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

EMPLOYMENT.

THE decline in employment observed in the last week of January continued during February.

The increase in the numbers unemployed occurred chiefly in the textile industries, particularly in the cotton, silk and artificial silk, and hosiery trades. The other principal industries in which unemployment increased included engineering, shipbuilding, motor vehicle and cycle manufacture, most of the metal trades, the furniture and woodworking trades, paper making, the glass bottle industry, the distributive trades, and dock and harbour service.

On the other hand, there was some improvement in the clothing, lace, brick and tile, pottery, and iron and steel industries, and among painters in the building trade.

Among the workpeople, numbering approximately 12,100,000, insured against unemployment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the percentage unemployed in all industries taken together was 13·1 at 24th February, 1930, as compared with 12·6 at 27th January, 1930, and 12·1 at 25th February, 1929. The percentage wholly unemployed at 24th February, 1930, was 10·0, as compared with 9·8 at 27th January, 1930; while the percentage temporarily stopped was 3·1 as compared with 2·8. For males alone the percentage at 24th February, 1930, was 13·8 and for females 11·2. At 27th January, 1930, the corresponding percentages were 13·4 and 10·4. The total number of applicants for employment registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 24th February, 1930, was approximately 1,582,000, of whom 1,160,000 were men and 338,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls. At 27th January, 1930, it was 1,534,000, of whom 1,129,000 were men and 315,000 were women; and at 25th February, 1929, it was 1,430,000, of whom 1,137,000 were men and 218,000 were women.

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 a decrease of about £39,100 in the weekly full-time wages of 433,000 workpeople, and in an increase of £8,200 in those of 92,500 workpeople.

Nearly the whole of the reductions were the result of the operation of cost-of-living sliding scales. The principal scale concerned was that arranged for the building industry, under which wages were reduced in most towns in Great Britain, the reduction amounting to $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour for craftsmen and $\frac{1}{4}$ d. or $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour for labourers. The reductions applied to a number of other workpeople whose wages are regulated by those paid in the building industry, including quarrymen, furniture trade operatives, and local authority employees in various districts.

Other workpeople whose wages were reduced in February included those employed in the textile making-up and packing industry at Manchester and machine calico printers. There were also reductions in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts for workpeople employed in the cotton waste reclamation trade.

The increases mainly affected workpeople in the metal group of industries. In the heavy steel industry, in the principal districts of England and Scotland, new agreements revising the basis rates of the lower-paid men at steel-melting plants, rolling mills, etc., resulted in increases of varying amounts in the wages of these workpeople. There were also increases, ranging from $1\frac{1}{4}$ to 2 per cent. on basis rates, in the wages of blastfurnace workers in Lincolnshire and Scotland and of Siemens steel workers (except the lower-paid men) in South-West Wales, while tinsplate makers in South Wales and Monmouthshire received an increase amounting to $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on basis rates. Other workpeople whose wages were increased included coopers, men employed by electrical contractors in England and Wales, and workpeople employed in leather belt manufacture.

COST OF LIVING.

At 1st March 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 61 per cent. above that of July, 1914, as compared with 64 per cent. a month ago and 66 per cent. a year ago. For food alone the corresponding figures were 50, 54 and 57. Comparison with 1st March, 1929, is affected by the abnormal wintry conditions prevailing a year ago.

The fall in the percentages since 1st February was mainly due to reductions in the prices of eggs, flour and bread, butter, potatoes and fish.

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 in proportions corresponding with the relative importance of those items in pre-war working-class family expenditure, no allowance being made for any changes in the standard of living.

TRADE DISPUTES.

The number of trade disputes involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as beginning in February, was 32. 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) was about 9,300, and the aggregate duration of all disputes during the month was about 79,000 working days.

WOOL TEXTILE INDUSTRY. REPORT OF COURT OF INQUIRY.

THE Right Hon. Lord Macmillan, who was appointed* by the Minister of Labour on 7th January, 1930, to be a Court of Inquiry under the Industrial Courts Act, 1919, in connection with the matters in dispute between the parties to the Northern Counties District Wool (and Allied) Textile Industrial Council, has presented a Report.†

Dealing with the genesis of the dispute, the Report records that a Court of Investigation was appointed by the Minister of Labour in August, 1925, at the request of the District Council, to consider an application by the operatives for an increase, and by the employers for a reduction, in the rates of wages, and that the Court recommended that no change in wages should be made until after 1st January, 1927. This recommendation was accepted by the parties. In October, 1927, however, the employers gave notice to terminate the existing agreement in the following month. Thereafter prolonged negotiations took place with a view, if possible, of arriving by agreement at a new wages scale; but these proved abortive. Certain employers began to put decreases in operation in their own works. In some instances these decreases were acquiesced in, while in others they were resisted, and considerable disturbance and unrest ensued. The machinery of the District Council having proved ineffective to secure agreement, and the position having become increasingly chaotic, the Minister of Labour appointed the Court of Inquiry.

After a brief reference to the nature of the industry, the Report proceeds to describe the present wages system, which is highly complex and broadly as follows:—There are various basis rates for various classes of operatives, to which are added (i) an addition of 15.625 per cent. (in the case of piece-workers), to compensate for the reduction of hours from 55½ to 48 in March, 1919; (ii) an addition of 10 per cent. on basis rates (which for this purpose includes the piece-workers' addition) or, in the case of overlookers, of 6s.; (iii) a cost-of-living addition. The latter varies for different classes of operatives. For the great majority of time-workers it is 72½ per cent., and for piece-workers 63½ per cent.; and in the case of time-workers it is subject, in the case of the more highly paid operatives, to a "maximum" applied on agreed scales. The Report quotes the statement of the Court of Investigation of 1925 that wages in the wool textile industry stood at their highest point in December, 1920, and that, between that date and December, 1922, there was a reduction of 5 per cent. in basis rates, and a reduction in the cost-of-living wage from 175 per cent. to 72½ per cent. The Report then records that the wage conditions of December, 1922, remain applicable generally at the present time.

The Report states that, in the evidence given, the contentions of the employers and of the operatives, respectively, were as follows:—The employers contended that the present state of affairs could only result in disaster alike for themselves and for the operatives. They accordingly proposed:—

- To withdraw the 10 per cent. addition to base rates (and the equivalent 6s. in the case of overlookers);
- To pay 60 per cent. cost-of-living wage to time workers, and proportionate percentages to piece-workers and other workers in accordance with the existing scales;
- To pay one-half of the existing compensation to piece-workers for the reduction of working hours.

The Report points out that these proposals implied a reduction in the case of time workers of 15.68 per cent., in the case of overlookers of between 16 and 17 per cent. according to the base rate, and in the case of piece-workers of 18.47 per cent. In addition, a further reduction was sought in wool sorters' pack rates.

The operatives, on the other hand, contended that:—

- no case for any reduction in the present wage rates has been established;
- basis wage rates should be fixed for all sections of the industry—time-workers and piece-workers—for a week of 48 hours;
- fixed piece-work price lists should be extended as far as possible, piece-work prices to be such as will enable an operative of average ability to earn at least 25 per cent. over net basis time rates;
- the wages scale for juveniles should be maintained;
- the wages of the female operative in the worsted spinning section should be substantially improved;
- agreements covering the industry as a whole should be entered into between the employers and the trade unions concerned.

The Report summarises, in some detail, the arguments submitted by the employers and by the operatives in support of their respective contentions; and gives a full statement of the Court's view upon the various arguments put forward by the two parties. This leads up to the general conclusion that the Court is "unable to avoid the conclusion that a reduction of wage rates is imperative."

The Report, finally, sets out in detail the amendments of the wages system, which, in the Court's view, are required. These may be summarised as follows:—

Time-workers.—That base rates should remain unchanged, that the 10 per cent. addition should be reduced to 5 per cent. (or to 3 shillings in the case of overlookers), and that the cost-of-living addition should be reduced to 64 per cent. These changes would imply a reduction of 9.249 per cent., leaving the increase over pre-war wage rates (apart from special increases of base rates in various sections) at about 72 per cent.

Piece-workers.—That base rates should remain unchanged, that the compensation to piece-workers should remain unchanged, that the 10 per cent. addition should be reduced to 5 per cent., and that the cost-of-living addition should be reduced to 56.32 per cent. These changes would imply a reduction of 8.766 per cent., leaving the rates at about 90 per cent. over pre-war rates.

The report also states the conclusion that a modification of the "maximum" scale should be made in accordance with the new figure suggested for the time-workers' cost-of-living addition. It, further, sets out the special changes which the Court considers are required as regards pressers and blanket-raisers, and the operatives in the Saddleworth district. An adjustment of the wage-scales of adults and juveniles in the worsted spinning section is proposed, and, in conclusion, the Court suggests a general simplification of the present wages system at the earliest suitable opportunity.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT, 1930.

THE Unemployment Insurance Act, 1930, which received the Royal Assent on 6th February, as announced in the February issue of this GAZETTE (page 50), came into operation on Thursday, 13th March. The new Act provides for increases in the rates of unemployment benefit for persons aged 17, 18 and 19, and for an increase in the rate of benefit for an adult dependant from 7s. to 9s. a week. In addition, the Act makes certain changes in the conditions for the receipt of benefit, and adds to the classes of dependants in respect of whom an increase of benefit may be received.

One of the main changes in the conditions for the receipt of benefit is the repeal of the provision that a claimant must prove that he "is genuinely seeking work, but unable to obtain suitable employment." The new Act provides, however, that claimants will be disqualified for benefit if it is proved that, without good cause, they have refused a suitable situation, or have failed to carry out any written directions given with a view to assisting them to find suitable employment.

The new Act also provides that, in general, claims for benefit which are not allowed by insurance officers must be referred to a Court of Referees for decision. The procedure which has been laid down in this connection provides for the greater localisation of the work of the Courts in deciding on doubtful claims.

Full details of the rates of unemployment benefit and the conditions for receipt of benefit are set out in a leaflet (U.L.L. 8), which may be obtained at any local office of the Ministry of Labour.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTS. ANALYTICAL GUIDE TO UMPIRE'S DECISIONS.

AN analysis of decisions given by the Umpire under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, up to 13th March, 1930 (U.I.C. 7), has been issued by the Ministry of Labour.* The Guide is intended to point the way to the statutory provisions or Regulations, or to the Umpire's decisions, which deal with the particular question at issue. The Umpire's decisions referred to are those given under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1909-1911 (now repealed); under the Out-of-Work Donation Scheme, which was in operation immediately after the War, and under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920-1929. Reference to, and decisions in connection with, certain conditions which have been repealed by the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1930, have been omitted.

The decisions quoted in the Guide have been selected from the much larger number of decisions which have been published in the pamphlets and volumes issued from time to time. A new volume of selected decisions given by the Umpire from 19th April, 1928, to 12th March, 1930 (U.I.C. 8a), is shortly being issued by the Ministry of Labour; and this, together with the earlier volume of selected decisions issued in 1929 (U.I. Code 8), is intended for use with the analytical Guide.

POOR LAW ACT, 1930.

A BILL "to consolidate the enactments relating to the relief of the poor in England and Wales" has passed both Houses of Parliament, and awaits the Royal Assent. The Act will be known as the Poor Law Act, 1930; and it will come into force on 1st April, 1930.

The Acts relating to the relief of the poor were consolidated by the Poor Law Act, 1927, but extensive repeals of that Act were made by the Local Government Act, 1929, which amended the remaining provisions of the Act of 1927 by the substitution of counties and county boroughs for the existing poor law unions. Other alterations were made by the Act of 1929 for the purpose of adapting the Act of 1927 to the new scheme for the administration of the poor law by the councils of counties and county boroughs; and the Poor Law Act, 1930, embodies in one Act the provisions of the Poor Law Act, 1927 (as altered by the Local Government Act, 1929) and those additional provisions of the Act of 1929 which deal with poor law administration.

Before the consolidation in 1927 of the old Poor Law Acts, these Acts covered about 220 pages of the Statute Book. The Poor Law Act, 1930, covers 90 pages only. The new Act is of importance, as it supplies a working code for the administration, after 1st April, 1930, of the poor law by the councils of counties and county boroughs.

* Analytical Guide to Decisions given by the Umpire. H.M. Stationery Office; price 2s. 6d. net.

WOMEN IN INDUSTRY.

THE Home Office have issued a Memorandum on the distribution of women in industry.*

A claim has been recently put forward by certain women's societies that all restrictions imposed by the Factory Acts on women's employment, which do not equally apply to men, should be removed. On the other hand, this claim has been opposed by organisations representative of the industrial women themselves. Those who advance it assert that the restrictions which have been imposed by Parliament, in the series of Factory Acts extending over nearly a century of industrial legislation for the protection of women workers in industry, have tended, and will tend, to limit a woman's chances of employment as compared with a man's by making employers less willing to employ women. It is also claimed that these restrictions tend to drive women into the least skilled and worst paid jobs.

The present Memorandum brings together, in a summary form, the information in the possession of the Factory Department of the Home Office which bears on the question of the distribution of women in industry. This information comprises (i) statistical information showing the numbers of men and of women employed in industry at various dates; (ii) information as to the actual processes in which women have been engaged at various stages in the development of industry; and (iii) information as to the causes which have determined the employment or non-employment of women in particular industries or processes.

Part I of the Memorandum deals with the changes that have taken place in the number of women employed in industry during the past forty years, and gives statistics showing that both in textile and in non-textile factories the percentage of women increased between 1890 and 1928. The increase was much greater in the non-textile group, which includes many new and newly-organised industries, than in the textile industries, where women were well established as factory workers long before 1890.

Part II contains an examination of the causes which have operated to determine the distribution of women in industry in the past. A number of typical industries are dealt with in turn in some detail, viz., cotton and wool; flax and jute; hosiery; lace; the clothing trades; boots and shoes; the light metal trades; laundries; pottery; the tinplate industry; bread and biscuit manufacture.

Part III deals in the same way with the new or newly-organised industries—artificial silk; tobacco; gramophones, electrical fittings and wireless, and scientific apparatus; photography.

Part IV deals with the displacement of women in processes in which they replaced men during the war. It will be remembered that agreements were made with the trade unions, providing for the re-instatement of men in their old occupations after the war; and this movement, it is stated, was supported by a strong feeling among the women themselves. It is suggested in the Memorandum that the rapid and easy return to the pre-war position indicates that the division of work between men and women in industry tends to settle itself naturally on the lines of pre-war tradition and experience.

Part V deals with the instances, very few in number, in which women have lost ground. The causes have in almost all cases been changes in organisation (such as the introduction of machinery), changes of process, changes in public demands, changes in raw material (such as the substitution of wood pulp and fibre for rags in paper making), and so on. In a few cases the reduction appears to have been due to trade union action, as in the great decline in the employment of women compositors in Scotland.

Part VI deals with the effect of statutory restrictions on the employment of women in industry. The conclusion reached in the Memorandum is that the general legislative restrictions on the employment of women have had very little influence on their distribution in industry. Except in a few isolated cases (mentioned in the Memorandum), there is little evidence that they have handicapped women in the past or are handicapping them in the present. On the contrary, the employment of women during the period under review has been steadily progressing. Cases where men are sometimes employed at night on work that is done by women during the day, or in which women have been displaced by men because they cannot be employed in a night shift, are rare; and, in view of the strong opinion that exists generally against the employment of women at night, it is very doubtful whether women would be employed even if the prohibition were removed. Though in the national emergency created by the war, when night work on a great scale became a necessity, restrictions on the employment of women at night were relaxed, and women were employed in a number of industries on the night shift, the opinion of employers generally, so far as it has been expressed to the factory inspectors, would appear to be very unfavourable to the employment of women at night under normal conditions. Moreover, generally speaking, the processes in which a night shift is common are processes in which, on account of the nature of the work, men would in any case be employed, e.g., blast furnaces, manufacture of iron and steel, heavy chemical trade, glass works, paper mills, gas and electricity works. The only complaint that has reached the Home Office in recent years has been that the prohibition of night employment has prevented women who have been trained as electricians from taking charge of some small country stations.

In addition to the general restrictions, there are certain special restrictions (set forth in an appendix to the Memorandum) dealing with particular processes. These are, with one exception, lead processes involving danger to health. The restrictions have been imposed on the ground that the use of lead involves special danger to women. There is little evidence that the restrictions have

prevented any appreciable number of women from obtaining employment who might otherwise have been employed. Other openings for women have arisen. In the pottery industry, for instance, the proportion of women employed has steadily increased during the period in which the restrictions have been in force.

The general conclusions reached in the Memorandum are that women's part in industry has been steadily increasing, and that the distribution of men and women in industry has been in the past, and is being to-day, except in a few isolated cases, determined by factors quite independent of the legal restrictions on women's employment. This increase has taken place notwithstanding an increase in the rates of women's wages at least equal to, and in some industries greater than, the increase in men's rates.

In the earlier stages of industry, the distribution of men and women in industry was largely determined by tradition, aptitude, and physical strength, and in particular cases by the shortage or otherwise of male labour. As industry developed, distribution constantly tended to be modified by changes in the nature of the work brought about by the introduction of new types of machinery and new processes.

In the more recent developments of industry, the constant increase of light repetition work has greatly enlarged the field for the employment of women.

A marked feature of women's employment as compared with men's is the tendency for women to be found in the unskilled processes. The number of the processes carried out by women during the war on which they had not previously been employed, and the skilled work done by women in certain trades, are sufficient to show that this tendency is not due to any innate want of aptitude for or capacity to learn certain kinds of work. The cause is undoubtedly to be found in the difference of attitude towards industrial work.

The industrial life of women is, in general, a short one. Though in some industries, such as cotton weaving, women may continue to work at their trades after marriage, in the majority of cases they do not. This makes them unwilling to spend much time on a course of training, and disposes them to seek occupations where they can earn a good wage as quickly as possible. For the same reason, managers are unwilling to train up workers for skilled occupations if they are likely to lose them when they have become really useful.

Work in the factory is looked upon by most of the girls who enter industry as a temporary career, which fills in the time, and enables them to earn a living between school and marriage; and for this reason they tend to seek the easily learned repetition work, and are apt to lack the enterprise and ambition which would make such work seem irksome. The increasing specialisation of processes, and the substitution of a machine operation for craftsmanship or skill acquired by training, have facilitated this tendency.

FACTORY INSPECTORATE.

THE Home Secretary announces that, after consideration of the recommendations made by the Departmental Committee,* under the chairmanship of Sir Vivian Henderson, appointed by the late Home Secretary, Lord Brentford, to inquire into the strength and organisation of the Factory Inspectorate, the Government has decided on the following important changes:—(i) increase in the general inspection staff; (ii) amalgamation of the men's and women's staffs; and (iii) strengthening of the technical branches (medical, engineering, electrical). The increases will be spread over a period of five years.

The general inspection staff attached to the inspection divisions and districts will be raised in number (over the five-year period) from 180 to 243, the number of the superintending inspectors' divisions from 10 to 11, and the number of inspection districts from 83 to 96. The additional division will be formed in the South-East of England, where there has been in recent years a great development of industry. At the end of the five years the full staff (apart from the technical and special branches) will consist of 1 chief inspector, 3 deputy chief inspectors, 11 superintending inspectors, 46 Class IA inspectors, 96 Class IB inspectors, and 90 Class II inspectors. Class II will continue to be regarded as a cadet or training grade, as heretofore.

As a result of the amalgamation of the men's and women's staffs, the men and women inspectors will be recruited by the same examination, will be treated as one establishment with a single seniority list, and will, generally speaking, perform the same duties. No fixed rule will be laid down as to the proportions in which men and women will be recruited for the inspectorate; but the Committee recommend that an establishment consisting of 70 per cent. men and 30 per cent. women, with an adequate distribution of both men and women inspectors in the different grades, should be aimed at as corresponding to the needs of the Department, and the Government accept this in principle.

The technical branches will be substantially increased, the medical staff from 5 to 8, the electrical staff from 5 to 12, and the engineering staff from 6 to 10.

During the year 1930-31 it is proposed to appoint 15 additional inspectors to the divisional and district staff, making, with 7 vacancies in the existing inspectorate, a total of 22 new inspectors to be appointed this year. A competition for these vacancies will be held by the Civil Service Commissioners during the spring or summer, and is being advertised in the Press in the usual manner.

In the technical branches, 2 medical, 2 engineering, and 4 electrical inspectors will be added this year. Competitions for the medical and electrical posts will be held shortly. The additional engineering inspectors will be appointed from the existing general staff.

* See the September, 1928, issue of this GAZETTE, page 315. The Report of the Departmental Committee, which sets out in detail the growth in the work of the Factory Department, will be issued shortly.

* See the January, 1930, issue of this GAZETTE, page 9.

† Cmd. 3505. H.M. Stationery Office; price 6d. net.

* A study of the factors which have operated in the past, and those which are operating now, to determine the distribution of women in industry. Cmd. 3508. H.M. Stationery Office; price 9d. net.

PAPER MANUFACTURE, PRINTING, AND BOOKBINDING.

EMPLOYMENT was fair, on the whole, in the paper-making industry during February, but showed a decline as compared with the previous month; some slackness was again reported in the hand-made section.

Employment generally continued fair with letterpress printers. There was some improvement in London, and also at Leeds and Manchester, though employment was slack at the latter centre. It was again reported as bad at Liverpool, and slack at Sheffield and Glasgow.

With lithographic printers, while the number unemployed showed little change as compared with January, a good deal of short time was worked in some districts, and a decline was reported at a number of towns, including Liverpool, Manchester, Norwich, Stoke-on-Trent, and Belfast.

In the bookbinding industry employment on the whole was fair, but showed a decline as compared with the previous month.

The percentage unemployed among insured workpeople in the paper and paper-board industry, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 5.9 at 24th February, 1930, compared with 4.7 at 27th January, 1930, and 4.8 at 28th February, 1929.

The following Table summarises the returns received from certain trade unions:—

Table with columns: No. of Members of Unions at end of February, 1930; Percentage Unemployed at end of Feb., 1930; Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on a; and rows for Letterpress Printing, Lithographic Printing, and Bookbinding.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

EMPLOYMENT during February was slack, and worse than in January. Among insured workpeople in the dock, harbour, river and canal service, 33.5 per cent. were recorded as unemployed at 24th February, 1930, as compared with 32.0 per cent. at 27th January, 1930, and 33.3 per cent. at 25th February, 1929.

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

Table showing Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London, broken down by period and location.

Tilbury.—The average daily number of dock labourers employed during February was 944, compared with 934 in January, 1930, and with 977 in February, 1929.

East Coast.—Employment continued slack at the North East coast ports, partly due to the stoppage of timber imports. At Middlesbrough registered dockers were fully employed, but more than half the wharf labourers were idle.

Liverpool.—Employment was fair, on the whole, but somewhat less in volume than in January. The average number of dock labourers registered at the clearing houses under the Liverpool Docks Scheme as employed in the four weeks ended 28th February, 1930, was 13,835, compared with 14,623 in January, 1930, and with 14,537 in February, 1929.

Other Ports in England and Wales.—Conditions varied at the South Wales ports. At Newport and Swansea employment remained good, but at Cardiff the export trade declined, although general cargoes and imports of iron ore continued to provide a fair amount of employment.

Scottish and Irish Ports.—Employment continued fair at Glasgow, but declined at Leith and Grangemouth, where it was only moderate.

SEAMEN.

EMPLOYMENT during February was slack on the whole. The number of engagements was considerably less than in the previous month, and the supply of seamen was in excess of requirements at practically all ports.

Among insured workpeople in the shipping service the percentage recorded as unemployed at 24th February, 1930, was 21.8, compared with 21.1 at 27th January, 1930, and 18.2 at 25th February, 1929.

The demand for men on the Thames varied from quiet to moderate, but at the end of the month was fairly good. On the Tyne, it was generally moderate, with a declining tendency towards the end of February; on the Tees it was fair, but showed some falling-off in the last week; at the Hartlepoons it declined from moderate to poor; on the Wear it was slack.

The demand at Southampton was quiet, but showed a slight improvement towards the end of February. At Bristol and Avonmouth it was fairly good generally. At Newport, after a fair beginning, the demand became quiet; at Cardiff it was poor to moderate; at Swansea it was good in the first week but quiet thereafter.

On the Clyde the demand was quiet generally; at Leith it was brisk in the second week but slack otherwise. At Belfast it was moderate in the early part of the month but, subsequently, became less active.

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

Table showing Number of Seamen* shipped in, broken down by Principal Ports (England and Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland) and months.

* 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 100 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 the 24th February, 1930, 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 showing Unemployed—Special Schemes, Claims admitted or under consideration, Insured non-claimants, Uninsured persons on Register, and 5. Two months' file.

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

The numbers of persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the last Monday in January, 1930, and on each Monday in February, are given in the following Table:—

Table showing Numbers on the Registers of Employment Exchanges, broken down by Date and Region (Great Britain, Northern Ireland).

The figures for 24th February 1930, are analysed below:—

Table showing Numbers on the Registers of Employment Exchanges, broken down by Persons normally in Regular Employment, Wholly Unemployed, and Total.

The following Table gives particulars relating to the work of Employment Exchanges* in Great Britain and Northern Ireland in filling vacancies for employment during the four weeks ended 24th February, 1930. Of the 123,152 vacancies filled, 72,717 were for men, 26,997 for women and 23,438 for juveniles:—

Table showing Vacancies Filled, broken down by Week ended and Applications from Employers during Week.

* 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 four weeks ended 28th January, 1930, the average number of such placings of men and women was 5,812 per week. The average number of placings of casual workers during the four weeks ended 24th February, 1930, was 625 per week.

PERSONS ON THE REGISTERS AT PRINCIPAL TOWNS.

THE following Table shows for each of the Employment Exchange administrative areas, and for the principal towns therein, the number of persons registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland on 24th February, 1930. In certain cases (e.g., Bristol, Birmingham, Sheffield, Liverpool, Glasgow, etc.) the figures cover more than one Exchange area.

Large table showing Persons on the Registers at Principal Towns, broken down by Area, Men, Women, Juveniles, Total, and Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with 27th Jan., 1930.

[Percentage rates of unemployment, for each of 667 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 24th February, 1930, 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.

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 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.

NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS RECORDED AS UNEMPLOYED AT 24th FEBRUARY, 1930.

Table with columns: INDUSTRY, WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED (including Casuals), TEMPORARY STOPPAGES, TOTAL, and WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED, TEMPORARY STOPPAGES, AND CASUALS. Rows include Fishing, Mining, Non-Metalliferous Mining Products, Brick, Tile, etc., Making, Pottery, Earthenware, etc., Glass Trades, Chemicals, etc., Metal Manufacture, Engineering, etc., and Construction and Repair of Vehicles.

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.

A Table showing the composition of the two series of figures is given on page 99.

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.)

GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.

GREAT BRITAIN ONLY.

Large table with columns: INDUSTRY, WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED (including Casuals), TEMPORARY STOPPAGES, TOTAL, and WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED, TEMPORARY STOPPAGES, AND CASUALS. Rows include Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing, Metal Trades, Textile Trades, Leather and Leather Goods, Clothing Trades, Food, Drink and Tobacco, Sawmilling, Furniture and Woodwork, Printing and Paper Trades, Building and Construction of Works, Other Manufacturing Industries, Gas, Water and Electricity Supply, Transport and Communication, Distributive Trades, Commerce, Banking, Insurance and Finance, and Miscellaneous Trades and Services.

* Including 91,561 Casuals (Males, 89,744 Females, 1,817).

NUMBERS INSURED AND PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED.

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

Table with columns: INDUSTRY, ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AGED 16-64 INCLUSIVE, AT JULY, 1929, WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED (Including Casuals), TEMPORARY STOPPAGES, TOTAL, INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN TOTAL PERCENTAGES AS COMPARED WITH, GREAT BRITAIN ONLY, TOTAL PERCENTAGES AT 24TH FEB., 1930.

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 24th February, 1930, 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 DURING FEBRUARY 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 24th February, 1930, differed from the figures for 27th January, 1930, to the extent of 1,000 or more:-

Table with columns: Industry, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Numbers recorded as Unemployed at 24th February, 1930, as compared with 27th January, 1930, Males, Females, Total.

JUVENILE UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS.

JUVENILES AGED 14 AND UNDER 18 ON THE REGISTER AT 24TH FEBRUARY, 1930.

Table showing juvenile unemployment statistics by division, including insured and uninsured counts for boys and girls.

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

Table showing percentage rates of unemployment among insured juveniles aged 16 and 17, categorized by division and gender.

JUVENILES IN ATTENDANCE AT JUNIOR INSTRUCTION CENTRES AND CLASSES. FOUR WEEKS ENDED 26TH FEBRUARY, 1930.

Table showing juveniles in attendance at junior instruction centres and classes, including daily attendance and separate individuals.

JUVENILES PLACED IN EMPLOYMENT. FOUR WEEKS ENDED 24TH FEBRUARY, 1930.

Table showing juveniles placed in employment, including number of vacancies filled and juveniles placed in first situation.

CONSIDERATION OF CLAIMS TO BENEFIT BY LOCAL BOARDS OF ASSESSORS.

FROM 9th SEPTEMBER, 1929, TO 12th MARCH, 1930, under the provisions of the Unemployment Insurance (Boards of Assessors) Regulations, 1929, claims to benefit have been referred to a Local Board of Assessors...

* Based on the number of juvenile unemployment books lodged at Local Offices, which exceeds the number of insured juveniles on the Registers. † Girls over 15 years of age are also admitted to certain Home Training Centres administered by the Central Committee on Women's Training and Employment.

The following Table gives particulars of the work of Boards of Assessors during the four weeks ended 3rd February, 1930. It should be noted that the disallowances of claims to benefit arising on their recommendations are included in the figures in Section B of the Table given in the next article in this column regarding disallowances by Insurance Officers.

Period 7th January, 1930, to 3rd February, 1930.

Table showing work of Boards of Assessors, including total cases considered, condition of work, and recommendations.

DETERMINATION OF CLAIMS TO UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT.

14th JANUARY, 1930, TO 10th FEBRUARY, 1930.

THE following Table gives, for the period 14th January, 1930 to 10th February, 1930, inclusive, the number of claims to benefit made at Employment Exchanges and Juvenile Employment Bureaux, the average number of claims current at all Local Offices in Great Britain during that period, and an analysis of the decisions by Insurance Officers, of the recommendations of Courts of Referees, and decisions by the Umpire on claims considered by them:—

Table showing determination of claims to unemployment benefit, including fresh and renewal claims made and average number of claims current.

B.—Disallowances by Insurance Officers.

Table showing disallowances by insurance officers, categorized into permanent and transitional provisions.

C.—Recommendations of Courts of Referees.†

Table showing recommendations of courts of referees, including appeals against disallowances and 78-day review cases.

* This condition at present operates only in the case of juveniles under 18 years of age. † The recommendations of Courts of Referees and decisions by 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. ‡ Section 11 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, as amended by the Fourth Schedule to the Unemployment Insurance Act of 1927, provides that when an insured contributor has during a prescribed period (now fixed at four months) received benefit amounting in the aggregate to 78 days, the claim shall be reviewed by a Court of Referees.

D.—Decisions by Umpire.*

Table showing decisions by umpire, including cases referred by insurance officer and appeals by associations and claimants.

The decisions given above are those recorded during the period, and relate in a proportion of cases to claims made earlier.

CUMULATIVE FIGURES, 19th APRIL, 1928, TO 10th FEBRUARY, 1930.

The following Table gives statistics for the period since the Unemployment Insurance Act of 1927 came into operation. The figures relate to claims for benefit and not to separate individuals:—

Table showing cumulative figures for unemployment insurance, including fresh and renewal claims made and average number of claims current.

UNEMPLOYMENT FUND.

Table showing approximately the receipts and payments and the liabilities of the Fund:—

Table showing unemployment fund statistics, including contributions received from employers and employed persons, and unemployability benefit.

A detailed account of the Fund is presented to Parliament annually (see House of Commons Paper No. 55 of 1929 for the period ending 31st March, 1929).

* Decisions by the Umpire in 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.

POOR-LAW RELIEF.

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

THE number of persons* relieved on one day† in February, 1930, in the poor-law areas in the thirty-one selected urban areas named below was 668,458, or 0.7 per cent. more than in the previous month, but 8.7 per cent. less than in February, 1929. The numbers relieved at these three dates were equivalent, respectively, to rates of 376, 373, and 409 per 10,000 of the estimated population.

Table showing poor-law relief statistics, including number of persons in receipt of relief and rate per 10,000 of estimated population.

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.

Table showing assisted passages under the Empire Settlement Act, 1922, including total applications approved and total departures.

The figures are provisional and subject to revision.

* The figures include dependants, but exclude casuals, lunatics in asylums, registered hospitals and licensed houses, and persons receiving out-door medical relief only. † 22nd February in England and Wales and 15th February in Scotland. ‡ These urban areas include more than one poor-law union in the case of England and Wales, except in the Leeds, Leicester, Birmingham, Sheffield and West Ham districts; and more than one parish in the case of Scotland, except in the Aberdeen and Edinburgh districts. † Includes 274 not included in district figures.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING FEBRUARY, 1930 (continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics.)
Iron and Steel Manufacture.	England and West of Scotland.*	2 Feb.	Melters (tonnage-men) employed at open-hearth steel-melting furnaces.	An agreement adopted, with schedules of new total base wage rates, automatic in their operation, uniform in their character, and related to the weekly outputs from stationary furnaces, basic and acid, machine-charged, cold metal practice; stationary furnaces, machine-charged, hot metal practice; and talbot and tilting furnaces, hot metal practice. Percentage division of new total base wage rates among the different classes of melters defined on a uniform basis; also new and uniform distal rates fixed for these classes in respect of watching, flowing and fettling, bottoming, and melting solidified charges.*
Do.	South-West Wales	2 Feb.	Lower-paid men employed in steel-melting plants, rolling mills, etc.	Basis rates adjusted for men previously in receipt of basis rates from 3s. 10d. to 7s. per shift (and to avoid anomalies, where necessary, up to 8s. per shift) by incorporating special bonuses granted in August, 1924, and an additional 6½ per cent. (or its equivalent under the "stepping-scheme") hitherto paid to men in receipt of basis rates up to 7s. per shift, into new base rates, which are subject to the sliding-scale percentage additions at each works. The net effects of the revisions, on normal weekly earnings (inclusive of the sliding-scale percentage) were increases varying from 8d. to 1s. 11d. per week for men previously in receipt of basis rates of 3s. 10d. to 5s. per shift; from 1s. 1d. to 2s. 3d. per week for men with basis rates over 5s. to 7s.*
Do.	South-West Wales	2 Feb.	Workpeople employed in Siemens steel manufacture, excluding those on maintenance work.	Increase of ¼ per cent. on standard basis rates, making wages 11½ per cent. above the standard, plus <i>ex-gratia</i> bonuses for workpeople on basis rates up to 51s. per week; the latter to remain as previously except for adult workers with basis rates up to 42s. per week, whose bonuses are to be reduced by amounts corresponding to above increase, leaving their total wages the same as previously.†
Do.	South-West Wales	1 Feb.	Bricklayers employed in Siemens steel works.	Decrease of ¼d. per hour (1s. 7½d. to 1s. 7d.).
Marine Engineering.	Belfast ...	1 Jan.‡	Semi-skilled and unskilled plain time workers.	Increase of 1s. per week to workpeople 21 years of age and over in receipt of a total wage of 52s. per week or less. Rates after change for labourers (timework) : engineering and boiler shop, 41s.; foundry, 42s. 6d.
Tinplate Manufacture.	South Wales and Monmouthshire.	2 Feb.	Workpeople (excluding maintenance craftsmen) employed in tinplate manufacture.	Increase of 3½ per cent. on standard basis rates, making wages 11 per cent. above the standard in the case of workpeople in receipt of a basis rate of 6s. 10½d. or less per day, and 6 per cent. above standard in the case of other workpeople.
Electrical Cable Manufacture.	Greater London Area	Pay preceding 2nd pay day in Feb.	Plumber-jointers, and plumber-jointers' mates.	Increase of 0.75d. per hour for plumber-jointers and of 0.6d. per hour for plumber-jointers' mates. Rates after change : plumber jointers, 1s. 11d. per hour; plumber-jointers' mates, 1s. 6.4d.
Laminated Spring Manufacture.	Sheffield ...	1st full pay after 18 Feb.	Laminated spring smiths and strikers, fitters and vicemen.	Decrease of 1s. per week in flat-rate bonus (7s. to 6s.).
Gas Retort Making, etc.	Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	1 Feb.	Retort setters and bricklayers employed by outside contractors on certain classes of work in gas-works.**	Decrease of ¼d. per hour, leaving wages 1d. per hour in excess of the district building trade rate.
Woolen and Worsted, etc. Manufacture.	West Riding of Yorkshire.	1 Feb.	Bricklayers, masons, carpenters and joiners, and labourers employed in the woolen and worsted and other textile industries.	Decrease of ¼d. per hour. Rates after change : principal towns—tradesmen, 1s. 7d.; labourers, 1s. 2½d.
Carpet Manufacture.	Kidderminster and District.	1st full pay in Jan.‡	Dyehouse labourers ...	Increase of 2s. per week. Rates after change : machine vatmen, 43s.; hand vatmen, 42s.
Elastic Web Weaving.	Leicester ...	1st pay day after 21 Feb.	Male workers ...	Bonus reduced from 14s. to 13s. in the £.
Machine Calico Printing.	Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	Pay preceding 1st pay day in March.	Machine calico printers ...	Supplementary cost-of-living wage reduced from 46.90 per cent. to 44.80 per cent. on basis wages, the flat rate bonus of 19s. per week for journeymen and of 13s. per week for apprentices remaining unchanged.
Silk Dyeing and Finishing.	Macclesfield ...	Pay day in week ending 15 Feb.	Male workers 21 years and over ... Female workers ...	Increase of 3d. per week for workers 21 years of age and over and further increase of 3s. 9d. per week for those 21½ years and under 22.†† Rates after change : 21 years, 46s. 3d.; 21½ and over, 51s. 9d. Increase of 2d. per week (29s. 4d. to 29s. 6d.).
Making-up and Packing.	Manchester ...	1st pay day in Feb.	Workpeople employed in the making-up and packing industry.	Decreases of from 2s. 6d. to 3s. 6d. per week for men 21 years and over, 1s. 6d. or 1s. 9d. per week for women 18 and over and of proportionate amounts for apprentices and juniors. Rates after change : Adult males—packers and makers-up, 66s. 6d.; competent grey and print cloth lookers, 61s.; assistant grey and print cloth lookers, 57s. 3d.; markers-off, stampers, and pressers-off, 55s. 6d.; hoistmen, platers, cutters and lappers, 52s. 6d.; general warehousemen, 51s. 3d.; porters, 50s.; Adult females with not less than 3 years' experience—markers-off, 35s.; cutters, 32s. 3d.; stitchers, platers and tiers-up, parcelers and tapers, 30s. 9d.; general hookers of prints and shirtings, 29s. 6d.; dhobie hookers, 28s. 3d.

* The new conditions referred to above took effect under agreements made between the Iron and Steel Trades Employers' Association and the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation as regards tonnage-men, and between the Iron and Steel Trades Employers' Association, the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, the National Union of General and Municipal Workers, and the National Union of Engineemen, Firemen, Mechanics and Electrical Workers (South Yorkshire area) as regards other classes. The principal districts affected were the North-East Coast, Cumberland, Lancashire, parts of South and West Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, parts of the Midlands, and the West of Scotland. The agreements also extend the principle of tonnage bonuses on output for certain classes of lower paid men in occupations which directly contribute to and influence output and the basis rates as revised include an amount representative of the tonnage portion of their basis rates.

† Under selling-price sliding-scale arrangements.

‡ The total percentages paid on basis rates, inclusive of *ex-gratia* bonuses, are now as follows : Adult workers—on rates up to 30s., 50 per cent.; on rates 31s. to 42s., varying from 46.24 to 16.67; on rates 43s. to 51s., varying from 15.98 to 13.01; on 52s. and over, 11½ (no *ex-gratia* bonus). Boys.—16½ per cent., plus 3d. per shift.

§ The increase was granted in February, with retrospective effect from the date shown.

|| These percentages include the *ex-gratia* bonuses previously given amounting to 7½ per cent. for workpeople on basis rates of 6s. 10½d. or less and 2½ per cent. for other workpeople.

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

** Viz., work of new construction, repairs or renewals of carbonizing and gas-making plant, and the building or repairing of retort stacks and chimneys, also work on retort house brickwork when the retort house forms part of the same contract as the retort bench.

†† Under an agreement of 7th June, 1929, between the Macclesfield Silk Trade Employers' Association and the Amalgamated Society of Dyers, etc., it was provided that the adult age for males should be reduced from 22½ years to 21 years by three stages : viz., in August, 1929, February and August, 1930. The increase of 3s. 9d. per week shown for those 21½ and under 22 years is the result of the operation of this agreement.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING FEBRUARY, 1930 (continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics.)
Retail Bespoke Tailoring.	England and Wales	24 Feb.	Workpeople employed in the retail bespoke tailoring trade.	Minimum time and piecework basis time rates, fixed under the Trade Boards Acts revised in accordance with a new grading scheme, classifying workpeople by years of employment in the trade, and introducing rates on this principle for workpeople other than those entering trade as apprentices or learners; minimum rates fixed by the Board cancelled in their application to cutters, trimmers and packers.* New minimum time rates include the following, the rates varying with different areas—Males—4th year of employment; apprentices, 17s. to 24s. per week; learners, 18s. to 24s.; others, 22s. to 30s.; 6th year of employment; ex-apprentices, 9d. to 1s. 2½d. per hour; ex-learners, 8d. to 1s. 2d. per hour; others, 7½d. to 1s. 2d.; after 8 years' employment (same for all classes), 1s. to 1s. 4½d. Females—4th year of employment; apprentices, 12s. 6d. to 20s. per week; learners, 16s. to 24s.; others, 17s. to 26s.; 6th year of employment; ex-apprentices, 6½d. to 9d. per hour; ex-learners, 6d. to 9d.; others, 5½d. to 9d.; after 7 years' employment (same for all classes), 7½d. to 10d. (See Notices of Orders on page 115.)
Baking and Confectionery	Pontypridd and Rhondda Valley, Brecon, Monmouthshire, East and Mid - Glamorgan and West Wales districts.	Last pay day in Feb. Last pay day in Feb.	Bakers and confectioners ... Bakers and confectioners employed by co-operative societies.	Decrease of 2s. 6d. per week. Rate after change for tablehands, 60s. Decrease of 2s. 6d. per week. Rate after change for tablehands, 62s. 6d.
Mill-Sawing	Manchester, Salford and District and Ashton-under-Lyne, Preston and District	1 Feb.	Woodcutting machinists and sawyers.	Decrease of ¼d. per hour (1s. 7½d. to 1s. 7d.).
Mill-Sawing	Kings Lynn ...	Week ending 28 Feb.	Workpeople employed in sawmills	Decrease of 1d. per hour for men and of ¼d. per hour for boys. Minimum rates after change : machinemen and sawyers, 1s. 2d.; labourers, 11½d.
Packing Case Making.	Manchester, Salford and Bolton.	1 Feb.	Woodcutting machinists and sawyers.	Decrease of ¼d. per hour (1s. 7½d. to 1s. 7d.).
Furniture Manufacture.	London ...	1 Feb.	Bedding and mattress makers ...	Decrease of 1 per cent. in the basis for calculating rates of wages, making wages 66 per cent. above the list adopted in 1922.
	Chester ...	1 Feb.	Cabinetmakers, french polishers, and upholsterers.	Decrease of ¼d. per hour (1s. 7½d. to 1s. 7d.).
	Lancaster ...	1 Feb.	Cabinetmakers, joiners, carvers, machinists, french polishers, painters and upholsterers.	Decrease of ¼d. per hour (1s. 7½d. to 1s. 7d.).
	Rochdale ...	1 Feb.	Cabinetmakers, french polishers and upholsterers.	Decrease of ¼d. per hour (1s. 7½d. to 1s. 7d.).
	Southport ...	1 Feb.	Cabinetmakers, french polishers and upholsterers.	Decrease of ¼d. per hour (1s. 7½d. to 1s. 7d.).
	Wakefield ...	1 Feb.	Cabinetmakers, machinists and french polishers.	Decrease of ¼d. per hour (1s. 7½d. to 1s. 7d.).
	Warrington ...	1 Feb.	Cabinetmakers, french polishers and upholsterers.	Decrease of ¼d. per hour (1s. 7½d. to 1s. 7d.).
	High Wycombe ...	Pay day in week ending 1 March.	Caners of common bedroom chairs bored 18, 19 and 20.	Decrease of ¼d. per chair. Rates after change : bored 18, 6½d. per chair; bored 19 and 20, 7½d. per chair.
	Leicester ...	1 Feb.	Cabinet makers, french polishers and upholsterers.	Decrease of ¼d. per hour (1s. 7½d. to 1s. 7d.).
	Stoke-on-Trent, Hanley and Newcastle-under-Lyme districts.	1 Feb.	Cabinetmakers, french polishers and upholsterers.	Decrease of ¼d. per hour (1s. 7½d. to 1s. 7d.).
Reading ...	1 Feb.	Cabinetmakers, carvers, and french polishers.	Decrease of ¼d. per hour. Rates after change : carvers, 1s. 8½d.; others, 1s. 5½d.	
Edinburgh ...	1 Feb.	Cabinetmakers, machinists, upholsterers and french polishers (male workers). Female polishers and sewers ...	Decrease of ¼d. per hour. Rates after change : cabinetmakers and machinists, 1s. 7d.; upholsterers and french polishers, 1s. 6½d. Decrease of ¼d. per hour (9½d. to 9½d.).	
Cooperage	Great Britain; also Belfast and Londonderry;‡	1st pay day after 3 Feb.‡	Coopers ...	Increase of 1d. per hour for timeworkers and of 6½ per cent. on list prices for pieceworkers. Rates after change for timeworkers : London, 1s. 8d.; other districts, 1s. 7d.‡
Perambulator and Invalid Carriage Manufacture.	Great Britain ...	10 Feb.	All classes of workpeople ...	Cost-of-living sliding scale previously operative under the Trade Boards Acts revised; and the minimum time rates fixed under the Acts changed for certain workers under 21 years of age as indicated below, the piecework basis time rates (10 per cent. above the minimum) varying accordingly for such workers. (See Notice of Order on page 78 of February GAZETTE.)
			Male porters and labourers under 21 years of age.	Increase in the minimum time rate of ¼d. per hour for those 20 and under 21, the rates for those 18 and under 20 remaining unchanged, making time rates as follows : 18 and under 19, 8½d.; 19 and under 20, 9d.; 20 and under 21, 10½d.
			Other male workers under 21 years of age.	New scale of minimum rates fixed, with a new rate for workers under 15, the previous minimum rates for other workers being increased by amounts varying from 3d. to 5s. 9d. per week. Minimum rates after change, 12s. at under 15, increasing each year to 27s. at 18 and to 43s. at 20.
			Female workers under 21 years of age.	New scale of minimum rates fixed, with a new rate for workers under 15, the previous minimum rates for other workers being increased by amounts varying from 5d. to 3s. per week for those 15 and under 20, and decreased by 6d. and 1s. 9d. for those 15 and under 15 and 20 and under 21 respectively. Minimum rates after change, 8s. 6d. at under 15, increasing each year to 24s. at 18, and to 25s. at 20.

* The new rates and conditions are embodied in Orders issued for each of the 14 Areas into which the country is divided. The grading of towns within the Areas remains as previously, with a very few exceptions. New conditions are laid down for apprentices and improvers, with a view to their more effective instruction, and the rates fixed for other workers who do not come within the definition of apprentices and learners are usually higher during the first five years' employment. So far as the new rates are comparable with those previously in force, in the majority of cases the rates are unaltered, including all the highest rates fixed for ex-apprentices and ex-learners. Some of the intermediate rates for males of this class were changed in certain Areas, the change usually being reductions (of ¼d. up to 2d. per hour) for those on the lower rates and increases (of 1d. per hour) for those on the higher rates. The rates for certain classes of learners (male and female) were changed in some Areas (usually reduced), and those for certain classes of apprentices were increased in some Areas.

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

‡ The change took effect under an agreement made by the National Joint Industrial Council for the Cooperage Industry. It did not apply to Burton-on-Trent, where wages are governed by a local agreement.

§ In respect of the preceding pay period.

|| The minimum rates formerly operative for the period during which the cost-of-living figure was less than 72 and not less than 63 have now been applied, subject to the modifications indicated above, to all periods during which the cost-of-living figure is less than 72.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING FEBRUARY, 1930 (continued).

Table with 5 columns: Industry, Locality, Date from which Change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, and Particulars of Change. Rows include Building, Electrical Installation, Shop-fitting, etc., Tile Laying, Glazing, Concrete Laying, etc., Port, Harbour and River Authorities, Electricity Supply Undertakings, and Local Government Non-Trading Services.

* 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 re-graded from the same date as that from which the above reduction took effect:—NORTH WESTERN COUNTIES: from A3 to A2—Audlem, Crewe, Knutsford, Malpas, Middlewich, Nantwich, Northwich, Over, Sandbach, Tarporley, Tilston, Winsford; from B1 to B—Ambleside, Cockerham, Grasmere, Kendal, Keswick, Windermere; MIDLAND COUNTIES: from A1 to A—Dudley district, Walsall district; from A2 to A1—Stourbridge district; from A3 to A2—Kettering, Peterborough, Shrewsbury; from B1 to B—Oundle, Rushden; EASTERN COUNTIES: from A3 to A2—St. Albans, Welwyn Garden City; from B to B3—Brighton, Bournemouth, Eastbourne, High Wycombe; from B1 to B—Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells; from B2 to B1—Bexhill, Farnham, Godalming, Winchester; SOUTH WESTERN COUNTIES: from B to A3—Bath; from A3 to A2—Gloucester; from B2 to B1—Swanage; from B3 to B2—Redruth and Camborne; SOUTH WALES: Owing to the re-grading of Bedwas from A to A1, the total amount of reduction was 1d. for craftsmen and 1d. for labourers. The re-grading of Worcester (from A3 to A2) and Aberdare (from A to A1) was also authorised by the National Joint Council to take effect from 1st February, but at both these towns the rates previously paid were those appertaining to the new grades. In certain districts in England (including Bradford, Leeds, Leicester, Cambridge and Norwich) where separate agreements have been made between local employers of plasterers or branches of the National Association of Master Plasterers and the National Association of Plasterers, Granolithic and Cement Workers, or arrived at by the National Joint Council for the Plastering Industry (none of which bodies is 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. The reduction did not apply in the case of painters in Scotland and bricklayers, masons and their labourers in the Glasgow and West of Scotland district, while plasterers at most of the principal Scottish towns come under a separate arrangement (see above). 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.

‡ 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 1d. per hour in Grades A, A2, B, B2 and C, and to 1/2d. per hour in Grades A1, A3, B1, B3, and C1.

§ Painters in certain towns in the South Western Counties receive 1d. or 1d. less than the craftsmen's rate given above. || The change took effect in accordance with an agreement arrived at between the Scottish Master Plasterers' Association and the Scottish National Operative Plasterers' Federal Union. The principal districts affected are as follows:—Aberdeen, Airdrie, Ayr, Clydebank, Coatbridge, Dumbarton, Dundee, Edinburgh, Falkirk, Glasgow, Greenock, Hamilton, Irvine, Kilmarnock, Leith, Motherwell, Paisley, Perth, Stirling, and Wishaw.

¶ The change took effect under an agreement made between the National Federated Electrical Association and the Electrical Trades Union. The increase was equivalent to 2 per cent. on the rates paid in April, 1929, leaving wages 27 per cent. below these rates except in Grade A areas where the rate includes an increase of 5 per cent. on current rates granted in May, 1929. The districts in the various grades are as follows:—

Grade A.—London district (within a 12-mile radius of Charing Cross) and Watford. Grade B.—Mersey district (including Liverpool, Birkenhead, and Wallasey), Chester, Shotton, and Wrexham, Southport, Manchester district (including Ashton, Atherton, Bolton, Bury, Dukinfield, Hyde, Leigh, Northwich, Oldham, Preston, Rochdale, Stockport, Warrington, and Wigan), South Wales and Monmouthshire (including Bargoed, Barry, Cardiff, Chepstow, Llanelly, Newport, Penarth and Swansea), Tyne-side, Hartlepool, Sunderland, Stockton, Darlington, Middlesbrough, West Riding of Yorkshire districts (including Barnsley, Batley, Bradford, Castleford, Dewsbury, Doncaster, Halifax, Harrogate, Ilkley, Keighley, Leeds, Morley, Normanton, Pontefract, Selby, Shipley, Wakefield and York), Sheffield district, Hull, Birmingham, Coventry, Wolverhampton, Bristol, and Crewe. Grade C.—Bath, Bournemouth, Brighton, Cambridge, Carlisle, Chatham, Crayford, Dartford, Devonport, Faversham, Gravesend, Hove, Luton, Maidstone, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Rochester, Sharness, Sittingbourne, Southampton, Belfast, Londonderry, towns and districts (other than those already specified) in the Counties of Northumberland, Durham, Yorkshire, Lancashire, Cheshire, Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex and Hertfordshire (outside London Area), Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, Derbyshire, Northamptonshire, Staffordshire, Surrey and Middlesex (outside London Area), Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Berkshire, and Oxfordshire. Grade D.—Other towns and counties in England and Wales.

** In respect of the preceding pay period.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING FEBRUARY, 1930 (continued).

Table with 5 columns: Industry, Locality, Date from which Change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, and Particulars of Change. Rows include Certain Authorities in Lancashire and Cheshire, Blackburn, Cambridge, Local Government Non-Trading Services (cont.), Felixstowe, Portsmouth, Exeter, Carmarthen, Ayrshire (Ayr District), Dundee, Leather Belt Manufacture, Basket Making, Boiler and Pipe Covering, Cotton Waste Reclamation.

* The Authorities affected include those in the following list. The rate of 1s. 2 1/2d. quoted for labourers applies both to general yard labourers and road labourers except in towns printed in italics, where yard labourers were not affected by the reduction and the rate applies only to road labourers:—Accrington, Ashton-under-Lyne, Bolton, Burnley, Bury, Darwen, Heywood, Hyde, Leigh, Oldham, Preston, Rawtenstall, Rochdale, Salford, Warrington, Wigan, Atherton, Chadderton, Failsworth, Hindley, Ince-in-Makerfield, Prestwich, Radcliffe, Ramsbottom, Swinton and Pendlebury, Tyldesley-with-Shakerley. † Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements.

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 32, as compared with 33 in the previous month and 15 in February, 1929. The total number of workpeople involved in these disputes (including those thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, though not themselves parties to the disputes) was approximately 9,100. In addition, about 200 workpeople were involved, either directly or indirectly, in 10 disputes which began before February and were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The number of new and old disputes was thus 42, involving about 9,300 workpeople, and resulting in a loss, during February, of about 79,000 working days.

Causes.—Of the 32 disputes beginning in February, 2, directly involving 3,600 workpeople, arose out of demands for advances in wages; 8, directly involving 700 workpeople, arose out of proposed reductions in wages; 9, directly involving 1,000 workpeople, on other wages questions; 6, directly involving 900 workpeople, on questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons; 1, directly involving 100 workpeople, on a question as to working arrangements; and 6, directly involving 1,200 workpeople, on questions of Trade Union principle.

Results.—Settlements were effected in the case of 23 new disputes directly involving 6,800 workpeople, and 6 old disputes, directly involving 100 workpeople. Of these new and old disputes, 8, directly involving 1,600 workpeople, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 9, directly involving 1,100 workpeople, were settled in favour of the employers; and 12, directly involving 4,200 workpeople, were compromised. In the case of 2 disputes, directly involving 200 workpeople, work was resumed pending negotiations.

Principal Disputes involving stoppages of work during February, 1930.—The only dispute of any magnitude occurring in February was one involving nearly 3,300 insurance agents in various centres of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, which began on 7th February and arose out of a demand for improved terms of remuneration. A settlement was effected on 24th February, by which a minimum rate of 50s. per week was guaranteed, other claims being waived.

Table with 4 columns: Industry Group, Started before beginning of Month, Started in Month, Total, Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress in Month, Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress in Month. Rows include Mining and Quarrying, Textile, Commerce, Distribution and Finance, Other, and Total for Feb 1930, Jan 1930, and Feb 1929.

* 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.

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

Summary: Average Increases since July, 1914.

Table showing average increases since July 1914: All Items included ... 61%, Food only ... 50%

FOOD.

At 1st March the average level of the retail prices of the principal articles of food showed a decline as compared with 1st February.

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 50 per cent. at 1st March, 1930, as compared with 54 per cent. at 1st February, 1930, and 57 per cent. at 1st March, 1929.

In the following Table is given a comparison of retail prices of these articles of food in July, 1914, and at 1st February, and 1st March, 1930:—

Table comparing retail prices of food items (Beef, Mutton, Flour, etc.) in July 1914, 1st Feb 1930, and 1st Mar 1930.

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

Table showing percentage comparison of retail prices at the same dates for various food items.

* 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 1st March, was approximately 49 per cent.

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;

In the fuel and light group the prices of coal at 1st March averaged about 85 per cent. above the level of July, 1914. The average price of gas remained between 45 and 50 per cent. above the pre-war level.

ALL ITEMS.

If the average increases in the cost of all the foregoing items are combined in accordance with their relative importance in pre-war working-class family expenditure, allowance being also made for the increase in the prices of soap, soda, domestic ironmongery, brushware and pottery, tobacco, fares and newspapers (averaging about 80 per cent.), the resultant general average increase for 1st March, 1930, is, approximately, 61 per cent.* over the level of July, 1914, as compared with 64 per cent. at 1st February, 1930, and 66 per cent. at 1st March, 1929.

The result of this calculation (in which the same quantities and, as far as possible, the same qualities of each item are taken in 1930 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).

SUMMARY TABLE: 1920 to 1930.

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 1930:—

Summary Table showing average percentage increase from 1920 to 1930 for various items.

NOTE.

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

* If allowance is made for the changes in taxation since July, 1914, on the commodities included in these statistics, the average increase is about 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 showing percentage increase in retail food prices in various countries compared with July 1914.

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 showing percentage increase in the cost of food and other household requirements in various countries compared with July 1914.

* Exceptions to this are: France (other towns), August, 1914; Rome and Milan, January to June, 1914; Switzerland and Luxemburg, 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.

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, 1930, under the Factory and Workshop Act, or under the Lead Paint (Protection against Poisoning) Act, was 64. Nine deaths* were reported during the month, four due to lead poisoning, four due to epitheliomatous ulceration, and one due to anthrax.

Table showing cases of lead poisoning, anthrax, and chrome ulceration by occupation and region.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

THE number of workpeople, other than seamen, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, reported during February, 1930, as killed in the course of their employment was 216, as compared with 207 in the previous month and with 203 in February, 1929.

Table showing fatal industrial accidents by industry and service type.

* 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.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

Workmen's Compensation Act, 1925.**APPLICANT'S REFUSAL OF WORK—SUITABILITY OF EMPLOYMENT—COMPENSATION REDUCED.**

THIS was an appeal by the applicant against an award of the learned County Court judge at Brigg, reducing the amount of compensation payable to the applicant under the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act.

The applicant was a ganger employed by a railway company. In October, 1928, he met with an accident in the course of his employment, which resulted in the loss of an eye. Compensation at the rate of 30s. a week was paid until February, 1929, when it was reduced to 7s. 7d. per week, after the man had refused to take work offered to him in a village near Nottingham, at Bradford, and also at Sheffield. The applicant refused the offers of employment on the ground that he had a wife in delicate health and four young children, for whom he could not get suitable accommodation at any of the places where he had been offered work.

The learned County Court judge held that the applicant was not entitled to more compensation, and made an award for 7s. 7d. only, because, if he had accepted one of the jobs offered, he would have earned £2 6s. 9d. per week.

Lord Justice Scrutton, in giving judgment, said that the learned County Court judge had held that the man had been offered suitable employment. The Workmen's Compensation Act excluded the consideration of the workmen's ties to his family. If he had ten children, and two were liable to consumption, he could not refuse suitable employment on the ground that these two children could not live in the place where the work was offered. The point was a new one and in his (the learned judge's) view the County Court judge's decision was right.

Lord Justice Slesser, who concurred, said that the suitability of employment offered had to be considered with regard to the workman as such, and without reference to extraneous matters.

Lord Justice Romer, who also concurred, said that if questions such as the suitability of the place where work was offered for the man's wife to live in were considered, the employer might in effect have to compensate a workman for loss of wages which was not due to the accident. The appeal was dismissed.—*A. E. Broughton (applicant) v. London and North Eastern Railway (respondents). Court of Appeal.* 31st January, 1930.

Superannuation Acts, 1859-1909.**CIVIL SERVICE PENSIONS—VALIDITY OF TREASURY MINUTE DATED 20TH MARCH, 1922—JURISDICTION OF THE COURTS.**

This was an appeal by the plaintiffs, who were retired civil servants, against a decision of Mr. Justice Clauson.*

In the action, which was a test case, the plaintiffs claimed to have the amounts of their superannuation allowances calculated in accordance with the provisions of the Superannuation Acts, and asked for a declaration that the Treasury Minute dated 20th March, 1922, was null and void in so far as it limited the right to have the amount of the annual superannuation allowance calculated on the full annual salary and emoluments, including "bonus," payable at the date of retirement, and in so far as it made the amount of the allowance vary from time to time with the cost-of-living figure. For the Attorney-General, who was the defendant, it was contended that the decision of the Treasury on questions relating to pensions was final, and that the Court had no jurisdiction in the matter. This contention was upheld by Mr. Justice Clauson, who accordingly dismissed the action.

In giving judgment in the Court of Appeal, the Master of the Rolls (Lord Hanworth) said that, after careful consideration of the authorities, he came to the conclusion that the plaintiffs had no such legal right as they claimed in the action. There was no right given to civil servants by the statutes, and the authorities were all one way: that all questions relating to superannuation allowances and pensions were to be decided by the Treasury, and not by a Court of Law.

Lord Justice Lawrence and Lord Justice Romer gave judgment to the same effect, and the appeal was dismissed.—*Nixon and others v. the Attorney-General. Court of Appeal.* 16th and 20th January and 19th February, 1930.

Stamp Duties Management Act, 1891.**UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF USED UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE STAMPS.**

A cartage contractor was charged on four counts, with knowingly and without lawful excuse having in his possession for various periods between 29th June, 1925, and 2nd July, 1928, divers Unemployment Insurance stamps which had been fraudulently removed from some material contrary to Section 13 (9) of the Stamp Duties Management Act, 1891, as applied to Unemployment Insurance stamps by the Unemployment Insurance (Stamps) Regulations, 1924 (Statutory Rules and Orders, 1924, No. 1578).

A clerk, who was at the material times employed by the contractor, was also charged with unlawfully aiding, abetting and assisting him in the commission of these offences.

* See the December, 1929, issue of this GAZETTE, page 469.

Evidence was called by the prosecution to prove that, of the 1,718 stamps affixed to the Unemployment Insurance books of the contractor's employees which were produced, no fewer than 946 had been previously used, and chemically treated to remove the earlier cancellations. Further evidence was that the defendants had stated that each had affixed the stamps which bore their own cancellations, which each identified. The clerk, however, subsequently stated that both he and his employer had affixed the stamps in question together. The employer asserted that the clerk had always purchased the stamps at the Charterhouse Street Post Office.

Evidence was called from the General Post Office to prove that, so far as was known, no washed stamps had been sold over the counter at the Charterhouse Street Post Office.

For the defence it was stated that up to February, 1927, another employee of the contractor who was not a defendant in these proceedings was responsible for purchasing and affixing the stamps.

The jury returned verdicts of "guilty" against both defendants on the counts which related to periods subsequent to February, 1927, and "not guilty" on the other counts.

Each defendant was bound over for twelve months in the sum of £100.—*Re v. R. J. Harmer and Re v. C. J. Harris. Central Criminal Court.* 15th January, 1930.

Factory and Workshop Act, 1901.**INADEQUATE TEMPERATURE IN FACTORY.**

Proceedings were instituted by the Ministry of Labour for Northern Ireland against a firm of apron and overall manufacturers, for failure to take adequate measures for securing and maintaining a reasonable temperature in a room in which certain persons were employed, and so as not to interfere with the purity of the air of the room.

The inspector of factories, for the prosecution, stated that on 15th November, 1929, temperatures of 46 and 47 degrees F. were found in the defendants' factory at 10.45 a.m., whilst the outside air temperature was 34 degrees F. Part of the means of heating was by fuelless gas stoves, and air samples were taken. On 9th January, 1930, temperatures of 47 to 49 degrees F. were found in the factory, the outside air temperature being 37 degrees F. A public analyst stated that he found the air samples to contain 21 and 21.5 parts per 10,000 of carbon dioxide. It was his opinion that this excess of carbon dioxide indicated that the use of the fuelless gas stoves had interfered with the purity of the air in the workroom.

On behalf of the defendants it was urged that the temperatures were exceptional on the dates in question. They were quite willing to improve the heating, and applied for an adjournment to enable this to be done. The inspector asked for the cases to be determined, and convictions were recorded, and a fine of 40s. and costs was imposed on each charge.—*Ministry of Labour for Northern Ireland v. Andrew Jamieson, Ltd. Belfast County Borough Petty Sessions.* 7th February, 1930.

Trade Boards Acts, 1909-1918.**DRESSMAKING AND WOMEN'S LIGHT CLOTHING TRADE.**

An employer and his agent, charged with underpaying one worker and with failing to keep adequate wages records, were each fined £1. The employer was also ordered to pay arrears of wages amounting to £16 8s. 9d. within four weeks. An additional fine of £1 was imposed on the agent upon a charge of producing a false record of wages.—*Re v. J. O. Griffiths and Re v. F. P. Griffiths. Ammanford Police Court.* 17th February, 1930.

HAT, CAP AND MILLINERY TRADE.

An employer, charged with underpaying three workers and with failing to keep adequate wages records, was fined £6 in all, and ordered to pay £34 2s. 3d. arrears of wages to one worker. Arrears totalling £14 12s. 4d. had been paid prior to the hearing to the other two workers, and the two charges in respect of these workers were dismissed under the Probation of Offenders Act. In addition, £1 1s. special costs were awarded to the prosecution.—*Re v. G. Taylor. Newcastle-on-Tyne City Police Court.* 25th February, 1930.

MILK DISTRIBUTIVE TRADE.

A dairyman, as the employer, and his manager, as agent, were charged with underpaying seven workers, with failing to keep adequate wages records, and with failing to post the trade board notices. Each defendant was fined 30s. on each of the seven underpayment summonses, 10s. for failing to keep records, and 15s. for failing to post notices. Costs of £7 were awarded, and arrears of wages amounting to £147 12s. 3d. were ordered to be paid.—*Re v. A. H. Brown, and Re v. R. L. Barr. Clacton Police Court.* 24th February, 1930.

A dairyman was prosecuted for underpaying six workers, and for producing a false record of wages. Two of the underpayment charges were dismissed, and the charge of producing a false record was withdrawn. The defendant was fined £5 on one underpayment charge, and ordered to pay 4s. costs on each of the three remaining summonses. He was also ordered to pay £1 15s. witnesses' costs, £3 3s. advocate's fee, and £2 18s. 1d., arrears of wages to two workers. He agreed to pay £25 arrears of wages to another worker.—*Re v. P. W. Simpson. Chatham Police Court.* 5th February, 1930.

INDUSTRIAL COURTS ACT, 1919, AND CONCILIATION ACT, 1896.**Recent Proceedings.****(A)—INDUSTRIAL COURT DECISIONS.**

There were no cases under this heading during February.

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

TAR PLANT: CUMBERLAND.—*Operatives v. United Steel Companies, Ltd.*—Difference as to the rates and conditions of employment to be applied to certain of the operatives in the company's tar plant, Harrington. Mr. W. Addington Willis, C.B.E., appointed under the Conciliation Act, 1896, to act as Arbitrator in the matter. Award deciding the points in dispute issued on 6th February, 1930.

STEEL INDUSTRY: SOUTH WALES.—*South Wales Siemens Steel Association v. Iron and Steel Trades Confederation.*—Difference as to the manning of and the rates per ton payable to the operatives employed at the soaking pits of Messrs. Richard Thomas and Company, Ltd., Llanelli.—*Board of Arbitration* consisting of Sir Richard A. S. Redmayne, K.C.B., Mr. M. Moses (employers' representative), and Mr. W. T. Griffiths (workpeople's representative), appointed under the Industrial Courts Act, 1919, to determine the matter. The award of the Board was issued on 27th February, 1930.

STEEL INDUSTRY: SOUTH WALES.—*South Wales Siemens Steel Association v. Iron and Steel Trades Confederation.*—Difference as to the manning and tonnage rates to operate on the reheating furnaces of the Llanelli Steel Co. (1907), Ltd.—*Board of Arbitration* consisting of Sir Richard A. S. Redmayne, K.C.B. (Chairman), Mr. M. Moses (employers' representative) and Mr. W. T. Griffiths (workpeople's representative), appointed under the Industrial Courts Act, 1919; and award determining the matter issued on 27th February, 1930.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT, 1920.**COURSES OF INSTRUCTION (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS, 1930.**

The Unemployment Insurance (Courses of Instruction) (Amendment) Regulations, 1930,* dated February 11, 1930, made by the Minister of Labour under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920 (10 & 11 Geo. 5, c. 30).

Whereas the Minister of Labour (hereinafter referred to as "the Minister") after consultation with the Board of Education and the Scottish Education Department made the Unemployment Insurance (Courses of Instruction) Regulations, 1921 (hereinafter referred to as "the principal Regulations") and it is expedient to amend the said Regulations.

Now therefore the Minister, after consultation with the Board of Education and the Scottish Education Department, by virtue of the powers conferred by Sections 7 and 35 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, and of all other powers in that behalf hereby makes the following Regulations:—

1. In Regulation 2 of the principal Regulations there shall be inserted at the end thereof the following:—

"The expression 'Board of Assessors' has the same meaning as in the Unemployment Insurance (Boards of Assessors) Regulations, 1929."

2. In Regulation 4 of the principal Regulations the words "at such times and places and for such periods as the Insurance Officer may specify" shall be omitted.

3. For the proviso to Regulation 4 of the principal Regulations there shall be substituted the following:—

"Provided that in determining the question whether an insured contributor shall be required to attend an approved course of instruction and if so at what times and for what periods, the Insurance Officer shall take into account—

(a) all the circumstances of the case including the distance of the insured contributor's place of residence from the place where the approved course of instruction is to be held, the payment of any necessary travelling expenses, any allowance or other means for the provision of the maintenance and expenses of the insured contributor whilst attending at the approved course of instruction, and the general state of unemployment in the district in which the insured contributor resides;

(b) any available evidence tending to show that the insured contributor is attending a genuine educational course other than a course of instruction approved by the Minister under Regulation 3;

Provided also that, before determining the said question in the case of an insured contributor who is of the age of eighteen years or upwards the Insurance Officer shall, unless the insured

* Statutory Rules and Orders, 1930, No. 101. H.M. Stationery Office; price 1d. net.

contributor has made application in writing to the Minister to attend such course of instruction, refer the said question to a Board of Assessors for their report and recommendation."

4. The following Regulation shall be substituted for Regulation 6 of the principal Regulations:—

"6.—(1) Every insured contributor who is required by an Insurance Officer to attend a course of instruction shall—

(a) attend at such times and places and for such periods as the Insurance Officer may from time to time require;

(b) throughout the whole of the said course of instruction, or for such periods as he is required to attend, comply with the rules in force for the time being applicable to persons attending the said course of instruction.

(2) An insured contributor shall not be held to have proved that he has duly attended a course of instruction in accordance with the requirements of an Insurance Officer on any day, or during any period, in respect of which he has failed to comply with the provisions of sub-paragraph (1) hereof.

(3) If on a claim to benefit the question arises whether an insured contributor has proved that he duly attended a course of instruction as aforesaid, the Insurance Officer may refer the said question to a Board of Assessors for their report and recommendation."

5.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Unemployment Insurance (Courses of Instruction) (Amendment) Regulations, 1930, and these Regulations and the principal Regulations may be cited together as the Unemployment Insurance (Courses of Instruction) Regulations, 1921 and 1930, and shall be construed as one.

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

(3) These Regulations shall come into force on the date hereof.

Signed by Order of the Minister of Labour this 11th day of February, 1930.

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

TRADE BOARDS ACTS.**Orders, Notices, etc., Recently Issued.****I.—CONFIRMING ORDERS.****Paper Bag Trade Board (Great Britain).**

Order P. (17), dated 25th February, 1930, confirming the variation of general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates and overtime rates for male and female workers, and specifying 3rd March, 1930, as the date from which such rates should become effective.

Retail Bespoke Tailoring Trade Board (England and Wales).

Order R.B. (E. and W.) 5, dated 18th February, 1930, confirming certain variations and cancellations of minimum rates of wages for certain classes of male and female workers, and specifying 24th February, 1930, as the date from which such rates should become effective.

II.—NOTICES OF PROPOSAL**Brush and Broom Trade Board (Great Britain).**

Proposal M (44), dated 28th February, 1930, to vary minimum rates of wages for certain classes of male and female workers and to fix general minimum piece-rates and to vary the overtime rates for certain classes of male workers.

Objection period expires 28th April, 1930.

Hollow-ware Trade Board (Great Britain).

Proposal H (17), dated 4th March, 1930, to fix piece-work basis time-rates and to vary the overtime rates for male piece-workers.

Objection period expires 4th May, 1930.

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

Proposal N.I.W.D. (N. 20), dated 22nd February, 1930, to vary general minimum time-rates, the piece-work basis time-rate and relevant general overtime rates and to fix general minimum piece-rates for certain classes of female workers in the Factory Branch of the Trade.

Objection period expires on the 8th March, 1930, in the case of the proposal to vary minimum rates and on the 22nd March, 1930 in the case of the proposal to fix minimum rates.

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

Lower rates of wages became effective as from 1st March, 1930, in the undermentioned trade. The minimum rates now applicable are those appropriate to the cost-of-living figure of 64, and are set out in the Confirming Orders quoted below:—

Brush and Broom Trade Board (Great Britain), M (39) and (40), M (41) and M (43), column 12.

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