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

EMPLOYMENT.

EMPLOYMENT during April, although declining somewhat at the time of the Easter holidays, showed a renewed improvement by the end of the month. The improvement over the month as a whole was most marked in shipbuilding, where, however, employment still remained very bad. There was a further seasonal improvement in the building and clothing industries, and the numbers unemployed also decreased in a marked degree in general engineering and in the construction and repair of motor vehicles, cycles, etc. On the other hand, there was a decline in coal mining, in steel manufacture, and in tinplate manufacture. In coal mining the numbers recorded as wholly unemployed showed a further decrease, but this was more than counterbalanced by the numbers temporarily stopped from the service of their employers. Employment was good in most branches of the clothing industry, in brick, tile and cement manufacture, and fairly good in the printing, publishing and stationery industries.

Among the workpeople (numbering approximately 12,000,000) insured against unemployment under the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the percentage unemployed (including those temporarily stopped as well as those wholly unemployed) in all industries taken together at 25th April, 1927, was 9·4, as compared with 9·9 at 21st March, 1927, and 9·1 at 26th April, 1926. The percentage wholly unemployed declined from 7·9 per cent. at 21st March to 7·2 at 25th April. The total number of applicants for employment registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 25th April, 1927, was approximately 1,075,000, of whom 867,000 were men and 144,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls; at 28th March, 1927, it was 1,115,000, of whom 905,000 were men and 153,000 were women; and at 26th April, 1926, it was 1,034,000, of whom 800,000 were men and 172,000 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 in April resulted in an aggregate reduction of about £70,000 in the weekly full-time wages of nearly 560,000 workpeople, and in an increase of about £4,000 in those of nearly 27,000 workpeople.

There were reductions in the wages of coal miners in Yorkshire, Cumberland, Leicestershire, North Staffordshire and the Forest of Dean, the percentage additions to basic rates being reduced by amounts varying in the different districts from about 3 to 6½ per cent. on the previous wages. Other large groups of workpeople whose wages were reduced included iron puddlers and iron and steel millmen in the Midlands, who sustained a reduction equivalent to about 3½ per cent. on

current rates; hosiery workers in the Midlands, whose bonus was reduced from 8d. to 7d. on each shilling; and textile bleachers, dyers, etc., in Yorkshire, Lancashire and Scotland, the reduction for whom amounted to over 4 per cent. on current rates in Yorkshire, and to 2s. 6d. or 2s. 7d. per week in the case of men and 1s. 6d. per week in the case of women in the other districts. Reductions also occurred in the wages of ironstone miners in Cleveland, men employed on works of civil engineering construction, waterworks employees in London and various provincial districts, seed crushers and oil millers, coal tippers at the principal ports, and wholesale warehouse workers at Manchester.

The increases affected mainly ironstone miners and blastfurnace workers in Northamptonshire, blastfurnace workers in Cleveland and Staffordshire, and building trade operatives at certain provincial towns in England.

During the first four months of 1927 the changes reported to the Department in the industries for which statistics are compiled have resulted in net increases amounting to £33,500 in the weekly full-time wages of 517,000 workpeople and in net reductions of £99,800 in those of 685,000 workpeople. In the corresponding period of 1926 there were net increases of £11,700 in the weekly full-time wages of 106,000 workpeople, and reductions of £33,000 in those of 354,000 workpeople.

COST OF LIVING.

At 30th April the average level of retail prices of all the commodities taken into account in the statistics compiled by the Ministry of Labour (including food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, and miscellaneous items) was approximately 64 per cent. above that of July, 1914, as compared with 65 per cent. a month ago and 67 per cent. a year ago. The corresponding figures for food alone were 54, 55 and 58 respectively.

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

TRADE DISPUTES.

The number of trade disputes involving stoppages of work reported to the Department as beginning in April was 16. In addition, 20 disputes which began before April were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The number of workpeople involved in all disputes in April (including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes) was about 10,200; and the aggregate duration of all disputes during April was about 79,000 working days.

The aggregate duration of all disputes in progress in the first four months of 1927 was about 520,000 working days, and the total number of workpeople involved in these disputes was 34,000. The figures for the corresponding period of 1926 were 1,722,000 days and 87,000 workpeople respectively.

STRIKES AND LOCK-OUTS IN 1926.

In the issue of this GAZETTE for January, 1927 (pages 4 and 5), some preliminary statistics were given of industrial disputes, involving stoppages of work, which occurred in Great Britain and Northern Ireland in 1926. More detailed statistics regarding these disputes, revised in accordance with the latest information received, are now available and are given below.

The number of disputes, involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as having begun in 1926, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was 320,* as compared with 603 in 1925. In these disputes about 2,724,000 workpeople were directly involved (i.e., on strike or locked-out) and 10,000 indirectly involved (i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes). In addition, 17,000 workpeople were involved, either directly or indirectly, in 25 disputes which began in 1925 and were still in progress at the beginning of 1926. The total number of workpeople involved, either directly or indirectly, in all disputes in progress in 1926 was thus about 2,751,000. The aggregate time lost in 1926 by these workpeople, owing to the disputes, was approximately 162,233,000 working days. In the previous year, the number of workpeople involved in disputes was about 445,000 and the approximate number of working days lost was 7,952,000.

Whilst the number of disputes beginning in 1926 was the smallest recorded during the whole period of 39 years for which statistics are available, the number of workpeople involved and the aggregate loss of time owing to the disputes were greater than in any previous year. This was due to the great dispute in the coal-mining industry and to the general strike in support of the coal miners. All other disputes in 1926 were, in comparison, very small, as will be seen from the following Table, which summarises, by groups of industries, the number of disputes reported as beginning in 1925 and 1926 in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the number of workpeople involved in all disputes in progress in each of these years, and the aggregate number of working days lost by these workpeople owing to the disputes.

Groups of Industries.	1925.			1926.		
	No. of Disputes beginning in progress in 1925.	Number of Workpeople involved in progress in 1925.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress in 1925.	No. of Disputes beginning in progress in 1926.	Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress in 1926.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress in 1926.
General Strike ...	...	...	...	1	1,580,000	15,000,000
Coal Mining ...	...	...	...	1	1,050,000	145,200,000
Other Stoppages ...	163	129,900	3,439,000	62	54,500	1,234,000
Other Mining and Quarrying ...	12	8,600	301,000	6	500	22,000
Brick, Pottery, Glass, etc. ...	13	700	5,000	5	2,700	45,000
Chemical ...	11	600	29,000	3	300	10,000
Engineering ...	18	6,400	37,000	15	3,400	64,000
Shipbuilding ...	27	7,000	49,000	7	800	4,000
Other Metal ...	48	11,600	97,000	37	9,800	140,000
Textile ...	59	172,100	3,175,000	33	16,500	188,000
Clothing ...	31	4,600	38,000	12	1,000	8,000
Food, Drink and Tobacco ...	26	5,300	56,000	19	1,700	8,000
Woodworking and Furnishing ...	31	5,400	126,000	12	1,500	29,000
Paper, Printing, etc. ...	17	19,200	136,000	4	1,400	42,000
Building, Public Works Contracting, etc. ...	54	5,400	79,000	41	3,400	34,000
Transport and Communication ...	46	28,500	68,000	40	21,200	167,000
Other Industries and Services ...	47	39,600	319,000†	22	2,600	38,000
Total ...	603	444,900	7,952,000	320	2,751,300	162,233,000

Of the total numbers of workpeople shown as involved in all disputes, 40,500 in 1925 and 10,400 in 1926 were indirectly involved, i.e., thrown out of work, in consequence of the disputes, at the establishments where the disputes occurred, though not actually on strike or locked-out.

It may be pointed out that of the 1,234,000 days lost in 1926 through disputes in the coal-mining industry, other than the general stoppage, over a million were lost on account of a number of disputes which began in 1925, of which some were still in progress at the commencement of the general stoppage.

PRINCIPAL DISPUTES IN 1926.

In comparison with the great dispute in the coal-mining industry and the general strike, all other disputes in 1926 were relatively unimportant.

The general stoppage in the coal-mining industry, which arose out of proposed reductions in wages and increases in working hours, began on 1st May, about 1,050,000 workpeople ceasing work.

* Disputes involving less than ten workpeople and those which lasted less than one day are 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.
† Including 239,000 in india-rubber and waterproof garment manufacture.

The numbers taking part in the stoppage had been reduced to about 800,000 by the beginning of November, and towards the end of that month local negotiations began, which resulted in general resumption of work, on terms involving alterations in wages, varying in different districts, and increases in working hours from 7 to 7½ or 8 per shift. In the Midlands, in Lancashire and Cheshire, North Wales, Somerset and Kent, work had been resumed by the majority of workpeople before 1st December. At various dates during the early part of December work was generally resumed, subject to certain exceptions, in all districts except South Wales and Monmouthshire, and on 22nd December the stoppage terminated in that district generally, although at a number of pits resumption was still delayed. The total estimated loss of time by the 1,050,000 men taking part in the coal-mining stoppage, as distinct from the general strike, was over 145 million working days, or more than double that of the largest stoppage hitherto recorded (the general coal-mining stoppage of 1921).

The general strike in other industries, in support of the coal miners, began on 4th May and was called off on 12th May, work being resumed during 13th to 17th May, with some exceptions. The industries most affected by this strike were transport, printing, building, and iron and steel; the total number of workpeople taking part in it is estimated at about 1,580,000—this being the largest number ever involved in any one stoppage in this country; and the number of working days lost by such workpeople at about 15 million.

A detailed account of the general strike in May appeared in the issue of this GAZETTE for July, and of the stoppage in the coal-mining industry in successive issues from August to December.

Apart from the national coal-mining stoppage and the general strike the following were the principal industrial disputes, involving stoppages of work, beginning in 1926:—

Classes of Workpeople involved.	Dates of beginning and end of Stoppage.	Number of Workpeople involved.	Approximate Aggregate Number of Working Days lost.
MINING AND QUARRYING:—			
Coal miners, etc.—Kirkcaldy (near) ...	27 Jan.—30 Jan. 1926.	2,000	11,000
Coal miners, etc.—Sunderland ...	22 April—27 April	2,594	12,000
Coal miners, etc.—Sunderland (near) ...	1 Dec.—25 April, 1927.	1,705	161,000
Coal miners, etc.—Rotherham ...	1 Dec.—10 Jan., 1927.	1,337	42,000
Coal miners, etc.—Newport, Mon. (near) ...	8 Dec.—14 April, 1927.	3,000	179,000
BRICK, POTTERY, GLASS, etc.:—			
Brickmakers, etc.—Sittingbourne and District ...	1 April—24 April	2,500	43,000
METAL, ENGINEERING, ETC., INDUSTRIES:—			
Engineers (printing machine manufacture)—London, S.E. Keepers, fillers and pig lifters—Coatbridge ...	11 Jan.—18 March 1926.	738	44,000
Locomotive men, etc. at steel and tinplate works—Llanelli Steel casement makers—Chester ...	11 Jan. 1926—18 Feb., 1927.	206	19,000
Workpeople employed in railway wagon and carriage works—Newton Heath, Manchester ...	12 April—27 May	1,446	37,000
Workpeople employed in railway wagon and carriage works—Manchester ...	14 April—10 Sept.	315	22,000
Workpeople employed in railway wagon and carriage works—Manchester ...	21 April—1 May	2,000	20,000
TEXTILE INDUSTRIES:—			
Worsted weavers, etc.—Huddersfield (near) ...	15 Jan.—14 Aug.	200	23,000
Cotton weavers, winders, beamers, etc.—Barnoldswick District ...	13 March—27 March.	5,000	65,000
Tape sizers—Preston ...	15 April—23 April	1,839	16,000
Dyers, etc.—Bradford District ...	4 May—15 May	6,000*	60,000
GAS SUPPLY:—			
Gas fitters, stove repairers and labourers employed by municipal gas department—Glasgow ...	20 March—10 April.	660	12,000
TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION:—			
Dock workers—Manchester and Salford ...	8 June—9 June	3,500	7,000

CAUSES.

The following Table shows the numbers and proportions of disputes in 1926 (other than the great coal-mining dispute and the general strike), and of workpeople directly involved therein, arising from the principal classes of causes. In some cases disputes originate from a number of different causes; e.g., a claim for an advance in wages may be accompanied by one for a reduction in working hours. For the purpose of this and the following Tables such disputes are classified according to what appears to be the principal cause of the stoppage:—

* Estimated number.

Causes.	Number of Disputes		Number of Workpeople directly involved.	
	Total.	Percentage.	Total.	Percentage.
Wage increases ...	54	17.0	9,300	9.9
Wage decreases ...	32	10.0	7,400	7.8
Other wage questions ...	61	19.2	21,000	22.2
All wage questions ...	147	46.2	37,700	39.9
Hours of labour ...	16	5.0	1,100	1.2
Employment of particular classes or persons ...	79	24.9	15,900	16.8
Other working arrangements, rules and discipline ...	29	9.1	8,100	8.6
Trade Unionism ...	27	8.5	12,900	13.7
Miscellaneous questions ...	20	6.3	18,700	19.8
Total ...	318	100.0	94,400	100.0

In 1926, as in most years, wages questions were the most frequent causes of disputes, nearly half of all the disputes included in the Table arising from such causes. Questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons came next in order of frequency, and accounted for about 25 per cent. of the disputes. Disputes as to working hours formed only five per cent. of the total.

The following Table shows by groups of industries the proportion of workpeople who were directly involved in disputes (other than the great coal-mining stoppage and the general strike), arising in 1926 from the principal classes of causes:—

Groups of Industries.	Workpeople directly involved in Disputes beginning in 1926.	Proportions directly involved in Disputes arising on questions of:—				
		Wages.	Employment of particular Classes or Persons.	Working Arrangements.	Trade Unionism.	Other Causes.
Mining and Quarrying ...	No. 38,400	% 61.4	% 15.9	% 6.6	% 6.7	% 9.4
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding ...	10,600	33.2	36.5	6.2	7.5	16.6
Textile ...	13,700	6.7	11.2	1.7	...	80.4
Clothing ...	800	94.9	3.3	1.8	...	...
Building, Public Works Contracting, etc. ...	3,200	77.4	4.0	4.7	4.8	9.1
Transport and Communication ...	19,400	6.6	14.5	19.1	47.7	12.1
Other Industries and Services ...	8,300	62.7	16.8	9.1	1.8	9.6
All Industries, 1926	94,400	39.9	16.8	8.6	13.7	21.0
All Industries, 1925	401,200	68.6	14.2	5.6	7.7	3.9

It will be seen that, judged by the number of workpeople directly involved, wages questions preponderated as a cause of disputes in the mining and quarrying, clothing, building, etc., and other industries groups. In the metal, engineering and shipbuilding industries about one-third of the workpeople were involved in wages disputes, whilst a slightly larger proportion (36½ per cent.) were involved in disputes arising out of the employment of particular classes or persons. Of the 13,700 workpeople directly involved in disputes in the textile industry, 11,000 were involved in two sympathetic disputes. Questions of trade union recognition and membership were the cause of the stoppage of nearly half of the workpeople in the transport and communication group who were involved in disputes, several of which arose out of the terms of resumption of work after the general strike.

RESULTS.

The following Table shows the number and proportion of disputes beginning in 1926 (other than the great coal-mining dispute and the general strike), and of workpeople directly involved therein, the results of which were (a) in favour of the workpeople, (b) in favour of the employers, (c) of the nature of a compromise, and (d) which still remain unsettled. Disputes classified as in favour of workpeople or in favour of employers, for the purpose of this and the following Tables, are those in which the workpeople or employers, respectively, were completely successful, or practically so, in attaining or resisting the objects to which the stoppage of work was due. Disputes in which the workpeople, or employers, were partly, but not wholly, successful, are included under "compromised."

Results.	Number of Disputes		Number of Workpeople directly involved.	
	Total.	Percentage.	Total.	Percentage.
In favour of workpeople ...	66	20.8	21,100	22.4
In favour of employers ...	122	38.4	33,600	35.6
Compromised ...	128	40.2	39,700	42.0
Unsettled ...	2	0.6	...	0.0
Total ...	318	100.0	94,400	100.0

In most years disputes resulting in compromises are considerably more numerous than either the complete successes or the complete

failures, but in 1926 the number of disputes in which the employers were successful (122) was nearly equal to that in which a compromise was effected (128) and was nearly twice that in which the workpeople attained their objects (66). So far as numbers of workpeople involved are concerned, compromises usually outweigh all other results, but in 1926 only 42 per cent. of the workpeople involved were in disputes which resulted in compromise, about 36 per cent. being involved in disputes settled in the employers' favour, and 22 per cent. in those settled in the workpeople's favour.

In the case of one dispute work had been resumed pending further negotiation and a final settlement had not yet been reported, and in the case of one other dispute, work had not been resumed at the time of going to press.

The following Table shows, by groups of industries, the proportion of workpeople directly involved in disputes beginning in 1926 (other than the great coal-mining stoppage and the general strike) classified according to their results:—

Groups of Industries.	Workpeople directly involved in Disputes beginning in 1926.	Proportions directly involved in Disputes beginning in 1926, the Results of which were:—			
		In favour of Workpeople.	In favour of Employers.	Compromised.	Unsettled.
Mining and Quarrying ...	No. 38,400	% 18.4	% 33.0	% 48.6	% ...
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding ...	10,600	9.0	30.0	61.0	...
Textile ...	13,700	38.1	52.7	9.0	0.2
Clothing ...	800	7.7	6.7	85.6	...
Building, Public Works Contracting, etc. ...	3,200	41.5	28.5	29.7	0.3
Transport and Communication ...	19,400	22.3	38.5	39.2	...
Other Industries and Services ...	8,300	26.0	25.0	49.0	...
All Industries, 1926	94,400	22.4	35.6	42.0	0.0
All Industries, 1925	401,200	53.1†	16.1	20.8	...

The following Table shows the number of workpeople directly involved in disputes in 1926 classified both by the principal causes and by the results of the disputes:—

Principal Cause.	Number of Workpeople directly involved in Disputes beginning in 1926, the Results of which were			Total Number of Workpeople directly involved in Disputes beginning in	
	In favour of Workpeople.	In favour of Employers.	Compromised.	1926.	1925.
Wages:—					
For increase ...	200	3,400	5,700	9,300	38,800
Against decrease ...	900	3,400	3,100	7,400	217,500
Readjustment of rates owing to difficulties in working, etc. ...	3,300	1,300	3,300	7,900	2,700
Other ...	2,700	4,400	6,000	13,100	16,300
Total—Wages ...	7,100	12,500	18,100	37,700	275,100
Hours of labour ...	500	400	200	1,100	8,800
Employment of particular classes or persons ...	3,600	4,200	8,100	15,900	57,000
Working arrangements ...	1,400	3,400	3,300	8,100	22,400
Trade Unionism ...	2,000	6,400	4,500	12,900	30,800
Sympathetic Disputes ...	6,100	6,200	2,600	14,900	6,500
Miscellaneous ...	400	500	2,900	3,800	600
Grand Total, 1926 ...	21,100	33,600	39,700	94,400	...
Grand Total, 1925 ...	212,800	64,600	123,800	...	401,200

METHODS OF SETTLEMENT.

The terms of resumption of work by workpeople involved in the coal-mining dispute and the general strike were arranged by direct negotiations between representatives of employers and workpeople. Of the 318 other disputes which began in 1926, 316 had been finally settled at the time of going to press.† The methods by which these 316 disputes were settled are shown in the Table below:—

Methods of Settlement.	Number of Disputes.	Percentage of all Disputes.	Number of Workpeople directly involved.	Percentage of Workpeople directly involved in all Disputes.
By direct negotiations between the parties or their representatives ...	219	69	76,700	81
By Conciliation ...	19	6	5,400	6
By Arbitration ...	6	2	1,000	1
By return to work on employers' terms without negotiations ...	45	14	10,400	11
By replacement of workpeople ...	20	7	700	1
Otherwise ...	7	2	200	0
Total ...	316†	100	94,400‡	100

* Disputes in which no final settlement has yet been reported (May, 1927).
† This exceptionally high percentage was largely due to the settlement in favour of the workpeople of a large dispute in the wool textile industry.

‡ In two disputes, involving in all about 100 workpeople, no final settlement has yet been reported (May, 1927).

More than two-thirds (219) of all the disputes included in the above Table, involving more than 80 per cent. of all workpeople directly involved, were finally settled by direct arrangements or negotiations between the parties or their representatives. In the case of 45 disputes—14 per cent. of the total number, involving 11 per cent. of all the workpeople involved—work was resumed on the employers' terms without negotiation. Nineteen disputes were settled by conciliation and six by arbitration; all of the disputes settled by conciliation or arbitration were small. Strikers were replaced by other workpeople in the case of 20 of the remaining disputes, and in the case of five disputes the establishments or departments concerned were closed down.

MAGNITUDE.

The general stoppage in the coal-mining industry involved approximately 1,050,000 workpeople, and as it lasted over seven months the total number of working days lost through it (over 145,000,000) was very greatly in excess of that of any other dispute previously recorded by the Department. It is estimated that the number of workpeople who took part in the general strike in May in support of the coal miners was about 1,580,000. This is the largest number of workpeople ever involved in one stoppage; work was resumed in most cases within a fortnight, the total loss of time being estimated at 15,000,000 working days.

In the Table below the remaining disputes of 1926 are analysed from three different aspects of magnitude, viz., duration in weeks, numbers of workpeople involved, and aggregate duration in working days.

It should be observed that, for the purposes of this Table, the duration in weeks and aggregate duration in working days take account of time lost in 1927 by disputes which began in 1926 and were still in progress at the end of the year. On the other hand, the aggregate duration of disputes which began before 1926 but continued into that year is excluded. As regards numbers involved, the Table relates only to disputes beginning in 1926. The figures in the Table, therefore, differ from those given in the first Table in this article (on page 168).

Limits.	Number of Disputes beginning in 1926.	Total Number of Workpeople involved directly and indirectly in these Disputes.	Aggregate Duration of these Disputes in Working Days.*
Disputes classified by Duration in Weeks.			
Under 1 week ...	175	61,500	118,000
1 and under 2 weeks ...	57	19,500	159,000
2 " " 4 " ...	33	10,500	160,000
4 " " 6 " ...	13	3,200	69,000
6 " " 10 " ...	19	3,100	119,000
10 " " 20 " ...	10	3,200	188,000
20 weeks and upwards ...	11	2,800	278,000
Disputes classified by Total Numbers involved directly and indirectly.			
Under 100 workpeople ...	175	5,900	113,000
100 and under 250 ...	54	8,300	100,000
250 " 500 ...	36	12,300	81,000
500 " 1,000 ...	26	17,700	96,000
1,000 " 2,500 ...	21	30,500	329,000
2,500 " 5,000 ...	6	17,800	247,000
5,000 and upwards ...	2	11,000	125,000
Disputes classified by Aggregate Duration in Working Days.			
Under 500 days ...	175	13,600	31,000
500 and under 1,000 days ...	45	10,400	30,000
1,000 " 5,000 " ...	69	37,900	145,000
5,000 " 100,000 " ...	23	20,500	253,000
25,000 " 100,000 " ...	6	17,000	292,000
100,000 days and upwards ...	2	4,700	340,000

More than half of all the disputes were of very short duration, 175 out of a total of 318 lasting less than one week; but 53 lasted for four weeks or more. The majority of the disputes were of small size, 173 of the 318 involving less than 100 workpeople each, and as most were also of short duration the total time lost in these disputes formed about 10 per cent. only of the aggregate duration. Thirty-one disputes (or about one-tenth of the total number) caused the loss of 885,000 working days or over 80 per cent. of the total number of working days lost in the 318 disputes.

COMPARATIVE FIGURES FOR 1893-1926.

The following Table shows the total number of disputes, involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as beginning in each of the years 1893-1926, together with the approximate number of workpeople involved in these disputes, and the aggregate number of working days lost in all disputes in progress during the year (irrespective of the date of commencement) at the establishments where the disputes occurred. It should be observed, in comparing these figures with the figures relating to 1925 and 1926 given in the first Table in this article, that in the Table below the particulars of numbers involved relate to persons involved in disputes beginning in each year, whilst in the first Table they relate to the total numbers involved in all disputes in progress, including those beginning earlier which were still unsettled at the beginning of the year.

* Inclusive of the aggregate duration in January-April, 1927, of one dispute involving in all about 90 workpeople, of which no settlement has yet been reported.

Year.	Number of Disputes beginning in year.	Number of Workpeople* involved in Disputes beginning in year.			Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress during year.
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.	
1893	599	597,000	37,000	634,000	30,440,000
1894	903	254,000	68,000	322,000	9,510,000
1895	728	205,000	54,000	259,000	7,700,000
1896	906	142,000	50,000	192,000	5,560,000
1897	842	166,000	63,000	229,000	10,330,000
1898	695	199,000	53,000	252,000	15,260,000
1899	710	137,000	42,000	179,000	2,500,000
1900	633	132,000	53,000	185,000	3,090,000
1901	631	111,000	68,000	179,000	4,150,000
1902	432	115,000	140,000	255,000	5,440,000
1903	380	93,000	25,000	118,000	3,320,000
1904	346	56,000	31,000	87,000	1,460,000
1905	349	67,000	25,000	92,000	2,370,000
1906	479	158,000	60,000	218,000	3,020,000
1907	585	100,000	46,000	146,000	2,150,000
1908	389	221,000	72,000	293,000	10,790,000
1909	422	168,000	129,000	297,000	2,690,000
1910	521	384,000	130,000	514,000	9,870,000
1911	872	824,000	128,000	952,000	10,160,000
1912	834	1,232,000	230,000	1,462,000	40,890,000
1913	1,459	497,000	167,000	664,000	9,800,000
1914	972	326,000	121,000	447,000	9,880,000
1915	672	401,000	47,000	448,000	2,950,000
1916	532	235,000	41,000	276,000	2,450,000
1917	730	575,000	297,000	872,000	5,650,000
1918	1,165	923,000	193,000	1,116,000	5,880,000
1919	1,352	2,401,000	190,000	2,591,000	34,970,000
1920	1,607	1,779,000	153,000	1,932,000	26,570,000
1921	763	1,770,000	31,000	1,801,000	85,870,000
1922	576	512,000	40,000	552,000	19,850,000
1923	628	343,000	62,000	405,000	10,670,000
1924	710	558,000	55,000	613,000	8,420,000
1925	603	400,000	40,000	440,000	7,950,000
1926	320	2,724,000	10,000	2,734,000	162,230,000

The figures show wide variations in different years, especially as regards the aggregate number of days lost, which ranged from less than 1½ million in 1904 to nearly 86 millions in 1921 and to over 162 millions in 1926. The high totals for the two latter years, as also for 1912, were largely due to prolonged stoppages in the coal-mining industry.

JOINT INDUSTRIAL COUNCILS: RECENT PROCEEDINGS.

THE National Council of the Pottery Industry held its forty-first meeting at Stoke-on-Trent on the 6th April, 1927.

Satisfaction was expressed at the decision of the manufacturers and operatives for the third year in succession following the protracted wages negotiations of 1924 not to give general notices for either increases or decreases of wages, a decision which was largely due to the labours and influence of the Council.

Among the other subjects dealt with were:—

Training in Commerce.—The Council expressed its appreciation of the effort being made by Mr. George, the Principal of the Burslem School of Commerce, to compile a text book bearing on the commercial side of the pottery industry, for use primarily in connection with the training of students of commerce; and requested that the various organisations and employers in the industry should supply as much available information as is desired by Mr. George, with whom a Committee of the Council will confer prior to publication of the work, in order that the information therein contained shall be as accurate and useful as possible.

Pottery Scholarship.—It was decided again to offer an open technical scholarship of the value of £50 per annum for three years. Full particulars may be obtained from the Secretary of the Council.

Junior Art School.—A standing sub-committee was appointed to consider the relationship between the pottery industry and the Junior Art School, in connection with the trainees at the school intended for absorption into the industry.

Merchandise Marks.—It was resolved that, under Section 2 of the Merchandise Marks Act, 1926, application be made to the Board of Trade by the National Council, as representing the pottery industry, for an Order in Council requiring that all articles of imported pottery be plainly and indelibly marked with an indication of origin, and that such marking be fired, and where practicable be under the glaze.

Notification of Vacancies.—With a view to manufacturers securing adequate supplies of labour with a minimum of trouble and delay, and to save unnecessary trouble and hardship to employees seeking work, the British Pottery Manufacturers' Federation was recommended to take such steps as will ensure that vacancies which occur are reported to the Employment Exchanges by the respective manufacturers.

In connection with this subject a representative of the Ministry of Labour attended and gave some very instructive and interesting information on the work of the Exchanges, and appealed, in the interests of all concerned, for greater co-operation between employers and the Exchanges.

Consideration was also given to the question of the annual wakes holidays, statistics regarding choice of employment, and unemployment.

* Workpeople involved in more than one dispute during the year are counted more than once in the totals for the year. The extent of such duplication is not very considerable except in the case of industries involved in the general strike in May, 1926, and in the coal-mining group, in which about 41,000 workpeople in 1926, 100,000 in 1921, 300,000 in 1920, 150,000 in 1919 and 106,000 in 1912 were involved in more than one dispute.

REPORT OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR FOR THE YEAR 1926.

THE third Annual Report of the Ministry of Labour, dealing with the work of the Ministry during 1926, has been issued.*

Industrial Relations (Conciliation and Arbitration).—The number of disputes dealt with by the Department either by conciliation or arbitration was only 137, as compared with 257 in the preceding year and an average of 210 during the five-year period 1921-25. The Report suggests that this abnormally small number of disputes dealt with may be partly due to the depletion of trade union funds, and to the general dislocation of trade, resulting from the general strike and from the prolonged dispute in the coal-mining industry. Of the 137 disputes settled by conciliation or arbitration in 1926, the number referred to the Industrial Court for arbitration was 104 (including 43 Civil Service cases and 41 cases in the railway service); five were referred to single arbitrators, and four to *ad hoc* Boards of Arbitration; five were settled under Section 2(1) of the Conciliation Act, 1896; while in 19 cases agreement was reached with the assistance of officers of the Ministry.

A full account is given of the Reports of (i) the Court of Investigation, appointed in September, 1926, to inquire into the national coal trimming tariff; (ii) the Court of Investigation (appointed in 1925, but reporting in March, 1926) into the Scottish shale oil industry; and (iii) the Court of Inquiry (appointed in 1925, under Part II of the Industrial Courts Act, but reporting in 1926) into the threatened dispute affecting railway shopmen on the London and North Eastern Railway (Great Central section) and on the Cheshire Lines.

The Report refers to the effect of the general strike on the Joint Industrial Councils and on the Interim Industrial Reconstruction Committees. It is stated that these bodies "showed their value in providing a meeting ground for the discussion of the situation arising out of the strike, and still more in the spirit of reasonableness in which those discussions were almost invariably conducted. One Committee has suspended its activities indefinitely, but in general it may be said that the effect of the strike has been definitely to strengthen the position of the Industrial Councils and their power for good. Some of those affected by the strike have added to their constitution provisions designed to ensure at least an interval for discussion and negotiation before a stoppage of work takes place; others which already had such machinery took the opportunity to overhaul or to extend it. On the whole there is every ground for satisfaction at the way in which the Whitley Council system has stood the severe test to which the general strike exposed it."

Employment.—The Report states that "the history of employment in 1926 is largely the history of the general strike and the coal dispute. At the end of January the proportion of insured workpeople unemployed was 11 per cent. This figure declined steadily to 9.1 per cent. at the end of April, when, for the first time since the post-war slump, the number of those registered at the Employment Exchanges as unemployed was below a million. Iron and steel manufacture, shipbuilding, marine engineering, and the linen and jute trades, still showed high figures of unemployment; but in most other industries there was improvement, and the steady general fall of the live register held out some definite prospect of a trade revival. The general strike badly disturbed the growing confidence, and subsequently the increasing shortage of fuel and the high price of imported coal which were due to the coal stoppage completely checked the improvement, unemployment rising to 14.6 per cent. by the end of June. From this period there was a slight improvement in the general position."

The numbers on the live registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain at the end of each month from January, 1923, to December, 1926, have varied between a minimum of 981,877 (in April, 1926) and a maximum of 1,639,776 (in June, 1926). In thirty-three months out of this period of four years it was between 1,000,000 and 1,300,000, including a consecutive period of sixteen months from February, 1924, to May, 1925.

The following Table shows the numbers of vacancies notified to Employment Exchanges and of vacancies filled in each of the last four years:—

	Vacancies Notified.	Vacancies Filled.
1923 ...	1,056,970	893,713
1924 ...	1,345,394	1,143,742
1925 ...	1,480,820	1,279,292
1926 ...	1,246,967	1,082,917

The vacancies notified have been distributed between men, women, and juveniles in the following proportions, taking the average of the last four years: Men, 53 per cent.; women, 28 per cent.; juveniles, 19 per cent. The corresponding percentages for vacancies filled are: Men, 57 per cent.; women, 25 per cent.; juveniles, 18 per cent.

The trade groups in which the largest number of vacancies for men were filled were: Construction of works; general labourers; building; engineering; and transport. This was the order in each of the years 1923, 1924 and 1925, and also on the average of the four years 1923-6; it was also the order in 1926, except that more vacancies were filled in the transport trades than in engineering in that year. These five groups accounted for nearly two-thirds of the total number of men's vacancies filled. Other trade groups with a large number of men's vacancies filled were: Shipbuilding;

* Cmd. 2856. H.M. Stationery Office; price 2s. 6d. net.

manufacture of metals; domestic service; commercial occupations; agriculture; mining and quarrying; cotton; boots and shoes; gas, water, etc.

The trade groups in which the largest number of women's vacancies were filled were: Domestic service (much the largest in all years); and thereafter dress; cotton; wool; miscellaneous textiles; commercial occupations; and food, tobacco, drink, lodgings, etc.; with smaller numbers in engineering and in agriculture. The relative order of these trade groups (except domestic service) varied considerably from year to year; though in each year either the dress trades or the cotton trade came next after domestic service.

It is pointed out in the Report that "nearly all the figures for 1926 for both men and women show an appreciable reduction from the figures for the preceding year, the reduction being due entirely to the much slower movement of trade and employment during the greater part of the year owing to the mining dispute. Now that the dispute is over, one of the most difficult parts of the unemployment problem is to restore the fluidity of labour. The industrial depression of the last six years has been most acutely felt in the heavy industries, which tend to be congregated near the coalfields. Although conditions in other parts of the country may have been substantially better, the chances of regular employment in other areas have not been sufficiently certain to induce men to leave their own area. The result has been that in many districts labour has been 'frozen' by unemployment, and has remained stationary. At the same time, in other areas where there is a greater variety of industrial development, considerably greater trade activity has obtained, and there have been, occasionally, temporary local shortages of certain classes of workpeople." The temporary local shortages in the cases of boys and girls in particular are, it is stated, likely to increase.*

The changes in the distribution by industry and in the geographical distribution of the employed population in recent years were examined in the November and in the December issues of this GAZETTE (pages 415-7 and 435). The Report refers to this change in industrial development, and proceeds: "There is no doubt that the Midlands and the south and west have generally enjoyed greater prosperity, even in the difficult times of the last year; and it is in those parts of the country that there has been occasional difficulty in obtaining labour of the right quality, although such labour clearly exists in other parts of the country. What needs to be done is to facilitate the transfer of labour from area to area, and to ensure that industrial development is not retarded through inability to obtain the right type of labour. This task cannot be handled efficiently except by a system of employment agencies covering the whole country."

During the year the Department has continued to devote attention to the machinery of the Employment Exchanges as placing agencies; and it is pointed out that the effectiveness of the Department's efforts in this regard must depend on the co-operation of employers in notifying vacancies.

The number of employers on the King's National Roll on 31st December, 1926, was approximately 27,500; they were employing approximately 375,000 disabled ex-service men. A resolution was passed in both Houses of Parliament on 16th February, 1926, to the effect "that, in the opinion of this House, it is the duty of the Government in all Government contracts to make provision for the employment to the fullest possible extent of disabled ex-service men, and to this end to confine such contracts, save in exceptional circumstances, to employers enrolled on the King's National Roll."

Other subjects dealt with under the heading of employment include Local Employment Committees; port labour committees; oversea settlement; admission of foreign workers; unemployment relief works, etc.

Unemployment Insurance.—The Report refers to the very severe strain thrown upon the Unemployment Insurance scheme during the year by the great increase in unemployment consequent on the general strike and the dispute in the coal-mining industry. The scheme was the less able to bear the shock because it had suffered just before a serious loss of annual revenue. By the Unemployment Insurance Act of 1925 its revenue (from 4th January, 1926) was reduced by £6,800,000 per annum in respect of employers' and workers' contributions. By the Economy Act of 1926 the Unemployment Fund lost a further sum of £1,700,000 a year out of the former Exchequer contribution. The total effect of these financial changes, together with the increase in unemployment, was to send up the Fund's debt to the Treasury from £7,137,569 on the 30th April, 1926, to £22,640,000 on the 31st December.

In addition to the Economy Act, two other Acts affecting Unemployment Insurance were passed during the year, viz., the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1926, and the Unemployment Insurance (Northern Ireland Agreement) Act, 1926. Notices of these Acts appeared in the April, May and July issues of this GAZETTE (pages 143, 163 and 246).

Reference is made in the Report to the settlement of questions of claims to unemployment benefit arising out of the general strike and out of the coal-mining dispute. In the former case claims were disallowed either on the ground that the claimants were not unable to obtain suitable employment, or on the ground that they had left their employment voluntarily without just cause. The Unemployment Insurance Act, 1926, was due to a dispute between H.M. Government and the Trades Union Congress General Council, and not between employers and employed, and that it was not, therefore, a trade dispute within the meaning of the Unemployment Insurance Act.

* In this connection reference is made to the Report of the Committee on Education and Industry (England and Wales): Part I. (H.M. Stationery Office; price 1s. 6d. net.) A review of this Report appeared in the December, 1926, issue of this GAZETTE, pages 435-6.

The rest of the section deals with the administration of unemployment insurance under various headings. Reference is made to the Report of the Interdepartmental Committee on Agricultural Unemployment Insurance.* While the Committee was unanimous in recommending that agriculture should not be brought within the scope of the general scheme, and that no scheme was desirable for agriculture in Scotland, it recommended by a majority (six to five) that a special scheme should be set up for England and Wales. It was announced by the Minister of Agriculture in the House of Commons on 22nd November, 1926, that the Government did not see its way to adopt the recommendations of the majority report of the Committee.

An appendix to this section gives the substance of certain specially important decisions of the Umpire.

Juveniles.—The numbers of boys and of girls insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain at July, 1926, excluding those insured under the special schemes for the banking and for the insurance industries, were 564,000 boys and 401,000 girls; showing a decrease of 1,000 in the boys but an increase of 6,000 in the girls as compared with July, 1925. In general during 1926 the supply of juvenile labour was sufficient to meet the demand in all areas, but some districts in which employment for juveniles was good have reported during the year a shortage of suitable boys to fill better-class vacancies, and there has apparently been some reluctance on the part of boys, especially in London, to take jobs as errand or messenger boys and other jobs with few or no prospects of permanent employment. As regards girls, the supply for better-class vacancies in the dress trades, especially in London, has not been equal to the demand.

The industries in which the greatest numbers of insured boys were employed continued to be the distributive trades, coal mining, building, engineering (including iron and steel founding), cotton, and printing (including publishing and bookbinding), in that order. For insured girls the chief industries continued to be the distributive trades, cotton, tailoring, dress and mantle making, and woollen and worsted.

In many areas juvenile unemployment was markedly severe during the year. At August, 1926, Swansea, Stoke-on-Trent, Bolton, Sheffield and Glasgow, showed the highest percentages of insured boys unemployed; and Stoke-on-Trent, Dundee, Swansea, Newcastle, and Bolton the highest percentages of girls unemployed. The industries in which the highest percentages of insured boys were unemployed in that month were shipbuilding, cotton, engineering and the distributive trades (in that order); while the percentages of insured girls unemployed were highest in the cotton, hosiery, woollen and worsted, and tailoring trades (in that order).

This section also contains a summary of (i) the Report of the Enquiry into unemployment among boys and girls in 1925†; and (ii) Part I of the Report of the Committee on Education and Industry (England and Wales)‡. Other matters dealt with in this section are the arrangements for giving advice to boys and girls, and for placing them in employment; and the juvenile unemployment centres.

Trade Boards.—The two grocery Trade Boards were dissolved during the year, as a result of an investigation into the wages and conditions of employment in that trade carried out in 1925§. As a result of similar investigations into (i) the light refreshment and dining-room section of the catering trade, (ii) the meat distributive trade, and (iii) the drapery and allied distributive trades, the Minister decided that, in all the circumstances, the conditions did not justify at the present time the application of the Trade Boards Acts to those trades.

Other matters in connection with the administration of the Trade Boards Acts dealt with in this section are:—description of trades to which the Acts apply; constitution of Trade Boards and of district trade committees; Trade Board minimum rates; proceedings of Trade Boards; inspection and enforcement, etc.

International Labour.—This section gives an account of the proceedings at the eighth and at the ninth sessions of the International Labour Conference, held at Geneva in May and June, 1926; also of the Conference of Ministers of Labour, on the subject of the Washington Hours Convention, held in London in March, 1926.

Representatives of the Ministry attended the four sessions of the governing body of the International Labour Office, and the third international conference of labour statisticians, held during the year. Five draft conventions have been ratified during the year, three relating to employment at sea, and two relating to workmen's compensation.

Training Scheme for Young Unemployed Men.—This scheme provides a short course of manual or agricultural training, not exceeding 26 weeks' duration, for young men who are unemployed and who, owing to trade depression, have had no opportunity of learning a skilled trade or even of acquiring a knowledge of the use of tools. The intention of the scheme is to improve the general employability

* H.M. Stationery Office; price 6s. net. A review of this Report appeared in the October, 1926, issue of this GAZETTE, page 363.

† Report on an Enquiry into the Personal Circumstances and Industrial History of 3,331 Boys and 2,701 Girls registered for employment at Employment Exchanges and Juvenile Employment Bureaux. (H.M. Stationery Office; price 1s. 9d. net.) A review of this Report appeared in the May, 1926, issue of this GAZETTE, pages 160-1.

‡ H.M. Stationery Office; price 1s. 6d. net. A review appeared in the December, 1926, issue of this GAZETTE, pages 435-6.

§ Reports on these investigations have been published by H.M. Stationery Office; prices, 2s. 6d. net (grocery trade), 4s. net (catering trade), 2s. 6d. net (meat trade), 4s. net (drapery trade). A review of all four Reports appeared in the April, 1926, issue of this GAZETTE, pages 121-2.

of the men and to accustom them to the use of tools and to regular hours and discipline, and, in the case of intending migrants, to give some experience of agricultural work, the handling and care of live stock, ploughing, milking, the use and repair of farm implements, and general farm work. The existing centres provide accommodation for training 1,200 men at a time.

The following statement shows the progress made from the commencement up to December, 1926:—

	Placed in training.	In training 31st December, 1926.	Passed out of training.
Non-residential centres:—			
Birmingham	1,458	356	1,102
Walsend	980	394	586
Residential centres:—			
Claydon:			
Oversea	399	105	294
Handymen	315	70	245
Brandon:			
Oversea	366	146	220
Handymen	61	43	18

It is stated in the Report that the further experience gained under this scheme during 1926 shows that it is possible, by a short course of intensive training, so to improve the employability of young men lacking both skill and experience, as to give them a good prospect of remunerative employment either in this country or in the Dominions.

CO-OPERATIVE HOUSING SOCIETIES IN 1925.

The following statistics as to the activities in 1925 and previous years of co-operative housing societies* in Great Britain, registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, have been compiled by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies from the Annual Returns furnished to his office.

The returns obtained for 1925 show that there were 255 housing societies registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, or 17 more than in 1924. At the end of 1925 the societies had 16,876 members (of whom nearly 5,000 were returned as tenants), and share loan and reserve capital amounting to £8,729,713. The aggregate amount receivable in rents was £481,504. A net profit of £83,075 was earned during the year. Of this amount, £30,164 was allocated as interest on shares, equivalent to about 4 per cent. Frequently some part of the profits is applied to a fund out of which is defrayed the cost of tenants' repairs.

The aggregate cost value of the societies' land and buildings at the end of 1925 was returned at over £8,160,000.

The following Table shows the position of housing societies in Great Britain for the years 1920-1925:—

	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
Number of Societies ...	246	264	245	232	238	255
Number of Members ...	11,021	12,573	12,746	12,795	14,704	16,876
Capital:—						
Shares	£ 615,369	£ 705,887	£ 727,649	£ 719,689	£ 713,027	£ 769,406
Loans	£ 5,580,331	£ 6,861,666	£ 7,387,703	£ 7,096,735	£ 7,066,474	£ 7,695,241
Reserves† ...	£ 29,085	£ 64,421	£ 76,315	£ 129,164	£ 194,706	£ 265,066
Total	£ 6,224,785	£ 7,631,974	£ 8,191,667	£ 7,945,588	£ 7,974,207	£ 8,729,713
Rents receivable	£ 336,715	£ 434,469	£ 469,804	£ 500,985	£ 477,545	£ 481,504
Profit (+) or loss (-) on year before deduction of interest on shares ...	£ -5,710	£ +11,467‡	£ +59,273	£ +55,792	£ +65,586	£ +83,075

The total expenditure on building, road making, and development, including land purchased, during 1925 exceeded £1,000,000, an increase of practically 60 per cent. on the 1924 figure. A few of the more recently formed societies were responsible for this increase and the consequent heavy rise of some £750,000 in share, loan and reserve capital. As an example of the extensive operations carried out during the year, particularly in the north of England, may be mentioned two public utility societies in Yorkshire formed in 1924 to build houses for sale to employees of the London and North Eastern Railway Company, the company financing the scheme by loans at 4 per cent. interest, which a central housing trust administers. The employee purchaser pays a deposit, and the balance of the price is spread over 20 years, during which time the property is mortgaged to the society. In their report dated March, 1926, the joint committee of the two societies refer to sums totalling nearly £250,000 as having been provided by the railway company to date, and to the fact that mortgages had been executed or were pending in nearly 300 cases of houses built or in course of erection, involving a sum of about £150,000.

* The housing societies referred to in this article, which actually undertake the building of houses, must be distinguished from the building societies, established under the Building Societies Acts, which help their members to buy houses, but do not erect any houses. Particulars of Building Societies will be found in Part 5 of the Annual Report of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.

† Includes aggregate of profit and loss balances.

‡ Excludes a credit of £34,000 occasioned by a guarantor relieving a society of its liability on bank overdraft.

CO-OPERATION IN AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES IN 1925.

The following particulars of agricultural and fishery co-operative societies in 1925 and previous years have been prepared by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies from the statutory Returns furnished annually to his Department under the Industrial and Provident Societies and Friendly Societies Acts. The particulars are exclusive of societies registered in Ireland.

The societies are dealt with in three main groups:—(1) Requirement Societies, whose principal function is to supply their members with seeds, manures, utensils or other requirements for the carrying on of agriculture; (2) Produce Societies, which are chiefly concerned with the marketing of members' produce; and (3) Service Societies, which supply members with some service connected with the industry of agriculture, e.g., threshing. Some societies deal both in requirements and in produce. Usually societies fall readily into one of the three groups, but in exceptional cases, where a society undertakes the sale of produce and the supply of requirements to an equal extent, the decision which places it in the one category or the other is necessarily somewhat arbitrary. The fishermen's trading societies, which have hitherto been classed as requirement societies, have now been classified as produce societies, as the value of nets and other gear supplied is very small compared with the value of fish caught and marketed. Adjustments to bring previous years' figures into line have also been made.

I. REQUIREMENT SOCIETIES.

The following Table gives particulars of the operations of these societies in Great Britain for the years 1914-1925:—

Year.	Number of Societies.	Member-ship.	Sales.*	Surplus or Loss (-) on Year.	Wages.
1914	274	29,603	£ 1,816,155	£ 26,839	£ 33,839
1915	301	33,421	£ 2,653,100	£ 53,257	£ 44,627
1916	329	38,253	£ 3,616,197	£ 71,148	£ 55,051
1917	410	54,367	£ 4,323,532	£ 75,821	£ 59,755
1918	495	76,819	£ 4,572,618	£ 51,001	£ 78,072
1919	562	93,724	£ 8,959,838	£ 64,751	£ 148,772
1920	687	115,553	£ 13,260,251	£ -104,823	£ 323,827
1921	664	115,891	£ 10,556,532	£ -146,161	£ 377,847
1922	588	112,176	£ 8,695,369	£ 2,950	£ 355,230
1923	548	105,537	£ 8,248,190	£ -21,935	£ 337,837
1924	506	96,929	£ 8,751,210	£ 65,126	£ 324,494
1925	478	95,115	£ 8,995,056	£ 23,355	£ 325,117

Whilst the value of sales increased by nearly £250,000 in 1925, the aggregate surplus for the year was little more than one-third of that for 1924. The results obtained by many societies for 1925 were less satisfactory than those for the preceding year, but the aggregate surplus would have been considerably more if abnormally heavy losses had not been sustained by two county farmers' associations, one in Dorset, the other in Suffolk.

Societies in this group are further sub-divided for the purpose of the Chief Registrar's Annual Report (Part 3, Industrial and Provident Societies) into (a) Farmers' and (b) Allotment Workers' Societies. The farmers' societies are the more numerous, and are responsible for the bulk of the business done, as will be seen from the following particulars for 1925:—

	Number of Societies.		Sales.	
	England & Wales.	Scotland.	England & Wales.	Scotland.
Farmers' Societies	209	131	£ 8,376,635	£ 455,623
Allotment Workers' Societies...	138	...	£ 164,798	...

The 347 societies in England and Wales in 1925 had 2,010 employees, and share, loan and reserve capital amounting to £1,964,000; this capital represented about £24 per member. The 131 societies in Scotland had 147 employees, and capital amounting to £54,000, or about £5 per member.

II. PRODUCE SOCIETIES.

The following Table gives particulars of the operations of these societies in Great Britain for the years 1914-1925:—

Year.	Number of Societies.	Member-ship.	Sales.†	Surplus or Loss (-) on Year.	Wages.
1914	129	10,401	£ 935,552	£ 16,890	£ 37,482
1915	140	11,943	£ 1,186,001	£ 25,987	£ 36,941
1916	159	13,701	£ 1,641,359	£ 21,517	£ 43,998
1917	228	25,384	£ 2,917,867	£ 56,846	£ 71,306
1918	300	41,067	£ 4,755,991	£ 68,330	£ 108,632
1919	334	46,523	£ 7,193,150	£ 48,077	£ 187,544
1920	338	45,688	£ 8,011,406	£ -114,009	£ 267,354
1921	307	42,023	£ 6,075,542	£ -8,063	£ 265,209
1922	296	40,042	£ 4,317,519	£ 1,343	£ 222,785
1923	278	39,733	£ 3,462,295	£ -8,592	£ 175,260
1924	286	36,564	£ 3,775,980	£ -11,704	£ 182,986
1925	284	37,094	£ 3,989,136	£ -64,769	£ 192,508

* See reference in next column as to sales of produce included here.

† See reference in next column as to sales of requirements included here.

In the aggregate, sales for 1925 showed an increase of £213,000 on the 1924 figure, and the total loss for the group was some £53,000 more than in 1924. This latter increase was largely attributable to the abnormally heavy losses sustained by the Co-operative Fishing Society, Ltd.; the New Town Agricultural Guild, Ltd.; and the Four Counties Bacon Factory, Ltd., now in process of winding up.

In 1925 this group comprised 96 dairy societies, 59 egg and poultry societies, 11 fruit and market garden produce societies, 49 farmers' and growers' societies, 16 miscellaneous agricultural societies; and 53 fishermen's trading societies.

The 190 societies in England and Wales in 1925 had 1,283 employees, and share, loan and reserve capital amounting to £824,000, equivalent to about £26 per member; the 94 societies in Scotland had 340 employees, and capital amounting to £330,000 or nearly £68 per member. This high figure for Scotland is mainly due to several large dairy farmers' associations.

The sales of various kinds of produce for the years 1924 and 1925 are shown in the following Table:—

Description of Produce.	England and Wales.		Scotland.	
	1924.	1925.	1924.	1925.
Milk and Dairy	£ 1,282,339	£ 1,220,448	£ 783,138	£ 799,255
Eggs and Poultry	£ 308,746	£ 318,174	£ 65,721	£ 56,468
Live Stock	£ 23,911	£ 22,423	£ 43,070	£ 39,711
Fruit and Market Garden	£ 98,809	£ 104,520	£ 52	£ 61
Dead Meat	£ 1,010,940	£ 241,813	£ 9,847	£ 17,338
Sundry*	£ 927,835	£ 241,813	£ 9,847	£ 7,060

In addition to their sales of produce, these societies in 1925 supplied their members with requirements to the amount of £113,685 in England and Wales, and £37,140 in Scotland. The sales of the requirement societies (group I), on the other hand included produce of the following descriptions and values:—

Description of Produce.	England and Wales.		Scotland.	
	1924.	1925.	1924.	1925.
Milk and Dairy	£ 172,682	£ 156,098	£ 2,329	£ 2,452
Eggs and Poultry	£ 77,082	£ 84,285	£ 23	£ 25
Live Stock	£ 471,250	£ 55,425	£ 50	£ 2,453
Fruit and Market Garden	£ 127,271	£ 109,950	£ ...	£ 2,453
Dead Meat	£ 25,518	£ ...	£ ...	£ ...
Sundry*	£ 98,319	£ { 51,255 }	£ ...	£ { 37 }

In addition to the societies classified as "agricultural" and "fishing," 176 industrial societies had farming and dairying departments. In 1925 they employed in these departments 2,822 persons, to whom £290,000 was paid in wages; and the value of produce in these departments amounted to £1,679,000. Societies in England and Wales were responsible for about 64 per cent. of this produce.

III. SERVICE SOCIETIES.

In addition to service societies, which perform such operations as threshing, and small holdings and allotments societies and credit societies, registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, this group includes certain societies registered under the Friendly Societies Act, viz., cattle insurance societies, agricultural credit societies, and societies for the promotion of horticulture and agriculture. Small holdings and allotments societies are responsible for the bulk of the figures tabulated (see subsequent Special Table).

The following Table gives particulars of these societies in Great Britain for the years 1914-1925:—

Year.	Number of Societies.	Membership.	Surplus or Loss (-) on Year.†	Wages.‡
1914	346	29,954	£ 4,294	£ 5,991
1915	353	31,604	£ 4,031	£ 7,991
1916	353	33,901	£ 5,736	£ 8,399
1917	432	54,680	£ 13,742	£ 10,554
1918	596	99,215	£ 16,712	£ 16,576
1919	750	123,307	£ 26,019	£ 24,982
1920	937	153,046	£ 9,872	£ 30,964
1921	976	168,525	£ -3,042	£ 34,768
1922	981	176,911	£ 10,185	£ 34,003
1923	974	178,036	£ 9,438	£ 34,307
1924	949	177,112	£ 6,587	£ 35,029
1925	915	171,200	£ 11,305	£ 42,048

Whilst the number of societies and the membership for the group further declined in 1925, the aggregate surplus exceeded that for 1924 by nearly £5,000. Much better results were shown by several societies in the group, particularly by two auction marts in England, and a miscellaneous agricultural society in Scotland. A loss of £3,800, however, was sustained by a newly registered society in Somerset, formed in connection with the development of the flax industry; this society was responsible for a large part of the increase in wages for the group.

Societies in England and Wales in 1925 had share, loan and reserve capital amounting to £403,000, equivalent to about £2 8s. per

* The sundry produce in 1925 represented mainly fish and wool. Separate figures for dead meat are not available for 1924.

† Exclusive of profit or loss on year for Cattle Insurance Societies and Societies formed for the promotion of horticulture and agriculture registered under the Friendly Societies Act, for which particulars are not available.

‡ Exclusive of wages in respect of Small Holdings and Allotments Societies, Credit Societies, and Societies registered under the Friendly Societies Act, for which particulars are not available.

member. This low figure is due to the small holdings and allotments societies, whose capital per member is proportionately very small. The societies in Scotland had capital amounting to £99,000, or £34 per member.

Credit Societies were comparatively few in number, and their business was on a small scale. During 1925 two more societies, one of which was in Scotland, were registered for the purpose of obtaining advances under the Agricultural Credits Act, 1923. Of the 15 credit societies furnishing returns for 1925, 4 were connected with the fishing industry, and 11 with agriculture. Five of the latter have now terminated, and 5 had received State advances amounting to about £6,000 up to the end of 1925. It has been suggested by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries that procedure under Section 2 of the Agricultural Credits Act, 1923, should be abandoned, and that, where co-operative credit is needed, similarly constituted societies, instead of borrowing from the State, should assist their members to obtain credit by backing their promissory notes in respect of advances from banks.

Small Holdings and Allotments Societies.—Additional particulars of small holdings and allotments societies included in this group are given in the following Table:—

Year.	Number of Societies.	Acreage of Land let as—		Rent, Rates, &c. payable by—		Value of Land and Buildings owned by Societies.
		Small Holdings.	Allotments.	Societies.	Tenants.	
1914	180	12,597	1,651	26,074	£ 30,156	£ 34,025
1915	178	13,029	1,682	28,633	33,304	34,774
1916	181	13,129	1,780	29,989	34,910	34,299
1917	254	13,161	2,778	31,784	38,989	39,337
1918	406	13,514	4,510	39,108	50,246	51,449
1919	551	13,576	5,916	45,174	57,202	67,125
1920	724	15,723	8,063	59,321	74,579	137,160
1921	763	17,473	9,712	76,201	96,949	187,240
1922	774	17,635	10,013	80,292	104,062	178,524
1923	771	17,336	10,572	77,813	104,369	161,162
1924	734	16,876	10,303	75,732	99,283	144,742
1925	704	16,055	9,860	72,583	95,900	156,056

In 1925 these societies had 146,086 members, of whom nearly 100,000, or about 68 per cent., were tenants. The operations for the year resulted in a surplus of £6,270 on the small holdings and allotments and trading departments, as against a surplus of £9,000 for the preceding year. The bulk of the increase in the value of land and buildings during the year is attributable to the transfer of classification of one society, whose land, instead of being developed for building purposes as was anticipated, is being used as allotments.

GENERAL.

The following Table shows the sales in 1925 for all Requirement and Produce Societies (including the industrial societies above mentioned):—

	England and Wales.	Scotland.	Great Britain.
Agricultural Requirements	£ 7,672,587	£ 485,798	£ 8,158,385
Agricultural Produce:—			
Milk and Dairy	1,376,546	799,255	2,175,801
Eggs and Poultry	402,459	58,920	461,379
Live Stock	577,848	39,734	617,582
Dead Meat	1,036,458	17,338	1,053,796
Fruit and Market Garden	214,570	2,514	217,084
Sundry (including Farm Produce of Industrial Societies)	1,373,431	606,119	1,979,550
Total Sales	12,653,899	2,009,678	14,663,577

The total sales for 1925 exceeded those for 1924 by £544,000, there being an increase in requirements of 1.4 per cent. (£112,000), and in produce of 7.1 per cent. (£432,000). The increase in the value of requirements sold by societies in England and Wales was £90,000, and by societies in Scotland £23,000. Whilst the value of produce sold by societies in England and Wales increased by £437,000, societies in Scotland showed a decrease of nearly £6,000.

As compared with a total surplus of £32,000 for 1924, societies in England and Wales sustained an aggregate loss of £57,000 for 1925. Societies in Scotland returned an aggregate surplus of nearly £27,000.

The total membership of all societies at the end of 1925 was about 303,000, or 7,000 less than in 1924; the small-holdings and allotments societies alone showed a decline of some 6,000. Share, loan, and reserve capital decreased by £55,000, to £3,674,000, at the end of 1925. Apart from liquidations, which cause heavy fluctuations in the figures from year to year, several societies wrote down their share capital heavily in 1925 in order to extinguish accumulated adverse balances.

PROFIT SHARING, ETC.

The returns for 1925 show that of the 478 requirement societies, 43, employing 434 persons and paying £63,443 in wages, allotted bonuses to their employees amounting to £2,788, or 11d. in the £ on wages. Of the 284 produce societies, 16, employing 227 persons and paying £22,954 in wages, allotted bonuses amounting to £697, or 7d. in the £ on wages. Of the service societies, 4, paying £8,545 in wages, allotted bonuses to their employees amounting to £239, or 7d. in the £ on wages. Of the 176 industrial societies with farming departments, 10, employing 118 persons and paying wages in these departments amounting to £13,047, allotted bonuses of £319, or 6d. in the £ on wages.

OVERSEA SETTLEMENT UNDER THE EMPIRE SETTLEMENT ACT IN 1926.

ACCORDING to the Report of the Oversea Settlement Committee for 1926,* the total number of British settlers who were assisted, under the Empire Settlement Act, to go overseas in 1926 was 66,103 (including 21,436 men, 18,668 women, and 25,999 children) as against 39,559 in 1925. The increase is attributed largely to improving conditions overseas, and to further facilities for assisted passages. The largest increase (12,535) is shown in the numbers assisted to Canada; the numbers assisted to Australia and to New Zealand show increases of 10,205 and 3,698 respectively. The figures for each of the Dominions were as follows:—

	1925.	1926.
Australia	22,527	32,732
New Zealand	8,097	11,795
Canada	8,809	21,344
South Africa	126	232
Total	39,559	66,103

The Report refers to the discussions on oversea settlement at the Imperial Conference, 1926. The Conference adopted a resolution expressing the opinion that the problem of oversea settlement is one of paramount importance, and noting the steps that have already been taken to accelerate the desired redistribution of population between the various parts of the Empire, while recognising the impossibility, owing to financial, economic, and political considerations, of promoting mass movements of population.

Another section of the Report refers to the visit to Canada last year of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee. A separate Report on this subject has been published.†

Among other subjects dealt with in the Report are the setting up of the Development and Migration Commission by the Government of Australia; the question of the preparatory training in the United Kingdom for men and women who wish to settle overseas, with special reference to the valuable results which are being obtained from the courses at present available at Catterick, Claydon, and Brandon; the tour of Australia made by boys from public and secondary schools in the United Kingdom; the scheme of group settlements in Western Australia, etc.

EFFECT OF EYESTRAIN ON OUTPUT.

THE Industrial Fatigue Research Board have published a Report‡ on the effect of eyestrain on the output of linkers in the hosiery industry.

Some industrial occupations involving close and constant visual inspection are liable to cause eyestrain, even if the best illumination is provided; and such strain can only be relieved by the use of suitable glasses. For some occupations special aids to vision are absolutely necessary: the watchmaker's glass is a familiar example; but in any work involving very close inspection suitable glasses will reduce the fatigue of eyes even of quite normal vision. The operation of "linking" in hosiery was indicated by the Home Office as one requiring special investigation from the point of view of illumination; but a preliminary inquiry showed that the problem would not be entirely solved by high illumination, and that visual aids were required. The matter was accordingly referred to the Committee on Physiology of Vision of the Medical Research Council, and the present Report embodies the result of an investigation made under their supervision.

"Linking" is a process necessary to complete the work of the circular knitting machine. The hose as it comes from this machine contains a gap across the toe portion, which must be closed by linking together two rows of stitches or loops. The machine used for linking consists of a slowly rotating dial, provided with a number of radial needles on which the loops of the hose have to be placed.

The output of three operatives (two experienced and one learner) was recorded for a period of four weeks in order to determine the normal rate of working under existing conditions. The operatives were then examined and fitted with suitable glasses, and their output recorded during a second period of four weeks. The result was to show that the use of the glasses increased the rate of output; with few exceptions a saving of time was effected during each period of the day when glasses were worn. It was also found that, whereas in the pre-glasses period there was evidence of progressive fatigue in the afternoon spell, this effect was eliminated when glasses were worn. The average time taken for "linking" and its associated operations (cutting hose apart after linking, booking work, collecting new work, and delivering finished work) was reduced by over 10 per cent. in the case of the two experienced workers, and by nearly 27 per cent. in the case of the learner. A number of direct timings of net linking time (exclusive of the subsidiary operations) were also made, and these showed a net saving of 7.36 per cent. and of 6.29 per cent., respectively, in the case of the two experienced workers; from which it would appear that the glasses enabled the subsidiary operations to be performed with a proportionately greater saving of time than the actual linking, while, owing to the reduction of ocular fatigue, probably fewer voluntary pauses were made during the day than was the case when no glasses were worn. No discomfort was experienced by the workers wearing the glasses, and they all continued to wear them after the investigation was completed.

* Cmd. 2847. H.M. Stationery Office; price 6d. net.

† Cmd. 2760. H.M. Stationery Office; price 1s. net. A review of this Report appeared in the December, 1926, issue of this GAZETTE, page 4384.

‡ Industrial Fatigue Research Board: Report No. 40. H.M. Stationery Office; price 1s. net.

AGRICULTURAL WORKERS IN ENGLAND AND WALES.

ACCORDING to the Agricultural Statistics for 1926 (Part 1),* which have been issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the total number of workers returned as employed on agricultural holdings above one acre in extent in England and Wales on the 4th June, 1926, was 794,899, as compared with 803,338 in 1925 and with 806,463 in 1924. As compared with 1923, however, there was an increase of 22,512. The returns do not include the occupier or his wife, or domestic servants; but they do include members of the occupier's family (sons, daughters, etc.) working on the holding.

The following Table gives the totals for each of the last three years. It will be seen that the decline was in regular male workers under 21 years of age, and in casual workers; regular male workers 21 years old and over, on the other hand, and female regular workers, showed an increase.

	1926.	1925.	1924.
<i>Regular Workers:—</i>			
Males:			
21 years old and over	455,904	441,944	441,491
Under 21 years old	135,508	137,469	140,772
Women and girls	62,949	59,940	62,276
<i>Casual Workers:—</i>			
Males:			
21 years old and over	79,193	90,870	88,533
Under 21 years old	19,738	23,878	26,461
Women and girls	41,607	49,237	46,930
Grand Total	794,899	803,338	806,463

EMPLOYMENT OF DISABLED EX-SERVICE MEN.

KING'S NATIONAL ROLL.

THE latest returns show that there are approximately 27,500 employers on the King's National Roll. Enrolled employers include Government Departments and Government industrial establishments, local authorities, railway companies, electricity, gas and water authorities, and most of the large industrial and commercial undertakings in the country.

The number of disabled ex-service men employed by enrolled employers is approximately 375,000.

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING.

At 26th April, 1927, the number of men in training was 291, and the number awaiting training, 76. Since August, 1919, 100,057 men have terminated training.

WAGES AND HOURS IN THE BOOT AND SHOE INDUSTRY IN THE UNITED STATES.†

THE United States Bureau of Labour Statistics has recently completed a survey of the wages and hours of labour of workpeople in the boot and shoe industry of that country in 1926. The data were collected from the pay rolls of 154 establishments situated in 14 different States, and cover 52,695 workpeople. The particulars given relate generally to a week within the period from July to October, 1926.

The following Table shows the average full-time weekly hours of labour, the average hourly earnings, and the average full-time weekly earnings of workpeople in certain leading occupations represented in the statistics given in the source:—

Occupation.	Average full-time hours per week.	Average earnings per hour.	Average full-time earnings per week.
MALES.			
Cutters, vamp and whole shoe, hand	48.9	Dollars. .808	Dollars. 39.51
Cutters, vamp and whole shoe, machine	49.4	.658	32.51
Cutters, trimmings, hand	49.3	.516	25.44
Edge trimmers	49.2	.785	38.62
Last pullers	49.5	.494	24.45
Triers	49.2	.611	30.06
All occupations, males‡	49.0	.622	30.48
FEMALES.			
Cementers and doublers, hand and machine	49.3	.340	16.76
Folders, hand and machine	48.7	.453	22.06
Lining makers	49.3	.413	20.36
Top stitchers	49.3	.486	23.96
Vampers	49.1	.531	26.07
Repairers (not cobblers)	49.0	.388	19.01
All occupations, females‡	48.5	.398	19.30
All workpeople‡	48.8	.526	25.67

* H.M. Stationery Office; price 1s. 3d. net.

† Monthly Labour Review, March, 1927. U.S. Bureau of Labour Statistics, Washington.

‡ Including certain occupations not shown in the Table.

Index numbers compiled from the data collected for 1926 and previous years show that the average full-time hours per week decreased slightly over 11 per cent. between 1913 and 1926, average earnings per hour increased 118 per cent., or more than doubled, and average full-time earnings per week increased approximately 94 per cent. during the same period.

COMPARATIVE REAL WAGES IN LONDON AND CERTAIN CITIES ABROAD.

THE series of computations of comparative "real wages" in London and in certain cities abroad, compiled by the International Labour Office from returns supplied by official statistical departments in the various cities, is carried down to 1st January, 1927, in the April, 1927, issue of the *International Labour Review*, published by that Office. Corresponding index numbers for 1st October, 1926, were reproduced in the issue of this GAZETTE for February last (p. 80). For particulars of the origin, method of compilation, significance and limitations of these index numbers, reference should be made to the issue of this GAZETTE for November, 1924. These figures have for their object a comparison of working-class real wages, so far as these can be gauged by the purchasing power (in terms of food) of the wage paid for an hour's work at the normal time rate (i.e., apart from extra payment for overtime) to male adult workers in certain typical occupations which are common to large cities. In the index numbers shown in the following Table, which is taken from the *International Labour Review*, an attempt has been made to measure the purchasing power of wages in each city, not only by the working-class standard of food consumption of the country in which the city is situated, but also by corresponding standards appropriate to the various groups of countries, and, finally (columns 7 and 8), by an international standard of working-class food consumption.

Index Numbers of Comparative Real Wages (or Comparative Purchasing Power of Money-Wages) in London and certain Cities Abroad at 1st January, 1927.

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

City.	Index Numbers based on Quantities of each Kind of Food Consumed in Working-class Households in						General Average Index Nos. (based on food only).	General Average Index Nos. (with allowance for rent).
	Belgium and France.	Central European Countries.	Great Britain.	Southern European Countries.	Scandinavian Countries.	Oversea Countries (Canada, U.S.A., etc.).		
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
London	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Amsterdam	86	95	79	85	94	86	87	87
Berlin	60	72	63	64	76	69	67	62
Brussels	43	40	43	41	46	42	42	45
Copenhagen	107	126	117	109	142	123	120	120
Dublin	101	103	107	97	103	103	102	111
Lisbon†	33	30	32	31	35	33	32	32
Lodz	44	51	38	45	44	45	45	50
Madrid	57	53	53	56	57	56	55	55
Milan	46	49	45	49	52	50	48	49
Ottawa	142	148	157	145	162	168	153	151
Paris	56	59	53	58	63	55	57	57
Philadelphia	168	169	183	158	193	189	175	175
Prague	48	48	47	50	52	51	49	52
Riga	44	56	47	46	54	52	50	53
Rome†	47	50	45	49	52	50	49	51
Stockholm‡	85	86	90	88	108	98	92	90
Sydney	130	119	151	141	125	150	136	136
Tallinn	42	42	45	44	55	51	46	48
Vienna	37	48	41	40	52	46	44	50
Warsaw§	40	45	35	42	43	41	41	42

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

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

† The figures for Lisbon and Rome are relatively low. This may be accounted for in part by the differences in the items of food consumption in the Southern European countries from those ordinarily consumed in most of the other countries included in the table.

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

§ Based on a weighted average wage. For other cities an unweighted average has been used.

CHANGES IN COST OF LIVING: STATISTICS FOR 30th APRIL.*

Summary: Average Increases since July, 1914.

All Items included 64%
 Food only 54%

FOOD.

During April there was a further slight decline in the average level of the retail prices of the principal articles of food. This was mainly due to reductions in the average prices of milk, butter and eggs. On the other hand, fish and potatoes were slightly dearer at the end than at the beginning of the month.

As a net result of all the changes recorded, the average increase over the level of July, 1914, in the retail prices (in Great Britain and Northern Ireland) of the articles of food included in these statistics was about 54 per cent. at 30th April,* 1927, as compared with 55 per cent. a month earlier and 58 per cent. a year ago.

In the following Table is given a comparison of retail prices of these articles of food in July, 1914, and at 1st April and 30th April, 1927:—

Article.	Average Price (per lb. unless otherwise indicated— to the nearest 1/4d.)			Average Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) at 30th April, 1927, as compared with		
	July, 1914.	1st April, 1927.	30th April, 1927.	July, 1914.	1st April, 1927.	30th April, 1927.
Beef, British—	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Ribs	0 10	1 4 1/2	1 4 1/2	+ 0 6 1/2	...	...
Thin Flank	0 6 1/2	0 9 1/2	0 9 1/2	+ 0 2 1/2	...	...
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—						
Ribs	0 7 1/2	0 9 1/2	0 9 1/2	+ 0 2 1/2	...	...
Thin Flank	0 4 1/2	0 5 1/2	0 5 1/2	+ 0 0 1/2	- 0 0 1/2	...
Mutton, British—						
Legs	0 10 1/2	1 6 1/2	1 6 1/2	+ 0 7 1/2	...	...
Breast	0 6 1/2	0 10	0 10	+ 0 3 1/2	...	...
Mutton, Frozen—						
Legs	0 6 1/2	0 11 1/2	0 11 1/2	+ 0 4 1/2	...	...
Breast	0 4	0 4 1/2	0 4 1/2	+ 0 0 1/2	...	...
Bacon (streaky)†	0 11 1/2	1 5	1 5	+ 0 5 1/2	...	...
Flour ... per 7 lb.	0 10 1/2	1 5 1/2	1 5 1/2	+ 0 7	...	...
Bread ... per 4 lb.	0 5 1/2	0 9 1/2	0 9 1/2	+ 0 3 1/2	...	...
Tea	1 6 1/2	2 4 1/2	2 4 1/2	+ 0 10 1/2	...	...
Sugar (granulated) ...	0 2	0 3 1/2	0 3 1/2	+ 0 1 1/2	...	...
Milk ... per quart	0 3 1/2	0 6	0 5 1/2	+ 0 2 1/2	- 0 0 1/2	...
Butter—						
Fresh	1 2 1/2	1 10 1/2	1 9 1/2	+ 0 7 1/2	- 0 0 1/2	...
Salt	1 2 1/2	1 9	1 8 1/2	+ 0 6 1/2	- 0 0 1/2	...
Cheese‡	0 8 1/2	1 1	1 0 1/2	+ 0 4	- 0 0 1/2	...
Margarine	0 7	0 7 1/2	0 7 1/2	+ 0 0 1/2	...	...
Eggs (fresh) ... each	0 1 1/2	0 1 1/2	0 1 1/2	+ 0 0 1/2	...	...
Potatoes ... per 7 lb.	0 4 1/2	0 7 1/2	0 8	+ 0 3 1/2	+ 0 0 1/2	...

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

Article.	Average Percentage Increase at 30th April, 1927, as compared with July, 1914.			Corresponding General Average for 1st Apr., 1927.
	Large Towns (Populations over 50,000).	Small Towns and Villages.	General Average.	
Beef, British—	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Ribs	69	66	67	68
Thin Flank	39	39	39	39
Beef Chilled or Frozen—				
Ribs	32	31	31	32
Thin Flank	2	8	5	7
Mutton, British—				
Legs	74	75	75	75
Breast	55	52	53	53
Mutton, Frozen—				
Legs	68	60	64	65
Breast	17	20	19	20
Bacon (streaky)†	52	52	52	52
Fish	127	103	115	106
Flour	62	68	65	66
Bread	66	65	65	66
Tea	51	59	55	55
Sugar (granulated) ...	94	82	88	89
Milk	58	68	63	73
Butter—				
Fresh	47	53	50	54
Salt	45	46	45	48
Cheese‡	45	48	47	50
Margarine	10	5	8	8
Eggs (fresh)	22	13	18	21
Potatoes	79	50	65	62
All above articles of Food (Weighted Percentage Increase)	55	53	54	55

* As 1st May fell on a Sunday, the statistics relate to 30th April, in accordance with the usual practice.

† If this kind is seldom dealt with in a locality, the returns quote the price of another kind locally representative.

‡ The description of cheese specified for quotation is Canadian or American, but where such cheese is seldom sold in a locality the returns quote the price of another kind locally representative.

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 rents (including rates) of working-class dwellings between July, 1914, and 30th April, 1927, was approximately 51 per cent. Of the total increase about two-fifths is accounted for by increases on account of rates and water charges, and about two-fifths on account of the landlord's responsibility for repairs, increases on account of the higher level of mortgage interest permitted by the Acts falling within the remaining one-fifth.

As regards clothing, owing to the wide range of quotations, both now and before the war, to changes in qualities and in stocks held by retailers, and to variations in the extent to which different articles and qualities have been affected by price changes, it is impossible to make an exact calculation of the increase in prices; but information as to the movements of prices of men's suits and overcoats, underclothing and hosiery, textile materials and boots, received from retailers in the principal towns, indicates that at 30th April the level of retail prices of articles in this group, taking goods of the kinds purchased by the working classes and so far as possible the same qualities of goods at each date, averaged about 115 per cent. higher than in July, 1914.

In the fuel and light group, prices of coal showed a further decline, and at 30th April were, on the average, between 85 and 90 per cent. above the level of July, 1914. The price of gas remained at an average of about 70 per cent. dearer than in July, 1914. For the fuel and light group as a whole (including coal, gas, oil, candles and matches) the average increase at 30th April, as compared with July, 1914, was about 85 per cent.

ALL ITEMS.

If the average increases in the cost of all the foregoing items are combined in accordance with their relative importance in pre-war working-class family expenditure, allowance being also made for the increase in the prices of soap, soda, domestic ironmongery, brushware and pottery, tobacco, fares and newspapers (averaging about 80 per cent.), the resultant general average increase for 30th April is, approximately, 64 per cent.† over the level of July, 1914, as compared with 65 per cent. at 1st April, 1927, and 67 per cent. at 1st May, 1926.

The result of this calculation (in which the same quantities and, as far as possible, the same qualities of each item are taken in 1927 as in 1914) is to show the average increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the pre-war standard of living of working-class families (i.e., the standard actually prevailing in working-class families before the war, irrespective of whether such standard was adequate or not). Owing to the variations in the amounts of increase in the prices of different commodities it is probable that economies or readjustments in expenditure have been effected in many families, especially in those cases where incomes have not increased so much as prices. On the other hand, it is probable that the standard of living has been raised in those families in which wages have been increased in greater proportion than prices. No allowance is made in the figures for any such alterations in the standard of living, as to which trustworthy statistics are not available.

SUMMARY TABLE: 1918 TO 1927.

The following Table shows the average percentage increase, as compared with July, 1914, for all the items included in the statistics, at the beginning of each month since January, 1918:—

Average Percentage Increase since July, 1914—All Items. (Food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, etc.)

Month.	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927
Jan. ...	85-90	120	125	165	92	78	77	80	75	75
Feb. ...	90	120	130	151	88	77	79	79	73	72
Mar. ...	90	115	130	141	86	76	78	79	72	71
Apr. ...	90-95	110	132	135	82	74	73	75	68	65
May ...	95-100	105	141	128	81	70	71	73	67	64
June ...	100	105	150	119	80	69	69	72	68	...
July ...	100-105	105-110	152	119	84	69	70	73	70	...
Aug. ...	110	115	155	122	81	71	71	73	70	...
Sept. ...	110	115	161	120	79	73	72	74	72	...
Oct. ...	115-120	120	164	110	78	75	76	76	74	...
Nov. ...	120-125	125	175	103	80	75	80	76	79	...
Dec. ...	120	125	169	99	80	77	81	77	79	...

Figures for dates prior to 1918, together with the average increases for each of the five main groups of items (i.e., food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, and other items) month by month from January, 1915, to December, 1925, are published in the "Eighteenth Abstract of Labour Statistics" (Cmd. 2740).

NOTE.

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

* See note in previous column.

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

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

EMPLOYMENT during April, although declining somewhat at the time of the Easter holidays, showed a renewed improvement by the end of the month.

The improvement over the month as a whole was most marked in shipbuilding, where, however, employment remained very bad. There was a further seasonal improvement in the building and clothing industries, and the numbers unemployed also decreased in general engineering and in the construction and repair of motor vehicles, cycles, etc. On the other hand there was a decline in coal-mining, in steel manufacture, and in tinplate manufacture. In coal mining the numbers recorded as wholly unemployed showed a further decrease, but this was more than counter-balanced by the numbers temporarily stopped from the service of their employers. Employment was good in most branches of the clothing industry, in brick, tile and cement manufacture, and fairly good in the printing, publishing and stationery industries.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

Among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts, numbering approximately 12,000,000, and working in practically every industry except agriculture and private domestic service, the percentage unemployed at 25th April, 1927, (including those temporarily stopped as well as those wholly unemployed) was 9.4, as compared with 9.9 at 21st March, 1927, and 9.1 at 26th April, 1926. For males alone, the percentage at 25th April was 10.8 as compared with 11.2 at 21st March, 1927; for females the corresponding figures were 5.7 and 6.2. The percentage wholly unemployed declined from 7.9 at 21st March to 7.2 at 25th April. The total number of persons (insured and uninsured) registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 25th April, 1927, was approximately 1,075,000, of whom 867,000 were men and 144,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls; at 28th March, 1927, it was 1,115,000, of whom 905,000 were men and 153,000 were women; and at 26th April, 1926, it was 1,034,000, of whom 800,000 were men and 172,000 were women.

The following Table shows, month by month since April, 1926, the percentages unemployed among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the approximate number (to the nearest 1,000) of applicants for employment registered at Employment Exchanges, etc., in Great Britain and Northern Ireland:—

Month.	Percentage Unemployed (at or near end of month) among Insured Workpeople.				Numbers (Insured and Uninsured) registered at Employment Exchanges, etc.
	Males.	Females.	Wholly Unemployed.	Temporarily Stopped.	
1926.					
April ...	10.0	6.7	7.6	1.5	1,034,000
May ...	14.9	12.6	8.7	5.5	1,575,000*
June ...	15.4	12.2	9.0	5.6	1,693,000*
July ...	15.1	12.7	8.9	5.5	1,664,000*
August ...	14.9	11.6	9.0	5.0	1,606,000*
September ...	14.7	11.0	9.0	4.7	1,582,000*
October ...	14.8	10.3	9.3	4.3	1,610,000*
November ...	14.8	10.0	9.4	4.1	1,545,000*
December† ...	13.1	8.4	9.1	2.8	1,357,000*
1927.					
January ...	13.3	8.5	9.5	2.6	1,375,000
February ...	12.2	7.5	8.8	2.1	1,208,000
March ...	11.2	6.2	7.9	2.0	1,115,000
April ...	10.8	5.7	7.2	2.2	1,075,000

EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

Mining and Quarrying.—In coal-mining employment continued slack. The total number of wage-earners on the colliery books at 30th April, 1927, was 1,028,687, an increase of 0.4 per cent. as compared with March; the average number of days worked in the week ended 30th April was 5.04, as compared with 4.89 in March.

In the iron mining industry the number of workpeople employed continued to increase in all districts. The average number of days worked by the mines covered by the returns received was 5.71 in the week ended 30th April, 1927, 5.78 in March, 1927, and 5.54 in April, 1926. In the West Lothian shale mines there was a decrease of 0.4 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed as compared with the previous month, but an increase of 4.3 per cent. as compared with April, 1926. At limestone quarries employment in the Weardale district continued good; in the Clitheroe district it was reported as fair. At slate quarries in North Wales it continued fairly good. At whinstone quarries in the East of Scotland it was fair, showing an improvement as compared with the previous month. At chalk quarries it continued very slack. At tin mines it remained good; at china clay quarries it was only moderate.

Manufacture of Pig Iron, Iron and Steel, and Tinplate.—In the pig-iron industry employment showed a further slight improvement. Of a total of 464 furnaces the number in blast at the end of April, 1927, was 189, compared with 178 in February, 1927, and with 147 in April, 1926.

* In the coal-mining industry only those unemployed persons who were not disqualified for benefit under the Unemployment Insurance Acts by reason of the trade dispute were taken into account in the unemployment statistics.

† For insured workpeople and for numbers registered the figures relate to 28th December, 1926.

In the iron and steel trades employment was slack, on the whole, and showed a decline as compared with the previous month. In the tinplate trade employment was fairly good, but showed a decline as compared with the previous month; in the steel sheet trade it showed an improvement. The number of tinplate and steel sheet mills in operation at the end of April was 541, as compared with 550 in March, 1927, and with 469 in April, 1926.

Engineering, Shipbuilding and Metal Trades.—In the engineering trades employment was slack on the whole, but showed a further improvement in nearly all sections, while in the motor vehicle and electrical sections it was fairly good. Little short time was reported in the railway engineering section; but on textile machinery much time was lost, and in marine engineering employment was still very bad. In the shipbuilding and ship-repairing trades employment showed a further improvement and was substantially better than in April, 1926. In the other metal trades employment showed a further slight improvement, and was moderate, on the whole. It was fairly good in the latch and key, nut and bolt, and tube trades; fair in the sheet-metal, and hollow-ware trades; moderate in the brasswork, stove and grate, wire, cutlery, file, and needle and fishing tackle trades; slack in the edge tool, metallic bedstead, and jewellery and plated ware trades, and bad in the chain and anchor trade.

Textile Trades.—Employment in the cotton trade showed a slight decline, except in the weaving department. In the wool textile trades the slight but general improvement recorded during March was maintained during April, and in the woollen section there was, on the whole, a further slight improvement. Short time working continued prevalent in the majority of centres.

Employment in the hosiery trade showed little change; in the silk and artificial silk trades taken together, employment was fair or fairly good; in the lace trade it was slack generally; in the flax and jute industries employment showed a further improvement and was fair, on the whole. In the textile bleaching, printing, dyeing, etc. trades employment was still slack, and short time working was general.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the retail bespoke branch of the tailoring trade showed a further seasonal improvement, and was fairly good generally. In the wholesale bespoke and ready-made branch of the trade there was also an improvement, and employment was good on the whole; a shortage of skilled labour was reported in some districts. Seasonal improvement was reported in the dress-making and millinery trades, and employment was fairly good. In the corset and shirt and collar trades employment was fairly good, and better than in the preceding month. In the felt hat trade employment continued good, on the whole, though some short time working was reported in certain districts. In the boot and shoe industry employment was generally moderate and showed little change, on the whole, as compared with the previous month.

Leather Trades.—In the tanning and currying section employment was fair; in the portmanteau, trunk, and fancy leather section it was moderate; with saddlery and harness makers it was slack.

Building, Woodworking, etc.—Employment in the building trades continued to improve, especially in the painting and decorating section; it was generally good at most centres with skilled operatives and moderate with unskilled workers. It was very good with bricklayers in many districts; generally good with plasterers and painters; good with carpenters and joiners; fairly good with masons and slaters, and moderate with plumbers. With builders' labourers it continued moderate. With brickmakers employment was good.

Employment in the furnishing trades showed an improvement and was fairly good; with coachbuilders, and with mill-sawyers it also improved and was fair on the whole; with coopers and packing-case makers it continued bad.

Paper Manufacturing, Printing and Bookbinding.—In the paper trade employment continued fair, on the whole. With letterpress printers employment was moderate; with electrotypers and stereotypers it was very good in London and at Edinburgh, and generally good elsewhere; in the lithographic section employment showed an improvement, and was fair on the whole; it was reported as good at Birmingham, and bad at Liverpool and Manchester. In the bookbinding trade employment continued moderate generally.

Pottery and Glass.—Employment in the pottery trade in North Staffordshire showed a slight decline; the Easter holidays were extended in many cases, and though certain sections were well employed, much short time was worked in the industry. In the glass trade employment showed a decline and was slack.

Agriculture and Fishing.—In agriculture in England and Wales the supply of labour at the end of April was equal to the demand; in the potato growing areas the necessary casual labour for planting was usually obtainable. In Scotland also, skilled workers and casual labour were generally sufficient for requirements. In the fishing industry employment was moderate and showed an improvement.

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

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED INDUSTRIES.

The following Table shows the variations in the rates of unemployment among insured persons in the respective divisions into which the country is divided for the purpose of the administration of the Unemployment Insurance Acts. It will be seen that in Great Britain the rates of unemployment continue to be highest in the areas which include the greatest proportions of coal mining and the heavy iron and steel industries:—

Divisions.	Estimated Numbers Insured at July, 1926. (Totals.)	Percentage Unemployed at 25th April, 1927.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Total Percentages as compared with a	
		Males.	Females.	Total.	Month before.	Year before.
London ...	2,105,400	6.7	3.9	5.8	-0.6	-0.2
South-Eastern ...	840,200	5.1	3.6	4.7	-0.6	+0.3
South-Western ...	810,900	8.0	4.4	7.2	-0.1	+0.1
Midlands ...	1,777,400	10.4	6.9	9.5	+1.3	+3.0
North-Eastern ...	2,020,500	15.2	7.2	13.5	-1.1	+1.7
North-Western ...	2,145,700	10.8	6.6	9.4	-0.3	-0.8
Scotland ...	1,323,100	12.3	6.2	10.6	-1.1	-2.9
Wales ...	626,800	15.7	5.2	14.7	-1.4	-9.1
Northern Ireland ...	266,000	17.8	6.1	13.2	-1.4	-0.5
Special Schemes	125,000	1.9	0.5	1.4	-0.2	+0.1
TOTAL ...	12,041,000	10.8	5.7	9.4	-0.5	+0.3

NEW ENTRANTS INTO UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

TABLE SHOWING, BY DIVISIONAL AREAS, THE NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT BOOKS RECEIVED AT LOCAL OFFICES OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR IN GREAT BRITAIN DURING THE MONTH OF APRIL, 1927.

Area.	Men.	Boys.	Women.	Girls.	Total.	
					Number.	Percentage of numbers insured at July, 1926.
South-Eastern: (a) London ...	1,478	4,717	2,062	4,499	12,756	0.61
(b) Rest of South Eastern ...	1,254	2,299	757	1,705	6,015	0.72
South-Western ...	1,169	1,862	844	1,373	5,248	0.65
Midlands ...	990	3,609	867	3,138	8,604	0.48
North-Eastern ...	1,393	4,657	1,232	2,875	10,157	0.50
North-Western ...	1,177	3,813	1,405	3,506	9,901	0.46
Scotland ...	988	3,292	952	2,526	7,758	0.59
Wales ...	413	1,704	419	591	3,127	0.50
GREAT BRITAIN ...	8,862	25,953	8,538	20,213	63,566	0.55

The above figures are exclusive of cases in which, as the result of systematic search, duplication of applications has been discovered.

SUMMARY OF EMPLOYERS' RETURNS.

INFORMATION as to employment, derived from returns furnished by employers and employers' associations, is summarised below:—

Trade.	Workpeople included in the Returns for April, 1927.	April, 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	
			Month before.	Year before.
Coal Mining ...	1,028,687	5.04	+0.15	-0.53
	6,732	5.71	-0.07	+0.17
	2,718	5.82	-0.05	+0.06
Pig Iron ...	...	...	...	...

Tinplate and Steel Sheet ...	...	...	...	...

Iron and Steel ...	75,098	...	...	...

(b) OTHER TRADES.

Trade.	Number of Workpeople Employed.		Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 30th April, 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before.	Week ended 30th April, 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before.	
				Per cent.	Per cent.
Textiles:—			£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Cotton ...	80,223	+1.0	149,756	-0.5	+3.3
Woolen ...	63,452	+1.5	134,702	+3.2	+6.6
Worsted ...	90,587	+0.7	175,313	+0.6	-3.0
Carpet ...	8,017	-0.1	14,901	+0.8	-13.6
Boot and Shoe ...	48,973	+0.3	115,422	+0.5	-4.6
Pottery ...	11,293	+0.1	20,994	-3.3	-4.2
Brick ...	9,158	+1.5	25,668	+2.9	+5.2

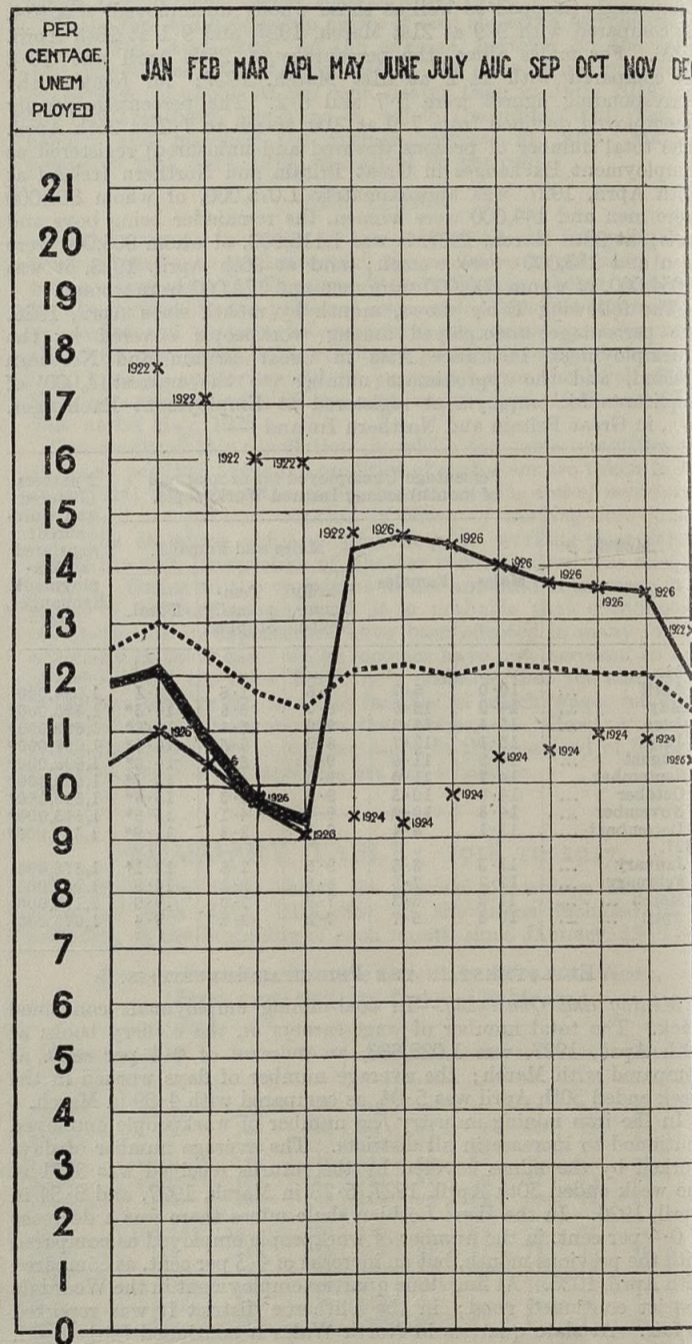
UNEMPLOYMENT CHART.

GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.

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

Thick Curve - - - - - = 1927.
Dotted Curve - - - - - = Mean of 1922-26.
Thin Curve - - - - - = 1926.

× The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages unemployed, in the months named, during the years 1922-1926.



NOTE.—From May to December, the curve for 1926 and the curve showing the mean for the years 1922-26 are influenced by the heavy increase in unemployment in those months due to the stoppage in the coal-mining industry of last year. The diagram shows that while the percentage rates of unemployment in January and February, 1927, were higher than those for the corresponding months of 1926, this difference had almost disappeared in March and April, and for the whole period of four months the rates were well below the mean for the past five years. The figures for the first two months of 1927 were still affected in some industries by the results of the coal-mining dispute and also by a comparatively high rate of unemployment in coal mining itself. The influence of the latter factor remained during March and April.

DETAILED REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN SOME OF THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

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

COAL MINING.

EMPLOYMENT during April continued slack. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 17.8 at 25th April, 1927, as compared with 16.8 at 21st March, 1927, and with 7.9 at 26th April, 1926.

The total number of wage earners on the colliery books at 30th April, 1927, showed an increase of 0.4 per cent., as compared with 26th March, 1927, but a decrease of 7.1 per cent., as compared with 24th April, 1926.

The average number of days worked in the week ended 30th April, 1927, was 5.04, an increase of 0.15 of a day as compared with 26th March, 1927, but a decrease of 0.53 of a day as compared with 24th April, 1926.

The following Table shows, for the principal coal-mining districts, the total number of wage earners on the colliery books and the average number of days worked per week* during the week ended 30th April, 1927, as shown by returns obtained by the Mines Department. Small numbers of workpeople employed at coal mines in raising or handling minerals other than coal are included in the totals:—

Districts.	Total Number of Wage Earners on Colliery Books at		Average Number of Days worked per Week by the Mines.*		
	30th April, 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month before.	Week ended 30th April, 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month before.	
				Month before.	Year before.
ENGLAND AND WALES:					
Northumberland ...	55,015	+0.5	5.14	+0.29	-0.34
Durham ...	134,492	+1.5	5.08	-0.07	-0.01
Cumberland and Westmorland ...	11,770	+1.5	5.52	-0.01	-0.17
South Yorkshire ...	120,784	+0.8	5.08	+0.35	-0.50
West Yorkshire ...	64,049	-1.0	4.36	+0.06	-1.39
Lancs. and Cheshire ...	90,761	-0.1	4.62	+0.01	-0.87
Derbyshire ...	60,482	-0.5	4.20	+0.21	-1.45
Notts and Leicester ...	67,481	-1.8	4.21	+0.14	-1.34
Warwick ...	19,294	-0.5	5.23	-0.14	-0.70
North Staffordshire ...	33,039	-0.4	5.14	+0.16	-0.62
South Staffs., † Worc. and Salop ...	34,313	-1.1	4.94	-0.14	-1.01
Glouc. and Somerset ...	11,684	+0.9	4.86	+0.02	-0.91
Kent ...	2,198	-1.9	4.86	-0.08	+0.04
North Wales ...	15,989	+1.0	5.84	+0.14	+0.11
South Wales and Mon. ...	196,022	+1.8	5.79	+0.39	-0.05
England and Wales ...	917,373	+0.5	5.03	+0.17	-0.56
SCOTLAND:					
Mid & East Lothians ...	13,902	+0.5	5.57	+0.18	+0.27
Fife and Clackmannan ...	23,401	+2.0	5.10	+0.18	-0.32
Rest of Scotland ...	74,011	-1.0	5.04	-0.06	-0.36
Scotland ...	111,314	-0.2	5.12	+0.02	-0.28
GREAT BRITAIN ...	1,028,687	+0.4	5.04	+0.15	-0.53

The average number of coal winding days lost in Great Britain during the week ended 30th April, 1927, was 0.75 of a day, of which 0.71 was due to want of trade and transport difficulties. The figures for the fortnight ended 26th March, 1927, were 0.90 of a day per week, of which 0.87 was due to want of trade and transport difficulties; for the fortnight ended 24th April, 1926, the average time lost was 0.19 of a day per week, of which 0.12 was due to want of trade and transport difficulties, and 0.06 of a day to disputes. The average non-winding time for the periods under review was about one-fifth of a day per week in the week ending 30th April, and in the fortnight ending 26th March, 1927, and one-quarter of a day per week in the fortnight ended 24th April, 1926.

The output of coal in Great Britain for the four weeks ended 30th April, 1927, was reported to the Mines Department as 19,118,200 tons, as compared with 21,097,400 tons in the four weeks ended 26th March, 1927, and with 19,599,500 tons in the four weeks ended 24th April, 1926. The output for the periods ended 30th April, 1927, and 24th April, 1926, was affected by the Easter Holidays.

The export of coal, including coal shipped for the use of steamers engaged in foreign trade, and the coal-equivalent of coke and manufactured fuel, amounted to 5,669,800 tons in April, compared with 6,494,000 tons in March, 1927.

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

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

Area.	Percentage Unemployed at 25th April, 1927.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentages as compared with a			
	Wholly Unemployed (incl. Casuals).	Temporarily stopped.	Total.	Month before.		Year before.	
				Wholly Unemployed.	Temporarily stopped.	Wholly Unemployed.	Temporarily stopped.
ENGLAND AND WALES:							
Northumberland ...	8.7	3.5	12.2	-0.9	+0.3	+0.9	+3.4
Durham ...	18.1	1.0	19.1	-1.1	-0.9	+3.0	+0.9
Cumberland and Westmorland ...	3.5	0.1	3.6	-0.2	-0.1	-4.3	...
Yorkshire ...	3.3	13.4	16.7	+0.2	-4.0	+1.0	+13.2
Lancs. and Cheshire ...	5.8	8.6	14.4	-0.4	-2.0	+0.3	+7.8
Derbyshire ...	2.7	35.8	38.5	+0.1	+22.0	+1.5	+35.7
Notts and Leicester ...	2.2	18.3	20.5	+0.4	+10.2	+1.3	+18.2
Warwick ...	2.5	0.0	2.5	-0.2	...	...	...
Staffs, Worcester and Salop ...	4.5	8.4	12.9	+0.3	+6.4	+0.1	+8.1
Glos. and Somerset ...	9.3	12.2	21.5	-0.1	+9.8	+3.0	+11.2
Kent ...	3.0	3.7	6.7	-0.9	-16.3	-0.2	+3.7
Wales and Monmouth ...	13.8	4.1	17.9	-1.4	-2.7	+4.2	+3.2
England and Wales ...	9.0	9.0	18.0	-0.6	+1.5	+2.0	+8.5
SCOTLAND ...	11.4	5.2	16.6	-0.9	+3.6	+1.7	+3.9
GREAT BRITAIN ...	9.3	8.5	17.8	-0.6	+1.6	+2.0	+7.9

IRON AND SHALE MINING.

IRON MINING. The number of workpeople employed continued to increase during April in all districts, and showed a substantial improvement compared with April, 1926.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed in the iron ore and iron-stone mining industry, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 9.6 at 25th April, 1927, as compared with 10.9 at 21st March, 1927, and 16.1 at 26th April, 1926.

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

Districts.	Number of Workpeople employed at Mines included in the Returns.		Average No. of Days worked per week by the Mines.*		
	Week ended 30th April, 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month before.	Week ended 30th April, 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month before.	
				Month before.	Year before.
Cleveland ...	3,124	+9.7	5.46	-0.14	-0.38
Cumberland and Lancashire ...	2,706	+2.3	6.00	...	+0.62
Other Districts ...	902	+12.9	5.74	+0.04	+0.51
ALL DISTRICTS ...	6,732	+7.0	5.71	0.07	+0.17

SHALE MINING.

According to the returns received, 2,718 workpeople were employed in the West Lothian mines during the week ended 30th April, 1927, a decrease of 0.4 per cent. compared with the previous month, but an increase of 4.3 per cent. compared with April, 1926. The average number of days* worked per week by the mines from which returns were received was 5.82 in April, 1927, compared with 5.87 in March, 1927, and 5.76 in April, 1926.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT showed a further improvement during April. According to returns received by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, 189 furnaces were in operation at the end of April compared with 178 at the end of March and 147 at the end of April 1926.

Returns received from 79 firms employing 20,597 workpeople at the end of April showed an increase of 1.9 per cent. in the numbers employed compared with March and 16.1 per cent. compared with April 1926.

* See footnote * in previous column.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 13.5 on 25th April, 1927 (including 3.7 per cent. temporarily stopped), compared with 12.5 on 21st March, 1927 (including 2.1 per cent. temporarily stopped), and with 13.3 on 26th April, 1926.

The following table shows the number of furnaces in operation at the end of April, 1927, March, 1927, and April, 1926:—

District.	Total Number of Furnaces.	Number of Furnaces in Blast.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		April, 1927.	Mar., 1927.	April, 1926.	Month before.	Year before.
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
Durham and Cleveland	107	47	47	38	...	+ 9
Cumberland and W. Lancs.	45	16	15	12	+ 1	+ 4
Parts of Lancs and Yorks (including Sheffield)	34	15	15	10	...	+ 5
Derby, Leicester, Notts. and Northants	69	33	30	33	+ 3	...
Lincolnshire	23	15	14	13	+ 1	+ 2
Staffs. Shropshire, Worcester and Warwick	55	16	15	10	+ 1	+ 2
South Wales	33	10	8	8	+ 2	+ 2
England and Wales	366	152	144	124	+ 8	+28
Scotland	98	37	34	23	+ 3	+14
Total	464	189	178	147	+11	+42

The production of pig iron in April amounted to 680,000 tons, as compared with 671,800 tons in March, 1927, and 539,100 tons in April, 1926.

IRON AND STEEL MANUFACTURE.

EMPLOYMENT in April was slack on the whole and showed a decline as compared with March, but was better than a year before.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the number of unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 17.3 on 25th April, 1927, as compared with 15.4 on 21st March, 1927, and 20.3 on 26th April, 1926.

According to returns received from firms employing 75,098 workpeople in the week ended 30th April, 1927, the volume of employment in that week (as indicated by the number of workpeople employed, combined with the number of shifts during which work was carried on in each department) decreased by 0.9 per cent. as compared with March, but showed an increase of 1.6 per cent. as compared with a year before. The average number of shifts* during which the works were open was 5.4 in April, 1927, as compared with 5.5 in March, 1927, and 5.4 in April, 1926.

DEPARTMENTS.	No. of Workpeople employed by firms making returns.		Aggregate number of Shifts.*		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	
	Week ended 30th Apr., 1927.	Per cent.	Week ended 30th Apr., 1927.	Per cent.	Month before.	
					Month before.	Year before.
Open Hearth Melting Furnaces	8,742	+ 4.8	50,813	+ 4.6	+ 8.9	
Puddling Forges	2,823	+ 13.8	11,654	+ 7.4	- 16.4	
Rolling Mills	27,718	+ 1.7	141,754	+ 2.7	- 1.0	
Forging and Pressing	3,545	+ 2.6	18,467	+ 6.7	+ 1.5	
Founding	8,259	+ 0.6	47,893	+ 1.3	+ 3.0	
Other Departments	8,281	+ 0.5	46,803	+ 0.3	+ 13.6	
Mechanics, Labourers	15,690	+ 3.7	89,537	+ 3.0	- 1.6	
TOTAL	75,098	+ 0.1	406,921	+ 0.9	+ 1.6	

DISTRICTS.	No. of Workpeople employed by firms making returns.		Aggregate number of Shifts.*		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	
	Week ended 30th Apr., 1927.	Per cent.	Week ended 30th Apr., 1927.	Per cent.	Month before.	
					Month before.	Year before.
Northumberland, Durham and Cleveland	16,541	+ 1.1	92,470	+ 2.3	+ 1.2	
Sheffield and Rotherham	19,689	+ 3.5	105,673	+ 2.1	+ 5.4	
Leeds, Bradford, etc.	2,055	+ 0.8	11,083	+ 1.4	+ 6.8	
Cumberland, Lancs. and Cheshire	7,469	+ 9.1	37,580	+ 6.3	+ 5.8	
Staffordshire	6,118	+ 7.7	31,975	+ 8.1	- 5.8	
Other Midland Counties	3,578	+ 2.6	19,875	+ 1.7	- 6.4	
Wales and Monmouth	6,934	+ 12.1	39,593	+ 10.2	- 11.1	
Total, England and Wales	62,384	+ 0.7	338,250	+ 0.1	+ 0.3	
Scotland	12,714	+ 4.2	68,671	+ 4.7	+ 8.3	
TOTAL	75,098	+ 0.1	406,921	+ 0.9	+ 1.6	

The production of steel ingots and castings, as shown in returns received by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, amounted to 850,100 tons in April, 1927, as compared with 949,600 tons in March, 1927, and 661,000 tons in April, 1926.

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

TINPLATE AND STEEL SHEET TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in the tinplate trade during April was fairly good, but showed a decline as compared with the previous month. At the end of April 406 tinplate mills were reported to be in operation at works for which information is available, as compared with 421 at the end of March and with 345 in April, 1926. Employment in the steel sheet trade showed an improvement as compared with a month before. At the end of April the number of mills in operation was 135, as compared with 129 at the end of March and with 124 in April, 1926. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 10.9 on 25th April, 1927, as compared with 5.0 on 21st March, 1927, and with 16.0 on 26th April, 1926.

The following Table shows the number of mills in operation at the works covered by the returns received:—

Works.	Number of Works Open			Number of Mills in Operation		
	At end of April, 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		At end of April, 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month before.	Year before.		Month before.	Year before.
Tinplate	74	- 2	+ 8	406	- 15	+ 61
Steel Sheet	13	...	...	135	+ 6	+ 11
TOTAL	87	- 2	+ 8	541	- 9	+ 72

The exports of tinned and galvanised plates and sheets in April, 1927, amounted to 107,000 tons, or 8,327 tons less than in March, 1927, but 12,640 tons more than in April, 1926.

ENGINEERING.

EMPLOYMENT during April was slack on the whole, but showed a further improvement in all sections, while in the motor vehicle and electrical sections it was fairly good. Little short time was reported in the railway engineering section; but on textile machinery work much time was lost, while in marine engineering conditions were still very bad.

Compared with a year before employment was better in all sections except motor vehicles, where there was little change; the improvement being most marked in Scotland. In the South Eastern and South Western Divisions a slight decline was shown.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed at 25th April, 1927, and the increase or decrease as compared with a month before and a year before:—

Divisions.	Number of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 25th April, 1927.							Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		
	Engineers, Iron and Steel Founding.	Electrical Engineering.	Marine Engineering, etc.	Constructional Engineering.	Construction and Repair of Motor Vehicles, Cycles, and Aircraft.	TOTAL.	Month before.	Year before.	Month before.	
									Month before.	Year before.
London	5,436	440	65	153	1,540	7,634	- 529	- 678		
South-Eastern	2,104	281	177	73	1,070	3,705	- 88	- 539		
South-Western	1,935	146	595	53	1,664	4,393	+ 700	+ 1,242		
Midlands	5,789	1,218	38	514	5,773	13,332	- 1,117	- 1,044		
North-Eastern	20,691	556	4,765	958	857	27,827	- 1,115	- 1,044		
North-Western	18,635	1,431	162	143	1,383	21,122	- 1,355	- 1,039		
Scotland	1,023	16	30	133	133	1,332	+ 74	+ 74		
Wales	9,632	229	2,552	810	146	13,969	- 2,142	- 6,348		
Northern Ireland	1,298	16	2,004	1	165	3,484	+ 108	- 206		
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND	65,911	4,333	10,388	2,835	13,331	96,798	- 6,464	- 7,848		

Divisions.	Percentages Unemployed at 25th April, 1927.							Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		
	Engineers, Iron and Steel Founding.	Electrical Engineering.	Marine Engineering, etc.	Constructional Engineering.	Construction and Repair of Motor Vehicles, Cycles, and Aircraft.	TOTAL.	Month before.	Year before.	Month before.	
									Month before.	Year before.
London	6.5	3.9	10.2	5.2	4.3	5.7	- 0.4	- 0.5		
South-Eastern	5.0	3.2	5.3	11.4	4.0	4.5	- 0.1	+ 0.5		
South-Western	5.4	4.6	9.4	6.9	7.1	6.3	+ 1.0	+ 1.6		
Midlands	6.4	5.2	2.4	8.0	6.1	6.2	- 0.9	- 0.4		
North-Eastern	16.6	7.0	21.9	12.5	7.6	16.0	- 0.7	- 0.5		
North-Western	12.6	7.7	12.6	5.8	7.2	11.7	- 0.7	- 0.4		
Scotland	11.4	7.7	14.4	14.2	7.5	11.5	- 1.8	- 5.0		
Wales	15.0	4.3	14.3	16.9	6.9	13.2	+ 0.8	+ 1.2		
Northern Ireland	17.8	7.0	36.5	2.5	9.4	23.5	+ 0.7	- 1.1		
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND	10.7	5.6	17.8	10.3	6.0	9.7	- 0.6	- 0.7		
<i>Ditto, Mar., 1927</i>	<i>11.3</i>	<i>6.2</i>	<i>18.9</i>	<i>11.2</i>	<i>6.6</i>	<i>10.3</i>	...	...
<i>Ditto, Apr., 1926</i>	<i>11.2</i>	<i>6.6</i>	<i>22.2</i>	<i>12.5</i>	<i>6.8</i>	<i>10.4</i>	...	...

On the North-East Coast employment was still very bad in general and marine engineering, but showed continued improvement in the latter section. In Yorkshire and Lincolnshire an improvement was shown, but conditions were still bad. In Lancashire and Cheshire employment remained bad on the whole, but maintained an upward tendency; at railway works employment was fair; at textile machinery works much short time was reported.

In the Birmingham, Coventry and Wolverhampton district further improvement was experienced, especially in the motor vehicle section, and employment was fairly good generally. In the Nottingham, Derby and Leicester district conditions remained moderate,

but tended to improve. In London and the South-Eastern Counties employment continued fair on the whole, and was good in the electrical and motor sections. In the South-Western Counties employment, although remaining fair, showed a falling off.

Conditions in Wales continued bad, and showed some decline. In Scotland employment remained bad, but continued to improve in all sections. In Northern Ireland employment was still very bad, showing a decline in marine engineering and an improvement in other sections.

SHIPBUILDING AND SHIP-REPAIRING.

EMPLOYMENT during April showed a further improvement on the whole, the supplies of steel being more adequate than during the previous month. It was still, however, very bad in all the principal districts. Compared with a year ago there was a substantial improvement, the percentage unemployed showing a decrease in almost every district.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed at 25th April, 1927, and the increase or decrease as compared with 21st March, 1927, and with a year before:—

Divisions.	Total Number of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 25th April, 1927.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Percentage Unemployed at 25th April, 1927.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	
		Month before.	Year before.		Month before.	Year before.
South-Eastern	892	+ 247	+ 271	10.0	+ 2.8	+ 3.7
South-Western	3,463	+ 498	+ 514	14.5	+ 2.1	+ 1.3
Midlands	39	+ 4	- 2	13.0	+ 1.3	- 1.6
North-Eastern	21,758	- 3,236	- 8,851	34.6	- 5.1	- 11.1
North-Western	8,363	- 261	- 2,246	25.9	- 0.8	- 6.5
Scotland	14,487	- 3,501	- 9,774	24.4	- 5.9	- 13.1
Wales	2,793	+ 40	- 1,693	26.4	+ 0.3	- 14.8
Northern Ireland	4,219	- 376	- 1,972	28.9	- 2.6	- 4.4
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND	58,029	- 6,889	- 25,867	25.9	- 3.1	- 8.8

The greatest improvement was shown in Scotland and on the North-East Coast, in which district, however, employment was still very bad, more than one-third of the insured workpeople being recorded as unemployed. In the Southern Counties the percentage unemployed showed an increase, but remained lower than in other districts.

WOOL TEXTILE INDUSTRY.

THE slight but general improvement recorded in this industry during March was maintained during April, and in the woollen section there was on the whole a further slight improvement. Short-time working continued prevalent in the majority of centres.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed (including those temporarily stopped), as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 9.4 on 25th April, as compared with 9.4 on 21st March, and with 9.7 on 26th April, 1926.

In the worsted section of the industry there was little change as compared with the previous month. Employment in the wool sorting, combing and preparing departments was slightly better than a month earlier, but about 28 per cent. of the workpeople in these departments covered by the returns received worked short time in the week ended 30th April, with a loss of about 10 hours each on the average; on the other hand, nearly 5 per cent. worked 7½ hours each, on an average, in overtime. In worsted spinning also there was a slight improvement in most districts; about 27 per cent. of the spinners covered by the returns received lost 9½ hours each, on an average, in short-time working during the week ended 30th April.

In worsted weaving there was on the whole no improvement, and in the dress goods trade of Bradford a downward tendency was evident. With fine cloth makers in the men's wear trade of Bradford and Keighley, and in the worsted manufacturing sections of Halifax and Huddersfield some improvement took place, but in the botany serge section of the Leeds district there was no improvement. The returns received from employers for the week ended 30th April showed that about 20 per cent. of the worsted weavers worked short time, with a loss, on the average, of about 10½ hours each.

In the worsted section of the industry, taken as a whole, the returns received from employers showed that in the week ended 30th April, 25 per cent. of their workpeople were on short time, with a loss on the average of about 10½ hours each, while 4 per cent. were working overtime to the average extent of 6½ hours each.

In the woollen section of the industry there was a little improvement, on the whole, as compared with the previous month. In the spinning section about 22 per cent. of the operatives covered by the employers' returns worked short time in the week ended 30th April, with a loss on the average of nearly 10 hours each; the corresponding figures for the weaving section were 28 per cent. and 9 hours. On the other hand, 11 per cent. of the spinners were on overtime to the extent of 11 hours on the average, while about 3 per cent. of the

* These figures do not take into account other forms of under-employment, such as "playing for warps" and tending one instead of two looms.

weavers worked on an average 8 hours per week overtime. Taking the woollen section as a whole, about 25 per cent. of the operatives lost, on an average, 9½ hours each in short time working, while 6 per cent. worked an average of about 10 hours each in overtime.

In the Huddersfield, Calder Vale, Yeading and Guseley woollen districts the improvement of last month was fully maintained and in some cases firms were more fully employed. In the Heavy Woollen District there was a slight improvement, but employment was still slack. With woollen workers in the Stockport district employment continued good, and no short time working was reported.

With blanket manufacturers employment was still poor in Yorkshire, but at Witney the operatives continued to be well employed. There was a slight improvement in the rag and shoddy trade, but employment was still very poor. In the flannel trade of Rochdale and Saddleworth employment continued fair on the whole.

In Wales employment in the Aberystwyth district was reported as good; at Llanidloes the majority of the workers were on short time, and a slight decline was reported at Newtown.

In Scotland employment on the whole continued good.

In the carpet trade employment was about the same as a month earlier. At Kidderminster employment continued good and some overtime was reported. At Sowerby Bridge and Halifax the operatives were well employed, but at Liversedge some irregular time was reported. Taking the carpet trade as a whole, the employers' returns for the week ended 30th April showed 24 per cent. of the operatives working short time, with a loss on the average of about 8 hours each; about 4 per cent. worked overtime to the extent of 6 hours each on an average.

The following Table summarises the returns received from employers:—

Departments:	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 30th April, 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a month before.	Index figure. (Jan., 1926 = 100.)	Week ended 30th April, 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a month before.	Index figure. (Jan., 1926 = 100.)
WORSTED SECTION:						
Wool Sorting and Combing	11,393	+ 1.3	103.2	28,854	+ 1.9	100.8
Spinning	42,806	+ 1.0	99.4	67,213	+ 0.7	99.5
Weaving	22,015	+ 0.5	99.9	45,119	+ 0.0	100.3
Other Depts.	12,293	- 0.0	99.5	29,294	+ 0.6	98.4
Not specified	2,080	- 1.9	105.4	4,203	- 4.2	105.4
Total—Worsted	90,587	+ 0.7	100.0	175,313	+ 0.6	99.

The following Table shows, by districts and departments, the percentage increase or decrease in the numbers employed, in the week ended 30th April, 1927, by firms who supplied returns for the purpose of the foregoing Table (excluding the carpet section), as compared with the numbers employed by the same firms in the week ended 26th March, 1927:—

Department.	Percentage Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in numbers employed as compared with the previous month. (... signifies "no change"; —, without a figure, signifies "no workpeople returned.")				
	Wool Sorting and Combing.	Spinning.	Weaving.	Other Depts.	All Depts. (including not specified).
WORSTED SECTION:					
Bradford ...	+ 1.5	+ 1.9	+ 0.1	- 0.4	+ 1.0
Huddersfield ...	- 1.8	+ 0.4	+ 1.4	+ 0.3	+ 0.8
Leeds ...	- 0.3	+ 0.3	- 0.7	- 2.5	- 0.2
Keighley ...	- 4.8	+ 0.5	+ 1.6	+ 0.1	+ 0.8
Heavy Woollen (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.) ...	+ 0.9	+ 0.8	- 0.9	+ 0.5	+ 0.4
<i>Total, West Riding</i>	+ 2.1	+ 2.4	+ 2.3	+ 4.2	+ 2.7
West of England and Midlands ...	+ 1.2	+ 1.2	+ 0.4	+ 0.0	+ 0.8
Lancashire ...	+ 1.5	- 0.3	+ 1.4	- 0.3	+ 0.2
Scotland ...	+ 0.7	—	—	+ 2.7	+ 0.9
Wales ...	+ 1.3	+ 3.9	—	- 0.2	- 2.3
TOTAL ...	+ 1.3	+ 1.0	+ 0.5	- 0.0	+ 0.7
WOOLLEN SECTION:					
Huddersfield ...	- 3.1	+ 1.4	+ 0.3	+ 1.0	+ 0.7
Heavy Woollen (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.) ...	+ 2.8	+ 0.9	+ 5.2	+ 3.1	+ 3.3
Leeds ...	+ 2.5	+ 2.5	+ 3.0	+ 0.6	+ 2.0
Hallifax and Calder Vale ...	- 8.6	- 0.2	+ 0.9	+ 0.9	+ 1.9
Bradford ...	+ 3.0	+ 3.4	+ 0.8	+ 2.4	+ 1.9
<i>Total, West Riding</i>	+ 0.7	+ 1.3	+ 2.4	+ 1.7	+ 1.8
Lancashire ...	+ 2.7	+ 1.3	+ 2.4	+ 0.5	+ 1.3
West of England and Midlands ...	+ 0.8	+ 1.9	+ 2.7	+ 1.1	+ 1.9
Scotland ...	—	+ 0.5	+ 1.1	+ 0.5	+ 0.7
Wales ...	—	+ 2.3	- 5.9	- 2.1	- 2.6
TOTAL ...	+ 0.8	+ 1.2	+ 2.1	+ 1.2	+ 1.5

The following Table shows the number of men and of women (other than casuals) on the registers of Employment Exchanges in the principal wool textile trade centres at 25th April, 1927:—

Department.	Numbers (excluding Casuals) on the Register at 25th April, 1927.						
	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.			Total.
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	
Wool Sorting ...	111	2	113	72	...	72	185
Wool Washing and Preparing ...	235	147	382	444	284	728	1,111
Wool Combing ...	122	67	189	406	275	681	870
Wool Carding ...	304	41	345	493	82	575	920
Woolen Spinning ...	231	43	274	264	166	430	704
Worsted Drawing and Spinning ...	241	485	726	273	1,400	1,673	2,399
Wool Winding and Winding ...	66	12	78	192	83	275	353
Worsted Winding and Winding ...	50	88	138	175	407	582	720
Woolen Weaving ...	72	162	234	92	1,668	1,760	1,994
Worsted Weaving ...	115	319	434	1,781	1,941	2,375	3,375
Other Processes ...	563	35	598	623	166	789	1,387
TOTAL ...	2,111	1,401	3,512	3,194	6,312	9,506	13,018

The following Table shows the increases and decreases as compared with 21st March, 1927:—

Department.	Number of Workpeople.						Total.
	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.			
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	
Wool Sorting ...	+27	+ 1	+ 28	...	- 1	- 1	+ 27
Wool Washing and Preparing ...	-11	+ 2	- 9	- 22	- 77	- 99	- 108
Wool Combing ...	-25	- 4	- 29	+ 165	+ 19	+ 185	+ 156
Wool Carding ...	-57	- 5	- 62	- 22	- 32	- 54	- 116
Woolen Spinning ...	-59	- 2	- 61	- 99	+ 7	- 92	- 153
Worsted Drawing and Spinning ...	-62	- 10	- 72	+ 33	+ 23	+ 56	- 16
Wool Winding and Winding ...	- 4	- 10	- 14	- 4	- 14	- 18	- 32
Worsted Winding and Winding ...	- 9	- 13	- 22	+ 39	- 122	- 83	- 105
Woolen Weaving ...	-19	- 88	-107	- 60	- 483	- 543	- 650
Worsted Weaving ...	+11	+ 58	+ 69	+ 43	+ 671	+ 714	+ 783
Other Processes ...	-72	- 8	- 80	- 297	- 83	- 380	- 460
TOTAL ...	-280	- 79	-359	- 223	- 92	- 315	- 674

The imports less re-exports of raw wool (sheep's or lamb's) were 53,461,900 lbs. in April, 1927, compared with 88,300,400 lbs. in March, 1927, and 67,524,900 lbs. in April, 1926.

The exports of woollen and worsted yarns were 3,761,600 lbs. compared with 3,958,500 lbs. in March, 1927, and with 2,246,200 lbs. in April, 1926.

The exports of woollen and worsted tissues were 9,479,100 square yards, compared with 13,275,200 square yards in March, 1927, and 9,135,200 square yards in April, 1926.

The exports of blankets were 70,557 pairs, 106,495 pairs and 87,534 pairs in April, 1927, March, 1927, and April, 1926.

COTTON INDUSTRY.

THERE was a slight decline, except in the weaving department, as compared with March. As compared with April of last year there was a slight improvement, principally in the spinning department.

On the recommendation of the Cotton Yarn Association a majority of the firms spinning American cotton extended the holiday stoppage at Easter; and firms spinning the lower counts of American cotton have been recommended to reduce their production, as from April 25th, by 20 or 25 per cent., according to circumstances. In the section spinning Egyptian cotton the operatives, speaking generally, continued to be fully employed.

The improvement in the weaving department reported last month was maintained, but (taking one centre with another) not substantially increased.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 6.8 on 25th April, 1927, as compared with 5.9 on 21st March, 1927, and with 9.8 on 26th April, 1926.

In the Oldham district employment in the spinning department was slack, and worse than in March. The Easter holidays were extended to ten days or more, instead of the usual three days, by a large number of firms. In the manufacturing department employment on the whole was bad. A shortage of piecers was reported in the Ashton district. The improvement at Stockport reported last month was not maintained. At Stalybridge there was a decline, particularly in the spinning department; there continued, however, to be a pronounced demand for little piecers and other juvenile workers, and for weavers.

At Bolton employment continued good with cardroom workers and fair with spinners; with weavers it was fairly good, and better than in March. At Leigh it was good in the spinning and in the weaving departments, but showed a decline with spinners and with cardroom workers. At Rochdale employment with spinners was slack, and worse than in March. At Bury some firms in the manufacturing department extended the Easter holidays, and short time was still being worked in that department at the end of the month.

At Preston a further improvement was reported, except with firms supplying the China market; a considerable number of operatives re-started work during the month, and employment was more regular. At Chorley there was a shortage of weavers for fine work. The improvement at Blackburn reported last month was fairly well maintained, though many firms extended the Easter stoppage, and there was still a serious amount of under-employment with firms supplying the China market. At Great Harwood all the mills were working full time. At Accrington and at Darwen employment remained good, and there was again an unsatisfied demand for weavers.

At Burnley employment was described as moderate; the improvement reported last month was not fully maintained. At Colne and Nelson there was an improvement; some weavers who had had only two or three looms running were able to revert to four.

At Todmorden there was a further improvement, and employment was reported to be better than at any time since 1921. At Sowerby Bridge several mills spinning American cotton closed for a week at Easter, but all had resumed full time working at the end of the month. Full time was also worked by the operatives (with some exceptions) at Hebden Bridge. Some improvement was reported in the Huddersfield district.

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

DEPARTMENTS.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	£	Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Preparing ...	10,632	+ 0.2	+ 0.2	18,249	- 1.7	+ 3.5
Spinning ...	20,406	+ 0.7	+ 3.9	36,940	- 0.8	+ 7.7
Weaving ...	33,324	+ 1.8	+ 1.7	59,894	+ 0.6	+ 3.5
Other ...	7,253	+ 0.7	+ 0.5	17,460	- 0.4	- 1.5
Not Specified ...	8,608	+ 0.2	- 2.6	17,213	- 2.1	- 1.3
TOTAL ...	80,223	+ 1.0	+ 1.5	149,756	- 0.5	+ 3.3
DISTRICTS.						
Ashton ...	4,273	+ 0.7	+ 3.9	7,550	+ 2.5	+ 10.2
Stockport, Glossop and Hyde ...	7,518	+ 0.7	+ 2.0	13,561	+ 0.5	+ 8.6
Oldham ...	8,727	+ 0.0	+ 5.4	17,344	- 3.7	+ 8.0
Bolton and Leigh ...	13,797	+ 1.1	+ 2.1	24,751	+ 0.9	+ 1.7
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Walsden and Todmorden ...	7,897	- 0.7	- 1.5	13,875	- 2.5	+ 2.2
Manchester ...	5,149	+ 5.4	+ 8.4	8,469	- 1.8	+ 4.6
Preston and Chorley ...	6,325	+ 2.7	+ 0.0	11,361	+ 2.5	- 0.0
Blackburn, Accrington and Darwen ...	7,920	- 0.3	- 2.4	16,421	+ 0.6	+ 3.6
Burnley, Padiham, Colne and Nelson ...	9,475	+ 0.9	- 1.3	20,430	- 1.8	- 1.7
Other Lancashire Towns ...	2,542	- 2.0	+ 2.0	4,442	+ 0.9	+ 1.8
Yorkshire Towns ...	4,031	+ 4.3	+ 1.1	7,174	- 2.0	- 0.7
Other Districts ...	2,569	+ 1.4	+ 2.5	4,378	+ 2.8	+ 10.2
TOTAL ...	80,223	+ 1.0	+ 1.5	149,756	- 0.5	+ 3.3

Returns from firms employing nearly 78,000 workpeople in the week ended 30th April showed that about 14 per cent. of these workpeople were on short time in that week, with a loss of about 11 hours each on the average.

The following Table shows the number of men and of women (other than casuals) on the registers of Employment Exchanges in the principal cotton trade centres at 25th April, 1927:—

Department.	Numbers (excluding Casuals) on the Register at 25th April, 1927.						
	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.			Total.
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	
Card and Blowing Room ...	398	1,138	1,536	618	3,402	4,020	5,556
Spinning ...	1,798	887	2,685	3,669	3,438	7,107	9,792
Beaming, Winding and Winding ...	381	678	1,059	741	4,348	5,089	6,148
Weaving ...	806	1,196	2,002	833	2,132	2,965	4,967
Other Processes ...	315	90	405	241	191	432	837
Total ...	3,698	3,989	7,687	6,102	13,511	19,613	27,500

The following Table shows the increases and decreases as compared with 21st March, 1927:—

Department.	Number of Workpeople.						Total.
	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.			
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	
Card and Blowing Room ...	+ 55	+ 139	+ 194	+ 157	+ 1,025	+ 1,182	+ 1,376
Spinning ...	- 17	+ 49	+ 32	+ 988	+ 1,802	+ 2,790	+ 2,822
Beaming, Winding and Winding ...	- 16	+ 57	+ 41	+ 102	+ 1,230	+ 1,332	+ 1,373
Weaving ...	- 64	- 20	- 84	- 183	- 576	- 759	- 843
Other Processes ...	- 42	+ 16	- 26	- 19	+ 16	- 3	- 29
Total ...	- 84	+ 241	+ 157	+ 1,045	+ 3,497	+ 4,542	+ 4,699

The imports (less re-exports) of raw cotton (including cotton linters) were 179,879,000 lbs. in April, 1927, compared with 179,024,200 lbs. in March, 1927, and with 117,996,800 lbs. in April, 1926.

The exports of cotton yarn were 17,327,600 lbs. in April, 1927, compared with 19,270,800 lbs. in March, 1927, and with 14,436,400 lbs. in April, 1926.

The exports of cotton piece goods were 316,947,700 square yards, as compared with 393,928,200 square yards in the previous month, and with 281,777,000 square yards in April, 1926.

BOOT AND SHOE INDUSTRY.

THERE was little change, on the whole, in this industry during April, and employment remained generally moderate. In some centres there was increased activity for a week or two prior to the Easter holidays, but after the holidays short-time working again became prevalent. As has been the case for a considerable period, the greatest depression was in the heavy boot manufacturing centres.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 8.1 on 25th April, the same as on 21st March: this compares with 7.2 on 26th April, 1926.

Employment in London was generally fair, but below the level of April, 1926. At Leicester it was fair, though not so good as a year ago; there was practically no unemployment among fully-skilled machinists, but over two-fifths of all the operatives covered by the returns received were losing nearly 7½ hours per week in short-time working. There was a further slight improvement at Northampton until Easter, when a number of factories closed for periods ranging from seven to ten days; employment was less regular after the holidays, and nearly one-quarter of the operatives were losing an average of 8½ hours each in short-time working during the week ended 30th April. Employment showed a further improvement and was good generally in the Higham and Rushden area; some overtime was worked before Easter in order to cope with orders. At Wellingborough also there was some overtime before the holidays, and employment was better on the whole than for some considerable time; unemployment was mainly confined to the less skilled women workers. In the Raunds, Finedon and Irthlingborough areas employment was fairly good on the whole. At Kettering a little overtime was worked before the holidays; there continued, however, to be much unemployment at this centre.

Employment continued fairly good at Stafford. At Norwich it was fair, and slightly better than in March; but a considerable number of operatives, chiefly in the sew-round department, were still unemployed. There was a further decline in the Bristol and Kingswood district, and employment was generally slack and below the level of a year ago; but factories producing light footwear were fairly busy. Employment at Street continued fair. At Leeds it was fair with light shoe factories, but still poor at heavy boot factories;

as with other centres, there was a certain amount of increased activity immediately before Easter. There was some improvement in the shoe and slipper trade of the Rossendale Valley, and less short time was generally worked, although there was some slackness at Rawtenstall.

In Scotland there was no marked change; employment was poor on the whole.

The following Table summarises the information received from employers:—

Department.	Number of Workpeople.				Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.			
	Wholly Unemployed.		Temporarily Stopped.		£	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.				
England and Wales:—								
London ...	1,816	- 4.3	- 10.1	4,157	- 3.3	- 10.3	- 3.3	- 10.3
Leicester ...	7,995	- 1.3	- 6.3	21,294	- 3.6	- 14.3	- 3.6	- 14.3
Leicester Country District ...	1,895	+ 1.4	+ 4.2	4,578	+ 3.8	+ 5.3	+ 3.8	+ 5.3
Northampton ...	6,370	+ 0.2	+ 2.1	15,834	+ 0.6	- 2.3	+ 0.6	- 2.3
Northampton Country District ...	7,843	+ 0.7	+ 0.1	18,317	+ 0.0	+ 0.6	+ 0.0	+ 0.6
Kettering ...	3,447	+ 1.1	+ 2.1	8,906	- 1.1	+ 0.7	- 1.1	+ 0.7
Stafford and District ...	2,633	+ 0.8	+ 0.6	5,756	- 1.3	- 18.6	- 1.3	- 18.6
Norwich and District ...	3,699	+ 1.3	+ 3.4	8,337	+ 5.1	+ 0.3	+ 5.1	+ 0.3
Bristol, Kingswood and District ...	1,628	- 4.5	- 2.5	2,694	- 8.0	- 9.0	- 8.0	- 9.0
Leeds and District ...	1,828	+ 0.2	- 0.9	4,081	+ 0.3	- 0.8	+ 0.3	- 0.8
Lancashire (mainly Ross								

BRICK TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT during April continued good, and showed an improvement compared with the previous month.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed in the brick, pipe, tile, etc., trades, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 5.5 at 25th April, 1927, as compared with 6.3 at 21st March, 1927, and 6.0 at 26th April, 1926.

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

Districts.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.					
	Week ended 30th April, 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 30th April, 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		£	Per cent.	
		Month before.	Year before.		Month before.	Year before.		Per cent.	Per cent.
Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire.	2,053	+ 1.6	+ 1.8	5,529	+ 3.0	+ 3.6			
Midlands and Eastern Counties.	5,289	+ 1.6	+ 1.8	15,534	+ 3.6	+ 9.1			
South and South-West Counties and Wales.	1,647	+ 1.2	- 2.9	4,157	+ 1.1	- 5.8			
Scotland	169	+ 1.2	+ 6.3	448	- 4.9	+ 10.1			
TOTAL	9,158	+ 1.5	+ 1.0	25,668	+ 2.9	+ 5.2			

BUILDING TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT continued to improve during April, especially in the painting and decorating section; it was generally good, at most centres, with skilled operatives and moderate with unskilled workers. Employment showed a decline, on the whole, as compared with April, 1926, but there was some improvement in the London Area and in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

As regards individual occupations, employment continued to improve with bricklayers and was very good at many centres; it remained generally good with plasterers; a shortage of these classes of operatives, especially of bricklayers, was reported from a number of districts. Employment showed a further improvement with carpenters and joiners and with masons, and was good in most districts with the former and fairly good, on the whole, with the latter; it remained fairly good with slaters and moderate with plumbers; it showed a further seasonal improvement with painters and was good generally. Employment continued moderate, on the whole, with builders' labourers.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts who were unemployed at 25th April, 1927, together with the increase or decrease in the percentages as compared with the previous month and with April, 1926:—

Occupations.	Estimated Number of Insured Workpeople at July, 1926.	Total Number Unemployed at 25th Apr., 1927.	Number included in previous Column who were Temporarily Stopped.	Per cent. Unemployed.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage as compared with a	
					Month before.	Year before.
					Apr., 1927.	Apr., 1926.
Carpenters	126,460	5,983	177	4.7	- 1.1	+ 1.1
Bricklayers	72,150	1,446	71	2.0	- 0.8	+ 0.7
Masons	25,240	1,482	66	5.9	- 1.1	+ 2.1
Slaters	5,710	302	20	5.3	+ 0.2	+ 0.3
Plasterers	19,720	697	16	3.5	...	+ 2.3
Painters	112,930	5,515	86	4.9	- 5.5	+ 0.3
Plumbers	31,860	2,582	79	8.1	- 0.1	+ 1.3
Labourers to above	245,860	24,775	546	10.1	- 1.5	...
All other occupations	161,110	19,408	629	12.0	- 0.9	+ 0.4
TOTAL	801,040	62,190	1,690	7.8	- 1.7	+ 0.5

Divisions.	Estimated Number of Insured Workpeople at July, 1926.	Total Number Unemployed at 25th Apr., 1927.	Number included in previous Column who were Temporarily Stopped.	Per cent. Unemployed.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage as compared with a	
					Month before.	Year before.
					Apr., 1927.	Apr., 1926.
London	162,020	11,041	19	6.8	- 2.6	- 0.3
South-Eastern	123,470	4,257	24	3.4	- 0.9	+ 0.3
South-Western	98,750	5,516	45	5.6	- 1.2	+ 0.2
Midlands	91,230	6,660	435	7.3	- 1.2	+ 2.2
North-Eastern	103,190	11,879	552	11.5	- 1.5	+ 4.4
North-Western	104,350	9,603	369	9.2	- 2.0	+ 0.6
Scotland	73,690	5,401	98	7.3	- 2.1	- 1.6
Wales	29,510	4,108	143	14.0	- 2.1	+ 3.7
Northern Ireland	15,030	3,725	5	24.8	- 2.1	- 6.0
Great Britain and Northern Ireland	801,040	62,190	1,690	7.8	- 1.7	+ 0.5

BUILDING PLANS APPROVED.

Returns from Local Authorities in 140 of the principal urban areas in Great Britain (except the London County Council Area), with a total population of 15,986,000, show that in April, 1927, plans were passed for buildings of an estimated cost of £5,395,300, as compared with £5,358,800 in March, 1927, and £5,702,600 in April, 1926. Of the total for April, 1927, dwelling-houses accounted for £3,692,600; factories and workshops for £320,900; shops, offices, warehouses and other business premises for £284,600; and other buildings, and additions and alterations to existing buildings, for £1,097,200.

PAPER MANUFACTURE, PRINTING, AND BOOKBINDING.

EMPLOYMENT in the paper trade during April remained fair on the whole. In some districts it was good, but in others, particularly in parts of Lancashire, and in Kent in the hand-made trade, short time was worked.

In the letterpress printing trade employment was again moderate on the whole. A decline was reported in London, and employment remained bad at Birmingham and Liverpool. It was again reported as good at Derby and Nottingham. With electrotypers and stereotypers employment was very good in London and at Edinburgh, and generally good elsewhere.

In the lithographic printing trade employment was fair on the whole, showing a slight improvement compared with March. It was reported as good at Birmingham, and bad at Liverpool and Manchester. With lithographic artists employment continued fair generally; an improvement compared with March was reported at Liverpool and Manchester.

Employment in the bookbinding trade continued moderate generally, but was worse than during April, 1926.

The percentage unemployed among insured workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts in the printing and bookbinding trades was 4.9 at 25th April, compared with 5.2 at 21st March and 4.2 at 26th April, 1926. In the paper and paper-board industry, the percentage was 6.5 at 25th April, compared with 7.0 at 21st March and 4.5 at 26th April, 1926. In the cardboard box, paper-bag and stationary trades, the percentage was 5.2 at 25th April compared with the same percentage at 21st March and 4.7 at 26th April, 1926.

The following Table summarises the returns received from Trade Unions:—

—	No. of Members of Unions at end of April, 1927.	Percentage Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on a	
		April, 1927.	March, 1927.	April, 1926.	Month before.	Year before.
		April, 1927.	March, 1927.	April, 1926.	Month before.	Year before.
Letterpress Printing: London	41,080	6.1	5.8	2.3	+ 0.3	+ 3.8
Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire	17,400	4.2	4.4	2.9	- 0.2	+ 1.3
Midlands and Eastern Counties	11,046	2.8	2.5	1.7	+ 0.3	+ 1.1
Scotland	6,462	5.2	5.1	3.1	+ 0.1	+ 2.1
Other Districts	11,201	3.7	2.9	2.7	+ 0.8	+ 1.0
TOTAL	87,189	4.9	4.7	2.5	+ 0.2	+ 2.4
Lithographic Printing	10,684	3.8	4.0	2.9	- 0.2	+ 0.9
Bookbinding	20,581	4.8	4.7	4.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.7

POTTERY INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT in North Staffordshire showed a slight decline; the Easter holidays were extended in many cases, and, though certain sections were well employed, much short time was worked in the industry. At Worcester and Derby employment was good; at Bristol it was fair. In the stoneware section in Scotland it was reported to be slack, and worse than during the previous month.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 13.0 at 25th April, as compared with 11.7 at 21st March, 1927 and with 13.2 at 26th April, 1926.

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

—	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.					
	Week ended 30th April, 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 30th April, 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		£	Per cent.	
		Month before.	Year before.		Month before.	Year before.		Per cent.	Per cent.
BRANCHES.									
China Manufacture	1,295	- 2.2	- 4.1	2,420	- 7.8	- 5.3			
Earthenware Manufacture	8,150	+ 0.3	- 2.9	15,061	- 3.2	- 4.7			
Other Branches (including unspecified)	1,848	+ 0.7	- 0.3	3,513	- 0.4	- 1.3			
TOTAL	11,293	+ 0.1	- 2.6	20,994	- 3.3	- 4.2			
DISTRICTS.									
North Staffordshire	8,545	+ 0.2	- 3.0	14,701	- 3.8	- 4.8			
Other Districts	2,748	- 0.3	- 1.6	6,293	- 2.1	- 2.8			
TOTAL	11,293	+ 0.1	- 2.6	20,994	- 3.3	- 4.2			

Returns from employers relative to short-time working showed that of 10,065 workpeople employed by firms making returns, 2,693, or 27 per cent., were working on an average about 14 hours less than full time in the week ended 30th April, 1927.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

EMPLOYMENT during April remained moderate generally. Among insured workpeople in the canal, river, dock and harbour service, 25.0 per cent. were unemployed at 25th April, 1927, as compared with 26.9 per cent. at 21st March, 1927, and with 27.9 per cent. at 26th April, 1926.

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

Period.	Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London.					
	In Docks.			At Wharves making Returns.	Total Docks and Principal Wharves.	
	By the Port of London Authority or through Contractors.	By Ship-owners, etc.	Total.			
Week ended—						
2nd April, 1927	4,648	2,025	6,673	8,131	14,804	
9th "	3,988	2,510	6,498	8,341	14,839	
16th "	3,854	1,973	5,827	8,284	14,111	
23rd "	3,915	2,803	6,718	8,291	15,009	
30th "	4,166	1,985	6,151	8,481	14,632	
Average for 5 weeks ended 30th April, 1927	4,131	2,250	6,381	8,307	14,688	
Average for Mar., 1927	4,529	2,404	6,933	8,173	15,106	
Average for April, 1926	4,144	2,420	6,564	8,093	14,657	

Tilbury.—The average daily number of dock labourers employed during April was 1,030, compared with 871 in March, and with 1,119 in April, 1926.

East Coast.—Employment at the North-East Coast ports with coal trimmers and teamers was fairly good, though not so good as in March; with other classes of dock workers it was fair on the Tyne, and rather better than in the previous month; it remained moderate on the Wear and at Blyth. At Middlesbrough employment was exceptionally good. It declined on the Humber, and remained fair generally at the East Anglian ports.

Liverpool.—Employment continued fair generally. The average weekly number of dock labourers registered at the clearing houses under the Liverpool Docks scheme as employed in the four weeks ended 29th April was 15,627, compared with 15,165 in March, and with 15,615 in April, 1926. The average weekly amount of wages paid to these men through the clearing houses was £38,169 in the four weeks ended 29th April, compared with £40,532 in March, and £39,598 in April, 1926.

Other Ports in England and Wales.—Employment at the South Wales ports continued fairly good. At Avonmouth it was quiet, and at Bristol fair. It was slack at Plymouth and other south-western ports, but fair at Southampton, where there was an improvement.

Scottish and Irish Ports.—At Dundee employment declined and was slack. At Glasgow it improved and was fair. It continued moderate at Leith and Granton. At Belfast it remained fair.

SEAMEN.

DURING April employment continued moderate on the whole. Among insured workpeople in the shipping service, the percentage unemployed at 25th April, 1927, was 16.2, compared with 16.8 at 21st March, 1927, and 17.8 at 26th April, 1926.

The demand for men on the Thames was moderate in the first half of April, but showed a considerable improvement afterwards. It was fairly active on the Tyne, but there was a falling-off in the closing stages of the month; it was poor to moderate on the Wear. The demand was slack on the Tees, and moderate to fair at Hull. It was active at Southampton, but a temporary decline was reported in the third week of April. At Bristol the demand was good at the commencement of the month, but a gradual decline occurred, and it was described as quiet in the closing stages; at Avonmouth it was fairly good. The demand at Newport was mainly brisk; at Cardiff it fluctuated from fair to poor. A shortage of deck hands was experienced at Swansea, where the demand was fair to good. Employment was fairly good on the Mersey, and generally fair at Manchester. On the Clyde the demand was quiet to moderate on the whole; it was quiet to fair at Leith, and generally quiet at Belfast.

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

Principal Ports.	Apr. 1927.	Number of Seamen* shipped in			
		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Four Months ended	
		Month before.	Year before.	Apr., 1927.	Apr., 1926.
ENGLAND & WALES:					
Liverpool†	11,653	- 986	+ 376	44,557	43,264
Manchester	735	- 109	- 105	3,191	3,197
London	8,166	+ 68	+ 510	32,351	32,062
Southampton... ..	10,685	+ 2134	+ 681	33,431	32,895
Tyne Ports	2,450	+ 498	+ 427	9,378	7,496
Sunderland	436	+ 123	+ 141	1,262	1,121
Middlesbrough	280	- 87	- 21	1,302	1,565
Hull	1,087	- 6	+ 263	4,973	5,211
Bristol	1,024	+ 40	- 117	4,080	4,035
Newport, Mon.	891	+ 13	- 176	3,139	4,238
Cardiff§	2,444	- 161	- 395	11,012	10,207
Swansea	864	+ 199	+ 83	3,028	3,251
SCOTLAND:					
Leith	435	+ 151	+ 177	1,443	1,343
Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth	385	+ 27	- 98	1,192	1,411
Glasgow	2,644	+ 701	- 69	9,331	9,870
NORTHERN IRELAND:					
Belfast	210	- 6	+ 11	880	490
TOTAL for above Ports	44,389	+ 2,599	+ 1,688	164,550	161,654

PRINCIPAL VARIATIONS IN NUMBERS OF INSURED PERSONS RECORDED AS UNEMPLOYED.

The following Table indicates for Great Britain and Northern Ireland the industries in which the numbers of insured persons recorded as unemployed at 25th April, 1927, differed from the figures for 21st March, 1927, to the extent of 1,000 or more. The Table shows the increases and decreases for males and females separately, together with the total net variation for all insured industries.

Industry.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Numbers recorded as Unemployed at 25th April, 1927, as compared with 21st March, 1927.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Building	- 13,657	- 25	- 13,682
Distributive Trades	- 4,166	- 4,543	- 8,709
Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing	- 6,880	- 9	- 6,889
Hotel, Boarding House, Club Services	- 2,208	- 3,369	- 5,577
Tailoring	- 2,217	- 2,254	- 4,471
General Engineering, Engineers' Iron and Steel Founding	- 3,394	- 185	- 3,579
Canal, River, Dock and Harbour Service	- 3,524	- 8	- 3,532
Public Works Contracting, etc.	- 2,376	- 5	- 2,381
Local Government	- 2,058	- 158	- 2,216
Other Road Transport	- 1,874	- 3	- 1,877
Textile Bleaching, Printing, Dyeing, etc.	- 1,095	- 774	- 1,869
Construction and Repair of Motor Vehicles, Cycles, and Aircraft	- 1,508	- 47	- 1,555
Railway Service	- 1,448	- 28	- 1,476
Dress and Mantle Making and Millinery	- 154	- 1,187	- 1,341
Other Metal Industries	- 625	- 624	- 1,249
Bread, Biscuit, Cake, etc., Making	- 638	- 473	- 1,111
Linen	- 50	- 987	- 1,037
Manufacture of Tin Plates	+ 1,673	+ 200	+ 1,873
Steel Melting and Iron Puddling	...	...	...
Furnaces, Iron and Steel Rolling Mills and Forges	+ 3,653	+ 20	+ 3,673
Cotton	+ 1,213	+ 3,737	+ 4,950
Coal Mining	+ 12,620	+ 61	+ 12,681
Net variation for above industries	- 28,713	- 10,661	- 39,374
Total Net Variation for all insured industries	- 40,302.	- 14,390	- 54,692

* It will be understood that the numbers given are the numbers of separate engagements, and not of separate individuals.
 † Including Birkenhead and Garston.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED INDUSTRIES.

The statistics here presented show, industry by industry, the estimated number of persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, the number and percentage of such persons who were unemployed on the 25th April, 1927, and the increase or decrease at that date in the total percentages unemployed compared with a month earlier, a year ago, and two years ago, respectively.

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

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

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

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

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

This last item determines in the main the difference between the total number of unemployed persons given in the following Table and the figure given on page 189 showing the total number of persons registered at Employment Exchanges. The difference would be greater were it not that this latter figure includes uninsured persons who are maintaining registration. These do not appear in the figures of "books lodged," which relate solely to insured persons.

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

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

NUMBERS OF INSURED PERSONS RECORDED AS UNEMPLOYED AT 25TH APRIL, 1927.

INDUSTRY.	GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.									GREAT BRITAIN ONLY.		
	WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED (INCLUDING CASUALS).			TEMPORARY STOPPAGES.			TOTAL.			WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED, TEMPORARY STOPPAGES AND CASUALS.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Fishing	3,454	127	3,581	95	28	123	3,549	155	3,704	3,514	155	669
Mining :-												
Coal Mining	113,574	594	114,168	104,004	370	104,374	217,578	964	218,542	217,476	964	218,440
Iron Ore and Ironstone Mining and Quarrying	1,283	...	1,283	183	...	183	1,466	...	1,466	1,456	...	1,456
Lead, Tin and Copper Mining	468	...	468	3	...	3	471	...	471	471	...	471
Stone Quarrying and Mining	2,443	6	2,449	353	1	354	2,836	7	2,843	2,620	7	2,627
Slate Quarrying and Mining	108	...	108	15	...	15	123	...	123	122	...	122
Other Mining and Quarrying	1,441	54	1,495	301	8	309	1,742	62	1,804	1,685	62	1,747
Clay, Sand, Gravel and Chalk Pit Digging	641	6	647	52	5	57	693	11	704	667	11	678
Non-Metalliferous Mining Products :-												
Coke Ovens and By-Product Works	1,009	18	1,027	80	1	81	1,089	19	1,108	1,087	19	1,106
Artificial Stone and Concrete Manufacture	1,644	69	1,713	323	15	343	1,972	84	2,056	1,963	83	2,046
Cement, Limekilns and Whiting Works	815	24	839	146	1	147	961	25	986	928	25	953
Brick, Tile, etc., Making	3,552	373	3,925	499	102	601	4,051	475	4,526	3,823	475	4,298
Pottery, Earthenware, etc.	1,690	1,574	3,264	2,494	3,822	6,316	4,184	5,396	9,580	4,171	5,396	9,567
Glass Trades :-												
Glass (excluding Bottles and Scientific Glass) Manufacture	2,072	256	2,328	527	59	586	2,599	315	2,914	2,590	315	2,905
Glass Bottle Making	2,291	139	2,430	492	16	508	2,783	155	2,938	2,782	155	2,937
Ammunition, Explosives, Chemicals, etc. :-												
Chemicals Manufacture	4,789	681	5,470	540	121	661	5,329	802	6,131	5,275	800	6,075
Explosives Manufacture	812	475	1,287	55	48	103	867	523	1,390	865	523	1,388
Paints, Varnish, Japan, Red and White Lead Manufacture	633	132	765	32	14	46	665	146	811	664	146	810
Oil, Grease, Glue, Soap, Ink, Match, etc., Manufacture	3,666	805	4,471	849	170	1,019	4,515	975	5,490	4,494	955	5,449
Metal Manufacture :-												
Pig Iron Manufacture (Blast Furnaces)	2,389	10	2,399	893	3	896	3,282	13	3,295	3,280	13	3,293
Steel Melting and Iron Puddling Furnaces, Iron and Steel Rolling Mills and Forges	16,216	131	16,347	16,997	166	17,163	33,213	297	33,510	33,197	297	33,494
Manufacture of Brass, Copper, Zinc, Tin, Lead, etc.	3,000	192	3,192	952	37	989	3,952	229	4,181	3,875	229	4,104
Manufacture of Tin Plates	892	55	947	2,245	269	2,514	3,137	324	3,461	3,134	324	3,458
Iron and Steel Tube Making	2,017	115	2,132	1,928	20	1,948	3,945	135	4,080	3,942	135	4,077
Wire, Wire Netting, Wire Rope Manufacture	1,697	228	1,925	1,441	65	1,506	3,138	293	3,431	3,133	293	3,425
Engineering, etc. :-												
General Engineering; Engineers' Iron and Steel Founding	49,142	1,315	50,457	15,123	331	15,454	64,265	1,646	65,911	62,970	1,643	64,613
Electrical Engineering	3,142	592	3,734	434	165	599	3,576	757	4,333	3,560	757	4,317
Marine Engineering, etc.	10,030	34	10,064	323	1	324	10,353	35	10,388	8,349	35	8,384
Constructional Engineering	2,477	29	2,506	328	1	329	2,805	30	2,835	2,804	30	2,834
Construction and Repair of Vehicles :-												
Construction and Repair of Motor Vehicles, Cycles and Aircraft	10,770	999	11,769	1,389	173	1,562	12,159	1,172	13,331	11,998	1,168	13,166
Construction and Repair of Carriages, Carts, etc.	1,456	123	1,579	273	31	304	1,729	154	1,883	1,653	154	1,807
Railway Carriage, Wagon and Tram-car Building	2,473	17	2,490	654	...	654	3,127	17	3,144	3,119	17	3,136

INDUSTRY.	GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.									GREAT BRITAIN ONLY.		
	WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED (INCLUDING CASUALS).			TEMPORARY STOPPAGES.			TOTAL.			WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED, TEMPORARY STOPPAGES AND CASUALS.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing ...	56,937	139	57,076	945	8	953	57,882	147	58,029	53,668	142	53,810
Metal Trades :-												
Stove, Grate, Pipe, etc., and General Iron Founding	5,840	468	6,308	1,712	354	2,066	7,552	822	8,374	7,460	822	8,282
Electrical Wiring and Contracting ...	933	29	962	69	...	69	1,002	29	1,031	970	29	999
Electrical Cable, Wire and Electric Lamp Manufacture	3,651	2,132	5,783	523	484	1,007	4,174	2,616	6,790	4,164	2,616	6,780
Hand Tool, Cutlery, Saw, File Making	2,656	811	3,467	2,057	431	2,488	4,713	1,242	5,955	4,710	1,242	5,952
Bolts, Nuts, Screws, Rivets, Nails, etc., Manufacture	1,241	815	2,056	668	189	857	1,909	1,004	2,913	1,909	1,004	2,913
Brass and Allied Metal Wares Manufacture	1,578	997	2,575	414	315	729	1,992	1,312	3,304	1,988	1,312	3,300
Heating and Ventilating Apparatus	438	28	466	65	...	65	503	28	531	502	28	530
Watches, Clocks, Plate, Jewellery, etc., Manufacture	1,814	1,137	2,951	660	693	1,353	2,474	1,630	4,104	2,441	1,629	4,070
Other Metal Industries	7,527	4,282	11,809	2,431	1,972	4,403	9,958	5,854	15,812	9,841	5,850	15,691
Textile Trades :-												
Cotton	6,932	8,327	15,259	7,733	16,259	23,992	14,665	24,586	39,251	14,658	24,584	39,242
Woolen and Worsted	4,244	3,644	7,888	5,602	10,427	16,029	9,846	14,071	23,917	9,810	14,051	23,861
Silk	757	659	1,416	908	1,851	2,759	1,665	2,510	4,175	1,663	2,510	4,173
Linen	2,941	3,047	5,988	301	596	897	3,242	3,643	6,885	408	710	1,118
Jute	1,178	1,293	2,471	182	288	470	1,360	1,581	2,941	1,357	1,581	2,938
Hemp Spinning and Weaving, Rope, Cord, Twine, etc., Making	497	605	1,102	169	339	508	666	944	1,610	532	819	1,351
Hosiery	553	2,135	2,688	695	4,132	4,827	1,248	6,267	7,515	1,233	6,222	7,455
Lace	487	241	728	718	393	1,111	1,205	634	1,839	1,205	634	1,839
Carpet Manufacture	331	343	674	284	488	772	615	831	1,446	613	830	1,443
Other Textile Industries	789	1,841	2,630	180	931	1,111	969	2,771	3,741	870	2,436	3,306
Textile Bleaching, Printing, Dyeing, etc.	3,716	1,097	4,813	8,922	2,098	11,020	12,638	3,195	15,833	12,160	2,941	15,101
Leather and Leather Goods :-												
Tanning, Currying and Dressing ...	2,127	433	2,560	842	186	1,028	2,969	619	3,588	2,964	619	3,583
Saddlery, Harness and other Leather Goods Manufacture	1,109	804	1,913	187	274	461	1,296	1,078	2,374	1,268	1,076	2,344
Clothing Trades :-												
Tailoring	2,815	2,124	4,939	191	1,158	1,349	3,006	3,282	6,288	2,816	3,198	6,014
Dress and Mantle Making and Millinery	585	2,192	2,777	17	308	325	602	2,500	3,102	592	2,386	2,978
Hat and Cap (including Straw Plait) Manufacture	454	347	801	109	187	296	563	534	1,097	561	532	1,093
Blouses, Shirts, Collars, Underclothing, etc., Making	333	1,436	1,769	15	632	647	348	2,068	2,416	266	1,082	1,348
Other Dress Industries	607	385	992	117	252	369	724	637	1,361	714	636	1,350
Boot, Shoe, Slipper and Clog Trades	5,656	1,409	7,065	3,150	1,575	4,725	8,806	2,984	11,790	8,638	2,969	11,607
Food, Drink and Tobacco :-												
Bread, Biscuit, Cake, etc., Making ...	7,185	2,567	9,752	258	227	485	7,443	2,794	10,237	6,893	2,768	9,661
Grain Milling	1,538	152	1,690	355	52	387	1,873	204	2,077	1,798	198	1,996
Cocoa, Chocolate and Sugar Confectionery	1,755	2,493	4,248	455	3,179	3,634	2,210	5,672	7,882	2,196	5,670	7,866
Other Food Industries	4,447	4,552	8,999	336	710	1,046	4,783	5,262	10,045	4,670	5,228	9,898
Drink Industries	4,654	1,607	6,261	166	173	339	4,820	1,780	6,600			

NUMBERS INSURED AND PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED.

INDUSTRY.	GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.															GREAT BRITAIN ONLY. TOTAL PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 25TH APR., 1927.
	PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 25TH APRIL, 1927.															
	ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AT JULY, 1926.			WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED (including Casuals).			TEMPORARY STOPPAGES.			TOTAL.			INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN TOTAL PERCENTAGES AS COMPARED WITH			
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	21st MAR., 1927.	26th APR., 1926.	27th APR., 1925.	
Fishing	26,090	880	26,970	13.2	14.4	13.3	0.4	3.2	0.4	13.6	17.6	13.7	-1.8	+0.6	+0.1	13.7
Mining	1,220,550	7,320	1,227,870	9.3	8.1	9.3	8.5	5.1	8.5	17.8	13.2	17.8	+1.0	+9.9	+6.2	17.8
Coal Mining	1,220,550	7,320	1,227,870	9.3	8.1	9.3	8.5	5.1	8.5	17.8	13.2	17.8	+1.0	+9.9	+6.2	17.8
Iron Ore and Ironstone Mining and Quarrying	15,280	40	15,320	8.4	...	8.4	1.2	...	1.2	9.6	...	9.6	-1.3	-6.5	-8.1	9.6
Lead, Tin and Copper Mining	5,250	40	5,290	8.9	...	8.9	0.1	...	0.1	9.0	...	9.0	-2.7	-1.2	-6.7	8.9
Stone Quarrying and Mining	40,820	330	41,150	6.0	1.8	6.0	0.9	0.3	0.9	5.9	2.1	6.9	+0.3	-0.1	+1.3	6.6
Slate Quarrying and Mining	10,850	10	10,870	1.0	...	1.0	0.1	...	0.1	1.1	...	1.1	-0.5	-2.1	-2.9	1.1
Other Mining and Quarrying	17,920	1,630	19,550	8.0	3.3	7.6	1.7	0.5	1.6	9.7	3.8	9.2	-0.2	-1.6	+1.6	9.2
Clay, Sand, Gravel and Chalk Pit Digging	14,960	170	15,130	4.3	3.5	4.3	0.3	3.0	0.4	4.6	6.5	4.7	+0.1	+1.0	+1.2	4.5
Non-Metalliferous Mining Products:—	11,560	160	11,720	8.7	11.3	8.8	0.7	0.6	0.7	9.4	11.9	9.5	-2.4	-2.0	-4.1	9.4
Coke Ovens and By-Product Works	15,230	1,230	16,460	10.8	5.6	10.4	2.1	1.2	2.1	12.9	6.8	12.5	+0.3	-1.0	-3.8	12.5
Artificial Stone and Concrete Manufacture	17,970	950	18,920	4.5	2.5	4.4	0.8	0.1	0.8	5.3	2.6	5.2	+0.2	+0.5	-0.3	5.2
Cement, Limekilns and Whiting Works	75,230	7,580	82,910	4.7	4.9	4.7	0.7	1.3	0.8	5.4	6.2	5.5	-0.8	-0.5	-1.6	5.3
Brick, Tile, etc., Making	35,220	38,590	73,810	4.8	4.1	4.4	7.1	9.9	8.6	11.9	14.0	13.0	+1.3	-0.2	-2.2	13.0
Pottery, Earthenware, etc.	21,320	5,270	26,590	9.7	4.9	8.8	2.5	1.1	2.2	12.2	6.0	11.0	+1.2	+1.6	-2.0	10.9
Glass Trades:—	15,910	2,100	18,010	14.4	6.6	13.5	3.1	0.8	2.8	17.5	7.4	16.3	+2.2	+1.1	-4.3	16.3
Glass (excluding Bottles and Scientific Glass) Manufacture	15,910	2,100	18,010	14.4	6.6	13.5	3.1	0.8	2.8	17.5	7.4	16.3	+2.2	+1.1	-4.3	16.3
Glass Bottle Making	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ammunition, Explosives, Chemicals, etc.	72,680	21,850	94,530	6.6	3.1	5.8	0.7	0.6	0.7	7.3	3.7	6.5	+0.1	-0.9	-2.4	6.5
Chemicals Manufacture	12,520	6,070	18,590	6.5	7.8	6.9	0.4	0.8	0.6	6.9	8.6	7.5	-0.1	-0.3	...	7.5
Explosives Manufacture	13,450	3,900	17,350	4.7	3.4	4.4	0.2	0.3	0.3	4.9	3.7	4.7	-0.5	-0.1	-0.1	4.7
Paint, Varnish, Japan, Red and White Lead Manufacture	59,550	20,850	80,400	6.2	3.9	5.6	1.4	0.8	1.2	7.6	4.7	6.8	-0.1	-0.3	-1.4	6.8
Oil, Grease, Glue, Soap, Ink, Match, etc., Manufacture	24,210	280	24,490	9.9	3.6	9.8	3.7	1.0	3.7	13.6	4.6	13.5	+1.0	+0.2	-6.9	13.5
Metal Manufacture:—	189,980	3,870	193,850	8.5	3.4	8.4	9.0	4.3	8.9	17.5	7.7	17.3	+1.9	-3.0	-9.4	17.3
Pig Iron Manufacture (Blast Furnaces)	39,120	3,370	42,490	7.7	5.7	7.5	2.4	1.1	2.3	10.1	6.8	9.8	+0.6	+0.2	-2.7	9.8
Steel Melting and Iron Puddling Furnaces, Iron and Steel Rolling Mills and Forges	27,290	4,500	31,790	3.3	1.2	3.0	8.2	6.0	7.9	11.5	7.2	10.9	+5.9	-5.1	-25.9	10.9
Manufacture of Brass, Copper, Zinc, Tin, Lead, etc.	26,580	1,760	28,340	7.6	6.5	7.5	7.2	1.2	6.9	14.8	7.7	14.4	+0.6	-1.6	-4.4	14.4
Manufacture of Tin Plates	20,830	4,240	25,070	8.1	5.4	7.7	7.0	1.5	6.0	15.1	6.9	13.7	-0.3	+2.7	-1.4	13.7
Iron and Steel Tube Making	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Wire, Wire Netting, Wire Rope Manufacture	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Engineering, etc.:—	572,820	43,100	615,920	8.6	3.1	8.2	2.6	0.7	2.5	11.2	3.9	10.7	-0.6	-0.5	-2.4	10.6
General Engineering; Engineers' Iron and Steel Founding	61,240	15,760	77,000	5.1	3.8	4.8	0.7	1.0	0.8	5.2	4.8	5.6	-0.6	-1.0	...	5.6
Electrical Engineering	57,370	1,000	58,370	17.5	3.4	17.2	0.5	0.1	0.6	18.0	3.5	17.8	-1.1	-4.4	-0.5	15.9
Marine Engineering, etc.	26,370	1,060	27,430	9.4	2.7	9.1	1.2	0.1	1.2	10.6	2.8	10.3	-0.9	-2.2	-3.6	10.3
Constructional Engineering	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Construction and Repair of Vehicles:—	201,780	22,260	224,040	5.3	4.5	5.3	0.7	0.8	0.7	6.0	5.3	6.0	-0.6	+0.2	-0.3	5.9
Construction and Repair of Motor Vehicles, Cycles and Aircraft	19,350	2,350	21,700	7.5	5.2	7.3	1.4	1.4	1.4	8.9	6.6	8.7	-0.6	+0.6	-2.1	8.4
Construction and Repair of Carriages, Carts, etc.	54,970	1,320	56,290	4.5	1.3	4.4	1.2	...	1.2	5.7	1.3	5.6	-1.2	+0.4	-1.2	5.6
Railway Carriage, Wagon and Tram-car Building	220,820	3,300	224,120	25.8	4.2	25.5	0.4	0.3	0.4	26.2	4.5	25.9	-3.1	-8.8	-5.5	25.7
Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Metal Trades:—	82,160	8,330	90,490	7.1	5.6	7.0	2.1	4.3	2.3	9.2	9.9	9.3	+0.2	+0.2	-1.5	9.2
Stove, Grate, Pipe, etc., and General Iron Founding	12,740	1,170	13,910	7.3	2.5	6.9	0.6	...	0.5	7.9	2.5	7.4	-0.5	-1.2	-0.4	7.3
Electrical Wiring and Contracting	56,030	31,880	87,910	6.5	6.7	6.6	0.9	1.5	1.1	7.4	8.2	7.7	+0.9	+1.2	-0.8	7.7
Lamp Manufacture	24,620	10,520	35,140	10.8	7.7	9.9	8.3	4.1	7.0	19.1	11.8	16.9	+0.4	+3.2	+4.3	17.0
Hand Tool, Cutlery, Saw, File Making	15,020	11,380	26,400	8.3	7.2	7.8	4.4	1.6	3.2	12.7	8.8	11.0	-0.2	+0.8	-3.6	11.0
Bolts, Nuts, Screws, Rivets, Nails, etc., Manufacture	19,180	11,980	31,160	8.2	8.3	8.3	2.2	2.7	2.3	10.4	11.0	10.6	+0.1	+1.3	-2.7	10.6
Brass and Allied Metal Wares Manufacture	6,610	490	7,100	6.6	5.7	6.6	1.0	...	0.9	7.6	5.7	7.5	+0.2	+0.9	-1.9	7.5
Heating and Ventilating Apparatus	25,400	20,070	45,470	7.1	5.7	6.5	2.6	3.4	3.0	9.7	9.1	9.5	-0.8	...	-2.3	9.4
Watches, Clocks, Plate, Jewellery, etc., Manufacture	117,970	68,450	186,420	6.4	6.3	6.3	2.0	2.3	2.2	8.4	8.6	8.5	-0.7	+0.4	-2.5	8.4
Other Metal Industries	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Textile Trades:—	210,730	368,460	579,190	3.3	2.3	2.6	3.7	4.4	4.2	7.0	6.7	6.8	+0.9	-3.0	-0.3	6.8
Cotton	106,380	148,370	254,750	4.0	2.5	3.1	5.3	7.0	6.3	9.3	9.5	9.4	-0.3	-7.2	-2.2	9.4
Woolen and Worsted	21,350	29,870	51,220	3.5	2.2	2.8	4.3	6.2	5.4	7.8	8.4	8.2	+0.5	+1.1	-0.9	8.1
Silk	28,000	61,590	89,590	10.5	4.9	6.7	1.1	1.0	1.0	11.6	5.9	7.7	-1.1	-15.3	-27.3	7.0
Linen	13,430	28,130	41,560	8.8	4.6	5.9	1.3	1.0	1.2	10.1	5.6	7.1	-1.2	-20.4	-5.5	7.1
Hemp Spinning and Weaving, Rope, Cord, Twine, etc., Making	7,490	12,250	19,740	6.6	4.9	5.6	2.3	2.8	2.6	8.9	7.7	8.2	-0.9	-5.8	-6.6	8.1
Hosiery	21,190	76,700	97,890	2.6	2.8	2.7	3.3	5.4	5.0	5.9	8.2	7.7	+0.2	+1.6	-1.7	7.7
Lace	8,110	10,890	19,000	6.0	2.2	3.8	8.9	3.6	5.9	14.9	5.8	9.7	+1.5	-4.7	-7.9	9.7
Carpet Manufacture	10,730	15,510	26,240	3.1	2.2	2.6	2.6	3.2	2.9	5.7	5.4	5.5	-0.3	-1.7	-2.9	5.5
Other Textile Industries	13,360	31,160	44,520	5.9	5.9	5.9	1.4	3.0	2.5	7.3	8.9	8.4	-0.1	-4.9	-3.8	8.2
Textile Bleaching, Printing, Dyeing, etc.	86,540	32,740	119,280	4.3	3.4	4.0	10.3	6.4	9.3	14.6	9.8	13.3	-1.5	+1.4	+0.3	13.7
Leather and Leather Goods:—	32,080	8,450	40,530	6.6	5.1	6.3	2.7	2.2	2.6	9.3	7.3	8.9	+0.2	-1.3	-3.3	8.9
Tanning, Currying and Dressing	13,750	12,970	26,720	8.1	6.2	7.2	1.3	2.1	1.7	9.4	8.3	8.9	-0.5	+0.9	-2.0	8.8
Saddlery, Harness and other Leather Goods Manufacture	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Clothing Trades:—	66,830	126,930	193,760	4.2	1.7	2.5	0.3	0.9	0.7	4.5	2.6	3.2	-2.4	-0.5	-2.8	3.2
Dress and Mantle Making and Millinery	11,740	95,060	106,800	5.0	2.3	2.6	0.1	0.3	0.3	5.1	2.6	2.9	-1.3	-0.1	-3.5	2.8
Hat and Cap (including Straw Plait) Manufacture	13,400	20,940	34,340	3.4	1.7	2.3	0.8	0.9	0.9	4.2	2.6	3.2	-1.1	-0.2	-4.5	3.2
Blouses, Shirts, Collars, Underclothing, etc., Making	7,240	65,750	72,990	4.6	2.2	2.4	0.2	0.9	0.9	4.8	3.1	3.3	-0.6	-0.8	-4.1	2.4
Other Dress Industries	10,520	17,830	28,350	5.8	2.2	3.5	1.1	1.4	1.3	6.9	3.6	4.8	-0.8	-0.7	-4.6	4.8
Boot, Shoe, Slipper and Clog Trades	92,070	53,930	146,000	6.1	2.6	4.8	3.5	2.9	3.3	9.6	5.5	8.1	...	+0.9	-2.1	8.0

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 25th April, 1927. In certain cases (e.g., Bristol, Birmingham, Sheffield, Liverpool, Glasgow, etc.) the figures cover more than one Exchange area—

Table showing the number of persons registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland on 25th April, 1927, categorized by area and sex.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE STATISTICS: GREAT BRITAIN.

COMPOSITION OF STATISTICS.

On page 186 an explanation is given of the unemployment statistics published weekly in the Press, and monthly in this GAZETTE. The following Table gives figures relating to the 25th April, 1927, for the total of each group included in these statistics. Lines 2 to 5 make up the number of persons on the register; while, by omitting the uninsured persons (line 5) and including lines 1 and 6, the number of books lodged, or, in other words, the number of insured persons recorded as unemployed, is obtained—

Table showing the composition of unemployment statistics, categorized by age and sex.

CLAIMS TO EXTENDED BENEFIT.

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

The following Table gives an analysis of the recommendations of these Committees in Great Britain during the period 15th March to 11th April, 1927:—

Table showing the analysis of recommendations of committees regarding claims to extended benefit, categorized by type of claim.

UNEMPLOYMENT FUND.

During the five weeks ended 30th April, 1927, the receipts and payments of the Unemployment Fund were approximately as shown in the following Table:—

Table showing the receipts and payments of the Unemployment Fund for five weeks ended 30th April, 1927.

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

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.

In the industries covered by the Department's statistics* the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation in April in Great Britain and Northern Ireland resulted in an aggregate increase of about £4,000 in the weekly full-time wages of nearly 27,000 workpeople and in a reduction of about £70,000 in the weekly wages of nearly 560,000 workpeople.

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

Table showing changes in rates of wages and hours of labour, categorized by group of industries.

In the mining group there were reductions in the wages of coal miners in Yorkshire, Cumberland, Leicestershire, North Staffordshire, and the Forest of Dean, the percentage additions to basis rates being reduced by amounts varying from an equivalent of about 3 per cent. on total wages in Leicestershire to about 6½ per cent. in Yorkshire. Ironstone miners in Cleveland had their wages reduced by an amount equivalent to nearly 3 per cent. on current wages.

The largest group of workpeople in the metal industries whose wages were reduced were iron puddlers and iron and steel millmen in the Midlands, the reduction amounting to about 3½ per cent. on current wages. Reductions also occurred in the wages of blast-furnacemen in Cumberland and in those of workpeople employed in the bobbin and shuttle making industry in England and Wales. Blast-furnace workers in the Cleveland district had their wages increased by about 8 per cent. on current wages, and there were increases for similar classes of workpeople in North and South Staffordshire and Northamptonshire.

The reductions in the textile group were due to the operation of cost-of-living sliding scales. There was a reduction in the bonus paid to hosiery workers in the Midlands of 1d. from 8d. to 7d. on each shilling, and hosiery bleachers, dyers, etc., in the same district also sustained reductions of varying amounts. Workpeople employed in the bleaching, dyeing, etc., industry in Yorkshire had their wages reduced by over 4 per cent. on current rates; while the wages of similar classes in Lancashire and Scotland were reduced by 2s. 6d. or 2s. 7d. per week in the case of adult male workers, and 1s. 6d. per week in that of adult female workers.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING APRIL, 1927.

Table showing principal changes in rates of wages reported during April, 1927, categorized by industry and locality.

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

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING APRIL, 1927 (continued).

Table with columns: Industry, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Includes sections for Mining and Quarrying, Iron and Steel Industries, and Other Metal Industries.

* The increase did not apply to men whose base rates were below 3s. 9d. per shift, as all rates below that amount still carry the gratuity granted in 1925, &c., amounts varying according to base rates from 5d. to 1d. per shift.
† This percentage is arrived at by adding to the selling price sliding-scale percentage a subsistence allowance calculated on varying proportions of the difference between the sliding-scale percentage and the average cost-of-living figure for the period covered by the prices ascertainment.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING APRIL, 1927 (continued).

Table with columns: Industry, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Includes sections for Textile Industries and Clothing Industries.

* In respect of the preceding pay period.
† Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements.
‡ Leicester, Loughborough, Nottingham, Mansfield, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Ilkeston, Derby, Hinckley, and Coventry districts.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING APRIL, 1927 (continued).

Table with columns: Industry, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Includes sections for FOOD, DRINK, AND TOBACCO INDUSTRIES, WOODWORKING AND FURNITURE INDUSTRIES, BUILDING AND ALLIED INDUSTRIES, and Civil Engineering.

* Barnsley, Bradford, Bridlington, Doncaster, Halifax, Dewsbury, Huddersfield, Hull, Keighley, Leeds, Rotherham, Sheffield, and Wakefield. † Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements. ‡ Anchinloch, Dalmeilington, Irvine, Kilbirnie, Kilmarnock, Kilwinning, Maybole, Stevenston, Troon, etc. § The new rates were embodied in an agreement arrived at between the Scottish National Vehicle Builders' Association and the Trade Unions concerned, by which ordinary time rates previously fixed were stabilised until 31st March, 1928. Night-shift men were defined as those, other than day-shift men, working throughout the night for not less than three consecutive nights. ¶ Including Newcastle, Pelaw, North and South Shields, Sunderland, Gateshead, Middlesbrough, Stockton, West Hartlepool and Darlington. ** The change took effect under an agreement arrived at by the Civil Engineering Construction Conciliation Board. It is understood that the rates of wages agreed upon by the Board are followed by certain public bodies in various parts of the country. *** The change took effect under an award of the Public Works Conciliation Board.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING APRIL, 1927 (continued).

Table with columns: Industry, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Includes sections for GAS, WATER AND ELECTRICITY SUPPLY, TRANSPORT, and PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION SERVICES.

* The decrease affects those undertakings in the areas mentioned which follow the wages agreements of the National Joint Industrial Council for the Waterworks Industry. In the Midlands Area it was agreed to stabilise wages for twelve months from 1st April, and not to put the decrease of 1d. per hour into effect for undertakings in Zones C and D, where the minimum hourly rates for labourers remain at 11d. and 10d. respectively. † Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements. ‡ The workpeople referred to are also affected by the decrease of 1d. per hour taking effect under the cost-of-living sliding scale of the National Joint Industrial Council (see entry above). The net result of the two changes was thus an increase of 1d. per hour, making the rate as shown. § The undertakings affected are those which follow the wages agreements of the District Joint Industrial Council for the Waterworks Industry and include:—Grade D, Southampton (town area); Grade C, Reading (pays higher rates); Grade A, Southampton (country area). ¶ The undertakings affected are those which follow the wages agreements of the District Joint Industrial Council for the Waterworks Industry and include:—Grade A area: Eastbourne Waterworks Co. (pumping staff); Faversham Water Co.; Grade R: South West Suburban Water Co.; Grade C: Eastbourne Waterworks Co. (distributing staff); Folkestone Waterworks Co.; Brighton. Under the cost-of-living sliding scale a reduction of 2s. per week was due in Grade A area, but it was agreed that a reduction of 1s. only should be made. ** The undertakings affected are those which follow the wages agreements of the District Joint Industrial Council for the Electricity Supply Industry and include Plymouth (Zone A), and Exeter (Zone B), but pays 1d. per hour above scheduled rates. *** This increase was recommended by the District Joint Industrial Council for the Electricity Supply Industry. The undertakings affected are those which follow the wages agreements of that Council and include:—Group A: Ayrshire Electricity Board, Cambuslang, Clyde Valley Electrical Power Co., Edinburgh, Electric Supply Corporation, Ltd. (Dumbarton), Greenock, Motherwell and Wishaw, Paisley; Group C: Stirling, Bo'ness, Electric Supply Corporation, Ltd. (Dollar, Jedburgh, Melrose, St. Andrews). †† The above reductions were agreed to in June, 1926, to take effect from the date shown. The Class 2 stations referred to include:—Antrim, Armagh, Ballymena, Ballymoney, Banbridge, Bangor, Coleraine, Cookstown, Downpatrick, Enniskillen, Larne, Larne Harbour, Lisburn, Londonderry, Lurgan, Newcastle, Newry, Newtownards, Omagh, Portadown, Strabane. †‡ The decrease applied to the principal coal-exporting centres, including those on the North-East Coast ports, the East Coast, the East of Scotland and in the Bristol Channel. At certain North-East Coast ports an extra 5 per cent. is paid in addition to the 100 per cent. quoted above, and higher percentages are also paid at certain docks at Bristol Channel ports. It is reported that the minimum weekly wage is in abeyance at Hull and Immingham and at certain docks at Grimsby. §§ The Authorities affected are those which follow the wages agreements of the Provincial Joint Industrial Council for Local Authorities' Non-Trading Services and include:—Grade A1: Bournemouth, Oxford; Grade B1: Basingstoke, Winchester, Farnborough, Slough; Grade B2: Marlow; Grade C1: Hampshire County Council. The rates paid by some of the Authorities differ slightly from the rates quoted above.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING APRIL 1927 (continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION SERVICES (continued).				
Local Government Services—(cont.)	Certain Authorities in Cornwall, Devon and Dorset.* Ayrshire (Ayr District). Ayrshire (Northern District).	1st full pay in April.	Manual workers	Decrease† of 1s. per week. Scheduled minimum rates after change: Grade A Authorities, 52s.; Grade B, 45s.; Grade C, 41s.; Grade D, 39s.; Grade E, 37s.; Grade F, 35s. per week.*
		14 Feb. 11 April 4 April	Road surfacemen employed by County Council. Labourers employed by County Council.	Decrease† of 1s. per week (47s. to 46s.). Further decrease† of 1s. per week (46s. to 45s.). Decrease† of 1s. per week (54s. to 53s.).
MISCELLANEOUS INDUSTRIES.				
Leather Goods Manufacture.	London	14 March	Male workers under 21 years of age employed in the fancy and solid leather goods trade.	Scale of minimum weekly rates adopted, starting at 12s. at 14 years, increasing each half-year to 32s. at 18 and then each year to 48s. at 20 years.
Cerement Making	Great Britain	1 April	Female workers	Increase in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of ½d. per hour for those under 16 years of age, the rates for those 16 and over remaining unchanged. (See page 160 of April GAZETTE.)
Milk Distribution	Scotland	25 April	Workpeople employed in the milk distributive trade:—	Decreases in the minimum time rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of the following amounts for the classes named respectively:— (See page 203).
			Foremen	Decrease of 1s. 6d. per week. Minimum rate after change: 59s.
			Male clerks and shop assistants	Decrease of 6d. or 1s. per week (except for those under 17 years, for whom there was no change). Minimum rates after change: 12s. 6d. at under 15 years, increasing each year to 47s. at 21 and over.
			All other male workers; also roundswomen.	Decrease of 6d. or 1s. per week (except for those under 17 years, for whom there was no change). Minimum rates after change: 12s. 6d. at under 15 years, increasing each year to 29s. 6d. at 18 and to 43s. 6d. or 45s. 6d. at 21 and over.
			Female clerks	Decrease of 6d. per week (except for those under 18 years, for whom there was no change). Minimum rates after change: 11s. 6d. at under 15 years increasing each year to 29s. 6d. at 21 and over.
Female shop assistants	Decrease of 6d. per week (except for those under 19 years, for whom there was no change). Minimum rates after change: 9s. at under 15 years, increasing each year to 26s. 6d. at 21 and over.			
All other female workers (except roundswomen).	Decrease of 6d. per week (except for those under 18 years, for whom there was no change). Minimum rates after change: 11s. 6d. at under 15 years, increasing each year to 24s. 6d. at 21 and over.			
Wholesale Warehousing.	Manchester	1st pay day in April.	Workpeople employed in wholesale warehouses (clothing, millinery, cotton, etc.).	Decrease† of from 3d. to 1s. 3d. per week for male workers and from 3d. to 8d. per week for female workers. Minimum rates after change: male workers—10s. 6d. at 14 years, increasing each year to 38s. 6d. at 21, and 51s. 6d. at 23; female workers—10s. at 14 years, increasing each year to 20s. 6d. at 18 and 29s. at 21.

CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED DURING APRIL, 1927.

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change.
Local Government Services.	Shoreditch	1 April	Manual workers employed in non-trading departments.†	Increase of 3 hours per week (44 to 47).

* The Authorities affected are those which follow the wages agreements of the Provincial Joint Industrial Council for Local Authorities' Non-Trading Services and include:—Grade B: Bideford, Ilfracombe, Newton Abbot, Poole, Weymouth; Grade C: Exmouth; Grade D: Launceston; Grade E: Seaton. The rates paid by some of the Authorities are higher than those shown.
† Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements.
‡ Excluding those whose wages are governed by agreements made by outside bodies (e.g., the Public Works Conciliation Board), whose hours follow those laid down by such agreements.

PRICES AND WAGES IN THE IRON AND STEEL TRADE.

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

Product and District.	Price according to last Audit.*		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) of last Audit* on	
	Period covered by last Audit.	Average selling price per ton.	Previous Audit.	A year ago.
Pig Iron:				
Cleveland (No. 3)	1927. Jan.-Mar.	s. d. 78 2½	s. d. - 26 1½	s. d. + 12 3½
Cumberland	Jan.-Feb.	79 10½	+ 3 0½	+ 4 5
(Hematite mixed numbers).	Jan.	78 1	+ 0 10½	+ 2 7
Nottinghamshire	Feb.	81 3½	+ 1 8½	+ 9 5½
North Staffordshire	Jan.-Mar.	73 9	+ 1 8½	+ 9 5½
Northamptonshire	Jan.-Mar.	80 10½	- 17 10½	+ 11 9½
West of Scotland	Jan.-Mar.	69 5½	+ 1 4½	+ 10 4½
Manufactured Iron:	Jan.-Mar.	85 1	- 6 10	+ 7 3
North of England	Jan.-Feb.	227 10	+ 9 1	- 11 4½
(Bars and angles).	Jan.-Feb.	233 1½	- 2 7½	- 2 6½
West of Scotland	Jan.-Feb.	226 0½	- 5 11½	+ 5 8
(Rounds, flats, tees, angles, hoops, and rods).	Jan.-Mar.	126 0½	- 5 11½	+ 5 8
Steel:	Jan.-Mar.	126 0½	- 5 11½	+ 5 8
South-West Wales	Dec. 1926- Feb. 1927	126 1½	- 12 2	- 7 3½
South Wales and Monmouthshire	Dec. 1926- Feb. 1927	126 1½	- 12 2	- 7 3½
(Steel rails and steel tin bars).	Dec. 1926- Feb. 1927	126 1½	- 12 2	- 7 3½

* Stated to the nearest farthing.
† The Audit referred to covered the period July-December, 1926.

The price of Cleveland pig iron indicated in the Table made the addition to the basis rates of Cleveland blastfurnacemen 24 per cent.* In the case of iron-ore miners in Cumberland, under the terms of a new sliding scale, there was no change in wages during March. The Cumberland ascertainment for January resulted in no change in wages for limestone quarries in West Cumberland, but the February ascertainment resulted in increases varying from 1d. to 2½d. per shift. The ascertainment for January-February made no variation in the wages of Furness iron-ore miners, though in the case of blastfurnacemen in West Cumberland and North Lancashire the same ascertainment warranted a reduction of 3½ per cent. on the standard rates, but this was applied only to the output bonus earnings of keepers, slaggars, and certain other classes of men. Reductions warranted by the Nottinghamshire ascertainment were not enforced. The North Staffordshire ascertainment resulted in the payment of an addition to the standard rates of blastfurnacemen of 6l per cent.* As a result of a new agreement (see page 73 of the February GAZETTE) there was a reduction of ¼ per cent. on standard rates of blastfurnacemen in Northamptonshire in January, followed by an increase of 1 per cent. in April. The ascertainment for West Scotland resulted in a decrease of 6 per cent. on standard rates.

As regards manufactured iron there was an increase in March of 5 per cent. on standard rates for iron puddlers and millmen in the North of England, whilst the ascertainment for West Scotland warranted no change. In the case of Siemens steel workers in South West Wales the ascertainment resulted in a decrease of 2½ per cent. on standard basis rates of the higher paid men; and the South Wales and Monmouthshire ascertainment, warranted a decrease which, however, was not enforced.

* The above percentages for blastfurnacemen in Cleveland and North Staffordshire resulted in an increase in wages (see page 192), the previous rates not having been determined by the current price of pig iron.

TRADE DISPUTES IN APRIL.*

Number, Magnitude and Duration.—The number of trade disputes involving a stoppage of work, reported to the Department as beginning in April in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was 16, as compared with 22 in the previous month and 42 in April, 1926. 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 1,100. In addition, about 9,100 workpeople were involved, either directly or indirectly, in 20 disputes which began before April and were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The number of new and old disputes was thus 36, involving about 10,200 workpeople, and resulting in a loss of approximately 79,000 working days.

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

Groups of Industries.	Number of Disputes in progress in Month.			Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress in Month.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress in Month.
	Started before beginning of Month.	Started in Month.	Total.		
Mining and Quarrying ...	8	1	9	9,000	70,000
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding	5	6	11	600	3,000
Other	7	9	16	600	6,000
Total, April, 1927	20	16	36	10,200	79,000
Total, March, 1927	13	22	35	14,000	137,000
Total, April, 1926	26	42	68	51,000	424,000

Causes.—Of the 16 disputes beginning in April, 11, directly involving 600 workpeople, arose on questions as to wages; and 5, directly involving 300 workpeople, on other questions.

Results.—Settlements were effected in the case of 11 new disputes, directly involving 600 workpeople, and 9 old disputes, directly involving 7,700 workpeople. Of these new and old disputes, 3, directly involving 2,100 workpeople, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 6, directly involving 500 workpeople, in favour of the employers; and 11, directly involving 5,700 workpeople, were compromised. In the case of one other dispute, directly involving 80 workpeople, work was resumed pending negotiations.

TOTALS FOR FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF 1926 AND 1927.†

The following Table summarises the figures for Great Britain and Northern Ireland for the first four months of 1927, as compared with the corresponding period of 1926:—

Groups of Industries.	January to April, 1926.			January to April, 1927.		
	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.
Mining and Quarrying ...	48	44,000	1,159,000	28	22,000	399,000
Engineering and Shipbuilding ...	10	4,000	52,000	11	500	3,000
Other Metal	19	8,000	91,000	13	2,000	13,000
Textile	20	9,000	108,000	9	2,000	11,000
Building, Public Works Contracting, etc.	16	2,000	9,000	12	6,000	83,000
Transport	21	12,000	143,000	6	500	2,000
Other	38	8,000	160,000	13	1,000	9,000
Total	172	87,000	1,722,000	92	34,000	520,000

PRINCIPAL DISPUTES INVOLVING STOPPAGES OF WORK DURING APRIL, 1927.

Occupations and Locality.‡	Approximate Number of Workpeople Involved.		Date when Dispute Began.		Cause or Object.‡	Result.‡
	Directly.	Indirectly.‡	1926.	1927.		
Coal miners, etc.—Sunderland (near)	1,705	...	1 Dec.	25 April	Against local reduction in piece-work rates of wages offered on termination of national stoppage.	Men accepted employers' offer to postpone the reduction until six weeks after resumption of work.
Coal miners, etc.—Newport, Mon. (near).	3,000	...	8 Dec.	14 April	Against local concessions as to wages, etc. demanded on termination of national stoppage.	Amicable settlement effected.
Coal hewers, fillers, putters, datallers, screenmen and mechanics—Sunderland (near).	585	1,024	8 Jan.†	...	Dispute respecting Saturday working hours.	No settlement reported.
Coal miners, mechanics, enginemen, etc.—Gateshead (near).	753	67	12 Feb.†	...	Dispute respecting Saturday working hours.	No settlement reported.
Coal miners, etc.—Blaenavon, Mon	2,100	...	29 March	6 April	Refusal to work with non-members of the South Wales Miners' Federation.	Non-members joined the Federation.

* Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople, and those which lasted less than one day, have, as usual, been omitted from the statistics, except when the aggregate duration (i.e., number of workpeople multiplied by number of working days, allowing for workpeople replaced by others, etc.) exceeded 100 days.
† In making up the totals for the several months of the year the figures have been amended in accordance with the most recent information. Workpeople involved in more than one dispute are counted more than once in the totals; the amount of such duplication is, however, very slight.
‡ The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople "indirectly involved," i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes. The statements of cause and result do not apply to these persons.
§ Date of termination at one colliery. At the other, work was resumed in January.
¶ Dispute caused stoppage of work on alternate Saturdays only, one Saturday per fortnight being customarily idle.

TRADE DISPUTES IN 1926.

A special article dealing with the statistics of Strikes and Lock-outs in Great Britain and Northern Ireland in 1926 appears on pages 168-170 of this issue. The figures in this article serve to bring up to date the statistics relating to Strikes and Lock-outs in 1910-25 which were published in the "Eighteenth Abstract of Labour Statistics." (Cmd. 2740.)

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.

THE total number of cases* of poisoning, anthrax, and epitheliomatous and chrome ulceration in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, reported during April, 1927, under the Factory and Workshop Act or under the Lead Paint (Protection against Poisoning) Act, 1926, was 67. Twelve deaths* were reported during the month, seven due to epitheliomatous ulceration, four due to lead poisoning and one due to anthrax. In addition, one case of lead poisoning among house plumbers came to the knowledge of the Home Office during April, but notification of these cases is not obligatory.

Table with columns (a) CASES OF LEAD POISONING, (b) CASES OF OTHER FORMS OF POISONING, (c) CASES OF ANTHRAX, (d) CASES OF EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCERATION, (e) CASES OF CHROME ULCERATION. Rows include occupations like Smelting of Metals, Plumbing and Soldering, Shipbreaking, etc.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

THE number of workpeople, other than seamen, reported as killed in the course of their employment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland during April, 1927, was 200, as compared with 249 in the previous month and with 188† in April, 1926. Fatal accidents to seamen numbered 43 in April, 1927, as compared with 93 in the previous month, and with 50 a year ago.

Table with columns RAILWAY SERVICE, FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS, MINES, QUARRIES OVER 20 feet deep, and SEAMEN. Rows include Brakesmen and Goods, Guards, Engine Drivers, etc.

* Cases include all attacks reported during the month, and not previously reported, so far as is known, during the preceding 12 months. Deaths include all fatal cases reported during the month, whether included (as cases) in previous returns or not. † The figure previously published for April, 1926, has been revised.

POOR LAW RELIEF IN GREAT BRITAIN.

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

THE number of persons* relieved on one day† in April, 1927, in the thirty-one selected areas named below was 806,091, or 2.2 per cent. less than in the previous month, but 0.6 per cent. more than in April, 1926. The numbers relieved at these three dates were equivalent, respectively, to rates of 452, 462, and 450 per 10,000 of the estimated population.

Table with columns Selected Urban Areas, Number of persons* in receipt of Poor Law Relief on one day† in April 1927, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with a. Rows include England and Wales, Metropolitan, West Ham, Other Districts, etc.

ASSISTED PASSAGES UNDER THE EMPIRE SETTLEMENT ACT, 1922.

THE number of assisted passages from Great Britain and Northern Ireland granted during April, 1927, in connection with agreed schemes under the Empire Settlement Act, and the total number of such passages granted from the inception of these schemes, together with the number of departures during the same periods, are shown in the following Table:—

Table with columns Assisted Passage Schemes, Assisted Passages Granted, Total Assisted Passages Granted, Departures in April, 1927, Total Departures. Rows include To Australia, New Zealand, Canada, etc.

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

* The figures include dependants, but exclude casuals, lunatics in asylums, registered hospitals and licensed houses, and persons receiving out-door medical relief only. † The figures for England and Wales relate to 23rd April, and those for Scotland to 15th April. ‡ The rates previously published for April, 1926, have been revised. § Revised figures.

RETAIL PRICES OVERSEAS.

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

I.—FOOD.

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

Table with columns Country, Percentage Increase as compared with July, 1914. Rows include United Kingdom, Foreign Countries, British Dominions, etc.

II.—ALL ITEMS.

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

Table with columns Country, Items on which Computation is based, Percentage Increase as compared with July, 1914. Rows include United Kingdom, Foreign Countries, British Dominions, etc.

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

EMPLOYMENT OVERSEAS.

[N.B.—The following paragraphs include an abstract of such official information as is available with regard to the state of employment abroad, in order to indicate, as far as possible, the fluctuations in employment in each country from period to period. The bases of the official statistics published in the various countries are, however, not the same as those of the United Kingdom statistics; and therefore the figures quoted below cannot properly be used with those on pp. 177-178 to compare the actual level of employment in the United Kingdom with that of other countries. For details of the bases of the unemployment statistics of the various countries, reference should be made to the Reports on Statistics of Unemployment issued by the International Labour Office (Studies and Reports, Series C., No. 7, and Series N., No. 7).]

FRANCE.*

Unemployment in April.—The total number of unemployed persons remaining on the "live register" of the Exchanges on 30th April, 1927, was 68,030 (45,524 men and 22,506 women). At the end of March the corresponding total was 86,196. The total number of vacancies remaining unfilled on the same date was 7,289 (3,991 for men and 3,298 for women), as compared with 7,125 at the end of March. During the last week of April the Exchanges succeeded in placing 24,018 persons in situations, including 8,626 dock workers at seaports, and in addition found employment for 4 foreign immigrants.

GERMANY.†

Employment in March.—According to the Reichsarbeitsblatt the improvement in the labour market reported in February (see April GAZETTE, p. 157) continued in March in a more marked degree. This was due mainly to seasonal causes, but there were indications that these were not the only ones operating, and that the improvement did reflect a real general advance in industrial conditions. The mining industry alone failed to show an improvement over the preceding month.

Reports to the number of 3,891 were received from employers, relating to conditions in representative industrial establishments in which slightly over 1½ million workers were employed. The establishments with good or fair employment increased on 15th March as compared with 15th February, while the proportion of workers in establishments with bad employment fell from 33 per cent. on 15th February to 23 per cent. on 15th March. The improvement was particularly noticeable in the textile and engineering industries, but the metal, building and clothing industries also reported better employment.

Returns relating to 3,641,309 organised workers were submitted by 39 national trade unions. Of these, 420,550, or 11.5 per cent., were totally unemployed on 26th March, as compared with 15.5 per cent. on 26th February, and 21.4 per cent. at the end of March, 1926. In addition, 160,080, or 4.4 per cent., were working short time, as against 5.8 per cent. on 26th February, and 21.7 per cent. at the end of March, 1926.

The following Table gives particulars of the total unemployment among the principal Unions represented in the above totals:—

Table with columns UNIONS, Membership reported on at end of March, 1927, Percentage Unemployed at end of Month. Rows include All Unions making Returns, Mining (S.D.), Metal (S.D.), etc.

Figures showing the number of persons in receipt of benefit in respect of total unemployment are available for 15th April, 1927, on which date the total was 1,221,254 (including 234,270 entitled to assistance from special relief funds). On 15th March the corresponding total was 1,659,024 (including 223,357 from special funds).

On 31st March the Employment Exchanges making returns reported 1,919,518 persons on the "live register," as against 2,434,611 at the end of February. The number of vacant situations at the end of March was 56,679, as compared with 43,200 at the end of February.

The membership‡ of health insurance societies advanced from 13,169,795 on 1st March to 13,946,923 on 1st April, or by 5.9 per cent., as against an advance of 1.4 per cent. between 1st February and 1st March.

* Bulletin du Marché du Travail, 6th May, 1927. Paris. † Reichsarbeitsblatt, 1st May, 1927. Berlin. ‡ "Members" of these societies are persons under obligation to pay insurance premiums. During unemployment they are relieved of this obligation; hence paying members are assumed to be in employment.

AUSTRIA.

Unemployment in March.—According to the issue of *Statistische Nachrichten* (the journal of the Austrian Department of Statistics) for 25th April, 1927, the number of persons in receipt of unemployment benefit in Austria was 208,346 at the end of March, as compared with 244,257 at the end of the preceding month. In Vienna alone there were 90,723 persons in receipt of benefit at the end of March, as against 103,122 at the end of February. The total number of applicants for work registered at the employment exchanges at the end of March was 236,261, including 106,007 in Vienna; this total, however, involves some "double counting."

SWITZERLAND.*

Unemployment in March.—On 31st March, 1927, the number of applications remaining on the "livé register" of Employment Exchanges making returns to the Federal Labour Department was 13,568 (or 10.3 per thousand of the employed population according to the Census of 1920), as compared with 19,201 at the end of February (14.6 per thousand) and 14,307 at the end of March, 1926. Offers of situations made by employers on these dates numbered 3,810, 2,253, and 3,215 respectively.

ITALY.†

Unemployment in January.—On 31st January 225,346 workpeople (142,898 males and 82,448 females) were reported to be unemployed in Italy, as compared with 181,493 at the end of the preceding month; the increase between the two dates is thus 43,853, or 24.16 per cent. This total includes 61,223 agricultural, etc., workers, 50,568 workers in the building and building materials trades, the construction of roads, etc., and 42,770 in the textile and clothing trades.

DENMARK.‡

Unemployment in April.—Returns supplied to the Danish Statistical Department by trade unions and by the Central Employment Exchange show that out of 274,673 workpeople 23.6 per cent. were unemployed on 29th April as against 26.5 per cent. at the end of the preceding month, and 16.5 per cent. at the end of April, 1926.

NORWAY.§

Unemployment in February.—Out of 14,602 members of trade unions making returns, 25.5 per cent. were unemployed on the last day of February, 1927. The corresponding figure for the end of January was 26.8 per cent., and that for February, 1926, 22.9 per cent.

SWEDEN.||

Unemployment in March.—The percentage of members of trade unions making returns who were unemployed on 31st March, 1927, was 14.1, as compared with 15.5 on 28th February, and 14.7 on 31st March, 1926.

UNITED STATES.¶

Employment in March.—Figures relating to the volume of employment in March, based on returns from 10,661 establishments in 54 industries, are published by the Federal Bureau of Labour Statistics. These establishments reported 3,099,238 persons employed in March as against 3,082,235 in February. The aggregate wages paid for March show an increase of 1.3 per cent. as compared with February, and the average earnings per head an increase of 0.9 per cent.

Index Number of Employment, March.—If the monthly average index number of employment in manufacturing industries in 1923 be taken as 100, the corresponding figure for March, 1927, is 91.4 as compared with 91.0 in February, and 93.7 in March, 1926.

CANADA.

*Employment in April.***—For 1st April, 1927, returns were received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from 5,931 firms, with an aggregate of 795,727 upon their pay rolls. On 1st March the same firms reported 797,289 employed and the total for April thus shows a decrease of 1,562 persons. If employment in the week ended 17th January, 1920, be represented by 100, the index number of employment for 1st April, 1927 is 96.2, as compared with 96.3 at the beginning of the preceding month and 91.4 on 1st April, 1926.

Trade Union Unemployment in March.††—On 31st March, 1927, 5.7 per cent. of the aggregate membership of trade unions making returns were unemployed, as compared with 6.5 at the end of the preceding month and 7.3 per cent. in March, 1926.

AUSTRALIA.‡‡

Unemployment in First Quarter, 1927.—The proportion of members of trade unions making returns who were unemployed in the first quarter of 1927, amounted to 3.9 per cent., as compared with 5.7 per cent. in the preceding quarter and 8.2 per cent. in the first quarter of 1926. (These figures relate to persons out of work for three days or more during a specified week in each quarter.)

* *Sozialstatistische Mitteilungen*, April, 1927. Berne.

† *Bollettino del Lavoro e della Previdenza Sociale*, 31st March, 1927. Rome.

‡ *Statistiske Efterretninger*, 11th May, 1927. Copenhagen.

§ Information supplied by the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics.

¶ Information supplied by the Swedish Department of Social Affairs.

|| *Employment in Selected Industries*, March, 1927. Washington.

** *The April Employment Situation*, 1927. Ottawa.

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

‡‡ Information supplied by the Commonwealth Prime Minister's Department, Melbourne.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

BUILDING TRADE—ASSOCIATION OF EMPLOYERS—REGULATION OF WAGES AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT—ALLEGED "WAGE RATE DEFAULT"—LIBEL.

In this action the plaintiffs, Bovis, Limited, builders, contractors and decorators, claimed damages for alleged libel from Mr. Fred Thorne, late President of the London Master Builders' Association, and from other members and officers of the Association.

The plaintiffs alleged that in April, May, June and July, 1925, the defendants, on behalf of the Association, issued circulars and other documents containing a list of firms said to be in "wage rate default," and that their (the plaintiffs') name appeared therein. The defendants denied the publication, and pleaded justification and privilege.

The case was previously heard before Mr. Justice Horridge and a special jury in July last, when the case was withdrawn from the jury and judgment entered for the defendants. The plaintiffs appealed to the Court of Appeal, and a new trial was ordered, which took place before Mr. Justice Greer and a special jury.

The learned Judge ruled that, so far as the documents were published in certain (specified) circumstances, the occasions were privileged. The jury found that the documents were defamatory, and that the libels were not true; but that the defendants were not actuated by malice. With regard to the publication of the libels on occasions that were not privileged, the jury awarded the plaintiffs £25 damages.

Apart from the legal questions involved the case was of interest as throwing light upon the methods adopted by an association of employers in attempting the regulation of wages. In the course of the proceedings the following evidence was given on this subject:—

In 1920 nearly 350 employers were members of the London Master Builders' Association. The lack of labour tended to lead to a soaring of prices for building work; but in May, 1920, a national Agreement was entered into, the National Wages and Conditions Council was set up, wages and hours were fixed, and it was provided that both sides (masters and operatives) should adhere to the Agreement. In 1921 and 1922 applications were made by the operatives to vary the terms, and alterations were made in favour of the men. In February, 1923, the Association passed a resolution instructing their representatives on the National Council to press for longer working hours and a reduction in wages. When, however, the matter came before the Council a crisis was caused in the trade, and employers decided to post lock-out notices. Later in that year the plaintiffs, who had previously been members, left the Association. In 1924 trouble started in Liverpool, and there was a lock-out in London. The Council of the Association formed a special committee to consider the question of wage stabilisation, and in November of that year decided to amend the rules. By-laws were adopted, and a further special committee was formed to carry out the procedure relating to unfederated firms. A form was sent to all the members of the Association, and to thirteen non-members (including the plaintiffs), firms signing which agreed to pay the standard rate of wages and to carry out the directions and instructions of the Association with regard to all matters relating to trade disputes. Any one who did not sign the form was declared to be in "wage rate default," if it were known that he was in fact paying more than the standard wages.

In March, 1925, the Association, having received information that the plaintiffs were paying more than the standard rate of wages, sent them another form, which called upon them to sign the first form (i.e., the form pledging them to pay the standard rate of wages) within seven days. No reply having been received from the plaintiffs the Association decided to declare them in "wage rate default," and to circularise the members of the Association and others interested in building operations informing them of this. The circular notice was sent to the members of the Association, to architects and quantity surveyors in the London area, to public bodies who were likely to invite tenders, and to the secretary of the Surveyors' Institution. It was also sent to the engineers of a number of big companies. The result was that the plaintiffs were to a large extent "boycotted."

The by-laws of the Association provided *inter alia* for members to be instructed not to tender in competition with firms who were in "wage rate default." The object of the Association's by-law policy was to force standard wages on all builders whether they were members or not, and to make unfederated firms either come into the Association or undertake the same obligations as members. The Association also sent the circular notice to provincial builders, to prevent them from tendering against firms who were in "wage rate default." When the special committee of the Council was set up after the lock-out in 1924 they came to the conclusion that the only way out of the state of chaos which existed was to insist upon standard wages, and it was with that object in view that the procedure mentioned was adopted.—*Bovis, Limited v. Thorne and others*. High Court of Justice, 22nd March to 6th April, 1927.

Other Recent Decisions of Interest.

Covenants in Restraint of Trade.

A clause in a contract of service prohibiting the servant (a tailor's manager and cutter) after termination of such service from being employed in a similar business for five years within a limit of distance from the employer's places of business held valid as being a reasonable stipulation for employer's protection.—*Putsman v. Taylor*. Court of Appeal, 22nd March, 1927.

Workmen's Compensation Act, 1925.

Workmen's compensation must be measured by the disability of the injured workman in a normal labour market. Regard should not be had to the fact that owing to economic conditions certain

pits where the workman would usually have obtained work were closed down.—*Several cases in Court of Appeal*, 18th and 21st March and 6th April, 1927.

A workman killed by accident left a widow, who ten weeks later gave birth to a child. Under Section 8 (3) (i) of the above Act there is payable, in respect of a dependent child, additional compensation, in the calculation of which a factor is the number of weeks between the workman's death and the date when the child will attain the age of 15. The same calculation must be made here even though the child was born ten weeks after the death.—*Athey v. Pickering, Limited*. Court of Appeal, 8th December, 1926.

Fatal Accidents Act, 1846.

In assessing damages payable to a widow under the above Act in respect of the death of her husband regard should be had to, and damages reduced by the value of, the pension to which she became entitled under the Widows', Orphans', and Old Age Contributory Pensions Act, 1925, as such pension was not "a sum paid or payable on the death of the deceased under any contract of assurance or insurance" which, under section 1 of the Fatal Accidents (Damages) Act, 1908, need not be taken into account.—*Carling v. Lebbon*. High Court of Justice, 31st March and 1st and 13th April, 1927.

Mining Industry Act, 1926.

In considering a scheme for "partial amalgamation" of colliery companies under the above Act the Court must be satisfied that (i) the scheme is in the national interest and (ii) its terms are fair and equitable. But the tendency of the Act being to favour amalgamations the Court ought to adopt a benevolent attitude to applications.—*Re the application of Denaby and Cadeby Main Collieries, Limited, and others*. Railway and Canal Commission, 4th March, 1927.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTS, 1920-26.

DECISIONS GIVEN BY THE UMPIRE.

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

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

The following are recent decisions of general interest:—

Case No. 1303/1927. (11/4/27.) Section 7 (1) (iv) of Principal Act (as amended)—Unable to Obtain Suitable Employment.

PROVISOR (a)—BRICKLAYER REFUSED EMPLOYMENT BECAUSE UNION WAS IN DISPUTE WITH EMPLOYER REGARDING EMPLOYMENT OF JOINER WHO WAS NOT RECOGNISED BY UNION AS JOINER—VACANCY NOT IN CONSEQUENCE OF STOPPAGE DUE TO TRADE DISPUTE.

The applicant, a bricklayer, had been unemployed and in receipt of payment in lieu of unemployment benefit for about 2½ months, when, on the 27th December, 1926, he refused an offer of apparently suitable employment in his own trade at the district standard rate of wages. Accordingly his claim for payment in lieu of unemployment benefit was disallowed for six weeks as from the 27th December, on the ground that he was not unable to obtain suitable employment.

The applicant's association stated that in April there was a dispute between the prospective employer and themselves. The employer had not complied with the rules of the association in that he had employed a man as a joiner who was not recognised as a joiner by the association. In consequence, their members were instructed not to accept work with the employer in question, and, following the offer of work, the Employment Exchange were notified on the 27th December that a dispute existed.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim should be disallowed. The Court were of the opinion that the employment was suitable when it was offered; but, since a trade dispute was notified immediately afterwards, they considered that the period of disallowance should be limited to one day only, the 27th December.

The Insurance Officer did not agree with the Court's recommendation that the period of disallowance should be reduced. He was of the opinion that Decision 4893/1920† applied, and referred the case to the Umpire, who gave the following decision:—

Decision.—"On the facts before me my decision is that, if the above-named employed person had made a claim for unemployment benefit, the claim would have been disallowed."

"The applicant is a bricklayer, who refused employment at the standard rate for bricklayers on the ground that the prospective employer had a dispute with his union. It appears that eight months previously this employer had been objected to because he employed a man as a joiner who was not recognised as a joiner by the building trades union. The employment offered to the applicant was not in a situation vacant in consequence of a stoppage of work due to a trade dispute, and I agree with the Court of Referees that the offer was one of suitable employment. I see no reason, however, for reducing the period of disqualification."

* Volumes containing selected decisions of the Umpire are published by H.M. Stationery Office. Decisions given prior to 31st December, 1925, have been published in pamphlet form and later embodied in bound volumes, the latest being a volume of selected decisions given during the year 1925 (H.M. Stationery Office: price 7s. 6d. net). Decisions given subsequent to December, 1925, are printed in pamphlet form and may be obtained as and when issued, on payment of an annual subscription. All inquiries and applications should be made to H.M. Stationery Office at any of the addresses shown on the front cover of this GAZETTE.

† See Vol. II, Umpire's Selected Decisions (Pamphlet No. 24).

Case No. 1353/27. (21/4/27.) Section 8 (1) of Principal Act—Trade Dispute.

MINERS' DISPUTE—MINER NOT REINSTATED UPON SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTE—SECTION OF PIT IN WHICH HE FORMERLY WORKED FLOODED—FLOODING ALLEGED DUE TO OWNERS' NEGLIGENCE DURING STOPPAGE—STOPPAGE DUE TO DISPUTE NOT TERMINATED.

The applicant, a miner, lost his employment on the 30th April, 1926, in consequence of the national coal mining stoppage, and was not re-instated when a settlement was reached on the 29th November. On the latter day he made a claim for unemployment benefit, which was disallowed under the provisions of Section 8 (1) of the principal Act.

The applicant's union stated that he applied for re-engagement upon the settlement of the dispute, but there was no work for him, as the section where he formerly worked was flooded with water. The union maintained that since the colliery management were allowed to employ as many safety men as desired to preserve the workings during the stoppage, the flooding was attributable to their neglect. Work had been resumed in the remaining sections of the colliery.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim should be allowed. The Court were of the opinion that, had the colliery owners availed themselves fully of the provisions made for the maintenance of the pit during the stoppage, the flooding would not have occurred. They considered therefore that, as from the 29th November, the applicant's loss of employment was not due to a trade dispute.

The Insurance Officer did not agree with the Court's recommendation. In his opinion the continued stoppage was due to the dispute. He referred the case to the Deputy Umpire, who gave the following decision:—

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

"The disqualification for benefit imposed by Section 8 (1) of the 1920 Act continues until the stoppage of work due to the dispute has ceased. Whether the stoppage has ceased is a question of fact to be determined by regarding the colliery as a whole, and not by considering the position of any particular section or sections of the mine (Decision 4943/26)."

"I cannot accept the contention that in the circumstances of a prolonged stoppage the mines should be kept in such perfect condition as to be able to absorb all the men previously employed there immediately the dispute has been settled."

"The evidence before me does not enable me to fix the actual date when the stoppage at this particular colliery ceased, but I am satisfied that it had not ceased at the date when applicant made his claim."

Case No. 1387/27. (27/4/27.) Section 8 (1) of Principal Act and Section 4 (1) of 1924 (No. 2) Act—Trade Dispute.

MINERS' DISPUTE—COLLIERS DEVELOPED NYSTAGMUS DURING STOPPAGE—CLAIMED BENEFIT ON PARTIAL RECOVERY—UNFIT FOR WORK UNDERGROUND, BUT FIT FOR SURFACE WORK—NOT ENTITLED TO RELIEF UNDER SEC. 4 (1) OF 1924 (NO. 2) ACT.

The applicants were colliers, who lost their employment on the 30th April, 1926, owing to the national mining stoppage. They made claims for unemployment benefit at the end of October, which were disallowed under the provisions of Section 8 (1) of the principal Act.

It appeared that, during the period of the stoppage, the applicants had a recurrence of miners' nystagmus, from which they had previously suffered in a mild form, and were awarded full compensation. Subsequently, upon partial recovery, the amount of compensation was reduced; and since they were certified unfit for work underground, and fit only for surface work, which was unobtainable owing to the stoppage, they made claims for benefit.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claims should be disallowed. The Court were of the opinion that the applicants were involved in the mining dispute.

The applicants' association appealed against the disallowance to the Deputy-Umpire, who gave the following decision:—

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

"During the stoppage of work due to the mining dispute, by reason of which the applicants lost employment, they developed nystagmus, but partially recovered from it before the stoppage of work ceased and, therefore, before the statutory disqualification for receiving benefit terminated. They claim that from the date of partial recovery they are entitled to the relief from disqualification under Section 4 (1) of the 1924 (No. 2) Act."

"They base this claim for relief upon the fact that the management of the colliery where they had formerly been employed have made a hard and fast rule against employing underground any men who have suffered from this disease, and upon the difficulty of obtaining any employment either there or at any other collieries."

"Whatever may be the rule at this particular colliery, it is common knowledge that men who have suffered from nystagmus do resume work underground in many collieries. It is also well known that a very large number of men who have so suffered are employed as surface workers. In both cases they are able to earn and do earn the wages payable to the grades or classes of workers whose occupations they are following. The ease or difficulty of obtaining employment has no bearing upon their availability for work or upon determining the grade or class to which they belong."

"There is no more reason for regarding the applicants as constituting a separate and distinct grade or class than there was for

* See Vol. V, Umpire's Selected Decisions, p. 297 (Pamphlet No. 12/1926).

regarding 'compensation men,' such as colliers who, by reason of accidental injuries, have been compelled to take a less remunerative form of labour on the surface, as a class distinct from surface workers (see Decision 1664/25).*

"Having regard to their capacity to work underground or on the surface, the applicants fail to show that at the date of their recovery they were not directly interested in the dispute; and they also fail to show that they did not belong to a grade or class of workers members of which were participating in or financing or directly interested in the then dispute."

Case No. 1388/27. (27/4/27.) Section 8 (1) of Principal Act—Trade Dispute.

MINERS' DISPUTE—MINERS REFUSED TO WORK INCREASED HOURS ON "BAFF" SATURDAY—HOURS NOT REGULATED BY 1926 AGREEMENT TERMINATING NATIONAL STOPPAGE, BUT SUBJECT OF FURTHER NEGOTIATION—MAINTAINED 1920 AGREEMENT APPLICABLE IN MEANTIME—NOT NEW DISPUTE BUT PART OF NATIONAL DISPUTE.

The employees at a colliery claimed unemployment benefit in respect of Saturday, the 22nd January, 1927; but the claims were disallowed for that day on the ground that employment had been lost owing to a stoppage of work due to a trade dispute. The claims of two hewers and a repairer were treated as test cases, and disallowed under the provisions of Section 8 (1) of the principal Act.

It appeared that, prior to the 30th April, 1926, when the national mining stoppage commenced, coal hewers worked two 6-hour shifts on "baff" Saturday, in accordance with the terms of an agreement between the miners' and owners' associations made in 1920. A new agreement made on the 1st December, 1926, terminating the national stoppage, included an increase in the working hours, but only for the first five days of the week. The number of hours to be worked on "baff" Saturday was not then settled, but was to be the subject of further negotiation. Pending a settlement, the owners of the colliery at which the applicants were employed decided to increase the length of the two "baff" Saturday shifts to 7½ hours each, in proportion to the increase on the other days of the week, the new arrangement to commence on the 22nd January. The men, however, refused to work on that date under the new conditions.

The applicants' association stated that there had always been special arrangements regarding the hours of work on "baff" Saturdays, and that when the national stoppage terminated it was agreed that the working agreement which had existed prior to the stoppage should stand as regards the Saturdays in question. The men were prepared to work on "baff" Saturday on the 1920 agreement until the parties conducting negotiations reached a settlement. They did not know of any other colliery working on "baff" Saturday under any other agreement than that of 1920.

The applicant who was employed as a repairer maintained that, since he was engaged on an 8-hour daily shift, he was not interested in the dispute regarding "baff" Saturday, which concerned hewers only.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claims should be disallowed. The Court were of the opinion that "baff" Saturday was a day outside the agreement of the 1st December, 1926, which, on the evidence submitted, was in respect of the first five days of the week only; and that the 1920 agreement had become obsolete when the national stoppage commenced on 30th April, 1926.

The applicants, granted leave by the Court, appealed against the disallowance to the *Umpire*, who gave the following decision:—

Decision.—"On the facts before me my decision is that the claims for benefit should be disallowed. I agree with the recommendation of the Court of Referees. On or about 1st December there was a settlement of the principal matters in dispute which had caused a seven months' stoppage of work at this colliery, and some time after 1st December there was a general resumption of work.

"But there was left unsettled a question as to the hours to be worked by hewers on 'baff' Saturdays, and this phase of the dispute resulted in a further stoppage of work on Saturday, 22nd January, by reason of which the applicants lost employment on that day.

"One of the applicants claims that as he was a day-shift repair man he was not directly interested in the dispute, which affected hewers only. In my opinion, however, the question at issue in January was a part of the general dispute which led to a stoppage of work in April, and was not a new dispute affecting only hewers at this colliery."

Case No. 1404/27. (29/4/27.) Section 7 (1) (ii) of Principal Act—Not Unemployed.

APPLICANT CONVICTED ON CHARGE OF RECEIVING BETS—FOLLOWED THIS ILLEGAL OCCUPATION CONCURRENTLY WITH USUAL OCCUPATION—RIGHT TO BENEFIT NOT ESTABLISHED WHILE SUBSIDIARY OCCUPATION IS ILLEGAL.

The applicant, who was usually employed as an iron ore miner, was prosecuted by the police and convicted on a charge of loitering for the purpose of receiving bets on the 9th October, 1926.

The police evidence showed that he had received a number of football betting coupons on the 9th October, and that he had also been seen distributing football coupons on the 23rd September. Accordingly his claim for unemployment benefit, made on the 19th May, 1926, was disallowed as from the 23rd September, on the ground that he was not unemployed.

The applicant stated that for some years, in addition to his usual occupation, he had been engaged in selling football coupons for a bookmaker during the football season; but he sold the coupons only on Saturday afternoons, when the mines were closed and there was no chance of obtaining or seeking employment. His remuneration

* See Vol. IV, *Umpire's Selected Decisions*, p. 197.

for selling the coupons was at the rate of 5 per cent. of the amount received, together with sixpence for 'bus fares and one shilling for a drink; and he usually sold two and occasionally three pounds' worth of coupons. No corroborative evidence of this was produced. He had £2 5s. 9d. in his pocket when he was arrested.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim should be disallowed. The Court did not accept the applicant's evidence in respect of remuneration, and were not satisfied that he was engaged on Saturdays only.

The applicant's association appealed to the *Umpire* against the disallowance, submitting that the betting business was a subsidiary occupation, which the applicant had carried on for several years during the football season, performing the work only on Saturdays between the hours of 2 and 3 p.m., and receiving remuneration not exceeding 3s. 4d. in respect of each Saturday. He had never sold coupons on any other day of the week; and it was maintained that even if it were decided that he was not unemployed on Saturdays, he should not thereby be penalised for the rest of the week.

Decision.—"On the facts before me my decision is that the claim for benefit should be disallowed up to and including October 9th.

"The applicant was on October 21st convicted of loitering for the purpose of receiving bets on Saturday, October 9th; and there is evidence that he was doing the same thing on Thursday, September 23rd.

"I agree with the Court of Referees that from September 23rd to October 9th he was following an occupation from which he derived profit or remuneration; but I cannot assume that after being apprehended on October 9th and convicted on October 21st he continued to carry on this illegal occupation. Punishment is intended to effect reformation and occasionally does so. The applicant, however, alleges that he has for several years ordinarily followed this occupation in addition to his usual employment, and that he does not derive therefrom profit exceeding 3s. 4d. on the daily average.

"It would be contrary to all principles of law to allow a person to rely on his own illegal conduct to establish a right; and however long the applicant has carried on this illegal occupation he cannot be heard to say that he has ordinarily followed such an occupation so as thereby to become entitled to unemployment benefit to which he would not otherwise be entitled. No rights can be acquired by a course of crime, however persistently followed."

INSURANCE YEAR REGULATIONS, 1927.

The Unemployment Insurance (Insurance Year) Regulations, 1927,* dated 2nd May, 1927, made by the Minister of Labour under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920 (10 & 11 Geo. 5, c. 30).

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

1. The period commencing on the fourth day of July, 1927 (being the day next after the last day of the preceding Insurance Year), and ending on the first day of July, 1928, shall be an Insurance Year.
2. These Regulations may be cited as the Unemployment Insurance (Insurance Year) Regulations, 1927, and shall come into force on the date hereof.

Signed by Order of the Minister of Labour this second day of May, 1927.

H. J. WILSON,
Secretary of the Ministry of Labour.

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

Recent Proceedings.

(A.)—INDUSTRIAL COURT DECISIONS.

SCIENCE MUSEUM, HIGHER TECHNICAL STAFF.—Society of Civil Servants v. Board of Education. *Difference.*—Salary scales—Claim for revision. *Decision.*—The Court made no alteration in the present salary scales, but awarded as personal to each of the present holders of the offices of Deputy Keepers and Assistant Keeper the same scales of pay as Deputy Keepers and Assistant Keepers in the Victoria and Albert Museum. Effective as from 1st April, 1927. Issued 11th April, 1927. (1287.)

H.M. FORESTRY COMMISSION—FORESTERS.—Workers' Union v. Forestry Commission. *Difference.*—Salary scales—Claim for revision. *Decision.*—The Court adjusted scales of pay from inclusive salaries to basic salaries subject to the current Civil Service cost-of-living bonus, as follows:—

Foresters, Grade II	£75—5—100
Foresters, Grade I	100—7½—130
Head Foresters	130—10—180

A house or house allowance to be provided also. In assimilating Foresters to the new scales their present inclusive rates of pay shall be taken to be based upon a cost-of-living figure of 70. Issued 11th April, 1927. (1238.)

* *Statutory Rules and Orders*, 1927, No. 418. H.M. Stationery Office; price 1d. net.

FOREMEN AND INSPECTORS OF TRADES AND ANALOGOUS GRADES, ADMIRALTY.—Staff Side v. Official Side, Admiralty Administrative Whitley Council. *Difference.*—Annual leave—Claim for increase. *Decision.*—The Court decided that the existing leave allowances should not be altered. Issued 13th April, 1927. (1291.)

SEWAGE CONTRACT, ST. ANNES-ON-THE-SEA CONCILIATION BOARD WORKING RULE AGREEMENT.—National Union of General and Municipal Workers v. Jas. Byrom, Ltd. *Difference.*—Claim by Union that Class I rates should be paid. *Decision.*—That Lytham-St. Annes comes within the category of Class III towns and that on Contracts 2, 3, 4 and 6 rates applicable to Class III towns should be paid, but that on Contract No. 1 the rate should be ½d. per hour in advance of the Class III rate. Operative as from the first pay day after the 18th January, 1927. Issued 25th April, 1927. (1292.)

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

MOULDERS: MIDDLESBROUGH.—National Union of General and Municipal Workers v. Messrs. Cochrane and Co., Ltd., Ormesby Ironworks, Middlesbrough. *Difference.*—Claim for increase in base rates for Vertical and Horizontal Pipe Moulders. Mr. B. A. Cohen, K.C., appointed under Section 2 (2) (b) of the Industrial Courts Act, 1919, to act as *Arbitrator* to determine the matter. *Award.*—Claim refused. Dated 1st April, 1927.

TRADE BOARDS ACTS.

Orders, Notices, etc., Recently Issued.

I.—CONFIRMING ORDERS.

Milk Distributive Trade Board (Scotland).

Order M.D.S. (12), dated 21st April, 1927, confirming certain variations of rates for male and female workers, and specifying the 25th April, 1927, as the date from which such minimum rates should become effective.

II.—NOTICES OF PROPOSAL.

Milk Distributive Trade Board (England and Wales).

Proposal M.D. (11), dated 19th April, 1927, to fix minimum rates of wages for male and female workers in those branches of the trade newly brought within the scope of the Trade Board by the Trade Boards (Milk Distributive) Order, 1926, and to vary minimum rates of wages for certain other classes of male and female workers. Objection period expires 19th June, 1927.

Milk Distributive Trade Board (Scotland).

Proposal M.D.S. (13), dated 22nd April, 1927, to fix minimum rates of wages for male and female workers in those branches of the trade newly brought within the scope of the Trade Board by the Trade Boards (Milk Distributive) Order, 1926. Objection period expires 22nd June, 1927.

Boot and Shoe Repairing Trade Board (Northern Ireland).

Proposal N.I.B.S. (N.17), dated the 14th April, 1927, to vary minimum rates of wages for certain classes of male and female workers.

General Waste Materials Reclamation Trade (Northern Ireland).

Proposal N.I.W.R. (N.6), dated the 12th April, 1927, to fix minimum rates of wages for certain classes of male and female workers, and to vary minimum rates of wages for certain classes of male workers.

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

Lower wages rates have become operative as from the 1st May, 1927, in the undermentioned trades. The minimum rates of wages now applicable are those appropriate to the cost-of-living figure of 65, and are set out in the Confirming Orders quoted below:—

- Boot and Shoe Repairing Trade Board (Great Britain), D (32) and D (36), col. 3; D (33), col. 2; D (34) and D (36), col. 5.
- Brush and Broom Trade Board (Great Britain), M (39), (40) and (41), col. 12.
- Paper Bag Trade Board (Great Britain), P (13), col. 9.
- Paper Box Trade Board (Great Britain), B (11), col. 4.

IV. REGULATIONS AS TO MODE OF GIVING NOTICE.

The Minister of Labour has issued Regulations as to the mode of giving Notice dated 21st April, 1927, and specifying the 3rd May, 1927, as the date from which such Regulations were to become operative. These Regulations revoke those previously made, and dated 31st October, 1918, 1st August, 1922, and 1st April, 1926.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT, 1925.

Amended Descriptions of "Beat Knee" and "Beat Elbow."

The Home Secretary, on 30th April, 1927, made an Order,* under Section 43 (3) of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1925, amending the descriptions of the diseases or injuries described in the Schedule

* *Statutory Rules and Orders*, 1927: No. 386. H.M. Stationery Office; price 1d. net.

to the Order of 26th February, 1918, viz., miner's "beat knee" and "beat elbow," to read as follows:—

- Subcutaneous cellulitis or acute bursitis arising at or about the knee (beat knee);
- Subcutaneous cellulitis or acute bursitis over the elbow (beat elbow).

The Order, which may be cited as the Workmen's Compensation (Industrial Diseases) Order, 1927, will come into force on 1st June, 1927.

Metal Grinding Industries (Silicosis) Scheme.

The Home Secretary, on 30th April, 1927, made a scheme of compensation,* under Section 47 of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1925, to provide for the payment of compensation in the case of death or total disablement of a workman caused by silicosis or by silicosis accompanied by tuberculosis in the metal grinding industries.

The scheme, which may be cited as the Metal Grinding Industries (Silicosis) Scheme, 1927, will come into force on the 1st July, 1927. It applies to all workmen employed on and after that date (i) in the grinding of metals by means of a *grindstone*, including any hacking or rodding of the grindstone; or (ii) in any work incidental to the grinding of metals as aforesaid, or in glazing, when such work or glazing is carried on in the same room as the grinding; or (iii) in the racing of grindstones for the purpose of grinding metals as aforesaid.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS.—*Agricultural statistics, 1926. Vol. LXI. Part I.* (S.O. publication; price 1s. 3d.)

Includes number of workers employed on agricultural holdings on the 4th June, 1926 and 1925.

CENSUS.—*Census of England and Wales, 1921. General Report with appendices.* (S.O. publication; price 5s.)

CENSUS OF PRODUCTION.—*Third Census of Production, 1924. Preliminary Reports. No. 8. Paper trade, printing and bookbinding trades, printing and publication of newspapers and periodicals. No. 9. Hosiery trade, glove-making trade, musical instrument trades, needle, pin, fish-hook and button trades. No. 10. Jute, hemp and linen trades, rope, twine and net trades, canvas goods and sack trades, linoleum and oilcloth trades.* Board of Trade. (S.O. publications; price 6d. each.)

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.—*Statistical summary showing the operations of co-operative societies (distributive trading), 1915–1925. Registry of Friendly Societies.* (S.O. publication; price 2d.)

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE.—*International Labour Conference. Tenth session, Geneva, 1927. (1) Sickness insurance: (a) questionnaire, (b) Report. (2) Freedom of association: Report and draft questionnaire. (3) Minimum wage-fixing machinery: Report and draft questionnaire. Items I, II, and III on the Agenda.* (International Labour Office, Geneva, 1926–7; price 1s., 2s. 6d., 2s., and 2s. 6d., respectively.)

JUVENILE EMPLOYMENT.—*Reports of Advisory Committees for Juvenile Employment for the year 1926. (i) Bristol, (ii) Gateshead, (iii) Glasgow, (iv) Great Marlborough Street (London), (v) Neath, (vi) Sheffield.* Ministry of Labour. (S.O. publications; price 9d., 9d., 1s., 6d., 4d., and 6d., respectively.)

LABOUR LAW.—*International survey of legal decisions on labour law, 1925.* International Labour Office. (Geneva, 1926; price 8s.)

LABOUR STATISTICS.—*Third International Conference of Labour Statisticians held at Geneva, 18 to 23 October, 1926. Studies and Reports, Series N. (Statistics) No. 12.* International Labour Office. (Geneva, 1926; price 1s. 6d.)

MERCHANT SHIPPING.—*List of the principal Acts of Parliament, regulations, orders, instructions and notices relating to merchant shipping in force on the 1st January, 1927.* Board of Trade. (S.O. publication; price 3d.)

MINISTRY OF LABOUR.—*Report of the Ministry of Labour for the year 1926.* (Cmd. 2856; price 2s. 6d.) (See page 171.)

OVERSEA SETTLEMENT.—*Report of the Oversea Settlement Committee for the year ended 31st December, 1926.* (Cmd. 2847; price 6d.) (See page 174.)

REST PAUSES.—*Rest Pauses in Industry. A review of the results obtained.* Report No. 42. Industrial Fatigue Research Board. (S.O. publication; price 9d.)

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR AGRICULTURAL WORKERS.—*Scheme for establishing scholarships and maintenance grants for the sons and daughters of agricultural workmen and others. Report of the Central Committee.* Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. (S.O. publication; price 1s. 3d.)

STATISTICAL ABSTRACT.—*Statistical Abstract for the United Kingdom for each of the fifteen years from 1911 to 1925, seventeenth number.* Board of Trade (in conjunction with the Ministry of Labour and the Registrars-General). (Cmd. 2849; price 6s.)

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.—*Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920–1926. Decisions given by the Umpire during the year 1926, index.* Ministry of Labour. (S.O. publication; price 4d.)

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION.—(i) *Treaty Series No. 12 (1927). Convention between the United Kingdom and Denmark respecting compensation to workmen for accidents arising out of their employment.* (Cmd. 2851; price 2d.) (ii) S. R. & O., 1927, Nos. 380 and 386, summarised on p. 203 above.

* *Statutory Rules and Orders*, 1927: No. 380. H.M. Stationery Office; price 3d. net.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.

LIST OF NEW CONTRACTS, APRIL, 1927.

ADMIRALTY.

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

Chatham: **Tar**: The South Metropolitan Gas Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—*Portsmouth*: **Portland Cement**: The Cement Marketing Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—*H.M. Naval Establishments abroad*: **Dredger Tumbler and Shaft**; **2 Hopper Barges**: Ferguson Bros. (Port Glasgow), Ltd., Port Glasgow.

(Contract and Purchase Department.)

Alternators, 300 K.V.A.: British Thomson-Houston Co., Ltd., Rugby.—**Alternators, Motor**: Small Electric Motors, Ltd., Beckenham.—**Anchors, Stockless**: N. Hingley & Sons, Ltd., Netherton.—**Bags, Sugar**: A. & S. Henry & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Beds, etc., Air and Water**: Campbell, Achnach & Co., Ltd., Glasgow; William Currie & Co., Edinburgh; J. G. Franklin & Sons, Ltd., London, E.; James Lyne Hancock, Ltd., London, E.C.; J. G. Ingram & Son, Ltd., London, E.; Toco Rubber & Waterproofing Co., Ltd., Glasgow; North British Rubber Co., Ltd., Edinburgh.—**Blankets**: Priestley Bros., Halifax.—**Blooms, Steel**: Lanarkshire Steel Co., Motherwell; D. Colville & Sons, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Blow Lamps and Fittings**: T. E. Bladon & Son, Ltd., Birmingham; Parkinson & Cowan (Gas Meters), Ltd., Birmingham; J. Shaw & Sons (Wolverhampton), Ltd., Wolverhampton.—**Boards, W/T**: General Electric Co., Ltd., Manchester and Birmingham; Whipp & Bourne, Ltd., Manchester.—**Boxes, Lamp, Distribution, Section, etc.**: Hawkers, Ltd., Birmingham; E. Holme & Co., Ltd., Altrincham; Basebe, Sadler & Co., Ltd., Croydon; The Engineering & Lighting Equipment Co., Ltd., St. Albans; Pinnacle Switchgear, Ltd., Weybridge; Talford, Grier & Mackay, Ltd., Glasgow; Whipp & Bourne, Ltd., Manchester.—**Brackets, Shaft**: J. Rogerson & Co., Ltd., Wolsingham.—**Cable, Chain, and Gear**: N. Hingley & Sons, Ltd., Netherton; H. Wood & Co., Ltd., Saltney; Brown, Lenox & Co., Ltd., Pontypridd.—**Calcium Carbide**: Acetylene Corp. of Gt. Britain, Ltd., London, S.W.; Lockerbie & Wilkinson (Tipton), Ltd., Tipton, Staffs.—**Canvas, Hammock**: The Boase Spinning Co., Ltd., Kidderminster; Tomkinson & Adam, Kidderminster.—**Cases, Suit**: David Stocks, Edinburgh; Thos. Thomasson & Co., Worcester.—**Castings, Steel (Bedplate)**: Vickers, Ltd., Barrow-in-Furness.—**Castings, Steel (Main Engine Column)**: Vickers, Ltd., Barrow-in-Furness.—**Castings, Stern**: J. Spencer & Sons, Ltd., Newcastle.—**Chemicals**: Burgoyne, Burbidges & Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Compressors, Air, Steam-driven**: Ally & MacLellan, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Condensers W/T**: Telegraph Condenser Co., Ltd., London, W.; Dübiller Condenser Co. (1925), Ltd., London, W.—**Copper Articles**: T. G. Blood, Birmingham; Burt Bros., Ltd., Birmingham; M. J. Hart & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham; J. Hudson & Co., Birmingham; Lawden & Poole, Birmingham; J. Stone & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Cork Sheets**: Reid, MacFarlane & Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Crane, Dismantling and Re-erecting of**: Covans, Sheldon & Co., Ltd., Carlisle.—**Drawers and Vests**: I. & R. Morley, Nottingham.—**Drugs**: John Bell, Hills & Lucas, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Fearnought**: J. Horsfall & Sons (Greetland), Ltd., Greetland; James Greenwood & Son, Ltd., Sowerby Bridge.—**Fittings, Magazine Lighting**: Oliver Pell Control, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Flour**: J. Rank, Ltd., London, E.C.; W. Vernon & Sons, London, E.C.—**Glass, Table**: Edinburgh & Leith Flint Glass Works, Edinburgh; Robinson, Sons & Co., Warrington; Stevens & Williams, Ltd., Brierley Hill; Stuart & Sons, Ltd., Wordsley; Thos. Webb & Corbett, Ltd., Stourbridge.—**Gowns, Operation**: Hobson & Sons (London), Ltd., London, S.E.—**Earthenware, Miscellaneous**: W. Adams & Sons (Potters), Ltd., Tunstall; G. L. Ashworth & Bros., Stoke-on-Trent; Bishop & Stonier (1926), Ltd., Hanley; Bovey Pottery Co., Ltd., Bovey Tracey; W. T. Copeland & Sons, Stoke-on-Trent; Doullton & Co., Ltd., Burslem; Keeling & Co., Ltd., Burslem; Minton, Ltd., Stoke-on-Trent; Pearl Pottery Co., Ltd., Hanley; John Stevanton & Sons, Ltd., Burslem; A. J. Wilkinson, Ltd., Burslem; Wood & Sons, Ltd., Burslem.—**Gunmetal Articles**: Burt Bros., Ltd., Birmingham; Carron Co., Falkirk; Gabriel & Co., Birmingham; Sir J. Laing & Sons, Ltd., Sunderland; T. Pemberton & Sons, Ltd., West Bromwich; Player & Mitchell, Birmingham; G. & W. Purser, Ltd., Birmingham; J. Roby, Ltd., Rainhill; Shipham & Co., Ltd., Hull; E. Showell & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Handkerchiefs, Black Silk**: J. & T. Brocklehurst & Sons, Ltd., Macclesfield; Josiah Smale & Son, Ltd., Macclesfield.—**Hawsters, Steel Wire**: Binks Bros., Ltd., London, E.; R. Hood, Haggie & Son, Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne.—**India-Rubber Goods**: Avon India Rubber Co., Melksham, Wilts; J. E. Baxter & Co., Ltd., Leyland, nr. Preston; Clyde Rubber Works Co., Ltd., Renfrew; G. Macintosh & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; North British Rubber Co., Ltd., London, W.; India Rubber, Gutta Percha & Telegraph Works, Ltd., London, E.; Rubber Co. of Scotland, Ltd., Stirling; G. Spencer, Moulton & Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**India Rubber Tubing**: India Rubber, Gutta Percha & Telegraph Works, Ltd., London, E.; C. Macintosh & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; North British Rubber Co., Ltd., London, W.—**Installation, Electric Light**: Read & Partners, Ltd., London, S.W.

—**Iron, Bar**: T. Walmsley & Sons, Bolton; Scottish Iron & Steel Co., Glasgow.—**Leather**: G. Angus & Co., Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne; Joseph Conyers & Sons, Ltd., Leeds; J. S. Deed & Sons, Ltd., London, W.C.; Gornshall Tanneries, Ltd., Gornshall; H. Jeffery & Bros., London, S.E.; Harold Nickolls, Ltd., Leeds; Parker Bros., Ltd., Bristol; John Siderfin & Co., Exors. of, Minehead; Wm. Walker & Sons, Ltd., Bolton; Western Tanning Co., Bedminster.—**Lockers, Steel Kit**: Waddell & Wilson, London, E.—**Mackintoshes, Blue**: Chas. Macintosh & Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Mustard**: J. & J. Colman, Ltd., Norwich.—**Oil, Lubricating**: Vacuum Oil Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Oil-fired Cooking Ranges, Plant & Equipment for**: Moorwoods, Ltd., Sheffield.—**Paint, Black**: Colthurst & Harding, Ltd., Bristol.—**Panels (W/T)**: Radio Communication Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Pepper**: J. Travers & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Plant, Cordite Mfg.**: Masson, Scott & Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Plywood**: W. Mallinson & Sons, Ltd., London, E.—**Projectors, S/L**: Sperry Gyroscope Co., London, W.—**Pumps, Fire & Bilge**: Drysdale & Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Ragstone, Kentish**: W. H. Benstead & Son, Maidstone.—**Reps, &c.**: Walsh & McCrea, Ltd., Halifax; Glover Bros. (Leeds), Ltd., Wortley; R. Maude & Co., Ltd., Halifax.—**Rope, Steel Wire**: British Ropes, Ltd., London, W.; Binks Bros., Ltd., London, E.—**Ropes, Sweeping**: British Ropes, Ltd., London, W.—**Salt**: D. Bumsted & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Sausages, Tinned**: C. & T. Harris (Calne), Ltd., Calne.—**Serge, Blue**: Fox Bros. & Co., Ltd., Wellington.—**Shackles, Lugless Joining**: Carron Co., Falkirk.—**Shirts, White, Dress**: Welch, Margetson & Co., Ltd., Londonderry.—**Shirts, White, Tunic**: Young & Rochester, Ltd., Londonderry.—**Shoes, White, Buckskin**: Crick & Co., Northampton; Manfield & Sons, Ltd., Northampton.—**Shutters, Steel Rolling Battery**: Arthur L. Gibson & Co., Ltd., Twickenham.—**S/M/Gear**: Chloride Co., London, E.—**Tape**: G. Hattersley & Sons, Ltd., Keighley; The Bole Hall Mill Co., Ltd., Tamworth; E. B. Hamel & Son, Tamworth; G. H. Wheatcroft & Co., Ltd., Wirksworth.—**Timber for cases**: A. & G. Paterson, Ltd., Aberdeen.—**Transmission Line, E.H.T.**: G. E. Taylor & Co., London.—**Trucks & Vans, Morris**: Stewart & Arden, Ltd., London, N.W.—**Tubes, Naval Brass**: J. Wilkes, Sons & Mapplebeck, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Tubes, Steel**: Tubes, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Valves, W/T**: Mullard Radio Valve Co., London, S.W.—**Vinegar**: Hill, Evans & Co., Ltd., Worcester.—**Winches, Steam-driven**: Napier Bros., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Wire**: Baxendale & Co., Ltd., Manchester; T. Bolton & Sons, Ltd., London, W.; C. Clifford & Son, Ltd., Birmingham; Elliotts Metal Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Latch & Batchelor, Ltd., Birmingham; J. Rigby & Sons, Ltd., Manchester; Rylands Bros., Ltd., Warrington.

WAR OFFICE.

Acetylene, Dissolved: Allen Liversidge, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Automatic Feed Mechanisms**: Kynochs, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Batteries and Cells**: Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; General Electric Co., Ltd., Witton; Edison Swan Electric Co., Ltd., Ponders End, Middlesex.—**Bedsteads, McDonald's**: Hill & Smith, Ltd., Brierley Hill, Staffs.—**Belts, Waist, Buff**: R. & J. Pullman, Ltd., Godalming.—**Boilers, Steam, Inspection of**: Manchester Steam Users' Assn., Manchester.—**Boots, Gum**: North British Rubber Co., Edinburgh.—**Caps, S.D.**: L. Silberston, London, E.; S. Schneiders & Sons, London, E.—**Coats, Warm**: L. Silberston, London, E.; Fainer Bros., Ltd., Leeds.—**Covers, Waterproof**: J. H. Peck & Co., Ltd., Wigan.—**Dowlas, Tan, 27-in.**: A. Blyth & Co., Kirkcaldy.—**Furnace**: G. P. Wincott, Ltd., Sheffield.—**Gears, Reduction**: H. Wallwork & Co. (1920), Ltd., Manchester.—**Harness and Saddlery**: D. Mason & Sons, Ltd., Walsall; Barrow, Heppburn & Gale, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Jackets, S.D.**: L. Silberston, London, E.; Limerick Clothing Factory, Limerick; J. Shannon & Sons, Walsall; L. Fox & Sons, Leeds.—**Jackets, Overall**: J. B. Hoyle & Sons, Hebden Bridge.—**Jackets & Trousers, O.R.**: D. Gurteen & Sons, Haverhill.—**Knives, Clasp**: Jos. Rodgers & Sons, Ltd., Sheffield.—**Manhole Covers & Frames**: The United Steel Cos., Ltd. (Thos. Butlin & Co. Branch), Wellingborough.—**Motor Cycles**: Triumph Motor Cycle Co., Ltd., Coventry.—**Motor Spares**: Rolls Royce, Ltd., Derby; Guy Motors, Ltd., Wolverhampton.—**Nails, Horse Shoe**: F. Ferris & Sons, Bristol.—**Ovens, Field**: Baker-Perkins, Ltd., Peterborough.—**Pipes & Fittings**: Stewarts & Lloyds, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Rugs, Horse**: C. Groam, Ltd., London, E.C.; E. H. Price, London, E.C.—**Shoes, Canvas**: R. Coggins & Sons, Ltd., Northants; Stead & Simpson, Leicester.—**Shoes, Horse, Steel**: Guest & Co. (Halesowen), Ltd., Halesowen; Wm. Cooke & Co., Ltd., Sheffield.—**Steel, Carbon, Tool**: S. Osborn & Co., Ltd., Sheffield.—**Steel, Bars, Bright**: Steel Nut & Jos. Hampton, Ltd., Wednesbury.—**Stoves and Boilers**: Dobbie, Forbes & Co., Larbert; Gillespies, Ltd., Bonnybridge; Smith & Wellstood, Ltd., Bonnybridge.—**Suits, Discharged Soldiers**: J. Hammond & Co. (1922), Ltd., Newcastle.—**Tents, Stores, Canvas and Roofs, Outer, for Tents, Marquee**: C. Groam, Ltd., London, E.C.; T. Briggs, Ltd., London, E.C.; R. Dobbin & Co., London, E.—**Tinplates**: Brooker, Dore & Co., London, E.C.—**Trousers, O.R.**: Wallis & Linnell, Kettering.—**Vehicles, 1-tracked—Citroen Keresse, Spares**: Citroen Keresse, Ltd., London, W.—**Vehicles, Roadless, Repair & overhaul of**: Roadless Traction, Ltd., London, W.—**Works Services: Building Works and Services**: Catterick Camp Reconstruction Work: Sir L. Parkinson & Co., Ltd., Blackpool. **Installations**: Smalshot, Heating Installation: Deane & Beal, Ltd., London, E.C.

AIR MINISTRY.

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