the payment for Sunday duty, we find that all time worked between Saturday midnight and Sunday midnight shall be paid for at the Sunday rate applicable to the grade."

"It follows, therefore, that the payment of Sunday rate for time worked on Monday morning on a turn commencing on Sunday evening will thereby be discontinued; but in a turn commencing before midnight on Saturday, all hours worked on Sunday will be paid for at Sunday rate."

"Save as hereinbefore set out we find against the claims of the Railway Clerks' Association."

"This decision shall be operative as from the beginning of the first full pay following 28th March, 1931, to the first full pay following 26th March, 1932, and shall continue thereafter until altered by agreement between the parties or a decision of the Central Wages Board or, on appeal, of this Board."

Eight members of the Board signed an addendum to the Board's finding. This was as follows:—

"Whilst concurring in the findings which provide a measure of assistance for the purpose of enabling the companies to encounter the immediate difficulties, we desire at the same time to state that in our opinion this enquiry has clearly revealed the necessity for other action, in order that the industry may be in a position to provide the transport facilities desired by industry, commerce, and the travelling public."

"In our view the continuation of four separate groups of railways is unsatisfactory. Modern requirements make further co-ordination imperative, and the present enquiry has reinforced our opinion that only along the lines of comprehensive national organisation of all forms of transport under public ownership and control can the problems of the transport industry be overcome."

## TRADE BOARDS ACTS.

### Orders, Notices, etc., Recently Issued.

#### I.—CONFIRMING ORDERS.

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

Order H.L. (12), dated 3rd March, 1931, confirming the variation of general minimum time-rates and overtime rates for male workers and certain classes of female workers and the piece-work basis time-rate for female workers, and specifying 9th March, 1931, as the date from which such rates should become effective.

##### Tobacco Trade Board (Northern Ireland).

Order N.I.T. (4), made by the Ministry of Labour (Northern Ireland), dated 25th February, 1931, confirming the variation of certain general minimum time-rates and general overtime rates for male and female workers in the tobacco trade in Northern Ireland, and specifying 5th March, 1931, as the date from which such minimum rates should become effective.

#### II.—NOTICE OF PROPOSAL.

##### Boot and Shoe Repairing Trade Board (Great Britain).

Proposal D. (44), dated 24th February, 1931, to vary general minimum time-rates and overtime rates for certain classes of male and female workers, and to vary and fix certain general minimum piece-rates.

Objection period expires 24th April, 1931.

## FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.

### Refractory Materials: Draft Regulations.

The Home Secretary issued a notice,\* dated 24th January, 1930, that he proposed to make new Regulations under section 79 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, to apply to all factories and workshops, or parts thereof, in which the processes of handling, moving, breaking, crushing, grinding, or sieving of refractory materials containing not less than 80 per cent. total silica, or any processes in the manufacture of silica bricks or other articles containing not less than 80 per cent. total silica, are carried on.

A number of objections were received to these draft Regulations, most of them based on the impression that the Regulations were intended to have a much wider scope than was contemplated. Further discussions were arranged with the associations representing the employers and the workers concerned, and, as a result of these discussions, H.M. Chief Inspector of Factories recommended that the preamble to the Regulations should be amended so as to make the application more definite, and that certain other amendments, which are mainly drafting amendments to remove doubts as to the application of particular requirements, should be included.

The Home Secretary has now issued revised draft Regulations, embodying these amendments. In a covering notice, dated 27th February, 1931, he states that he proposes to make Regulations, to apply to the processes of handling, moving, breaking, crushing, grinding, or sieving of refractory material containing not less than 80 per cent. total silica, for the purposes of the manufacture of articles used in the construction of furnaces and flues, or of crucibles, or of compositions or other materials used in the preparation of moulds in which metals are cast; or any processes in the manufacture of silica bricks or other articles composed of refractory materials containing not less than 80 per cent. total silica.

\* See the issue of this GAZETTE for February, 1930, page 78.

Copies of the revised draft Regulations may be obtained on application to the Factory Department, Home Office (Whitehall, London, S.W. 1); and any objection with respect to them must be sent to the Secretary of State within 21 days from the date of the notice. Every such objection must be in writing, and must state (a) the draft Regulations or portions of draft Regulations objected to, (b) the specific grounds of objection, and (c) the omissions, additions, and modifications asked for.

#### Proposed Regulations for Jib Cranes.

The Home Secretary has issued a notice, dated 3rd March, 1931, that he has certified, in pursuance of section 79 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, that the use of jib cranes is dangerous, and that he has had prepared draft Regulations to apply to all factories and workshops and other classes of premises to which that section applies, excepting premises which are subject to the Regulations made under the Act for the construction of buildings.

As regards premises under the Building Regulations, a new Code of Regulations\* dealing with the use of cranes and other lifting appliances has already been under discussion with employers' associations and trade unions connected with the building trade and representatives of the crane makers, and has been substantially agreed. It is proposed that that Code should be made separately as an amendment to the Building Regulations.

The principal requirements of the draft Regulations now proposed are that jib cranes shall be properly tested and examined at regular intervals; that a certificate of such test, specifying the safe working load or loads shall have been obtained; and that the crane shall not be loaded beyond the safe working load except for testing purposes. A further requirement is the provision of an automatic indicator, to show when the safe working load is approached or exceeded. Provisions are also included in regard to secure anchorage, the condition of the rail track in the case of travelling jib cranes, and other important points affecting safety.

Copies of the draft Regulations may be obtained on application to the Factory Department, Home Office (Whitehall, London, S.W. 1); and any objection with respect to them must be sent to the Secretary of State within 40 days from the date of the notice. Every such objection must be in writing, and must state: (a) the draft Regulations or portions of draft Regulations objected to; (b) the specific grounds of objection; and (c) the omissions, additions, or modifications asked for.

## BOARD FOR MINING EXAMINATIONS.

### Examinations for Certificates of Competency as Managers and Under-Managers of Mines and for Certificates of Qualification as Surveyors of Mines.

EXAMINATIONS for first and second class certificates of competency as Managers and Under-Managers of Mines will be held on 27th and 28th May, 1931, at Edinburgh, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Sheffield, Wigan, Cardiff, and Birmingham.

The written part of an examination for certificates of qualification as Surveyors of Mines will be held at the same centres on 28th May, 1931.

Applications for the necessary forms should be made as early as possible, and not later than 11th April, 1931. In order that the appropriate forms may be sent, it is important that candidates should state whether they have already sat at one of the Board's examinations.

Letters should be addressed to the Secretary, Board for Mining Examinations, Mines Department, Dean Stanley Street, Millbank, London, S.W. 1.

## OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

[NOTE.—The prices quoted in this list are net, and do not include postage.]

DEVELOPMENT FUND.—*Abstract account of the receipts into, and issues out of, the Development Fund in the year ended 31st March, 1930, together with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General thereon.* (H.C. 19; price 2d.)

INDUSTRIAL COURT.—*Industrial Court Awards. Vol. XII. Awards 1446 to 1488, January 1, 1930, to December 31, 1930.* Ministry of Labour. (S.O. publication; price 2s. 6d.)

MEDICAL RESEARCH.—*Report of the Medical Research Council for the year 1929-1930.* (Cmd. 3785; price 2s. 6d.)

MERCHANT SHIPPING.—*List of the principal Acts of Parliament, regulations, orders, instructions and notices relating to merchant shipping in force on the 1st January, 1931.* Board of Trade, Mercantile Marine Department. (S.O. publication; price 6d.)

MINING.—(i) *Output and employment at metalliferous mines, quarries, etc., during the quarter ended 30th September, 1930.* Mines Department. (S.O. publication; price 4d.) (ii) *Miners' Welfare Fund. Ninth Report of the Committee appointed by the Board of Trade to allocate the fund, together with the fourth Report of the Selection Committee appointed to administer the Miners' Welfare National Scholarship Scheme, 1930.* Mines Department. (S.O. publication; price 1s. 6d.)

\* See the issue of this GAZETTE for July, 1930, page 275.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS.—*Report of the Consultative Committee on the primary school. Board of Education.* (S.O. publication; price 2s. 6d.)

ROAD FUND.—(i) *Report on the administration of the Road Fund for the year 1929-1930.* Ministry of Transport. (S.O. publication; price 1s.) (ii) *Abstract account of the receipts into and payments out of the Road Fund in the year ended 31st March, 1930, together with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General thereon.* (H.C. 27; price 2d.)

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.—*Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. Report for the year 1929-30.* (Cmd. 3789; price 3s. 6d.)

SILICOSES.—(i) *Report on the International Conference on Silicosis held at Johannesburg in August, 1930, including an account of the steps taken in regard to the disease in South Africa.* Home Office. (S.O. publication; price 4d.) (ii) *Silicosis. Records of the international conference held at Johannesburg, 13-27 August, 1930.* Studies and Reports, Series F. (Industrial Hygiene) No. 13. (Published in London for the International Labour Office by P. S. King & Co., Ltd.; price 16s.)

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.—(i) *Memorandum on the financial resolution to be proposed relative to unemployment insurance.* (Cmd. 3788; price 1d.) (ii) *Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1930. Selected decisions given by the Umpire on claims for benefit.* U.I. Code 8B. Pamphlet 1/1931. January, 1931. Ministry of Labour. (S.O. publication; price 6d.)

VITAL STATISTICS.—*Registrar-General's statistical review for the year 1929. Part 3, Text.* (New annual series No. 9.) (S.O. publication; price 2s. 6d.)

VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE.—*Choice of Career Series, No. 2, Pharmacy. No. 3, Veterinary surgery.* Revised edition, February, 1931. Ministry of Labour. (S.O. publication; price 2d. each.)

WIDOWS', ORPHANS' AND OLD AGE PENSIONS.—*Widows', Orphans' and Old Age Contributory Pensions Acts, 1925 and 1929. Accounts showing the receipts and payments during the year ended 31st March, 1930, together with the report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General thereon.* (H.C. 34; price 2d.)

## GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.

### LIST OF NEW CONTRACTS, FEBRUARY, 1931.

#### ADMIRALTY.

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

Wrabness: **Erection of four Cottages:** Rogers Bros., Ltd., Felixstowe.—**Ports-mouth: Cement:** Cement Marketing Company, Ltd., London, S.W.

##### (Contract and Purchase Department.)

**Alternators, Motor:** Mackie & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Angles, etc., M.S.:** British (G.K.B.) Iron & Steel Co., Cardiff; Colvilles, Ltd., Glasgow; Consett Iron Co., Ltd., Consett; Dorman Long & Co., Ltd., Middlesbrough; Frodingham Iron & Steel Co., Ltd., Scunthorpe; Lanarkshire Steel Co., Ltd., Motherwell; Park Gate Iron & Steel Co., Ltd., Rotherham; Pease & Partners, Ltd., Saltburn; Steel Co. of Scotland, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Bacon, Tinned:** J. A. Hunter & Co., Ltd., Liverpool.—**Balances, Spring:** G. Salter & Co., Ltd., West Bromwich.—**Blading, Turbine, Casing and Rotor:** Vickers-Armstrongs, Ltd., Barrow-in-Furness.—**Blowers, Rotary:** Reavell & Co., Ltd., Ipswich.—**Boats, Motor:** Ferry Engine Co., Southampton; A. Rutherford & Co., Birkenhead.—**Bolts, Nuts, Studs, etc., Bright Steel:** Kirby Banks Screw Co., Ltd., Beeston; C. Lindley & Co., Ltd., London, N.; E. Mercer, Ltd., Hollinwood; J. C. Prestwick, Ltd., Atherton; C. Richards & Sons, Ltd., Darlston; Steel Nut & J. Hampton, Ltd., Wednesbury.—**Boxes, Junction, Distribution, etc.:** McGeoch & Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Hawkers, Ltd., Birmingham; Engineering & Lighting Equipment Co., Ltd., St. Albans; Whipp & Bourne, Ltd., Castleton, Lancashire; L. Weekes (Luton), Ltd., Luton.—**Brushes, Painters':** Beechwood, Ltd., Chesham, Bucks; F. Brockley & Son, Banstead; D. Burrow & Sons, Ltd., Leeds; E. A. & W. Greenslade, Ltd., Bristol; Hamilton & Co. (London), Ltd., London, E.C.; G. B. Kent & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.; C. H. Leng & Sons, Birmingham; J. T. Millwood & Sons, Ltd., London, E.; J. Root & Son, London, N.; Vale & Bradnack, Walsall; I. S. Varian & Co., Dublin; W. H. Vowles & Sons, Ltd., Stonehouse, Glos.—**Brushes, Steel-Wire:** E. A. & W. Greenslade, Ltd., Bristol; N. Greening & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.; C. H. Leng & Sons, Birmingham; Mechanical Appliances Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; W. Riddell Cousland & Co., Ltd., Glasgow; Thornton Williams & Co., London, S.E.; C. Topham & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Wm. Turner, Hemel Hempstead; J. & R. Whyte, Glasgow.—**Brushes, Tooth:** G. B. Kent & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Bunting:** C. B. Brook & Co., Ltd., Bradford; J. Clough & Son, Shipley, Yorks; W. Bancroft & Sons of Halifax, Ltd., Halifax.—**Cables, Electric:** Anchor Cable Co., Ltd., Leigh, Lancashire; British Insulated Cables, Ltd., Helsby, Lancashire; Craigpark Electric Cable Co., Ltd., Glasgow; Edison Swan Cables, Ltd., Lydbrook, Glos.; Enfield Cable Works, Ltd., Brimsdown, Middlesex; General Electric Co., Ltd., Southampton; Greengate & Irwell Rubber Co., Ltd., Manchester; Glover W. T. & Co., Ltd., Manchester; Hackbridge Cable Co., Ltd., Hackbridge; Henley's Telegraph Works Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Hoopers Telegraph & India Rubber Works, Ltd., London, E.; India Rubber, Gutta Percha & Telegraph Works, Co., Ltd., London, E.;

Johnson & Phillips, Ltd., London, S.E.; Liverpool Electric Cable Co., Ltd., Liverpool; Macintosh Cable Co., Ltd., Derby; St. Helens Cable & Rubber Co., Ltd., Slough; Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Cases, Charger:** Hugh Stevenson & Sons, Ltd., Manchester.—**Chain Cable Gear:** Woodhouse Bros., Cradley Heath; Fellows Bros., Ltd., Cradley Heath; Laird & Son, Ltd., Irvine; Brown, Lenox & Co., Ltd., Pontypridd; F. Mountford (Birmingham), Ltd., Birmingham; H. Wood & Co., Ltd., Saltney.—**Chests of Drawers, Aluminium:** G. A. Harvey & Co. (London), Ltd., London, S.W.—**Cloth, Blue:** A. W. Hainsworth & Sons, Ltd., Farsley; J. Hainsworth & Sons, Farsley; J. Hoyle & Son, Ltd., Longwood; W. Lupton & Co., Ltd., Leeds; Colbeck Bros., Ltd., Wakefield.—**Cocks, Asbestos-packed:** Hayward Tyler & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Shipham & Co., Ltd., Hull; W. N. Baines & Co., Ltd., Rotherham.—**Cocks, Plated and Gunmetal:** Henry Bisseker, Ltd., Birmingham; Sir J. Laing & Sons, Ltd., Sunderland; Manley & Regulus, Ltd., Wolverhampton; Player Mitchell & Breeden, Birmingham; Sperry & Co., Birmingham; Woodhouse & Co., Ltd., Doncaster.—**Cocks, Steam, Valves, Torpedo Fittings, etc., Gunmetal:** W. N. Baines & Co., Ltd., Rotherham; British Oxygen Co., Ltd., London, N.; S. Dixon & Son, Ltd., Leeds; Gummery, Ltd., Rotherham; Hayward Tyler & Co., Ltd., Luton; C. S. Madan & Co., Ltd., Manchester; Shipham & Co., Ltd., Hull; Smith Bros. & Co. (Hyson) Ltd., Spotts; M. W. Swinburne & Sons, Ltd., Wallsend-on-Tyne.—**Coils, Spars for W/T:** Watson & Sons (Electro-Medical), Ltd., London, W.C.—**Compressors, Air:** G. & J. Weir, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Cotton Waste:** C. E. Austin & Sons, Ltd., Manchester; Henry Yates & Sons, Ltd., Darwen; Porter Bros., Ltd., Liverpool.—**Cramps, Clamps and Vices:** Chas. Neil & Co., Ltd., Sheffield; J. Parkinson & Son, Shipley, Yorks; T. Newey & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham; Gilpin & Whitehouse, Ltd., Cannock; Wynn, Timmins & Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Easterbrook, Allcard & Co., Ltd., Sheffield; C. & J. Hampton, Ltd., Sheffield; Alldays & Onions, Ltd., Birmingham; John Brooks (Lye), Ltd., Stourbridge.—**Crane, Steam Travelling:** Cowans Sheldon & Co., Ltd., Carlisle.—**Driers, Paste:** Colthurst & Harding, Ltd., Bristol; John Hare & Co. (Colours), Ltd., Bristol.—**Duck, Flax:** A. Blyth & Co., Kirkealdy; D. & R. Duke, Brechin.—**Electro Plated Articles:** Mappin & Webb, Ltd., Sheffield; Walker & Hall, Ltd., Sheffield; Gladwin, Ltd., Sheffield; Viners, Ltd., Sheffield; T. Wilkinson & Sons, Birmingham; Elkington & Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Engines, Motor-Boat:** W. H. Dorman & Co., Ltd., Stafford.—**Fearnought and Kersey:** Wm. Edleston, Ltd., Sowerby Bridge; L. Harwood & Co., Ltd., Luddendenfoot and Cleckheaton; J. Horsfall & Sons (Greenock), Ltd., Greenock.—**Fittings, Brass:** E. Showell & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham; Worcester Brass Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Bailey & Mackey, Ltd., Birmingham; W. R. James, Birmingham; W. McGeoch & Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Player Mitchell & Breeden, Birmingham; Walter Rowley, Ltd., Birmingham; A. Kenrick & Sons, Ltd., West Bromwich; Evered & Co., Ltd., Smethwick; J. & E. Bates & Sons, Ltd., Wolverhampton; Tonks (Birmingham), Ltd., Birmingham.—**Firehearth Gear:** Smith & Wellstood, Ltd., Stirlingshire; C. Portway & Son, Halstead, Essex; Moorwoods, Ltd., Sheffield; W. Green & Co. (Ecclesfield) Ltd., Sheffield; Carron Company, Falkirk.—**Flannel:** J. Smith (Milnrow), Ltd., Milnrow; Jas. Schofield & Sons (Buckley) Ltd., Rochdale; T. & C. Littlewood & Co., Ltd., Rochdale; Wm. Clegg, Ltd., Milnrow; R. Schofield, Ltd., Rochdale; John Jones, Pentrecoet, Llandyssul.—**Floats, Life:** A. Rutherford & Co., Birkenhead; Mechans, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Frocks, White, Woollen:** I. & R. Morley, Leicester.—**Furnace, Annealing:** Incandescent Heat Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Gauges, Pressure:** Budenberg Gauge Co., Ltd., Manchester; Dewrance & Co., London, S.E.; Hattersley (Ormskirk), Ltd., Ormskirk; Smith Bros. & Co. (Hyson), Ltd., Nottingham; S. Smith & Sons (Nottingham), Ltd., Nottingham.—**Generators, Motor:** Rotax (Motor Accessories), Ltd., Taunton.—**Gloves, Leather (Various):** J. S. Deed & Sons, Ltd., London, W.C.; E. & W. C. French, Ltd., Taunton; The North of England Chamis Co., Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne.—**Glycerine:** The Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society, Ltd., Grangemouth.—**Gromets, Eyelets, etc.:** H. Hipkiss & Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Bodill Parker (1922), Ltd., Birmingham; G. Tucker Eyelet Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Gymnastic Gear:** Frank Bryan, Ltd., London, S.E.; Barrow Hepburn & Gale, Ltd., London, S.E.; G. G. Bussey & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; G. Maclellan & Co., Ltd., Glasgow; C. Ockwell & Co., Cricklade; Thomas Smith, London, W.; Spencer Heath & George, Ltd., Ponders End.—**Handkerchiefs, White Cotton:** J. H. Greenhow & Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Hides, Upholstery, etc.:** Connolly Bros. (Curriers), Ltd., London, N.W.; J. T. Hart & Sons, London, E.C.; G. Maclellan & Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Hose, Leather Suction:** Barrowfield Leather Co., Ltd., Glasgow; S. E. Norris & Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Hoses, Metallic, Flexible:** Interlock Metal Hose Co., London, N.; Power Flexible Tubing Co., Ltd., London, N.; Midland Flexible Metallic Tubing Co., Ltd., Long Eaton, Notts.—**Ingots, Bronze, Manganese:** J. Stone & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Lamps, Electric:** General Electric Co., Ltd., London, W.; Edison Swan Electric Co., Ltd., Ponders End; British Thomson Houston Co., Ltd., Rugby; Siemens Electric Lamps & Supplies, Ltd., Preston.—**Lathes:** John Lang & Sons, Ltd., Johnstone.—**Launch, Motor:** British Power Boat Co., Hythe, Southampton.—**Lead, Red, Non-Setting:** Blacklock & MacArthur, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Lead Sheet and Pipe:** Walkers Parker & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Linen Goods:** A. Blyth & Co., Kirkealdy; Wm. Ewart & Son, Ltd., Belfast; Lamb & Scott, Ltd., Brechin; Wm. McLaren & Sons, Kirkealdy; The Rosebank Weaving Co., Ltd., Belfast; The Ulster Weaving Co., Ltd., Belfast; The York Street Flax Spinning Co. (London), Ltd., Belfast.—**Linoleum:** Fife Linoleum Co., Ltd., Kirkealdy.—**Locks, etc.:** Barks & Rushton, Willenhall; J. & E. Bates & Sons, Ltd., Wolverhampton; Erebus Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Willenhall; Josiah Parkes & Sons, Ltd., Willenhall;

W. M. Penson, Willenhall; N. F. Ramsay & Co., Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne; E. Tonks & Sons, Ltd., Willenhall; Walsall Locks & Cart Gear, Ltd., Walsall; John Worrall & Sons, Willenhall.—**Machine, Bolt, Nut and Rivet Forging:** Greenwood & Batley, Ltd., Leeds.—**Machine, Drilling, Radial:** Kitchen & Wade, Ltd., Halifax.—**Machines, Drilling, Portable, Electric:** Consolidated Pneumatic Tool Co., Ltd., London, W.—**Machine, Forging and Upsetting:** Coventry Machine Tool Works, Ltd., Coventry.—**Machine, Grinding:** A. A. Jones & Shipman, Ltd., Leicester.—**Machine, Hobbing and Thread Milling:** John Holroyd & Co., Ltd., Rochdale.—**Machine, Planing:** George Richards & Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Marmalade:** J. Stephens, Sons & Co., Ltd., Gloucester; Chivers & Sons, Ltd., Histon.—**Nails, Copper, etc.:** Armistead & Grimshaw, Ltd., Leeds; Cooper & Turner, Ltd., Sheffield; David Powis & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham; J. Stone & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Tower Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Worcester; Whitecross Co., Ltd., Warrington.—**Oils, Linseed:** Dixon & Cardus, Ltd., Southampton; Smith Bros. & Co., London, E.; Union Oil & Cake Mills, London, E.; Younghusband, Barnes & Co., London, S.E.; I. L. Seaton & Co., Ltd., Hull.—**Panels and Transmitters (W/T):** H. W. Sullivan, Ltd., London, S.E.; Gambrell Bros., London, S.W.—**Paint, White, and Cobalt Driers:** Blacklock & Macarthur, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Plates, D.1 Steel:** British (G.K.B.) Iron & Steel Co., Cardiff; Colvilles, Ltd., Glasgow; Dorman, Long & Co., Ltd., Middlesbrough; Park Gate Iron & Steel Co., Ltd., Rotherham; Steel Co. of Scotland, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Plates, Glass:** John Baird, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Propellers:** Manganese Bronze & Brass Co., Ltd., Millwall, E.—**Pumps, Boiler Feed:** G. & J. Weir, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Reps, etc.:** Walsh & McCrear, Ltd., Halifax; Henry Booth & Sons, Ltd., Gildersome.—**Resistances and Elements:** The Engineering & Lighting Equipment Co., Ltd., St. Albans.—**Ribbon, White, Silk and Lute:** J. & J. Cash, Ltd., Coventry.—**Rods, Discs, Sheets, Bars (Steel):** Hadfield's, Ltd., Sheffield; Rotherham Forge & Rolling Mills Co., Rotherham; Andrews Toledo, Ltd., Sheffield; Swift, Levick & Sons, Ltd., Sheffield; J. Beardshaw & Son, Ltd., Sheffield; Scottish Iron & Steel Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Rope, Steel Wire:** British Ropes, Ltd., Dagenham; Whitecross Co., Ltd., Warrington; Bruntons (Musselburgh), Ltd., Musselburgh.—**Screws, Iron:** British Screw Co., Ltd., Leeds.—**Screws, Iron and Brass:** Butler, Spragg & Co., Ltd., Birmingham; H. Cox Screw Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Thos. Eaves, Ltd., Birmingham; Guest, Keen & Nettlefolds, Ltd., Birmingham; Thos. Haddon & Co., Ltd., Birmingham; A. Stokes & Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Warne, Wright & Rowlands, Ltd., Birmingham; Davis & Timmins, Ltd., London, N.—**Screws, Phosphor-Bronze:** Davis & Timmins, Ltd., London, N.; The Plessey Co., Ltd., Iford; Ormond Engineering Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Butler, Spragg & Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Hawkers, Ltd., Birmingham; Thos. Haddon & Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Guest, Keen & Nettlefolds, Ltd., Birmingham; B.A. Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Waddon, Surrey.—**Screws and Slips:** Brown Lenox & Co., Ltd., Pontypridd; Carron Company, Falkirk; Douglass Bros., Ltd., Blyden-on-Tyne; Hughes Johnson Stampings, Ltd., Birmingham; Ruston & Hornsby, Ltd., Grantham; Vaughan Bros., Willenhall.—**Silk, Black:** J. & J. Cash, Ltd., Coventry.—**Solder, Plumbers', Timmen's, etc.:** Locke, Lancaster and W. W. & R. Johnson & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.; Ratcliffs (Great Bridge) Ltd., Great Bridge, Staffs; Tyre Solder Co., Felling-on-Tyne.—**Table Linen, Damask:** Wm. Ewart & Son, Ltd., Belfast; J. N. Richardson, Sons & Owden, Ltd., Bessbrook; The Ulster Weaving Co., Ltd., Linfield.—**Tools, Pneumatic:** Globe Pneumatic Engineering Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Tractors, Electric:** Greenwood & Batley, Ltd., Leeds.—**Tubes, Water:** Stewarts & Lloyds, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Valves, W/T:** General Electric Co., Ltd., London, W.; Edison Swan Electric Co., Ltd., Ponders End; Mullard Radio Valve Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Valves, W/T, Silica:** Mullard Radio Valve Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Ware, Aluminium:** F. Braby & Co., Ltd., Bristol; Bulpitt & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham; Buncher & Haseler, Ltd., Birmingham; Hague & McKenzie, Ltd., Birmingham; White Bros. & Jacobs, Ltd., London, N.W.; London Aluminium Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Ware, Hollow:** T. & C. Clark & Co., Ltd., Wolverhampton; Archibald Kenrick & Sons, Ltd., West Bromwich; J. & J. Siddons, Ltd., West Bromwich.—**Water Closets and Gear:** Shanks & Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Wedges, Beech:** Bartlett, Bayliss & Co., Ltd., Exeter; C. R. Claridge & Sons, Ltd., Exeter; East & Son, Ltd., Berkhamsted; J. D. Foster, Emsworth, Hants; John Stenning & Son, Ltd., East Grinstead.—**Whalers:** Gayton, Stourbridge; C. Lallow, Cowes; M. W. Blackmore & Sons, Apple-dore.—**Wire, Brass, Copper and Phosphor-Bronze:** F. Smith & Co., Manchester; T. Bolton & Sons, Ltd., Oakmoor, Staffs; R. Johnson & Nephew, Ltd., Manchester; Whitecross Co., Ltd., Warrington.—**Wirework:** Aston Chain & Hook Co., Ltd., Birmingham; H. W. Carter & James, Ltd., Birmingham; James Dickson, Ltd., London, N.; N. Greening & Sons, Ltd., Warrington & Co. (London), Ltd., London, S.W.; Heaton & Dugard, Ltd., Birmingham; R. Johnson, Clapham & Morris, Ltd., Manchester; C. M. Metherell, Plymouth; Joseph Nichols & Son, Ltd., Birmingham; Bethel, Rhodes & Sons, York; Charles Topham & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Wood Goods, Manufactured:** W. H. Aston (Worcester), Ltd., Worcester; John Brown & Sons (Thatcham), Ltd., Thatcham; Burley & Sons, Ltd., Bootle; R. Burley & Sons, Ltd., Glasgow; R. Charnley & Sons, Ulverston; C. W. Clinch & Sons, Newbury; Dyne & Evens, Ltd., London, E.; East & Son, Ltd., Berkhamsted; J. H. Ellis & Sons, Ltd., Sheffield; Midland Saw & Tool Co., Ltd., Birmingham; S. Pinnock, Thatcham; J. Reynolds, Ltd., Chesham; Rudders & Paynes, Ltd., Birmingham; Sharp Bros. & Knight, Ltd., Burton-on-Trent; H. Wells, Buckle-bury Common; C. White, Bromley Common; H. Workman, Ltd., Stroud, Glos.—**Zinc Cake:** The British Metal Corporation, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Zinc Slabs, Sheets, etc.:** W. Barnes & Son, London, N.; Locke, Lancaster and W. W. & R. Johnson & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.; London Zinc Mills, Ltd., London, N.

## WAR OFFICE.

**Bags, Kit:** T. Briggs, Ltd., London, N.—**Blankets, Grey:** T. & D. Lee & Sons, Ltd., Earlsheaton.—**Boxes, Ammunition, etc.:** Brownlee & Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Brooms, Soft, Heads:** C. H. Leng & Sons, Birmingham.—**Calcium Chloride and Chloride of Lime:** Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd., Fleetwood.—**Canvases for Screens:** Gowen & Co., West Mersea.—**Caps, Field Service:** L. Silberston & Sons, London, E.—**Caps, S.D., O.R.:** J. Compton, Sons & Webb, Ltd., London, E.; L. Silberston & Sons, London, E.—**Cases, W. P.:** Wenn, Ltd., Great Yarmouth; T. E. Dingwall, Ltd., London, E.C.; W. Bridgewater & Sons, Birmingham; Jewson & Sons, Ltd., Norwich.—**Cement, Portland:** F. Fox & Partners, Derby; T. Beynon & Co., Ltd., Aberthaw; Cement Marketing Co., Ltd., London, S.W.; British Standard Cement Co., Rainham; Warren Cement Works, Ltd., Hartlepool; Wiggins & Co. (Hammer-smith), Ltd., London, W.—**Chemical Apparatus:** Baird & Tatlock (London), Ltd., London, E.C.—**Cordage, Hemp Hawser:** Dixon, Corbitt, Ltd., Gateshead.—**Counterpanes, Hospital:** Barlow & Jones, Ltd., Manchester.—**Duck, Linen:** Richards, Ltd., Aberdeen; A. Blyth & Co., Kirkcaldy; Lamb & Scott, Ltd., Brechin; Boase Spinning Co. (1920), Ltd., Dundee; Baxter Bros., Ltd., Dundee.—**Engines, Petrol, and Spares:** Stuart, Turner, Ltd., Henley-on-Thames.—**Flannelette:** Schofield, Preston & Co., Ltd., Nelson.—**Forge Fittings and Miscellaneous Cast Ironwork:** East Dereham Foundry, Ltd., East Dereham.—**Generators:** G. Kent, Ltd., Luton.—**Hessian, Packing:** Craiks, Ltd., Forfar; Ogilvy Bros. (Kirriemuir), Ltd., Kirriemuir.—**Lathes:** Denham's Engineering Co., Ltd., Halifax.—**Oil, Lubricating:** Anglo-American Oil Co., Ltd., Purfleet; Vacuum Oil Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Pads, Rubber:** British Goodrich Rubber Co., Ltd., Leyland.—**Plates, Dinner and Soup:** G. Jones & Sons, Ltd., Stoke.—**Puttees:** Astrachans, Ltd., Bradford; Fox Bros. & Co., Ltd., Wellington; Whitworth & Co., Ltd., Luddenden Foot.—**Rugs, Horse:** E. H. P. (Hadleigh), Ltd., Hadleigh.—**Saucepans and Pots, Cooking:** T. Holoroft & Sons, Ltd., Wolverhampton.—**Sheets, Cotton:** J. Hoyle & Sons, Ltd., Bacup; G. I. Sidebottom & Co., Manchester; Ashton & Co., Ltd., Hyde.—**Sheets, Ground:** North British Rubber Co., Ltd., Edinburgh.—**Shirts, Angola, Drab:** McIntyre, Hogg, Marsh & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Frank Lane, Ltd., London, E.C.; Milns, Cartwright, Reynolds, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Shoes, Horse:** Guest & Co. (Halesowen), Ltd., Halesowen; Wm. Cooke & Co., Ltd., Sheffield.—**Stable Fittings:** Wilmer & Sons, Ltd., London, E.—**Strappings, Leather:** Adams Bros. (Raunds), Ltd., Raunds.—**Straps, Chin:** Hobson & Sons (London), Ltd., London, S.E.—**Surface Grinding Machine:** Churchill Machine Tool Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Switchboards:** British Thomson Houston Co., Ltd., Rugby.—**Telpher Track:** W. J. Jenkins & Co., Ltd., Retford.—**Towels:** D. & R. Duke, Ltd., Brechin.—**Webbing, Elastic:** Luke Turner & Co., Ltd., Leicester.—**Wire, Electric:** E. & E. Kaye, Ltd., Ponders End.—**Wood-impregnating Plant:** J. H. Glahome, Workington.—**X-Ray Apparatus:** Kodak, Ltd., Wealdstone; Iford, Ltd., Iford.—**Works Services: Building Works and Services:** Bordon, Louisberg Barracks, Cookhouse and Dining Room Block; Lee Bros. (Aldershot), Ltd., Aldershot. Didcot, Vauxhall Camp, Dining Room, Cookhouse and Baths; Boshers (Cholsey), Ltd., Cholsey. Aldershot Clayton Barracks, Guard Room Block; J. B. Edwards & Co. (White-leaf), Ltd., London, W. Warley, Britannia Barracks, Sanitary Annexes and Structural alterations to Warrant Officers' Quarters: W. Connel, Brentwood. Glasgow, Maryhill Barracks, Improvements to Married Soldiers' Quarters; R. Gilchrist & Son, Ltd., Glasgow. Redford Barracks, Repairs to Roads; Darroch, Newall & Co., Ltd., Glasgow. Woolwich, The Common, Alterations and Improvements to Married Officer's Quarters: G. E. Wallis & Sons, Gravesend.

## AIR MINISTRY.

**Aircraft:** A. V. Roe & Co., Ltd., Manchester; Geo. Parnall & Co., Bristol; H. G. Hawker Engineering Co., Ltd., Kingston-on-Thames.—**Aircraft Anti-roll Tail Fins:** Saunders-Roe, Ltd., London, W.C.—**Aircraft Fuselage Design:** Boulton & Paul, Ltd., Norwich.—**Aircraft Gauges:** Negretti & Zambra, London, E.C.—**Aircraft Gun Mountings:** Fairey Aviation Co., Ltd., Hayes, Middlesex.—**Aircraft Modification:** Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Bristol.—**Aircraft Repairs and Spares:** Vickers (Aviation), Ltd., Weybridge.—**Aircraft Spares:** Blackburn Aeroplane & Motor Co., Ltd., Brough, E. Yorks; Westland Aircraft Works, Yeovil.—**Aircraft Spares, etc.:** Fairey Aviation Co., Ltd., Hayes, Middlesex.—**Airscrews:** Airscrew Co., Weybridge.—**Bomb Boxes:** Boulton and Paul, Ltd., Norwich; Groves & Guttridge, Ltd., Cowes; Sheep-bridge Coal & Iron Co., Ltd., Chesterfield; Vickers-Armstrongs, Ltd., Elswick.—**Bombing Teachers:** Cooke, Troughton & Simms, Ltd., York.—**Bombing Targets:** John Deheer, Ltd., Hull.—**Bombs, Practice:** Vickers-Armstrongs, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Building and Works Services:** Artificers' Works (London Hirings): F. Troy & Co., Ltd., London, N.W. Artificers' Works (Worthy Down): W. Bell & Sons, Andover. Heating Building (Farnborough): Bright-side Foundry & Engineering Co., Ltd., Birmingham. Maintenance Work, Artificers: F. Troy & Co., Ltd., London, N.W. Petrol Pumps (Upavon and Biggin Hill): F. Pearn & Co., Ltd., Manchester. Regimental Buildings (Beckton): F. R. Hipperson, Ltd., London, E.C. Sick Quarters (Uxbridge): Halse & Sons, Ltd., London, W.—**Cable:** John Shaw, Ltd., Sheffield.—**Clothing, Khaki Drill:** Compton Sons & Webb, Ltd., London, E.—**Enamels:** Indestructible Paint and Standard Varnish, Ltd., London, N.W.—**Engines, Aircraft:** Armstrong Siddeley Motors, Ltd., Coventry; Wm. Beardmore & Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Engines, Aircraft, and Spares, etc.:** Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Bristol.—**Engines, Aircraft, Components, Jigs and Tools:** D. Napier & Son, Ltd., London, W.—**Engines, Aircraft, Modification and Overhaul:** Armstrong Siddeley

Motors, Ltd., Coventry.—**Engines, Aircraft, Overhaul, Spares and Tools:** Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Bristol.—**Engines, Aircraft, Overhaul and Research Running, Reconditioning, Tools, etc., and Aircraft, Work on:** Rolls Royce, Ltd., Derby.—**Engine-erecting Stands:** Alfred Allen & Son, Ltd., Lower Gornal.—**Ferry Engines:** Ferry Engine Co., Woolston, Southampton.—**Film, Photographic:** Kodak, Ltd., London, W.C.—**Generator Cradles:** H. W. Sullivan, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Launching Chassis and Tail Trolley:** Super-marine Aviation Works, Ltd., Southampton.—**Leyland Spares:** Leyland Motors, Ltd., Leyland.—**Milling Machine:** J. Parkinson & Son, Shipley, Yorks.—**Motor Rollers:** Aveling, Barford & Perkins, Ltd., London, W.C.—**Oil Tanks:** Zwicky, Ltd., Slough.—**Paint:** Champion, Druce & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Parachutes, Repair, Conversion and Spares:** Irving Air Chute of Great Britain, Ltd., Letchworth.—**Rubber Shoes:** Dunlop Rubber Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Tanks, Oil Heating:** Zwicky, Ltd., Slough.—**Tin Tetra-chloride:** Wm. B. Blythe & Co., Ltd., Church, Lancs.—**Torpedo-charging Plant:** Peter Brotherhood, Ltd., Peterborough.—**Victors:** Swindens Patents, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Wheels, Aero.:** Palmer Tyre, Ltd., London, E.C.

## CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

**Aircraft Spares:** The De Havilland Aircraft Co., Ltd., Edgware.—**"Amoa":** The Amoa Chemical Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Blankets:** T. & D. Lee & Sons, Ltd., Dewsbury.—**Boiler-washing Plant:** Economical Boiler Washing Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—**Bolts:** C. Richards & Sons, Ltd., Darlaston.—**Boots:** Adams Brothers, Ltd., Raunds.—**Cable:** General Cable Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Leather-head; Macintosh Cable Co., Ltd., Derby; Standard Telephones & Cables, Ltd., London, W.C.—**Canvas:** Waterproofing Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Car:** Armstrong Siddeley Motors, Ltd., London, W.—**Ceiling Fans:** Crompton Parkinson, Ltd., Chelmsford.—**Cement:** Cement Marketing Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Clothing:** D. Gurteen & Sons, Ltd., Haverhill; Hobson & Sons (London), Ltd., London, S.E.; Milns, Cartwright, Reynolds, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Coal Tar:** South Metropolitan Gas Co., London, S.E.—**Corrugated Steel:** Wolverhampton Corrugated Iron Co., Ltd., Ellesmere Port.—**Culverts:** Walls, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Electric Cookers:** General Electric Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—**Electric Fans:** Veritys, Ltd., London, W.C.—**Filtration Plant:** Paterson Engineering Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—**Flannel:** Kelsall & Kemp, Ltd., Rochdale.—**Fumigating Machine:** Clayton Installations, Ltd., London, W.C.—**Gelignite:** Nobel's Explosives Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Generating Plant:** British Thomson Houston Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—**Grader:** British East Africa Corporation, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Interlocking Apparatus:** Westinghouse Brake & Saxby Signal Co., Ltd., London, N.—**Lovers:** Gloucester Railway Carriage & Wagon Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Lifts:** Smith, Major & Stevens, Ltd., Northampton.—**Lining Plant:** Babcock & Wilcox, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Locomotive Tyres:** S. Fox & Co., Ltd., Sheffield.—**Lorry:** Albion Motor Car Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Morris Commercial Cars, Ltd., Birmingham.**—**Moorings Materials:** Brown, Lenox & Co., Ltd., Pontypridd.—**Novarsenobillon:** May & Baker, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Paint:** The Torbay Paint Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Paper:** J. Dickinson & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Kolok Manufacturing Co. (Overseas), Ltd., London, N.—**Patent Fuel:** Wm. Smith, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Pipes:** Stanton Ironworks Co., Ltd., Nottingham; Staveley Coal & Iron Co., Ltd., Hollingwood.—**Poles:** J. Spencer, Ltd., Wednesbury.—**Printing Materials:** H. W. Caslon & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Quinine:** Howards & Sons, Ltd., Iford.—**Rails and Fishplates:** Barrow Haematite Steel Co., Ltd., London, S.W.; United Steel Cos., Ltd., Workington.—**Raincoats:** North British Rubber Co., London, W.—**Road Rollers:** Agricultural & General Engineers, Ltd., London, W.C.—**Signal Materials:** British Power Railway Signal Co., Ltd., London, S.W.; Tyler's Signals, Ltd., London, E.—**Static Condensers:** British Insulated Cables, Ltd., Prescott.—**Steel Plates:** P. & W. Macellellan, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Switchboard:** Erskine, Heap & Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Switches and Crossings:** Anderson Foundry Co., Ltd., Middlesbrough.—**Tar:** Lancashire Tar Distillers, Ltd., Manchester.—**"Tarvia":** Bristowes Tarvia, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Textiles:** E. Spinner & Co., Manchester.—**Timber:** C. Leary & Co., London, E.C.—**Tools:** V. & R. Blakemore, London, E.C.—**Travelling Workshop:** Crossley Motors, Ltd., Manchester.—**Tubular Arms:** Bullers, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Tyres:** English Steel Corporation, Ltd., Sheffield.—**Water Heaters:** Bastian & Allen, Ltd., London, N.—**Water Meters:** Tylors (Water & Sanitary), Ltd., London, N.—**Well-boring Plant:** C. Isler & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Wheel Drop:** Fielding & Platt, Ltd., Gloucester.—**Wheels:** Taylor Bros. & Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Windows:** Crittall Manufacturing Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—**Wire:** T. Bolton & Sons, Ltd., London, W.; Whitecross Co., Ltd., Warrington.—**Wireless Apparatus:** Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Co., Ltd., London, W.C.

## H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE.

**Carbons:** W. Block and A. Anderson, London, E.C.—**Envelopes:** J. Dickinson & Co., Ltd., Hemel Hempstead; A. B. Swain & Co., Ltd., Ware.—**Motors, Electric:** Meech Electric Drives, Ltd., Manchester.—**Paper (of various descriptions):** Jas. Brown & Co., Ltd., Penicuik; Caldwell's Paper Mill Co., Ltd., Inverkeithing; Cooke & Nuttall, Ltd., Horwich, Lancs.; Alex. Cowan & Sons, Ltd., Penicuik; Robt. Craig & Sons, Ltd., Airdrie; Disley Paper Mills Co., Ltd., Disley; Sidney T. Griffin, London, E.C.; Imperial Paper Mills, Ltd., Gravesend; Ryburndale Paper Mill Co., Ltd., Ripponden, near Halifax; T. H. Saunders & Co., Ltd., Dartford; St. Neots Paper Mill Co., Ltd., St. Neots.—**Printing, Ruling, Binding, etc.:**

Group 341 (1931), Classified Abridgments of Specifications of Patents —Wyman & Sons, Ltd., Reading. 1,094,000 Manila Labels: John Dickinson & Co., Ltd., Hemel Hempstead. Books P.102B and 50,000 Pads S.1320c Message Forms: McCorquodale & Co., Ltd., Wolverton. Forms U.I. 80b: C. Tining & Co., Ltd., Prescott. National Health and Pensions Insurance, and Arrears Cards (Wales): Western Mail and Echo, Ltd., Cardiff.—**Typewriters:** Bar-Lock (1925) Co., Nottingham; Imperial Typewriter Co., Ltd., Leicester.—**Waste Paper, etc. (Manchester):** Chadwick, Lunt & Co., Manchester.

## POST OFFICE

**Apparatus, Protective:** Kenneth E. Beswick, Ltd., Seven Kings; Phoenix Telephone & Electric Works, Ltd., London, N.W.—**Apparatus, Telephonic:** Automatic Telephone Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Liverpool; Ericsson Telephones, Ltd., Beeston, Notts; General Electric Co., Ltd., Telephone Works, Stoke, Coventry; Phoenix Telephone & Electric Works, Ltd., London, N.W.; Plessey Co., Ltd., Iford; Siemens Brothers & Co., Ltd., Woolwich.—**Battery-charging Sets:** Stuart Turner, Ltd., Henley-on-Thames.—**Bodies for Motor Vans:** Rushton & Wilson, Birmingham.—**Boxes, Glass:** Pilkington Brothers, Ltd., St. Helens, Lancs.—**Boxes, Packing:** Horace Slade & Co., Ltd., St. Albans.—**Cable:** British Insulated Cables, Ltd., Prescott; Connolly's (Blackley), Ltd., Manchester; W. T. Glover & Co., Ltd., Manchester; Hackbridge Cable Co., Ltd., Hackbridge, Surrey; Johnson & Phillips, Ltd., London, S.E.; Pirelli General Cable Works, Ltd., Eastleigh; Siemens Brothers & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Cable Bearers:** F. W. Male & Son, Ltd., Wolverhampton.—**Casks:** I. J. Bayley, Wednesbury; Frank Davies, Wolverhampton.—**Chassis:** Albion Motor Car Co., Ltd., Glasgow; Maudsley Motor Co., Ltd., Coventry; Morris Commercial Cars, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Cords, Telephone:** British Insulated Cables, Ltd., Helsby; L.P.S. Electrical Co., Ltd., London, N.W.; Reliance Electrical Wire Co., London, E.C.; Siemens Brothers & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Ducts:** Albion Clay Co., Ltd., Burton-on-Trent; Donington Sanitary Pipe & Fire Brick Co., Ltd., Burton-on-Trent; Doulton & Co., Ltd., St. Helens, Lancs.; Hepworth Iron Co., Ltd., Sheffield; J. Jameson & Son, Ltd., Corbridge-on-Tyne; George Jennings, Parkstone, Dorset; James Oakes & Co. (Riddings Collieries), Ltd., Jacksdale, Notts.; Oates & Green, Ltd., Halifax; Joseph Place & Sons, Ltd., Darwin; Standard Brick & Terra Cotta Co., Ltd., Chester; Sutton & Co. (Overseal), Ltd., Overseal.—**Fire Extinguishers:** Pyrene Co., Ltd., Brentford.—**Gloves:** J. North & Sons, Ltd., Hyde, Cheshire.—**Labels:** Bonnella Brothers, Ltd., London, W.C.—**Lamps, Telephone:** General Electric Co., Ltd., London, W.—**Manhole Covers and Frames:** Grahamston Iron Co., Ltd., Falkirk; United Steel Cos., Ltd., Wellingborough; Wigston Foundry Co., Ltd., Leicester.—**Motor Cycle Combinations:** B.S.A. Cycles, Ltd., Birmingham; Triumph Cycle Co., Ltd., Coventry.—**Motor Vans:** Jowett Cars, Ltd., Bradford.—**Panels, Charging:** General Electric Co., Ltd., Salford; Power Equipment Co., Ltd., London, N.W.—**Rails for P.O. Railway:** Cargo Fleet Iron Co., Ltd., South Bank.—**Rectifiers:** Westinghouse Brake & Saxby Signal Co., Ltd., Chippenham.—**Repair of Joiners' Tents:** John Smith & Co. 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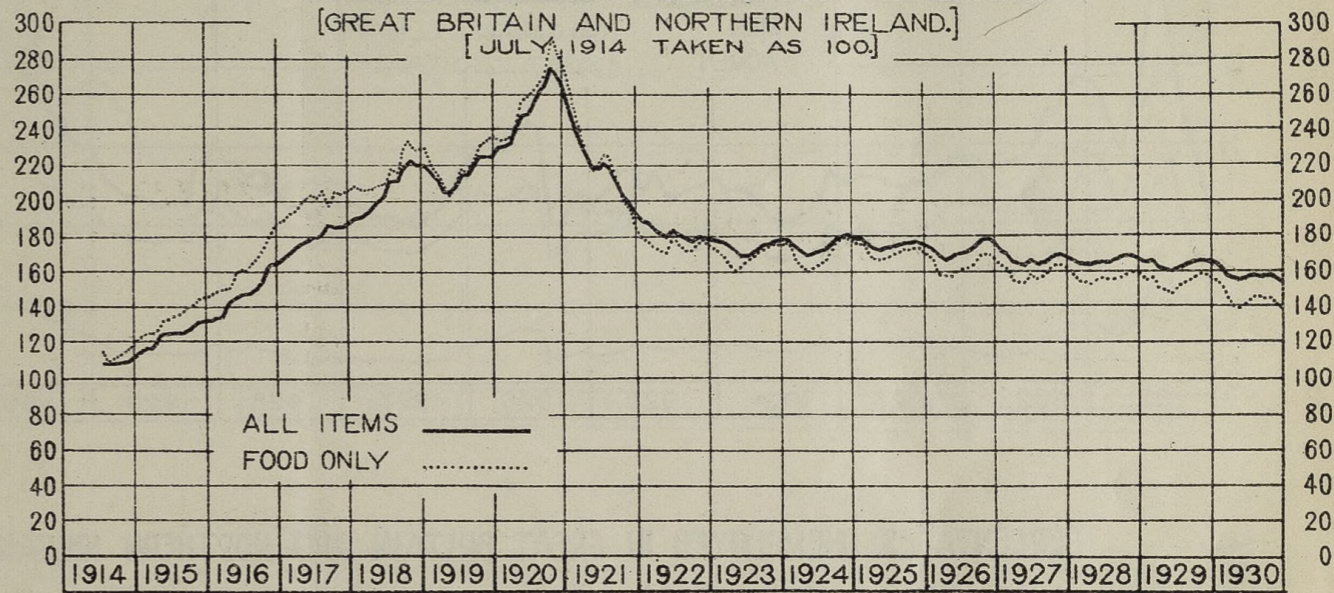
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SUPPLEMENT TO THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE FOR MARCH, 1931.

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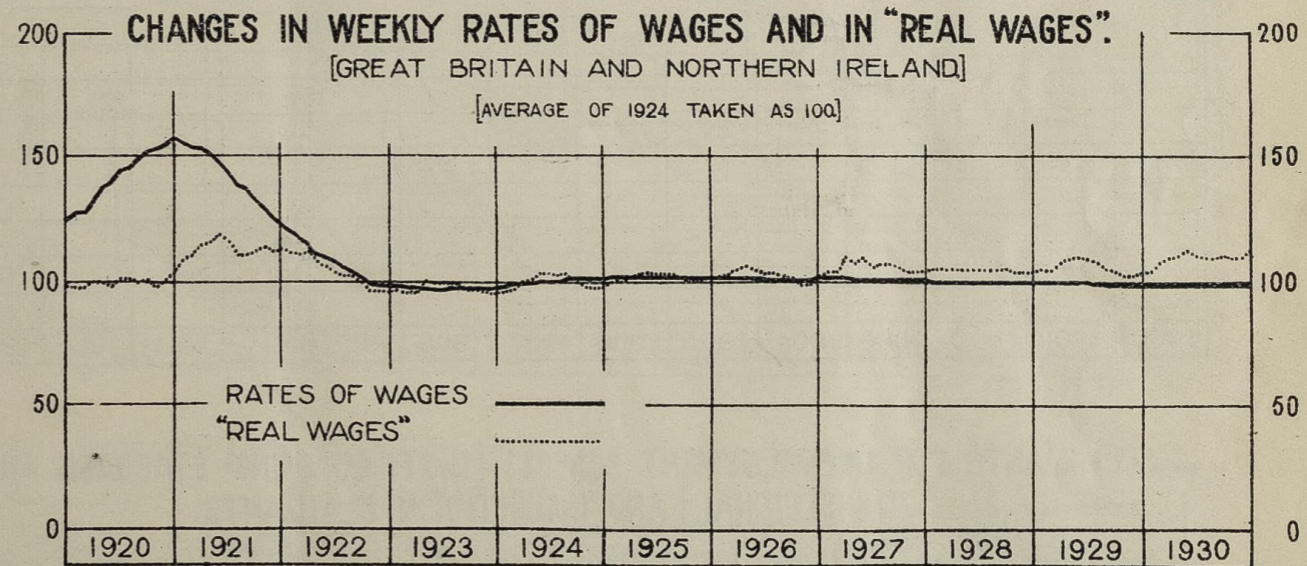
CHANGES IN WORKING-CLASS COST OF LIVING.

[GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.] [JULY, 1914 TAKEN AS 100.]



CHANGES IN WEEKLY RATES OF WAGES AND IN "REAL WAGES".

[GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.] [AVERAGE OF 1924 TAKEN AS 100.]



COMPARATIVE LEVELS OF REAL WAGES IN JULY, 1930.

[LEVEL IN GREAT BRITAIN TAKEN AS 100.]



