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

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

THERE was a further improvement, on the whole, in employment during November.

Among workpeople insured against unemployment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the percentage unemployed in all industries taken together was 21·4 at 23rd November, 1931, as compared with 21·9 at 26th October, 1931, and 18·9 at 24th November, 1930. For males alone the percentage at 23rd November, 1931, was 23·6, and for females 15·9. At 26th October, 1931, the corresponding percentages were 23·6 and 17·5.

Insured Persons in work in Great Britain.—It is estimated that on 23rd November, 1931, there were approximately 9,510,500 insured persons aged 16 to 64 in work in Great Britain. This was 74,500 more than a month before, but 53,400 less than a year before.

Numbers Unemployed (excluding Persons normally in Casual Employment).—At 23rd November, 1931, there were 2,070,442 persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain who were out of a situation. This was 57,501 less than a month before, but 410,575 more than a year before. The total on 23rd November, 1931, included 1,616,075 men, 56,678 boys, 355,333 women and 42,356 girls. It was made up approximately of 938,324 insured persons with claims for insurance benefit, 796,392 applicants for transitional payments, 174,574 other insured persons not in receipt of insurance benefit or transitional payments, and 111,152 uninsured persons.

Numbers Temporarily Stopped.—At 23rd November, 1931, there were registered as unemployed in Great Britain 321,375 men, 8,819 boys, 99,962 women and 5,549 girls, who were on short time or were otherwise suspended from work on the definite understanding that they were shortly to return to their former employment. The total of 435,705 was 46,848 less than a month before, and 85,600 less than a year before. It included 379,010 insured persons with claims for insurance benefit; 36,239 applicants for transitional payments and 20,456 persons not in receipt of insurance benefit or transitional payments.

Numbers Unemployed normally in Casual Employment.—At 23rd November, 1931, there were on the Registers in Great Britain 106,941 men, 175 boys, 1,835 women and 17 girls, who normally seek a livelihood by means of jobs of short duration; these are mainly employed in dock, harbour, river and canal service. The total of 108,968 was 6,628 less than a month before, but 3,680 more than a year before. It included 80,160 insured persons with claims for insurance benefit; 27,739 applicants for transitional payments and 1,069 persons not in receipt of insurance benefit or transitional payments.

Industries in which Principal Variations occurred.—Employment improved in coal mining, in pottery, glass (other than glass bottles), tinplate and metal goods manufacture, in general engineering, in the textile,

leather, printing and paper industries, in dock and harbour service, and in the distributive trades.

On the other hand, employment declined in iron and steel manufacture, in shipbuilding and ship-repairing, and in the building and contracting industries.

WAGES.

In the industries for which statistics are regularly compiled by the Department, the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation in November resulted in a decrease of about £15,900 in the weekly full-time wages of 220,000 workpeople, and in an increase of £175 in those of 3,000 workpeople.

The largest bodies of workers affected by the changes were employees in steel melting shops and rolling mills in various districts in England and Scotland, whose wages were reduced under a sliding scale based on steel selling prices, and workpeople in the boot and shoe industry, who sustained reductions under a cost-of-living sliding scale. Other workpeople whose wage rates were reduced included tinplate makers in South Wales and Monmouthshire, workpeople employed in the dyeing and dry-cleaning industry, iron miners and blastfurnace workers in Lincolnshire, building trade craftsmen at Belfast, leather belt makers, and the employees of certain local authorities.

During the 11 completed months of 1931 there have been total net increases of about £5,000 per week in the wages of 35,000 workpeople and net decreases of about £380,000 per week in the wages of 2,890,000 workpeople.

COST OF LIVING.

At 1st December the average level of retail prices of the commodities taken into account in the statistics compiled by the Ministry of Labour (including food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, and miscellaneous items) was approximately 48 per cent. above the level of July, 1914, as compared with 46 per cent. a month earlier and 55 per cent. a year earlier. For food alone the corresponding figures were 32, 30, and 41.

These statistics are designed to indicate the average increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the pre-war standard of living of working-class families. Accordingly, the changes in the prices of the various articles included are combined proportionately to the relative importance of those items in pre-war working-class family expenditure, no allowance being made for any changes in the standard of living.

TRADE DISPUTES.

The number of trade disputes, involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as beginning in November was 33. In addition, 3 disputes which began before November were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The number of workpeople involved in all disputes in November (including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes) was about 9,200, and the aggregate duration of all disputes in November was about 42,000 working days.

Disputes during the 11 completed months of 1931 have involved about 490,000 workpeople in an aggregate loss of 6,930,000 working days.

TRANSFERENCE FROM UNINSURED TO INSURED OCCUPATIONS, MAY, 1930-APRIL, 1931.

The subject of the flow of labour from uninsured occupations into insured trades has been raised from time to time and a special analysis has accordingly been made of the new entrants into unemployment insurance during a period of twelve months.

During the twelve months ended April, 1931, the total number of new entrants into unemployment insurance was 755,130, of whom 178,819 were adults and 576,311 were juveniles. The numbers in each administrative Division are shown in the following Table :-

Division.	Adults aged 18-64.	Juveniles aged 16-17.	Total.	
			Number.	Per cent. of grand total.
London	40,855	116,885	157,740	20.9
South Eastern	25,109	50,089	75,198	10.0
South Western	20,092	44,080	64,172	8.5
Midlands	17,676	89,480	107,156	14.2
North Eastern	23,603	92,026	115,629	15.3
North Western	21,393	92,785	114,178	15.1
Scotland	20,119	64,730	84,849	11.2
Wales	9,972	26,236	36,208	4.8
Great Britain	178,819	576,311	755,130	100.0

As soon as a worker aged 16 to 64 has obtained employment in an insured trade, or reaches the age of 16 while in such employment, he is required to make application for an unemployment book, and at the same time, under the normal procedure, a special enquiry form is completed at a local office of the Ministry of Labour, in respect of every applicant for a book, with the exception of juveniles who apply within two months of reaching 16 years of age. Particulars are entered on the form respecting the applicant's previous employment record, his age, and the insurable employment in respect of which an unemployment book is being issued. An unemployment book is not issued unless insured work has been obtained. The following analysis has been derived from an examination of those enquiry forms which indicated previous employment in uninsured occupations. The figures, it should be observed, relate solely to persons entering trades, and make no allowance for the movement from insured to uninsured occupations, e.g., from hotel or restaurant work to private domestic service.

During the twelve months ended April, 1931, enquiry forms were completed in respect of 97,185 persons who had had employment in uninsured occupations before their first entry into unemployment insurance. This was 12.9 per cent. of the total number of new

Industry entered.	From Agriculture.		From Domestic work.		From work on own account.		From other uninsured employment.		Total.	
	Number.	Per cent. of Total.	Number.	Per cent. of Total.	Number.	Per cent. of Total.	Number.	Per cent. of Total.	Number.	Per cent. of Total.
Distributive	2,621	10.5	7,293	22.1	5,488	27.1	4,225	22.4	19,627	20.2
Hotel, Public House, Restaurant, etc., services	599	2.4	14,855	45.0	1,162	5.7	1,943	10.3	18,559	19.1
Building	3,352	13.4	577	1.8	2,362	11.7	1,266	6.7	7,557	7.8
Public Works Contracting	4,715	18.9	331	1.0	1,213	6.0	977	5.2	7,236	7.5
Local Government	3,962	15.9	377	1.1	737	3.6	815	4.3	5,891	6.1
Food and Drink	873	3.6	1,477	4.6	487	2.5	320	1.6	3,157	3.3
Road Transport (other than Omnibus and Tramway Service)	1,395	5.6	399	1.2	1,089	5.4	347	1.8	3,230	3.3
Transport and Communication (excluding Road Transport)	827	3.3	445	1.4	663	3.2	988	5.2	2,923	3.0
Entertainment and Sports	214	0.9	529	1.6	709	3.5	938	5.0	2,400	2.5
Clothing Trades	52	0.2	697	2.0	878	4.5	480	2.6	2,107	2.2
National Government	545	2.2	218	0.7	481	2.4	687	3.7	1,931	2.0
Professional Services, Commerce and Finance	257	1.0	218	0.7	450	2.2	654	3.5	1,579	1.6
Laundries, Dyeing and Dry Cleaning	160	0.6	412	1.3	448	2.3	834	4.5	1,854	1.9
Coal Mining	46	0.2	997	3.0	68	0.3	103	0.6	1,214	1.3
Other Mining and Quarrying	560	2.3	81	0.2	152	0.8	411	2.2	1,204	1.3
Manufacture of Motor Vehicles, Cycles and Aircraft	1,085	4.4	69	0.3	105	0.5	72	0.4	1,331	1.3
Metal Trades	253	0.9	234	0.7	258	1.3	323	1.7	1,048	1.1
Brick, Tile, Pottery, Earthenware, etc., Manufacture	307	1.2	739	2.2	385	2.0	408	2.1	1,839	1.9
Printing, Publishing and Paper Trades	503	2.0	245	0.7	78	0.4	76	0.4	902	0.9
Sawmilling, Furniture and Woodwork	72	0.2	344	1.0	387	1.9	400	2.0	1,203	1.2
Cotton	370	1.5	163	0.4	335	1.6	143	0.8	1,011	1.0
Wool	18	0.1	77	0.2	42	0.2	137	0.7	274	0.3
Other Textile Industries	21	0.1	95	0.3	54	0.3	75	0.4	245	0.3
All other Industries and Services	107	0.3	484	1.4	103	0.4	206	1.2	900	0.8
Total	2,147	8.3	1,693	5.1	2,117	10.2	2,006	10.7	7,963	8.1
Total	25,041	100.0	33,049	100.0	20,251	100.0	18,844	100.0	97,185	100.0

Nearly 40 per cent. of these entrants found employment in the distributive trades or in hotel, etc., service, and over 15 per cent. in building and public works contracting. The distributive trades have for some years provided employment for an increasing proportion of the insured population, and they have suffered relatively less than many other industries from the recent depression. Most of the entrants into this industry are shown in the Table to have come from domestic service or from working on their own account. It is well known that there is a considerable movement into this industry of girls from domestic service; while the number of persons entering from work on their own account is probably influenced by the difficulty of maintaining small independent businesses in the face of trade depression and the increasing competition of large stores.

entrants during the period. The following Table gives an analysis of this number according to the nature of the previous employment disclosed :-

Previous Record.	Adults (aged 18-64).		Juveniles (aged 16-17).		Total.	
	Number.	Per cent. of those with previous uninsured employment.	Number.	Per cent. of those with previous uninsured employment.	Number.	Per cent. of those with previous uninsured employment.
Agriculture	22,230	25.7	2,811	26.9	25,041	25.8
Domestic service	26,573	30.7	6,476	62.0	33,049	34.0
Work on own account	19,791	22.8	460	4.4	20,251	20.8
From abroad	5,583	6.4	204	2.0	5,787	6.0
Salary over £250 a year	4,622	5.3	13	0.1	4,635	4.8
Work unspecified	3,915	4.5	396	3.8	4,311	4.4
Exempt or excepted	2,782	3.2	48	0.5	2,830	2.9
Irish immigrants	1,245	1.4	36	0.3	1,281	1.3
Total	86,741	100.0	10,444	100.0	97,185	100.0

Nearly 50 per cent. of the adult new entrants had had previous uninsured employment, but among juveniles the percentage was only 1.8. Over 22,000, or 26 per cent., of the adults who had had uninsured employment, had been engaged in agriculture. Over 26,000, or 31 per cent., had been in domestic service, and nearly 20,000, or 23 per cent., had been working on their own account. Among the juveniles with previous uninsured employment, 62 per cent. had been engaged in domestic service and 26.9 per cent. in agriculture. The analysis did not distinguish males from females, but no doubt most of those from domestic service were females and most of those from agriculture were males.

It may be mentioned that among those entering insurance for the first time after reaching 18 years of age, who had had no previous employment, and numbering about 92,000 in the year, it was found by examining a small sample that about 80 per cent. were women, of whom about 75 per cent. had been engaged in home duties, a few had been receiving education, and the remainder had been without occupation. Among the men in this class, about 25 per cent. had been receiving education, about 10 per cent. had been working for parents, and the remainder had been without occupation.

The following Table analyses the new entrants who had had previous uninsured employment, according to the industries in which they obtained insured employment :-

Industry entered.	From Agriculture.		From Domestic work.		From work on own account.		From other uninsured employment.		Total.	
	Number.	Per cent. of Total.	Number.	Per cent. of Total.	Number.	Per cent. of Total.	Number.	Per cent. of Total.	Number.	Per cent. of Total.
Distributive	2,621	10.5	7,293	22.1	5,488	27.1	4,225	22.4	19,627	20.2
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Cotton	370	1.5	163	0.4	335	1.6	143	0.8	1,011	1.0
Wool	18	0.1	77	0.2	42	0.2	137	0.7	274	0.3
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All other Industries and Services	107	0.3	484	1.4	103	0.4	206	1.2	900	0.8
Total	2,147	8.3	1,693	5.1	2,117	10.2	2,006	10.7	7,963	8.1
Total	25,041	100.0	33,049	100.0	20,251	100.0	18,844	100.0	97,185	100.0

As might be expected a large proportion of the entrants from domestic service found employment in hotel, etc., service.

Over 30 per cent. (8,067) of the men from agriculture entered the building and public works contracting industries.

An interesting feature of the Table is the number entering the Local Government classification from agriculture. This is possibly due, in part, to the employment of agricultural labourers on road work in rural districts.

A considerable number (1,645) entered the mining and quarrying industries from agriculture, 560 going to coal mining and the same number to stone quarrying. Stone quarries in rural districts would of course be likely to recruit from local labour.

NUMBERS ON EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGE REGISTERS. EFFECT OF RECENT CHANGES IN THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SCHEME.

Divisional Analysis.—The movement from uninsured occupations into insured employment was relatively greatest in the South Eastern and South Western Divisions. This area includes at all times a large proportion of the agricultural workers and private domestic servants in the country, and it is also the area in which the prospects of employment in insured trades have been most favourable for a number of years.

Among those moving from uninsured occupations the proportion who had been in agriculture was greatest in Scotland (35.0 per cent.), the Midlands (31.7 per cent.) and South West England (30.9 per cent.). It was lowest in the North Western Division (18.7 per cent.). The proportion from private domestic service was greatest in the South Western and North Eastern Divisions (39.0 and 38.3 per cent. respectively). It was lowest in Scotland (26.5 per cent.). The proportion who had been in business on their own account was greatest in the North Western Division (27.4 per cent.), and this Division also had the highest proportion of persons who had entered insurance through salaries falling below the £250 income limit (10.8 per cent.). These figures no doubt are influenced by the severity of the industrial depression in Lancashire during the period in question. The South Eastern Division attracted by far the greatest number returning from abroad (5,195, or 8.7 per cent.) and this was no doubt due to the better prospects of employment known to exist in that area. The proportion represented by Irish immigrants was largest in Scotland and the North Western Division.

Age Distribution.—The following Table gives an age-analysis of the new entrants who had had previous uninsured employment :-

Occupation.	Age Group.							Total.
	16-17.	18-24.	25-34.	35-44.	45-54.	55-64.	Not stated.	
	<i>Numbers.</i>							
Agriculture	2,811	10,906	5,037	2,453	2,127	1,338	369	25,041
Domestic Service	6,476	16,555	4,998	2,611	1,483	595	331	33,049
Work on own account	460	4,262	4,592	4,605	4,011	2,116	205	20,251
Others	697	4,869	4,028	3,900	3,118	2,005	227	18,844
Total	10,444	36,592	18,655	13,569	10,739	6,054	1,132	97,185
	<i>Percentages.</i>							
Agriculture	11.2	43.6	20.1	9.8	8.6	5.3	1.5	100.0
Domestic Service	19.6	50.1	15.1	7.9	4.5	1.8	1.0	100.0
Work on own account	2.3	21.0	22.7	22.7	19.8	10.5	1.0	100.0
Others	3.7	25.8	21.4	20.7	16.5	10.7	1.2	100.0
Total	10.8	37.6	19.2	14.0	11.0	6.2	1.2	100.0

Nearly 50 per cent. of the entrants from uninsured occupations were under 25 years of age, and the average number at each year of age in the 16-24 age group was over three times the corresponding number in later age groups.

Of those who had been employed in domestic service and agriculture the percentages under 25 years of age were 69.7 and 54.8 respectively. The number of adult entrants from these two occupations decreased steadily with advancing age, whereas the numbers who had been working on their own account were fairly evenly distributed between ages 18 and 54.

Nearly 50 per cent. of the entrants aged 16-24 who had had previous uninsured work came from private domestic service, and nearly 30 per cent. from agriculture.

NEW HEALTH INSURANCE ACT: EXTENSION OF INSURANCE OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS.

The National Health Insurance (Prolongation of Insurance) Act, 1930,* provided that persons who had been unable to get work for a considerable period, and would otherwise have ceased to be insured persons and would have lost their rights to health insurance benefits and contributory pensions at the end of the year 1930 or during 1931, would, subject to certain conditions, have their period of insurance extended until the end of 1931.

The National Health Insurance (Prolongation of Insurance) Act, 1931, which received the Royal Assent on 11th December, continues insurance until 31st December, 1932, both for the persons affected by the 1930 Act, and also for other persons who, by reason of prolonged unemployment, would, in the absence of fresh legislation, have ceased to be insured at the end of the present year or during the course of the year 1932.

The new Act further provides, as did the Act of 1930, that, in order to enable Approved Societies to bear the additional cost of giving health insurance benefits to these persons, they are to receive a credit from the Exchequer at the rate of 36 contributions for each member who is maintained in benefit as a result of the Act.

* 21 Geo. 5, c. 5; H.M. Stationery Office; price 1d. net (1½d. post free).

Under the provisions of the Unemployment Insurance (No. 3) Act, 1931, and the National Economy Act, 1931, certain important changes have been made recently in the scheme of Unemployment Insurance, which have had the effect of imposing restrictions on the allowance of benefit in certain cases. (See the issues of this GAZETTE for October, 1931, page 407, and November, 1931, page 449).

The

REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON SHOP ASSISTANTS.

A SELECT Committee was appointed by the House of Commons on 8th May, 1930, and re-appointed (in the following Session) on 19th November, 1930, with the following terms of reference:—

“To consider and report upon proposals for limiting the hours of work of shop assistants and improving the conditions of their employment, and for that purpose to inquire:—(i) what are the hours at present usually worked in the various distributive trades, both retail and wholesale; (ii) what would be the probable economic effects of a statutory 48-hours week (with a limited amount of overtime) upon the distributive trades as regards organisation of work, wages, employment, and prices; by what methods it could be applied to various kinds of trade; and what arrangements would be feasible for enforcing it; (iii) whether conditions of employment exist in any classes or descriptions of shops in respect of matters affecting the health and welfare of the assistants which make it desirable that powers of regulation and supervision should be given by statute.”

This Committee has now presented its Report.* The Report begins with a history of past legislation and inquiries in Great Britain, and with a summary of the present law. The only direct statutory limitation on the hours of work of shop assistants in this country is the provision, originally made in the Shop Hours Regulation Act, 1886, and now embodied in the Shops Act, 1912, limiting the hours of young persons under 18 employed in shops to 74 a week, inclusive of meal-times. Other Acts, however, regulate the closing time of shops, either generally or in particular trades, and thereby indirectly limit to some extent the hours of shop assistants; they also require that meal intervals (half an hour for tea, and three quarters of an hour for lunch if taken on the premises, or one hour if it is not) should be allowed, and require the provision of seats for female shop assistants. The employment of children of school age, between 12 and 14, is often regulated by local byelaws: such children are usually employed for the delivery of newspapers and milk in the morning and evening.

The Report also deals with the present position in foreign countries and in the British Dominions.

The Report then deals, in detail, with the present hours of employment in the distributive trades in this country, distinguishing normal hours of work; overtime; juvenile employment; and the hours worked by women. Details are given of the long hours worked in many shops; a working week of over 60 hours was found to be quite common. The probable effects of a 48-hour week on wages, employment, and prices are considered; also its effects on the organisation of work in shops, and the methods of its application to various kinds of trade. Another section of the Report deals with the health and welfare of shop assistants, under such headings as statistics of mortality, and general condition of health; provision of seats; heating, lighting, and ventilation; meal intervals, etc.

The general conclusions reached by the Committee may be summarised as follows:—

The normal hours of employment of all shop assistants (with a few exceptions, stated in the Report) should be limited to 48 per week; “hours of employment” being defined as the time during which the employee is at the disposal of the employer, excluding the statutory intervals for meals.

In trades where there is a reasonable demand for hours in excess of 48 per week, a fixed amount of overtime should be allowed throughout the trade; this overtime should be paid for at not less than time-and-a-quarter. The primary decision as to the trades in which overtime should be allowed, and its amount, should be placed in the hands of the Local and National Advisory Boards referred to below.

Each local authority responsible for the administration of the Shops Act should appoint a Local Advisory Board, consisting of equal numbers of representatives of employers and employed, under a chairman appointed by the local authority. The duties of Local Advisory Boards should be to make recommendations to local authorities on all matters connected with the administration of shops legislation, or upon any matters of a local character affecting the distributive trades.

The Home Secretary and the Secretary of State for Scotland should set up a National Advisory Board in each country, consisting of equal numbers of employers and employed. The duties of the National Advisory Boards should be:—(a) to advise and make recommendations to the Secretary of State on any matters connected with the administration of the Shops Acts, or affecting shops or shop assistants, and any matters referred to them by Local Advisory Boards; (b) to endeavour to promote uniformity of conditions, so far as may be practicable, in areas of similar type; (c) to advise the Secretary of State on provisional Orders of local authorities in all cases where there is disagreement between the local representatives of employers and employed.

Provisions similar to those in the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, which deal with conditions relating to health and welfare, and powers of inspectors, should be extended to shops and warehouses. Also, to overcome the prevailing encouragement of disuse of the seats provided for assistants, notices should be posted in every shop stating that the seats are intended to be used whenever possible.

* House of Commons Paper 148 of Session 1930-31. Vol. I. Report. H.M. Stationery Office; price 2s. net (2s. 2d. post free).

These recommendations are unanimous, except as regards the recommendations establishing a normal working week of 48 hours, and fixing a minimum rate of payment for overtime, which represent the views of six out of the eleven members of the Committee. The Committee are unanimous on the general principle of a limitation of the normal hours of employment of young persons employed as shop assistants to 48 per week; but five members of the Committee object to a general statutory enforcement of a 48-hour week for all shop assistants as involving a certain rigidity, inimical to the healthy play of competition and to enterprise and initiative, unless it can be shown that evils exist which are incapable of amelioration by any other means, and that there does not exist any reasonable hope of a remedy either through the machinery of collective bargaining or through direct negotiation with individual employers. No satisfactory proof of this has, in the opinion of these five members, been given; and they consider that voluntary methods are entirely adequate to deal with such abuses as may exist. They also regard it as highly undesirable to single out the distributive trades for special hours legislation. They suggest that it would be especially disadvantageous to impose a rigid 48-hour week in the present depressed conditions of trade; and that the enforcement of a 48-hour week would be extremely difficult, and would involve a large increase in personnel and in the cost of inspection.

The Committee insist strongly on the need for strict enforcement of the Early Closing Acts, also of the provisions regarding the statutory meal times of shop assistants, and half-holiday regulations. They believe, indeed, that the time has come for a still further limitation of the hours during which shops may be open; and they would like to see the Shops Act, 1912, amended so as to enable local authorities to make closing orders for an earlier hour than 7 p.m. They support the movement for the enforced Sunday closing of shops, and consider that a stricter statutory regulation of street trading is necessary. Legislation for special groups of workers, such as juveniles, errand boys and girls, etc., is, in their opinion, desirable in some cases.

The Appendices to the Report have also been published.* The principal Appendix consists of a Report of an investigation by officers of the Home Office and of the Ministry of Labour into hours and conditions of employment in shops in ten districts: two in and around London; five in other English districts; one in Wales; and two in Scotland.

LOCAL COMMITTEES FOR JUVENILE EMPLOYMENT.

REPORT FOR 1930.

THE annual Report for 1930 on the work of Local Committees for Juvenile Employment has been issued by the Ministry of Labour.† The Report contains both a national survey, in which the normal methods of Committees and the general results of their operations during the year are described, and a series of regional surveys, dealing in more detail with the experiences of the Committees in eight large industrial areas. The following summary deals only with the first part of the Report, i.e., the national survey.

General Review, and Outlook at end of 1930.—The year 1930 was one of growing trade depression in all parts of the country; in consequence there was a considerable increase (from 75,900 in 1929 to 124,320 in 1930) in the numbers of boys and girls registered for employment at Employment Exchanges and Juvenile Employment Bureaux. These totals are exclusive of the considerable numbers of juveniles who, though unemployed, do not register with the official agencies.

Nevertheless, the average monthly rate during the year of unemployment among insured juveniles, which stood at 5·7 per cent., still compared favourably with the adult figure of 16·8. The corresponding percentages for the previous year were 3·3 per cent. and 10·4 per cent. respectively.

The degree of unemployment varied greatly according to locality. In the depressed mining areas, and in other parts of the country where heavy industries prevail, juvenile unemployment remained a difficult problem. Intermittent employment in the textile areas also had a marked effect on the live registers. In London and the southern counties, on the other hand, juvenile unemployment did not give rise to serious anxiety; nor, in general, in the Midlands.

Advising Boys and Girls on Choice of Employment.—Two main methods adopted by Committees for giving such advice are especially noted:—(i) the “school conference,” at which boys and girls, with their parents, are, during their last term at school, addressed on careers, and often individually interviewed by a small group of advisers; and (ii) the “advisory rota,” at which Committee members and the secretary are present: this is held in the evenings at the Employment Exchange or Bureau. Many Committees arrange visits to factories for children about to leave school, thus enabling the prospective worker to see for himself the nature of the work which lies within his choice.

Committees advise the children, where there is a lack of satisfactory openings, to stay at school till work is found; and in all appropriate cases urge them to continue their education after entering employment. This advice is largely followed.

Many Committees encountered difficulty in their advisory work from the prejudice of juveniles and their parents against specific types of employment, e.g., coal mining, “little piecing” in the cotton industry, and, to a less extent, errand work; there also continued, in certain quarters, to be a prejudice against resident domestic

* House of Commons Paper 148 of Session 1931. Vol. II. Appendices. H.M. Stationery Office; price 6s. net (6s. 6d. post free).
† H.M. Stationery Office; price 9d. net (10d. post free).

EXPENDITURE ON PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES.

A RETURN has been issued* showing, so far as particulars are available, the total expenditure (other than out of loans for capital purposes) in England and Wales and in Scotland under certain Acts of Parliament, and the total number of persons directly benefiting therefrom. The Acts referred to are: the Unemployment Insurance Acts, the National Insurance (Health) Acts, the Widows', Orphans', and Old Age Contributory Pensions Acts, the Old Age Pensions Acts, the War Pensions Acts and the Ministry of Pensions Act, the Education Acts, the Acts relating to Reformatory and Industrial Schools, the Inebriates Acts, the Public Health Acts (so far as they relate to hospitals, the treatment of disease, and maternity and child welfare), the Housing of the Working Classes Acts, the Acts relating to the Relief of the Poor, the Unemployed Workmen Act, the Lunacy Acts, and the Mental Deficiency Acts.

The term “expenditure” as used in the Return is restricted to expenditure from (i) local rates, (ii) Parliamentary votes and grants, and (iii) other receipts (not being receipts from loans for capital purposes) accounted for by, or to, Government Departments and Local Authorities. The “other receipts” include, for example, in the case of education, revenue from endowments, voluntary contributions, teachers' superannuation contributions, etc.; in the case of health insurance, unemployment insurance, and widows', orphans', and old age contributory pensions, the contributions of employers and employed; in the case of housing, rents; and so forth.

The expenditure for the services specified is stated for the years ended 31st March, 1891, 1901, 1911, 1921, and 1930, or the latest year for which figures are available. For some of the services an estimate of the expenditure for the year ended 31st March, 1931, is given. Comparisons between the totals for the several years are necessarily subject to the consideration that, during the period to which the Return relates, unrecorded private expenditure on some of the services mentioned has been replaced by recorded public expenditure; for example, the amount of fees formerly paid to medical men by persons now insured under the National Insurance (Health) Acts was not recorded, and is not included in the Return; while the amounts now paid to medical practitioners under those Acts form part of recorded expenditure brought into account in the Return.

The cost of any central department which is devoted wholly to one of the specified services is included throughout the Return in the amounts entered in respect of that service. For the years ended 31st March, 1930 and 1931, however, a proportion of the cost of central departmental administration has been allocated to each specified service in cases where a department administers more than one service.

The following Table gives the total expenditure, as stated in the Return, under the specified services, during the year ended 31st March, 1930 (or the latest year available), and an estimate for the year ended 31st March, 1931, where that is available:—

Expenditure under the following Acts.	England and Wales.		Scotland.	
	Year ended 31st March, 1930 (or latest available year).	Year ended 31st March, 1931 (estimated).	Year ended 31st March, 1930 (or latest available year).	Year ended 31st March, 1931 (estimated).
Unemployment Insurance Acts	£ 46,582,000	£ 88,244,000	£ 6,514,000	£ 13,281,000
National Insurance (Health) Acts	34,710,000	35,000,000	3,860,000	3,850,000
Widows', Orphans', and Old Age Contributory Pensions Acts	23,585,000	30,819,000	2,860,000	3,788,000
Old Age Pensions Acts	31,749,000	33,376,000	4,031,000	4,176,000
War Pensions Acts and Ministry of Pensions Act	46,202,000	44,291,000	5,173,000	4,929,000
Education Acts	86,955,000	90,555,000	13,555,000	13,943,000
Acts relating to Reformatory and Industrial Schools	539,000	537,000	151,000	143,000
Inebriates Acts ... ..	...	...	...	...
Public Health Acts so far as they relate to—				
(i) Hospitals and treatment of disease	7,376,000	...	1,381,000	1,353,000
(ii) Maternity and Child Welfare Work	2,370,000	...	291,000	317,000
Housing of the Working Classes Acts	30,879,000	...	4,719,000	4,936,000
Acts relating to the Relief of the Poor	40,699,000	...	4,254,000	3,978,000
Unemployed Workmen Act	40,000	...	4,000	...
Lunacy Acts	2,421,000	...	1,410,000	1,327,000
Mental Deficiency Acts	1,440,000	...	...	...
Totals	355,647,000	...	48,303,000	...

Figures are also given in the Return showing the total expenditure in the year ended 31st March, 1930, subdivided between interest on loans and provision for repayment of loans, administrative expenses, and all other expenses (benefits, etc.). The receipts from which the total expenditure was met are also shown, subdivided between local rates, Parliamentary votes and grants, and other receipts (contributions, fees, interest, rents, etc.). In some cases, the total number of persons directly benefiting from the expenditure is stated.

* Cmd. 3971. H.M. Stationery Office; price 4d. net (5d. post free).

service. On the other hand, there was much demand among girls for shop work, sometimes far exceeding probable openings. Similarly there was a general demand amongst secondary and central school pupils for clerical work; and one of the principal difficulties of the Committees in dealing with secondary school pupils was to persuade them to embark upon more individual, and often more original and profitable, careers.

Placing of Boys and Girls in Employment.—The number of vacancies for juveniles filled by Employment Exchanges and Juvenile Employment Bureaux during the year was 308,954, of which 162,182 were in respect of boys, and 146,772 in respect of girls. These figures show a small reduction on the record figures for 1929, which were 317,015 (boys, 168,706; girls, 148,309). Of the total placings last year, 100,170 were first placings after leaving school.

It is stated in the Report that, speaking generally, the quality of the vacancies notified has steadily improved. Some occupations previously regarded as “blind-alley” occupations are tending to become avenues to progressive and permanent posts, owing to the enlightened attitude of certain employers. On the other hand, many Committees refer to the continued decline in apprenticeship.

Secondary and Central School Pupils.—Most of the local Committees include in their membership representatives of secondary schools, nominated by the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Associations, or directly co-opted. Where such Committees undertake the placing of secondary school pupils, the procedure is similar to that followed in the placing of elementary school children. The placing of central school pupils is effected through the normal machinery, except in London, where the Central Schools Employment Committee, working from the City of London Exchange, undertakes such work.

The placing of secondary school boys and girls, however, tends to become specialised, and to be performed either by special sub-committees of the local Committees, or, where numbers justify, by specially appointed bodies, such as the Head Masters' and Head Mistresses' Employment Committees in London and certain provincial areas.*

It is stated in the Report that conditions during the year were adverse to the placing of secondary and central school pupils. Business depression, and mechanisation of work in banks and commercial houses, were responsible for a serious decline in vacancies notified, and the competition for clerical posts was unusually severe.

Oversea Migration.—There was little oversea migration of juveniles, partly owing to the curtailment of migration schemes, but still more owing to the apathy of juveniles and of their parents. Efforts to overcome this inertia, even in the depressed areas, met with very little response.

Supervision subsequent to Placing in Employment.—The supervisory functions of local Committees are carried out mainly by the three following methods:—(i) “open evenings,” or supervisory industrial rotas; that is, the interviewing, by invitation, at the Exchange or Bureau of a proportion of the juveniles newly entered into industry or known to be unemployed; (ii) visits to employers, by officers of the Exchange or Bureau, some time after a boy or girl has been placed; and (iii) visits to the boys' and girls' homes: this method is stated to be of special use in cases where personal or domestic circumstances are difficult.

Courses of Instruction for Unemployed Juveniles.—Owing to the rapid growth of juvenile unemployment, and to the wishes of Parliament as expressed in the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1930,† regarding the provision of instruction for unemployed juveniles and girls entitled to benefit, great development took place during 1930 in the system of approved courses of instruction.‡ The number of centres and classes rose from 78 to 116, and the total average attendances from 7,000 to 16,000. The object of these centres and classes is, briefly, to provide facilities for the instruction and training of boys and girls from 14 to 18 years of age during unemployment, and thereby to develop qualities that would assist them to enter or re-enter industry. Unemployed juveniles are now admitted to day or evening classes in existing educational institutions in many places where, owing to the sparseness of population or owing to the lesser degree of unemployment, it is not possible to establish junior instruction centres or classes specially for unemployed juveniles only.

The curriculum at the centres and classes varies. In most areas it is largely practical, and designed to increase general manual dexterity. Physical training and organised games are an important and popular part of the work; and, in addition to educational instruction of the normal type, lectures are given on subjects of general interest. Juveniles are not trained for any specific occupation, though a certain amount of bias towards important local industries is permitted.

Transfer of Juveniles from Distressed Areas.—The numbers transferred in 1930 were 1,313 boys and 1,708 girls; since the introduction of the scheme in February, 1928, 5,775 boys and 3,702 girls had been transferred up to the end of 1930. The boys went into a great variety of occupations, the girls nearly all into domestic service. Owing to the long continued depression, there was a decline of nearly 50 per cent. in the initial transfers of boys in 1930 as compared with 1929; but there was a considerable increase in the transfers of girls, owing to the continued strong demand for domestic servants, and the growth in the facilities for their training provided, in conjunction with the Ministry, by the Central Committee on Women's Employment and Training.

* See, for example, Reports of the [London] Headmasters' Employment Committee and of the [London] Headmistresses' Employment Committee (H.M. Stationery Office; price 2d. and 3d. net, respectively; 24d. and 34d. post free). Notices of these Reports appeared in the issues of this GAZETTE for June (page 214) and for May (page 175), respectively.

† See the issues of this GAZETTE for November and December, 1929 (pages 399 and 438-9), and for February and March, 1930 (pages 50 and 84).

‡ See the issue of this GAZETTE for August, 1930, page 284.

CO-OPERATION IN AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES IN 1930.

The following particulars of agricultural and fishery co-operative societies in 1930 and previous years have been prepared by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies from the statutory returns furnished annually to his Department. 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 nearly the same extent, the decision which places it in one category or another is necessarily somewhat arbitrary.

I.—REQUIREMENT SOCIETIES.

The following Table gives particulars of the operations of these societies in Great Britain for the years 1913 and 1920-1930:—

Year.	Number of Societies.	Members-ship.	Sales.*	Surplus or Loss (-) on Year.	Wages.†
1913	257	27,204	£ 1,583,268	£ 8,851	£ 29,657
1920	667	115,553	13,260,251	- 104,823	323,827
1921	664	115,891	10,556,552	- 146,161	377,847
1922	588	112,176	8,695,369	21,950	355,230
1923	548	105,537	8,248,190	- 21,935	337,837
1924	506	96,892	8,751,210	65,126	324,494
1925	478	95,115	8,995,056	23,355	325,117
1926	438	93,261	7,968,427	56,903	314,744
1927	421	90,205	8,091,200	117,123	305,691
1928	396	87,217	8,717,550	133,734	313,268
1929	375	85,484	8,482,476	111,167	318,084
1930	355	85,934	7,375,385	64,993	320,368

The number of Requirement societies was still further reduced in 1930, and the societies remaining were but little more than half in number of those on the register in 1920. The continuous reduction in membership of recent years was checked by a slight increase in 1930, but sales decreased by £1,107,000, or 13 per cent. Only a few societies were able to return an increase in sales, and such increases were usually of negligible amount. Where there were decreases, however, they were often ascribed by societies to the fall in prices, and some of the large farmers' associations claimed that, when measured by quantity, their sales had increased.

As a whole, the Requirement societies were able to return a surplus on their year's trading, although the amount was smaller than in 1929. The net surplus was equivalent to less than 1 per cent. on sales for societies in England and Wales, and about 3 per cent. for societies in Scotland. The net figure for the group was, however, greatly reduced by the losses incurred by some societies. About one in four of the farmers' Requirement societies in England and Wales, and one half of those in Scotland, returned losses on their trading in 1930. For the societies of allotment workers, the proportion returning losses was about two in five. For the most part, however, the losses both for farmers' and allotment workers' Requirement societies were of small amount. There were three notable exceptions. The Southern Counties Farmers' Association, Ltd., returned a loss on the year's trading of £11,569, which it ascribed to the liquidation of surplus stocks in rapidly falling markets. The Shropshire Farmers' Association, Ltd., returned a loss on the year's working of £14,803, which was due mainly to the writing off of £9,950 from the society's investment of £10,000 in shares of the Midland Dairy Farmers, Ltd. (see below). The balance of the loss was attributed to the effect of falling prices on forward contracts for the purchase of members' produce. The Wrexham and District Farmers' Association, Ltd., showed a loss of £5,894, which was caused mainly by writing down the value of the society's land, buildings, fixtures, etc., following a revaluation.

The following Table gives particulars for 1930 of (a) farmers' and (b) allotment workers' societies, as sub-divided in the Chief Registrar's Annual Report:—

Class.	Members-ship.		Sales.	
	England & Wales.	Scotland.	England & Wales.	Scotland.
Farmers' Societies	61,057	11,040	£ 6,869,371	£ 386,421
Allotment Workers' Societies ...	13,837	...	119,593	...

It will be seen that the farmers' societies are responsible for the bulk of the business done. The 180 farmers' societies in England and Wales had 1,989 employees, and share and loan capital and reserves (including the net aggregate of profit and loss balances carried forward) amounting to £1,837,000, or £30 2s. per member.

* See Table in Section II as to sales of produce included here.

† In addition, some societies allot bonuses to employees; in 1930 such bonuses amounted to £2,516.

The 83 farmers' societies in Scotland had 132 employees, and capital and reserves of £76,000, or £6 18s. per member. The 91 allotment workers' societies (all in England and Wales) had 72 employees, and capital and reserves of £32,000, or £2 6s. per member.

II.—PRODUCE SOCIETIES.

The following Table gives particulars of the operations of these societies in Great Britain for the years 1913 and 1920-1930:—

Year.	Number of Societies.	Members-ship.	Sales.*	Surplus or Loss (-) on Year.	Wages.†
1913	124	9,732	£ 840,849	- £ 33,070	£ 56,207
1920	338	45,588	8,202,694	- 114,009	267,354
1921	309	42,923	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	- 8,392	175,260
1924	286	36,601	3,775,980	- 11,704	182,986
1925	284	37,094	3,989,136	- 64,769	192,508
1926	285	39,623	5,677,985	- 56,306	189,658
1927	283	36,273	5,700,110	13,775	187,245
1928	287	38,078	7,142,884	55,745	195,642
1929	291	39,959	7,479,510	- 1,143	204,631
1930	286	39,147	5,150,036	- 2,747	214,797

In 1930, this group comprised 88 dairy societies, 64 egg and poultry societies, 15 fruit and market garden produce societies, 42 farmers' and growers' societies, and 19 miscellaneous produce societies; also 58 fishermen's trading societies.

Comparison of the membership and sales figures of the Produce societies for 1929 and 1930 is vitiated owing to the winding up of the English Hop Growers, Ltd. In 1929, this society had a membership of 1,381, and its sales amounted to £1,841,917, but no figures for this society fall to be included in 1930. This accounts for the decline in membership, and for more than three-fourths of the decrease in sales. The remainder of the decrease was largely attributable to the fall in prices and to the continued adverse conditions obtaining in agriculture.

About one in three dairy societies returned losses in 1930. With the exception of the Midland Dairy Farmers, Ltd., which suffered a loss of £16,150, the losses were relatively small. In the society mentioned the greater part of the loss was due to the writing down of the value of its land, buildings, fixtures, etc. The Scottish Milk Agency, Ltd., the largest of the Produce societies, which sustained a loss of £19,000 in 1929, recorded a profit of nearly £7,000 in 1930 despite a decrease in its turnover from £1,464,000 to £1,346,000. During the year this society dealt with some 22,482,000 gallons of milk, an increase of 59,000 gallons over 1929. Taken as a whole, the dairy societies returned an aggregate profit of £11,616. Although the egg and poultry societies were able to show an increased turnover, their trading in 1930 was not profitable. About half of those which did any business in 1930 returned losses on the year's working, and the trading of the whole group resulted in a net aggregate loss of £5,500; the aggregate loss, however, was £5,100 less than in 1929.

Each of the three active English co-operative bacon factory societies returned decreased sales, and sustained losses on the year's working. The decrease in their sales aggregated £129,000, or 30 per cent. One factory, operating in Lincolnshire, was responsible for £105,000 of the decrease, and attributed its difficulties to the shortage of supplies. The supply of pigs to the factory was 19,396 in 1930, as against 32,985 in 1929. This, the society reports, is by far the lowest number received in any year since the war. The shortage is attributed by the society itself to the prevalence of swine fever in the county, and to the fact that "many farmers have turned their attention to the pork market, preferring this outlet rather than risk the bacon market." The one Scottish co-operative bacon factory returned a small trading surplus, despite a decreased turnover. The wool-marketing societies showed a substantial decrease in sales. The largest society of this description in England returned sales of only £6,574, as against £82,315 in 1929. Another large society reported: "after most careful consideration, and following consultations with its brokers, the Committee decided that it would be serving best the interests of growers if it refrained from placing the wool on to what was undoubtedly a most depressed and unwilling market."

The Scottish sheep stock club co-operative credit societies, whose members collectively are assisted by State advances, were almost uniformly successful, and returned an aggregate profit of £7,000. Only two out of 32 such societies doing business sustained losses in 1930. The sales of the fishermen's trading societies declined by £16,000, and the aggregate profit of these societies in 1930 was £1,841, as compared with £5,798 in 1929.

In all, 86 Produce societies returned losses in 1930, or about one in every three societies in England, and one in every four in Scotland.

In England and Wales the 196 societies had 31,185 members; their share and loan capital and reserves (including the net aggregate of profit and loss balances carried forward) amounted to £692,000, or £22 4s. per member. These societies employed 1,299 persons, whose salaries and wages totalled £137,650. The increase of £52,000 in capital is to a large extent due to the inclusion among the Produce societies of a dairy society with £40,000 capital, which was previously classified as a farmers' requirement society. In Scotland the 90 societies had 7,962 members, and capital and reserves of £441,000, or £55 8s. per member. The average for Scotland was highest in the dairy associations and sheep stock club co-operative credit

* See references below as to sales of requirements included here.

† In addition, some societies allot bonuses to employees; in 1930 such bonuses amounted to £624.

societies; in the latter the average was nearly £200 per member. The Scottish societies had 567 employees, whose salaries and wages totalled £77,147.

The sales* of various kinds of produce by societies in the group are shown in the following Table:—

Description of Produce.	England and Wales.		Scotland.	
	1930.	1929.	1930.	1929.
	£	£	£	£
Milk and Dairy	1,149,889	1,203,466	2,243,642	2,382,739
Eggs and Poultry	435,777	370,630	90,952	85,040
Fruit and Market Garden	113,144	1,969,025	...	...
Dead Meat	421,942	545,662	152,869	167,250
Livestock	25,772	35,226	41,346	44,279
Wool	55,311	157,593	126,042	174,848
Fish	78,187	97,572	35,023	30,314
Sundry	5,861	5,484	955	266
Totals	2,283,883	4,384,658	2,690,829	2,844,736

The sales of the Requirement societies (Group I.) included produce of the following descriptions and values:—

Description of Produce.	England and Wales.		Scotland.	
	1930.	1929.	1930.	1929.
	£	£	£	£
Milk and Dairy	139,982	116,420	...	...
Eggs and Poultry	141,109	136,391	780	1,100
Fruit and Market Garden	32,796	43,904	...	844
Dead Meat	60,803	50,968	...	...
Livestock	231,846	253,335	29	27
Wool	12,308	23,510	...	...
Sundry†	205,651	274,888	6,245	6,629
Totals	824,495	899,416	7,054	8,600

In addition to the societies classified as "Agricultural" and "Fishing," 146 industrial co-operative societies had farming and dairying departments.† In 1930 these societies employed 2,551 persons and expended £271,918 in salaries and wages in these departments. The value of their produce was returned at £1,715,771, and about one-fifth of the value was attributed to societies in Scotland.

III.—SERVICE SOCIETIES.

In addition to societies which supply services such as threshing, small holdings and allotments societies, and credit societies, which are 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. 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 1913 and 1920-1930:—

Year.	Number of Societies.	Members-ship.	Surplus or Loss (-) on Year.‡	Wages.¶
1913	355	29,357	£ 2,228	£ 5,044
1920	937	153,046	9,872	30,964
1921	976	168,525	- 3,042	34,768
1922	981	176,905	10,205	34,003
1923	974	178,036	9,438	34,307
1924	949	177,112	6,587	35,029
1925	915	171,200	9,505	42,048
1926	888	167,077	3,815	49,919
1927	890	165,556	958	50,283
1928	862	164,004	5,222	48,756
1929	849	165,590	11,426	50,567
1930	836	165,536	6,080	52,882

Nearly two-thirds of the decrease in the surplus earned by Service societies in 1930 was due to losses sustained by societies connected with fishing. A Cornish fishing vessel insurance society returned a loss on the year's working of over £1,000; and the losses of four fishermen's credit societies, which were due principally to bad debts, aggregated £2,200.

The 820 Service societies in England and Wales in 1930 had share and loan capital and reserves (including the net aggregate of balances of profit and loss carried forward) amounting to £480,000, or about £2 19s. per member. The 16 Service societies in Scotland had capital and reserves of £118,000, averaging £43 per member.

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

* In addition, produce societies supplied their members with requirements to the amount of £126,582 in England and Wales, and £29,052 in Scotland, and had additional sales of a non-agricultural character to the amount of £1,150 in England and Wales, and £18,540 in Scotland.

† Mainly grain and forage.

‡ For further details of the farming operations of industrial co-operative societies, see page 377 of the October, 1931, issue of this GAZETTE.

§ 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. In addition to wages, some societies allot bonuses to employees; in 1930 such bonuses amounted to £390.

Year.	Number of Societies.	Acreage of Land let as—		Rent, Rates, etc. payable by—		Value of Land and Buildings owned by Societies.
		Small Holdings.	Allotments.	Societies.	Tenants.	
		£	£	£	£	
1913	193	12,225	1,532	21,737	28,402	£ 30,673
1920	774	15,723	8,063	59,321	74,579	137,160
1921	812	17,473	9,712	76,201	96,949	187,240
1922	815	17,635	10,013	80,292	104,062	178,524
1923	794	17,336	10,572	77,813	104,369	161,162
1924	757	16,995	10,197	75,732	93,283	144,742
1925	719	16,055	9,860	72,583	95,900	156,056
1926	702	15,461	9,585	70,051	90,174	155,293
1927	691	15,362	9,259	70,579	91,213	172,001
1928	666	15,082	9,034	69,160	87,220	186,153
1929	661	14,957	8,756	63,879	86,677	195,540
1930	657	14,186	8,597	55,896	80,913	233,461

In 1930 these societies had 140,074 members, of whom 87,500, or about 62 per cent., were returned as tenants or tenant purchasers. The latter numbered 2,700, and they occupied 261 acres as small holdings and 413 acres as allotments.

IV.—GENERAL.

In general, agricultural co-operation, which showed signs of expansion during the war and immediate post-war years, has declined in recent years. Since the peak year 1920 there has been a decrease of 36 per cent. in the number of trading societies (Groups I. and II.), and a reduction of 22 per cent. in membership. Many agricultural and fishing societies, unable to obtain further working capital or credit, have found it necessary to wind up; in addition a number of industrial co-operative trading societies, after suffering heavy losses, have closed their auxiliary farming departments. In the Service societies (Group III.) there was up to 1923 a rapid growth of small holdings and allotments societies, but since that year there has been a reduction of nearly 15 per cent. in the number of those societies, and of 18 per cent. in the acreage under cultivation.

The following Table shows the sales in 1930 for all Requirement and Produce Societies* :—

	England and Wales.	Scotland.	Great Britain.
Requirements	£ 6,178,917	£ 381,190	£ 6,560,107
Produce:—			
Milk and Dairy	1,289,871	2,243,642	3,533,513
Eggs and Poultry	576,886	91,732	668,618
Fruit and Market Garden	145,940	...	145,940
Dead Meat	482,745	152,869	635,614
Livestock	257,618	41,375	298,993
Wool	67,619	126,042	193,661
Fish	78,187	35,023	113,210
Sundry	1,561,140	371,343	1,932,483
Non-agricultural	113,284	45,769	159,053
Total Sales	10,752,207	3,488,985	14,241,192

There was a decrease of £1,224,000 in sales of requirements and of £2,332,000 in sales of produce, the latter being due for the most part to the winding up of English Hop Growers, Ltd., mentioned above.

The total membership of all the agricultural and fishing societies was 291,000, which was approximately the same as in 1929. Their share and loan capital and reserves (including the net aggregate of balances of profit and loss carried forward) amounted to £3,676,000, as against £3,680,000 in 1929.

INDUSTRIAL HEALTH RESEARCH BOARD.

In their eleventh annual Report,† covering the period ended 30th June, 1931, the Industrial Health Research Board observe that the study of industrial fatigue in heavy work, which was amongst the first investigations undertaken by the Board, has now reached a stage which has in their opinion shown conclusively the fallacies of long hours, and the benefits of suitable environmental conditions and of scientifically imposed rest-pauses. The fatigue with which the Board is now more concerned is the mental state produced by hours of monotonous work in an industrial world of progressively mechanized production, and, in this connection, close analysis of the various influences operating on those engaged in uniformly repetitive work has thrown fresh light on their reactions to it, as reflected by variations in output, speed, accuracy, etc., and as expressed by symptoms of boredom shown by the workers themselves. Conclusions have been reached as to the way in which these conditions can be relieved by varying the work and introducing rest-pauses.

Study of those environmental factors which affect working efficiency, judged either by physiological or industrial standards, has resulted in improved knowledge of the causal relationship between the influence of ventilation, heating, humidity, lighting, and design of machinery and appliances on the working capacity of the operative.

Other studies have led to conclusions regarding such subjects as the optimum weight to be handled and carried; the methods of loading and handling, and the design, of wheelbarrows; the use of suitable spectacles by workers (including those of normal vision) engaged on specially fine work; the effect of nervous temperaments in unfitting persons for certain employments

RELIEF OF UNEMPLOYMENT IN GERMANY.

SHORTER WORKING WEEK LEGISLATION.

UNDER the Working Hours Order of 14th April, 1927, normal working hours in Germany are fixed at 8 a day, 48 a week, or 96 a fortnight; the normal working day may, however, be extended up to 10 hours a day by the working of overtime sanctioned by collective agreement between employers and workers, or, failing such agreement, by official authorisation. As a means of relieving the labour market by spreading the available work over a larger number of persons, the Federal Government (as reported in the issue of this GAZETTE for June, 1931, page 217), was empowered by the Presidential Order of 5th June, 1931, subject to the approval of the Reichsrat:—(1) to order the reduction of the normal statutory working week to 40 hours or more; and (2) to make the extension of the normal working time by collective agreement subject to authorisation by the competent authorities in individual industries, branches of industry and commerce, or for individual groups of workers in undertakings employing as a rule at least ten manual workers or at least ten non-manual workers.

The detailed regulations for the application of the reduction in working hours, required by the Order of 5th June, 1931, were issued by the Federal Government on 30th September, 1931. The main purpose of the regulations is to determine the legal situation resulting from the issue of any Orders limiting hours of work and the application of such Orders to cases in which working hours are regulated by collective agreements operative at the time the Orders are issued. In cases where the normal working week is reduced by Order of the Federal Government, the reduced weekly working time is to replace the normal 48-hour week of the Working Hours Order for the industry or branch of industry in question, and, unless an Order specifically provides otherwise, the reduced weekly working time can be extended by the working of overtime in accordance with the existing statutory provisions with regard to the extension of the normal 48-hour week. If, however, an Order provides that the working of overtime sanctioned by collective agreement must henceforward be subject to authorisation by the competent authorities, then the normal working time must be limited to 48 hours a week or such lesser number of hours as may be provided for in that Order. In these cases, the authorisation for the working of overtime may be issued only upon application by one or other of the parties to the collective agreement, and then only if the need for such overtime cannot reasonably be met by other measures on the part of the employer, in particular by the engagement of extra workers.

With regard to wages, the regulations empower the employer, in cases where working hours are reduced under an Order of the Federal Government, to effect a proportionate reduction in the remuneration of the worker. The obligations of the employer with regard to the payment of overtime supplements remain subject to the provisions of the Working Hours Order of 14th April, 1927.

So far as is known, no specific Order for the compulsory reduction of working hours has yet been issued. The aim of the Federal Government appears to be to avoid compulsion as far as possible, and to endeavour to bring about reduction by voluntary agreement between employers and workers. Considerable difficulties have arisen from the fact that the working hours provisions of current collective agreements must be adapted to those laid down in Orders issued under the procedure outlined above, and that this procedure constitutes a departure from the established principle of the invariability of current collective agreements in Germany. Prior to the issue of the present regulations, conversations were initiated at the Federal Ministry of Labour between the principal employers' and workers' organisations, in the course of which fundamental differences of opinion between employers and workers manifested themselves regarding the question of the adjustment of wages where working hours were reduced. Following these conversations, the Government opened negotiations directly with representatives of employers and workers in various industries, e.g., the paper-making, building, printing, chemical, cement, pottery, tile-making, glass, and brewing industries, and the North West Group of the iron and steel industry. These negotiations, which were directed towards securing a reduction of working hours by voluntary agreement between the employers and workers, proved exceptionally difficult by reason of the disagreement regarding the question of wage adjustment, and in the majority of cases have so far proved ineffective. In the brewing industry, however, some twenty agreements have so far been concluded for various areas. In general they provide for a 40-hour week (no work being performed on Wednesdays) and a reduction in wages varying from 13 to 15 per cent. The agreement for the Berlin area covers about 7,000 workers, and that for West Saxony, East Thuringia and Merseburg some 4,600 workers. In the Lower Silesian coal-mining industry employment is to be provided for 1,800 additional workers under an agreement whereby the staff of certain undertakings is to be increased by one-sixth of the number for whom full-time employment is available, and one-seventh of the increased total staff are to be "stood off" in rotation each month. The procedure was initiated on 1st October, 1931, and was to become fully operative by 1st December, 1931. During the period of temporary suspension the worker is to receive pay for half the period of annual leave to which he may be entitled under the prevailing collective agreement, and may also receive unemployment benefit at rates not exceeding one-half the normal rates.*

* See the paragraph on "Alternating Employment" in the article "German Unemployment Insurance: Further Amendments," at page 419 of this GAZETTE for November, 1931.

WAGES AND HOURS IN THE WOODWORKING INDUSTRY IN GERMANY, 1931.

THE Federal Statistical Office has published in its journal *Wirtschaft und Statistik* for 28th October, 1931, the chief results of an inquiry into wages and hours of labour in the woodworking industry at March, 1931. This is the second inquiry into this industry undertaken by the Statistical Office; the results of the first inquiry, relating to March, 1928, were summarised in this GAZETTE for September, 1928.

The industry was divided into two sections for the purpose of the inquiry: (a) machine joinery, cabinet and furniture making; and (b) musical instrument making. In the former branch, the data refer to 21,442 male workers employed in 1,195 undertakings, and in the latter to 2,310 workers (including 245 females) in 67 undertakings. In both branches, only workers 22 years of age and over were included. The number covered by this inquiry is considerably less than that covered in 1928, on account of the closing down of some firms and reductions in the staff of others. Of the total number of workers covered by the recent inquiry, 71.8 per cent. were on time work and the remainder on piece work. In 1928, 65.5 per cent. were on time work.

(a) *Machine Joinery, Cabinet and Furniture Making.*—The following Table shows for male workers the average hourly earnings, including allowances, the average gross weekly earnings and the average number of hours worked in a week in all collective agreement areas at March, 1931, with comparative data for March, 1928:—

Class of Worker (Males 22 years of age and over).	Average hourly earnings.*		Average gross weekly earnings.		Average weekly hours of labour.	
	March, 1928.	March, 1931.	March, 1928.	March, 1931.	March, 1928.	March, 1931.
	Rpf.	Rpf.	Rmk.	Rmk.		
Skilled workers (time)	116.4	117.3	53.40	46.49	45.9	39.63
" (piece)	128.1	120.8	57.91	48.85	45.2	40.43
Semi-skilled workers (time)	94.4	91.9	44.29	37.34	46.9	40.62
" (piece)	102.6	90.5	46.23	36.89	45.1	40.70
Unskilled workers (time)	89.4	89.1	41.48	36.59	46.4	41.08

Since the date of the previous inquiry a number of collective agreements in the industry have been terminated and not renewed. A comparison of earnings and agreed rates could, therefore, be made only in the remaining collective agreement areas, which include about 40 per cent. of the workers covered by the whole inquiry.

Class of Worker (Males 22 years of age and over).	March, 1928.			March, 1931.		
	Average hourly earnings (excluding agreed supplements).	Agreed time rate, or piece-work basis time rate.	Average hourly earnings as a percentage of agreed rate.	Average hourly earnings (excluding agreed supplements).	Agreed time rate, or piece-work basis time rate.	Average hourly earnings as a percentage of agreed rate.
	Rpf.	Rpf.	Per cent.	Rpf.	Rpf.	Per cent.
Skilled workers (time)	117.2	107.9	108.6	119.0	110.9	107.3
Skilled workers (piece)	137.2	121.9	112.6	129.7	125.9	103.0
Semi-skilled workers (time)†	98.1	95.4	102.8	97.1	97.7	99.4
Unskilled workers (time)	97.7	94.5	103.4	95.8	96.5	99.3

The above Table shows that, while hourly rates increased for all groups of workers during the period March, 1928, to March, 1931, average hourly earnings decreased except in the case of skilled time workers; and even here average hourly earnings as a percentage of hourly rates declined from 108.6 to 107.3 per cent.

Deductions from gross earnings of skilled workers 22 years of age and over in respect of wage tax and social insurance contributions increased from 11.1 per cent. for time workers and 10.8 per cent. for piece workers in March, 1928, to 12.3 per cent. and 12.1 per cent. respectively, in March, 1931. The social insurance contribution alone rose from 7.3 per cent. in March, 1928, to 9.0 per cent. in March, 1931, in the case of skilled time-workers, the increase being due mainly to the rise in unemployment insurance contributions.

If deductions are made from the gross weekly earnings of skilled workers for wage tax and social insurance contributions, and the results are divided by the cost-of-living index figures for March, 1928, and March, 1931 (150.6 and 137.7, respectively, as compared with an index figure of 100 for the period 1913-1914), the net weekly earnings of skilled workers thus obtained, expressed in pre-war marks, are 31.51 and 34.30 pre-war marks at March, 1928, and 29.63 and 31.18 pre-war marks at March, 1931, for skilled workers on time and piece work, respectively.

(b) *Musical Instrument Manufacture.*—The following Table gives for males and females engaged in the making of musical instruments the average hourly earnings, including allowances, the average gross weekly earnings, and the average number of hours worked a week at March, 1931, with comparative statistics for March, 1928:—

* Including supplements for overtime, night work, Sunday work and holiday work, as well as for setting up work in position.
† Semi-skilled piece workers were located wholly or mainly in areas for which in March, 1931, no collective agreements existed.

Class of Worker (Males and Females 22 years of age and over).	Average hourly earnings.*		Average gross weekly earnings.		Average weekly hours of labour.	
	March, 1928.	March, 1931.	March, 1928.	March, 1931.	March, 1928.	March, 1931.
	Rpf.	Rpf.	Rmk.	Rmk.		
Male Workers.						
Skilled workers (time)	118.7	122.6	51.69	48.83	43.5	39.8
" (piece)	133.9	126.0	55.62	43.70	41.5	34.7
Semi-skilled workers (time)	91.1	95.9	43.53	36.59	47.8	38.2
Unskilled workers (time)	90.7	98.0	40.33	39.39	44.4	40.2
Female Workers.						
Skilled workers (piece)	77.9	74.9	29.05	21.88	37.3	29.2
Semi-skilled workers (time)	62.4	65.8	28.00	25.34	44.9	38.5
" " " (piece)	76.4	67.6	30.00	23.48	39.3	34.7

For workers in areas covered by collective agreements at March, 1931, the following Table gives the average hourly earnings (excluding supplements fixed by agreements), the agreed hourly rates and the hourly earnings as a percentage of the hourly rates at March, 1928 and 1931:—

Class of Worker. (Males and Females 22 years of age and over).	March, 1928.			March, 1931.		
	Average hourly earnings (excluding agreed supplements).	Agreed time rate, or piece-work basis time rate.	Average hourly earnings as a percentage of agreed rate.	Average hourly earnings (excluding agreed supplements).	Agreed time rate, or piece-work basis time rate.	Average hourly earnings as a percentage of agreed rate.
	Rpf.	Rpf.	Per cent.	Rpf.	Rpf.	Per cent.
Males:						
Skilled workers (time)	120.2	107.8	111.5	126.6	113.3	111.7
Skilled workers (piece)	141.1	128.5	109.8	132.8	127.8	103.9
Semi-skilled workers (time)	90.6	91.9	98.6	89.7	92.4	97.1
Unskilled workers (time)	97.1	94.1	103.2	102.1	98.9	103.2
Females:						
Skilled workers (piece)	81.4	76.0	107.1	77.4	80.5	96.1
Semi-skilled workers (time)	63.0	57.8	109.0	69.7	61.8	112.8
Semi-skilled workers (piece)	82.0	68.3	120.1	70.3	66.9	105.1

EARNINGS IN THE COAL MINING INDUSTRY IN GERMANY IN 1930 AND 1931.

STATISTICS of earnings of workers in the German coal industry, based on monthly returns supplied by the Mineowners' Associations, have been published in *Wirtschaft und Statistik* for 12th October, 1931, the official organ of the Federal Statistical Office.

The following Table shows for Germany as a whole, for certain months in 1930 and 1931, the total amount paid in wages to workers in coal mines during the month, the average monthly earnings of all workers, and the average shift earnings of certain categories of surface and underground workers and of all workers combined. The figures are a weighted average of the returns for West Upper Silesia, Lower Silesia, the Ruhr, Aix-la-Chapelle and Saxony.

Date.	Total cash earnings of all workers during the month.	Average cash earnings per worker during the month.	Average cash earnings per shift of					All workers.
			Underground workers.		Surface workers.			
			Hew-ers.	Other underground workers.†	Adult males.	Youths.	Fe-males.	
1930:	1,000's Rmk.	Rmk.	Rmk.	Rmk.	Rmk.	Rmk.	Rmk.	
January	104,261	200	9.97	7.42	7.63	2.41	3.45	8.49
July ...	81,167	182	9.91	7.55	7.64	2.39	3.47	8.50
December	76,335	188	9.81	7.59	7.70	2.39	3.44	8.48
1931:								
January	72,580	180	9.25	7.17	7.24	2.28	3.29	8.00
July ...	59,787	169	9.14	7.09	7.15	2.22	3.45	7.87

The total number of workers employed to which the above statistics of earnings relate declined from 521,837 in January, 1930, to 353,772 in July, 1931, or by 32.2 per cent. In the same period the total monthly cash earnings of all workers declined from 104,261,000 to 59,787,000 Reichsmarks, or by 42.7 per cent., the

* Inclusive of supplements for overtime, night, Sunday and holiday work, as well as for setting up work in position.
† The average number of workers employed during the month was computed by deducting the number of overtime shifts from the total number of shifts worked, adding the total number of idle shifts, and dividing the result by the number of working days in the month.
‡ Excluding trammers.

average monthly cash earnings declined from 200 to 169 Reichsmarks (15.5 per cent.), and the average cash earnings per shift declined from 8.49 to 7.87 Reichsmarks (7.3 per cent.). The fall in all the figures between December, 1930, and January, 1931, was due to arbitration awards which in January, 1931, reduced wages by from 5 to 6 per cent. in all coal mining areas except Aix-la-Chapelle (see this GAZETTE for January and February, 1931).

The next Table gives, for each coal-mining area, and for the whole of Germany, the average cash earnings per shift of all workers at July, 1930, and January and July, 1931:—

Date.	West Upper Silesia.	Lower Silesia.	Ruhr.	Aix-la-Chapelle.	Saxony.	All German Coalfields.
1930: July ...	Rmk. 6.90	Rmk. 6.54	Rmk. 8.98	Rmk. 7.93	Rmk. 7.62	Rmk. 8.50
1931: January ...	6.46	6.51	8.44	7.90	7.15	8.00
July ...	6.45	6.22	8.35	7.45	7.05	7.87

This Table shows that the average shift earnings were highest in the Ruhr coal-field, the largest mining area in point of numbers of workers employed, and lowest in Lower Silesia. The percentage decline in shift earnings in the period July, 1930, to July, 1931, was 7.4 for all areas combined, and varied between 4.9 per cent. for Lower Silesia and 7.5 per cent. for Saxony.

Wages in the coal mining industry recently underwent a further reduction of 7 per cent. as the result of arbitration awards (to which reference is made in this GAZETTE for October, 1931 (page 381), November, 1931 (page 420), and in this issue (page 464)). In order, however, to mitigate the effect of the reduction, the industry has been temporarily exempted from the payment of unemployment insurance contributions in respect of underground miners, thus making the 7 per cent. nominal reduction an actual one of about 4 per cent. to these workers, with a saving to the employers of about 10 per cent. of the wage bill for underground workers.

UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF IN OVERSEA COUNTRIES.

DENMARK.

An Act dated 19th October, 1931, relating to emergency unemployment relief, provides for the granting of relief, up to a maximum period of 70 days, to unemployed persons who: (a) are full members of State recognised unemployment funds and were registered as members prior to 2nd October, 1931, and who have exhausted the benefit due to them, or whose title to benefit has not become effective; (b) are not members of State recognised unemployment funds, or who were registered as members of such funds after 1st October, 1931, provided that they are registered at a communal Employment Exchange and that there are no circumstances which, were the unemployed person a member of an unemployment fund, would entail suspension from benefit.

The rate of relief payable to members of recognised unemployment funds is the rate at which benefit is paid by the fund; but, in special circumstances in the case of unmarried persons under 21 years of age, the communal authorities are empowered to reduce the rates of relief by not more than one-third. The rate of relief payable to non-members of unemployment funds is to be lower than, but not less than two-thirds of, the rate of benefit payable by the communal authorities in the case of unmarried persons under 21 years of age. Provision is made for expenditure in connection with the Act to be borne by the communes, the Central Unemployment Fund, and the State, in the ratio of one-sixth, one-half, and one-third, respectively. The Act ceases to be operative on 1st May, 1932.

FRANCE.

By a Decree dated 11th November, 1931, special provision is made for unemployed persons who have exhausted their title to relief from the public unemployment funds (which is payable, at the present time, for a maximum period of 180 days in any twelve months). Such persons may apply for assistance, through the unemployment funds, to the poor relief authorities, the central government bearing 50 per cent. of the cost of the assistance, provided the recipients are destitute, physically fit for work, and ineligible for relief in respect of old age or infirmity. Relief may be granted in money or in kind, the amount being fixed by the poor relief authorities according to the family means of the applicant.

During the current year, a scheme has been initiated for extending unemployment relief to workers on short time, by a Decree dated 10th March, 1931, empowering the central government to subsidise special funds established by county, municipal and communal authorities, associations of employers or workers and mutual aid societies, for the purpose of granting relief to persons who work less than four days a week.

According to a government circular, dated 8th July, 1931, the rates of such relief are to be fixed by the funds, subject to approval by the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, and are to be payable in respect of not more than 18 weeks in any twelve months (as an exceptional measure for the year 1931, 26 weeks). The State subsidy is only to be paid in respect of the relief of short time exceeding two days in any calendar week, due to a shortage of work affecting all the workers (other than those engaged in maintenance, etc., work) in undertakings employing at least ten workers.

AUSTRALIA (QUEENSLAND).

The Income (Unemployment Relief) Tax Acts Amendment Act of 1931 (which was passed by the legislature of Queensland and received assent on 1st October, 1931) approves the continuance of the operation of the Income (Unemployment Relief) Tax Acts of 1930,* and increases the rate of the tax to twopence for every six shillings and eightpence (or fractional part thereof in excess of three shillings and fourpence) on (a) the income from employment of all persons, including Commonwealth officers, on and from 1st October, 1931, except where the income from employment of an employee does not exceed £104 per annum, when the tax is to be levied at the previous rate of one penny for every six shillings and eightpence (or fractional part thereof in excess of three shillings and fourpence); and (b) three-fourths of the taxable income (as defined by the Income Tax Acts, after deducting therefrom income from personal employment) of any person, corporation, company, society or association, public authority, partnership or firm, for the income year ending 30th June, 1931. An alternative rate of one penny three farthings for every six shillings and eightpence (or fractional part thereof in excess of three shillings and fourpence) may be paid on the whole of the taxable income for the year ending 30th June, 1931.

Where the taxable income, including income from employment, for this year does not exceed £104 per annum, tax is to be levied at the rate of one penny for every six shillings and eightpence (or fractional part thereof in excess of three shillings and fourpence) of one-fourth of the taxable income, including income from employment.

AUSTRALIA (VICTORIA).

Two Acts, the Stamps (Unemployment Relief) Act, 1931, and the Stamps (Unemployment Relief) Act, 1931, No. 2, amending the Stamps (Unemployment Relief) Act, 1930, as amended by the Unemployment Relief Amendment Act, 1930,† extended the operative period of the earlier legislation to 7th November, 1931, and increased the rate of stamp duty payable in respect of salary or wages amounting to not less than £2 weekly, for the period 11th October to 7th November, as follows: on payments of salary or wages—(a) of not less than £2 and not amounting to £4 earned in any week, a stamp duty of one penny on each 5s. (or fractional part thereof) of the amount of salary or wages so paid; (b) of not less than £4 and (save as otherwise expressly provided) not more than £6 earned in any week, a stamp duty of one penny on each 4s. (or fractional part thereof) of the amount of salary or wages so paid.

CENSUS OF UNEMPLOYMENT IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

THE preliminary results of a special census of unemployment carried out in conjunction with the general census of population of 1st December, 1930, and covering all gainfully employed persons, including those working on their own account, have recently been published by the Czechoslovakian State Statistical Office.‡

The inquiry was confined solely to persons who were wholly unemployed owing to lack of work; persons employed on short-time, persons absent from work owing to holidays or sickness, persons prevented from exercising their gainful occupation owing to industrial disputes or other causes excepting lack of work, and children who had left school but had not yet found employment, were disregarded. The total number of persons found by the census to be wholly unemployed on 1st December, 1930, was 294,487, or 2 per cent. of the total population. This figure was almost double that of the number of persons (155,203) registered at the Employment Exchanges on 30th November, 1930, as seeking work, and approximately four and a half times as high as the number of persons (65,904) in receipt of unemployment benefit from trade union funds on the same date. Of the total of 294,487 persons recorded as wholly unemployed 64,240 belonged to the two chief seasonal groups, agriculture and building; if these two groups are excluded, the remaining 230,247 persons belonging to the mainly non-seasonal groups represented an unemployment rate of 1.56 per cent. of the total population. Unemployment was highest in the industrial province of Bohemia, where 186,844 persons (2.63 of the total population of the province) were unemployed.

WAGES AND HOURS MOVEMENTS OVERSEAS.

GERMANY.

Textile Industry.—The conciliation award reducing by 5 per cent. the wages of 200,000 textile workers in West Saxony, which was

* See this GAZETTE for October, 1930, page 364, and for April, 1931, page 136.
† See this GAZETTE for August, 1930, page 286, and March, 1931, page 93.
‡ *Rapports de l'Office de Statistique de la République Tchécoslovaque*, 1931, No. 65. Prague.

reported in the last issue of this GAZETTE, page 420, has been declared binding. The standard wage rates prior to this award are stated to have amounted to 40 pfennigs for male and 35 pfennigs for female workers. Both parties have decided to terminate at 31st December, 1931, the agreement set up by the award. In East Saxony, an award reducing wages by 4 per cent., until 31st December, 1931, has been rejected by the workers. The employers in the Kassel area have rejected an award providing for a wage cut of 3 per cent. Under an award for North Bavaria piece rates are to be reduced by 5 per cent.; time rates are, however, to remain unchanged. Further recent awards provide for wage cuts as follows:—5 per cent. in Westphalia (Münsterland, Gütersloh, Bielefeld and Herford); 4.2 per cent. for the München-Gladbach area; 6.5 per cent. for the Saxony-Thuringia area; 4.5 per cent. as from 23rd November, 1931, for the Gladbach-Rheydt-Niersen area. The last award has been accepted by both parties. The employers and workers (numbering some 6,000) in the Oberberge (Münster) area have similarly accepted an award reducing the wages of male and female auxiliary workers by 4.4 and 4.6 per cent., respectively, as from 7th December, 1931, until the first wage period in January, 1932, and thereafter until 29th February, 1932, by 6.1 and 5 per cent., respectively. In Southern Bavaria, some 23,000 workers are affected by an award reducing piece rates by 4 per cent. and time rate supplements by 8 per cent., with effect as from 6th December. For the Krefeld silk industry an award reducing wages by from 4 to 4.5 per cent. has been accepted by both parties.

Iron and Steel, and Metal and Engineering Industries.—The question of the regulation of wages and hours in the North West Group of the heavy iron and steel industry has been under further consideration by the conciliation authorities (see this GAZETTE for November, 1931, page 420). The employers demanded reductions in the wage rates of skilled workers and auxiliary workers from 79 and 63 pfennigs to 70 and 55 pfennigs respectively, and, according to the latest available information, these demands have been conceded under an arbitration award issued on 14th December. At the same time, it is reported that the 52 and 57 hour weeks worked by certain classes of workmen have been reduced to 48 and 52 hours, respectively. Under a recent binding award for the Berlin metal and engineering industry, the existing wage agreement was extended without change until 13th December, 1931. Notice of termination of the agreement at this date has again been given by the employers. An award providing for a wage cut of 7 per cent. in Central Germany (Anhalt, Halle, Magdeburg and Thale) has been accepted by the employers, but rejected by the workers. For the Kassel area an award providing for a reduction of 5 per cent. in piece rates until 12th December, 1931, was eventually accepted by both parties. Reductions, details of which are not available, were also made in the wage rates of pieceworkers by a recent binding award for the Breslau area. By agreement between the employers and workers in the Düren metal industry, the standard hourly rates were reduced, as from 16th November last, from 77 to 72.5 pfennigs for skilled workers over 23 years of age and from 70 to 66 pfennigs for semi-skilled workers. Agreement was also reached in the Siegen area with regard to the application of a wage reduction of 6 per cent., while a similar reduction in the hourly rates of wages in the Lüdenscheid area was imposed by an award and accepted by both parties. In Württemberg, the award noticed in the issue of this GAZETTE for November last, page 420, is to be applied by agreement between the parties. Two awards for Lower Silesia (excluding Breslau and Gladbach-Rheydt) provide for a wage cut of 6 per cent. in each case, while reductions ranging from 5.6 to 7 per cent. are effected by an award for the Stettin district, operative until 15th January, 1932. A reduction from 81 to 76 pfennigs in the standard wage rate for skilled workers has been effected by agreement in the Darmstadt area and by conciliation award in the Bremen area. In the Benrath-Hilden area, the employers and workers have agreed to extend the current agreements regulating wages and working hours until 31st December, 1931, and 31st January, 1932, respectively. An award for Frankfurt-on-the-Main reduced the standard wage rate from 83 to 79 pfennigs with effect as from 1st November last.

Coal Mining Industry.—Under a recent binding award for the Ruhr coal-mining industry, the wage agreement reported in the issue of this GAZETTE for October, 1931, page 381, is to be extended until 31st December, 1931, at which date it is again to be terminated by the employers. The wage agreements for certain other coal-mining areas, e.g., Waldenburg and Neurode (Lower Silesia), Zwickau (Saxony) and Upper Silesia, are also to be terminated on expiry by the employers.

NETHERLANDS.

Textile Industry.—A general strike in the Twente textile industry, involving about 14,000 workers, began on 14th December, as a result of the employers' refusal to withdraw a wage reduction of 5 per cent. which was announced on 28th November. This cut is the second within a month, a similar reduction having become effective on 17th November. In addition to the actual reduction of wages, a contributory cause of the workers' dissatisfaction appears to be the intensification of work resulting from the rationalisation of the textile industry.

SAAR TERRITORY.

A conciliation award for the iron and steel industry in the Saar Territory provides for a wage reduction of 6 per cent. with effect until the end of February, 1932. The award has been accepted by the employers.

EMPLOYMENT IN NOVEMBER.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

THERE was a further improvement, on the whole, in employment during November. It improved in coal mining, in pottery, glass (other than glass bottles), tinplate and metal goods manufacture, in general engineering, in the textile, leather, printing and paper industries, in dock and harbour service, and in the distributive trades.

On the other hand, employment declined in iron and steel manufacture, in shipbuilding and ship repairing, and in the building and contracting industries.

Employment showed a further slight improvement in the Midlands and the North of England, particularly in the North-Western division, where, for the first time this year, the percentage of insured persons unemployed was lower than at the corresponding date last year. It remained very bad, however, in these areas and also in Scotland and Wales. In Northern Ireland, employment again improved slightly, and was better than in November, 1930, but was still very bad. In London and the Southern areas, there was a further slight seasonal decline and employment was slack.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

Among the workpeople, numbering approximately 12,770,000 insured against unemployment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and working in practically every industry except agriculture and private domestic service, the percentage unemployed at 23rd November, 1931 (including those temporarily stopped as well as those wholly unemployed), was 21.4, as compared with 21.9 at 26th October, 1931, and with 18.9 at 24th November, 1930. The percentage wholly unemployed at 23rd November, 1931, was 18.0 as compared with 18.1 at 26th October, 1931; while the percentage temporarily stopped was 3.4, as compared with 3.8. For males alone the percentage at 23rd November, 1931, was 23.6, and for females 15.9; at 26th October, 1931, the corresponding percentages were 23.6 and 17.5.

At 23rd November, 1931, the numbers of persons on the Registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain were 2,070,442 wholly unemployed, 435,705 temporarily stopped, and 108,968 normally in casual employment, making a total of 2,615,115. This was 110,977 less than a month before, but 328,655 more than a year before. The total included 2,044,391 men, 65,672 boys, 457,130 women, and 47,922 girls.

The 2,070,442 wholly unemployed included approximately 988,324 insured persons with claims for insurance benefit (consisting of those who (a) had paid at least 30 contributions during the preceding two years, (b) had received less than 156 days' benefit in their current benefit years and, (c) if 156 days' benefit had become payable in a previous benefit year ending on or after 12th November, 1931, had paid at least 10 contributions since the 156th day of benefit); 796,392 insured persons with claims for transitional payments; 174,574 insured persons not in receipt of insurance benefit or transitional payments, and 111,152 uninsured persons.

In Great Britain and Northern Ireland the total number of persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges at 23rd November, 1931, was 2,679,077, and at 30th November, 1931, it was 2,687,833.

Mining and Quarrying.—Employment in the coal mining industry continued to improve, but still remained bad on the whole. The total number of wage earners on the colliery books at 28th November, 1931, showed an increase of 0.6 per cent. as compared with 24th October, 1931, but a decrease of 5.4 per cent. as compared with 22nd November, 1930. The average number of days worked per week in the fortnight ended 28th November, 1931, was 4.78, an increase of 0.09 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 24th October, 1931, but a decrease of 0.20 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 22nd November, 1930.

In the iron mining industry employment showed little change and remained very bad. In the West Lothian shale mines it showed some improvement, but still continued very bad. In the limestone quarries in the Cleveland area employment was bad; in the Clitheroe area it was good; and in the Buxton area it showed an improvement, but was still slack. In the slate quarries in North Wales employment showed little change and was fair. In the East of Scotland whinstone quarries it was bad. At chalk quarries it was very slack. At tin mines employment was very slack, and at china clay quarries it was moderate.

Pig Iron, Iron and Steel, and Tinplate.—In the pig-iron industry employment showed little change and continued very bad. Of 356 furnaces, the number in blast at the end of November was 70, as compared with 66 at the end of October, and 92 at the end of November, 1930.

At iron and steel works employment showed a slight decline and continued very bad. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed was 45.5 at 23rd November, 1931, as compared with 44.4 at 26th October, 1931, and 44.7 at 24th November, 1930.

In the tinplate industry employment was still very slack on the whole. In steel sheet manufacture there was an improvement, but employment was still bad.

Engineering, Shipbuilding, and Metal Industries.—In engineering employment remained bad. There was a further slight improvement in textile and general engineering, but employment in those sections was still very bad. It remained very bad also in marine and constructional engineering and in motor vehicle manufacture. In electrical engineering it showed little change and remained slack.

In shipbuilding and ship repairing employment remained very bad. In the North-Eastern Division and in Scotland (the two principal districts) there was a further decline, and the percentages

of insured workpeople recorded as unemployed rose to 72.9 and 71.6 respectively.

In the other metal trades employment was moderate to slack on the whole. It was moderate in the tube, hollow-ware, wire manufacturing and edge-tool trades; slack in the sheet metal, brass-work, cutlery, file, nut and bolt, metallic bedstead, lock, latch and key, needle and fishing tackle, and jewellery and plated ware trades; and bad in the stove and grate, and chain and anchor trades.

Textile Industries.—In the cotton industry there was a further improvement in all the principal departments and districts. In the spinning department a further number of closed mills were reopened and there was a further reduction in the number of operatives on short time. In the weaving department more looms were running than for a long time past. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed was 29.3 at 23rd November, 1931, as compared with 34.4 at 26th October, 1931, and 40.3 at 24th November, 1930.

In the wool textile industry a further improvement was shown in all the principal departments, both in the worsted and in the woollen sections. There was a further reduction in unemployment and short time, and an increase in overtime. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed was 17.9 at 23rd November, 1931, as compared with 22.0 at 26th October, 1931, and 25.1 at 24th November, 1930.

In the carpet trade employment showed an improvement and was moderate.

Employment in the hosiery trade showed an improvement and was moderate, on the whole. In the lace trade, it continued to improve, but still remained slack. The improvement continued also in the silk and artificial silk industries, but employment generally was still very slack. In the linen industry it showed a slight improvement but was still bad; while in the jute industry there was little change as compared with the previous month, and employment was very bad. It continued to improve in the textile bleaching, printing, dyeing, etc., trades but still remained bad, with much short-time working.

Clothing Industries.—Employment in the retail bespoke and ready-made and wholesale bespoke branches of the tailoring trade showed little change and remained slack, on the whole. In the dressmaking and millinery trades there was a decline, and employment generally was moderate to slack. In the shirt and collar trade there was a further slight improvement, and employment was moderate to slack. In the corset trade employment improved and was fairly good; it also improved in the glove trade and was fair to fairly good. In felt hat manufacture it showed a decline and continued slack. In the boot and shoe industry employment continued moderate on the whole. The improvement reported last month was maintained at first, but afterwards there was a slight decline. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed was 16.7 at 23rd November, 1931, as compared with 16.0 at 26th October, 1931, and 18.2 at 24th November, 1930.

Leather Trades.—Employment in the tanning section of the leather trades showed little change as compared with the previous month, and remained moderate. An improvement in other sections of the trade was reported, but employment still remained slack.

Building, Woodworking, etc.—In the building trades employment continued to decline and was generally very slack or bad; unfavourable weather conditions occasioned considerable short-time working on outside operations in a number of districts. As regards individual occupations employment declined with each class of operative, the decline being most marked with painters and plasterers. Employment was very slack with bricklayers, masons and tradesmen's labourers, and bad with plumbers, carpenters, slaters, plasterers and painters. In brick manufacture employment showed a further slight decline and continued slack on the whole.

Employment in the furnishing trades and with millawyers improved slightly, but continued slack; with coachbuilders it remained very slack.

Paper Manufacture, Printing and Bookbinding.—In the paper-making industry employment continued fair on the whole. The improvement reported last month was maintained generally, though short time was still reported at a few centres. With letterpress printers employment continued moderate, although at some of the principal centres it was still bad. With electrotypers and stereotypers it was mainly fair. With lithographic printers employment continued to decline and was slack generally. With lithographic artists it was generally slack to moderate. With bookbinders it showed some improvement but remained slack on the whole.

Pottery and Glass.—In the pottery industry employment in North Staffordshire showed little general change and remained bad on the whole, with much short-time working. At Derby employment continued slack, but at Worcester and at Bristol it continued fair.

In the glass trades employment in the bottle-making section showed a slight decline and continued bad; in other sections a slight improvement was reported, but employment was still slack.

Fishing.—Employment with fishermen showed a decline and was bad on the whole.

Dock Labourers and Seamen.—Employment with dock labourers was slack, but showed a slight improvement. With seamen it was very slack.

SUMMARY OF EMPLOYERS' RETURNS.

In Tables which appear on subsequent pages of this GAZETTE detailed statistics bearing on the state of employment during November are given, based on information obtained from employers or employers' associations in certain industries. In the following Tables some of the principal features of these statistics are briefly

summarised (a) for certain mining and metal industries and (b) for various other industries :-

(a) CERTAIN MINING AND METAL INDUSTRIES.

Industry.	Workpeople included in the Returns for November, 1931.	November, 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	
			Month before.	Year before.
			Days.	Days.
			per week by Mines.	
Coal Mining ...	836,417	4.78	+ 0.09	- 0.20
Iron " ...	5,164	5.36	- 0.07	+ 0.18
Shale " ...	1,683	5.72	- 0.09	- 0.27
			Number.	Number.
			Furnaces in Blast.	
			Mills working.	
Pig Iron ...	...	70	+ 4	- 22
Timplate and Steel Sheet ...	...	422	- 9	+ 54
			Per cent.	Per cent.
			Shifts Worked (one week).	
Iron and Steel ...	47,654	247,824	- 2.8	- 5.5

(b) OTHER INDUSTRIES.

Industry.	Number of Workpeople Employed.		Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople.	
	Week ended 28th Nov., 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before.	Week ended 28th Nov., 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before.
		Per cent.	£	Per cent.
Textiles :-				
Cotton ...	75,201	+ 6.2	128,473	+ 8.8
Woolen ...	53,879	+ 3.7	107,254	+ 4.9
Worsted ...	78,155	+ 4.1	138,181	+ 6.7
Carpet ...	9,890	+ 1.6	18,904	+ 5.6
Boot and Shoe ...	60,160	+ 0.5	125,983	+ 4.6*
Pottery ...	9,822	- 2.5	16,680	- 0.5
Brick ...	10,184	- 0.9	25,513	- 3.2

UNEMPLOYMENT SUMMARY BY DISTRICTS.

The following Table shows the variations in the rates of unemployment at 23rd November, 1931, among insured persons in the respective divisions into which the country is divided for the purpose of the administration of the Unemployment Insurance Acts :-

Divisions.	Estimated Numbers Insured, at July, 1931. (Totals).	Percentage Unemployed at 23rd November, 1931.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Total Percentages as compared with a	
		Males.	Females.	Total.	Month before.	Year before.
London ...	2,346,610	15.9	8.8	13.6	+ 0.2	+ 3.6
South-Eastern ...	973,250	15.3	9.7	14.0	+ 0.7	+ 3.7
South-Western ...	894,700	18.2	10.5	16.5	+ 0.4	+ 3.2
Midlands ...	1,893,050	20.2	16.5	19.1	- 0.7	+ 2.7
North-Eastern ...	2,073,010	28.9	16.5	26.1	+ 0.9	+ 2.1
North-Western ...	2,222,930	27.5	24.2	26.4	- 1.8	+ 1.2
Scotland ...	1,350,330	30.4	18.4	27.0	...	+ 4.3
Wales ...	606,120	35.5	19.0	33.7	+ 0.4	+ 5.1
Northern Ireland ...	270,000	29.6	18.2	25.2	- 0.8	- 2.9
Special Schemes	140,000	4.8	1.2	3.7	+ 0.1	+ 1.0
Total ...	12,770,000	23.6	15.9	21.4	- 0.5	+ 2.5

UNEMPLOYMENT DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS.

The following Table shows, month by month from November, 1930, the percentages unemployed among insured workpeople, and the approximate number of applicants for employment registered at Employment Exchanges, etc., in Great Britain and Northern Ireland :-

Date.	Percentages Unemployed among Insured Workpeople.				Numbers (Insured and Uninsured) registered at Employment Exchanges etc.	
	Males.	Females.	Wholly Unemployed and Casuals.	Temporarily stopped.	Date.	Number.
1930.					1930.	
24 November ...	19.6	17.0	14.6	4.3	24 Nov.	2,359,000
22 December ...	20.4	18.5	14.7	5.2	23 Dec.	2,725,000
1931.					1931.	
26 January ...	21.7	19.5	16.2	4.9	26 Jan.	2,671,000
23 February ...	22.2	19.2	16.4	4.9	23 Feb.	2,694,000
23 March ...	22.2	17.9	16.2	4.8	30 Mar.	2,655,000
27 April ...	21.5	17.5	16.0	4.4	27 Apr.	2,594,000
18 May ...	21.4	17.4	15.9	4.4	1 June	2,702,000
22 June ...	22.5	17.8	16.0	5.2	29 June	2,735,000
27 July ...	23.2	18.9	16.2	5.8	27 July	2,783,000
24 August ...	23.1	19.4	16.8	5.2	31 Aug.	2,834,000
21 September ...	23.7	19.7	17.4	5.2	28 Sept.	2,897,000
26 October ...	23.6	17.5	18.1	3.8	26 Oct.	2,792,000
23 November ...	23.6	15.9	18.0	3.4	30 Nov.	2,688,000

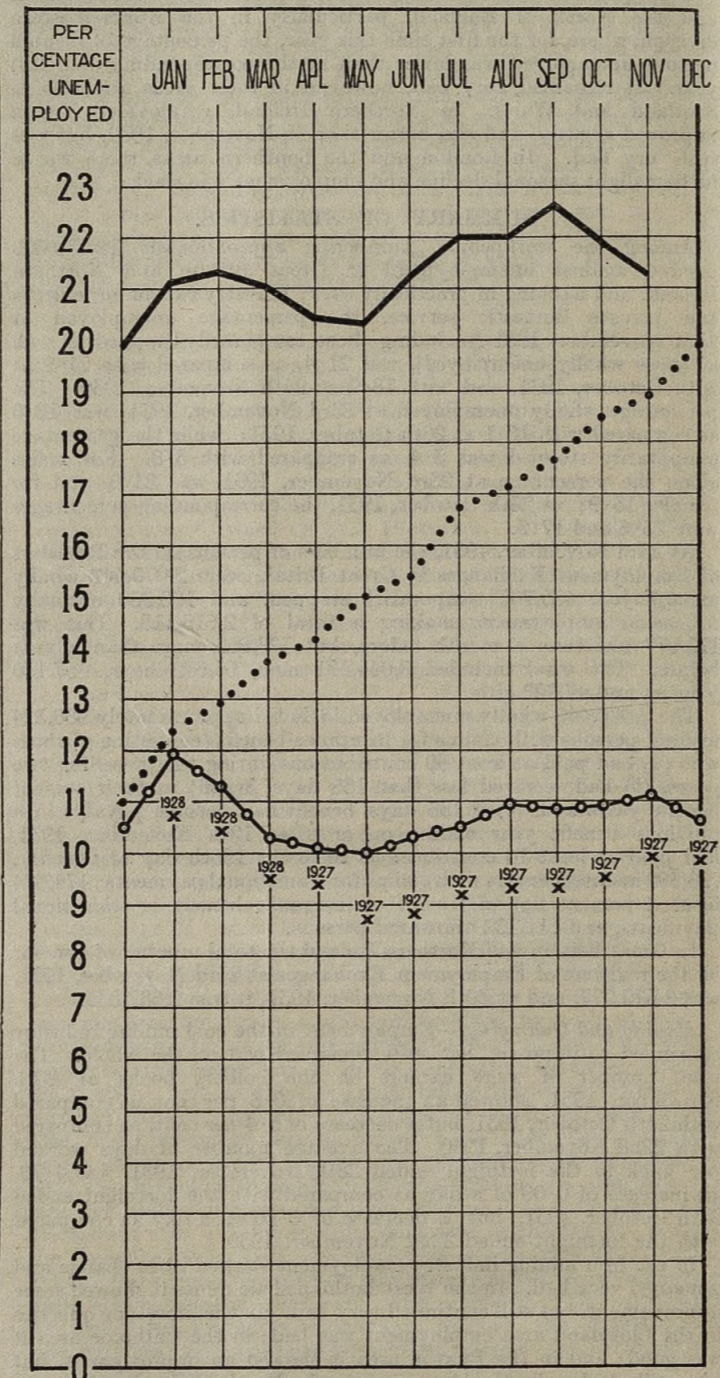
* Comparison of earnings is affected by reductions in rates of wages.

UNEMPLOYMENT CHART.

PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AMONG WORKPEOPLE INSURED AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT IN GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND :-

Plain Curve - - - - - = 1931.
Dotted Curve - - - - - = 1930.
Chain Curve - - - - - = Mean for 1923-25 and 1927-29.

× The crosses indicate the minimum monthly percentages unemployed during the years 1923-25 and 1927-30. The maximum percentages in February to December of those years occurred in 1930. In January the maximum percentage of 13.3 occurred in 1923.



NEW ENTRANTS INTO UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

APPLICATIONS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT BOOKS RECEIVED AT LOCAL OFFICES OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR IN GREAT BRITAIN DURING NOVEMBER, 1931.

Area.	Men.				Women.				Total.
	Men.	Boys.	Women.	Girls.	Men.	Boys.	Women.	Girls.	
London ...	4,304	3,385	1,801	1,976	11,466	0.49			
South-Eastern ...	799	2,007	866	1,556	5,228	0.54			
South-Western ...	688	1,901	574	1,411	4,574	0.51			
Midlands ...	865	3,296	743	3,055	7,959	0.42			
North-Eastern ...	763	3,822	973	2,734	8,292	0.40			
North-Western ...	812	3,424	771	3,249	8,266	0.37			
Scotland ...	712	2,293	623	1,999	5,627	0.42			
Wales ...	416	1,239	262	408	2,325	0.38			
GREAT BRITAIN ...	9,359	21,367	6,613	16,388	53,727	0.43			

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

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. In the comparisons of numbers employed and wages paid at different dates the figures 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 November showed an improvement as compared with the previous month but was still bad on the whole.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 27.1 at 23rd November, 1931, as compared with 29.0 at 26th October, 1931, and 21.1 at 24th November, 1930. The percentage wholly unemployed decreased by 0.4 from 19.3 to 18.9, and the percentage temporarily stopped by 1.5 from 9.7 to 8.2.

The total number of wage earners on the colliery books at 28th November, 1931, showed an increase of 0.6 per cent. as compared with 24th October, 1931, but a decrease of 5.4 per cent. as compared with 22nd November, 1930.

The average number of days worked per week in the fortnight ended 28th November, 1931, was 4.78, an increase of 0.09 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 24th October, 1931, but a decrease of 0.20 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 22nd November, 1930.

The following Table shows, for the principal coal-mining districts, the total number of wage earners on the colliery books and the average number of days worked per week* during the fortnight ended 28th November, 1931, 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.*			
	28th Nov., 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	Month before.	Year before.	Fortnight ended 28th Nov., 1931.	
						Month before.	Year before.
ENGLAND AND WALES:	41,236	+ 1.1	- 7.7	5.33	+ 0.01	+ 0.26
Northumberland ...	110,602	+ 2.8	- 7.5	4.98	+ 0.04	- 0.11
Durham ...	7,944	+ 0.2	- 12.3	4.73	- 0.44	- 0.56
Cumberland and Westmorland ...	107,947	- 0.1	- 6.2	4.56	+ 0.23	- 0.32
South Yorkshire ...	49,941	+ 0.9	- 1.0	4.13	+ 0.13	- 0.46
West Yorkshire ...	69,873	+ 0.8	- 4.5	4.46	+ 0.50	+ 0.26
Lancashire and Cheshire ...	52,940	- 0.0	- 2.6	4.03	+ 0.04	- 0.54
Derbyshire ...	60,728	+ 0.5	- 2.2	4.06	- 0.07	- 0.41
Notts. and Leicester ...	17,296	+ 0.2	+ 1.0	4.77	- 0.22	- 0.21
Warwick ...	21,632	- 0.0	- 14.3	4.62	+ 0.29	+ 0.12
North Staffordshire ...	30,178	+ 0.9	+ 0.7	4.50	+ 0.15	- 0.06
Staffs., Worcs. and Salop ...	9,735	+ 0.5	+ 0.3	4.67	- 0.08	- 0.73
Glos. and Somerset ...	5,997	+ 2.4	+ 13.7	5.50	+ 0.25	+ 0.25
Kent ...	13,813	+ 0.3	- 3.1	4.82	- 0.07	- 0.38
North Wales ...	150,977	+ 0.8	- 6.3	5.29	+ 0.07	- 0.21
South Wales and Mon. ...	750,839	+ 0.5	- 5.1	4.71	+ 0.10	- 0.20
ENGLAND AND WALES:	12,711	+ 1.0	- 5.1	5.45	- 0.03	- 0.09
Mid. & East Lothians ...	20,241	+ 1.7	- 9.8	5.47	- 0.10	+ 0.08
Fife and Clackmannan ...	52,626	+ 0.3	- 8.8	5.33	+ 0.03	- 0.29
Rest of Scotland ...	85,578	+ 0.8	- 8.5	5.38	- 0.01	- 0.18
Scotland ...	836,417	+ 0.6	- 5.4	4.78	+ 0.09	- 0.20

The average number of coal-winding days lost in Great Britain during the fortnight ended 28th November, 1931, was 1.01 days per week, of which 0.97 of a day was due to want of trade and transport difficulties. The figure for the fortnight ended 24th October, 1931, was 1.10 days per week, of which 1.06 days were due to want of trade and transport difficulties; the corresponding figures for the fortnight ended 22nd November, 1930, were 0.81 of a day per week, and 0.78 of a day per week respectively. The average non-winding time for the November and October, 1931, periods, was between one-fifth and one-quarter of a day per week, as compared with about one-fifth of a day per week during the November, 1930, period.

The output of coal in Great Britain for the four weeks ended 28th November, 1931, was reported to the Mines Department as 18,089,200 tons, as compared with 17,635,600 tons in the four weeks ended 24th October, 1931, and 19,271,400 tons in the four weeks ended 22nd November, 1930.

The numbers and percentages unemployed among insured workpeople in the respective areas at 23rd November, 1931, and the increases or decreases as compared with 26th October, 1931, and 24th November, 1930, 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.	Insured Persons Recorded as Unemployed at 23rd November, 1931.				Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Total percentages as compared with a		
	Numbers.	Percentages.	Month before.	Year before.	Month before.	Year before.	
Great Britain ...	198,092	85,862	18.9	8.2	27.1	- 1.9	+ 6.0
England and Wales ...	168,598	82,552	18.2	8.9	27.1	- 2.1	+ 6.0
Scotland ...	29,494	3,310	24.5	2.7	27.2	- 0.9	+ 6.0
Principal Districts in England and Wales :-							
Northumberland ...	11,309	344	22.3	0.7	23.0	...	+ 3.8
Durham ...	39,934	1,670	26.9	1.1	28.0	- 0.9	+ 1.6
Cumberland and Westmorland ...	3,444	570	30.3	5.0	35.3	+ 0.4	+ 1.5
Yorkshire ...	25,404	25,481	13.1	14.2	27.3	- 3.8	+ 8.5
Lancashire and Cheshire ...	15,522	9,347	17.6	10.6	28.2	- 12.5	+ 2.5
Derbyshire ...	5,328	4,930	8.3	7.6	15.9	- 0.2	+ 3.7
Notts. and Leicestershire ...	6,422	6,076	10.0	9.5	19.5	+ 2.4	+ 9.9
Warwickshire ...	848	555	6.7	4.4	11.1	+ 1.8	+ 2.9
Staffs., Worcs. and Salop ...	10,467	3,162	15.1	4.6	19.7	- 3.1	+ 2.5
Glos. and Somerset ...	1,536	1,606	13.4	14.1	27.5	+ 1.7	+ 10.9
Kent ...	280	—	4.7	—	4.7	...	+ 0.3
Wales and Monmouth ...	48,696	28,799	22.2	13.2	35.4	+ 0.3	+ 10.4

The exports of coal, including that shipped for the use of steamers engaged in the foreign trade, and the coal equivalent of coke and manufactured fuel, amounted to 5,317,100 tons in November, 1931, as compared with 5,880,400 tons in October, 1931, and with 5,664,500 tons in November, 1930.

IRON AND SHALE MINING.

IRON MINING.

EMPLOYMENT showed little change during November and remained very bad. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped in the iron ore and ironstone mining industry, was 42.6 at 23rd November, 1931, as compared with 43.8 at 26th October, 1931, and 32.8 at 24th November, 1930.

The following Table summarises the information received from 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.*			
	Fortnight ended 28th Nov., 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	Fortnight ended 28th Nov., 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	Month before.	Year before.
		Per cent.	Days.	Days.	Days.	
Cleveland ...	2,058	+ 1.3	- 32.4	5.19	- 0.19	+ 0.56
Cumberland and Lancashire ...	1,824	- 4.7	- 9.7	5.87	- 0.13	- 0.10
Other Districts ...	1,282	- 0.9	- 13.1	4.91	+ 0.23	- 0.30
ALL DISTRICTS	5,164	- 1.4	- 21.0	5.36	- 0.07	+ 0.18

SHALE MINING.

The number of workpeople employed at the West Lothian mines during the fortnight ended 28th November, 1931, by firms making returns was 1,683, showing an increase of 8.6 per cent., as compared with October, 1931, but a decrease of 34.1 per cent. as compared with November, 1930. The average number of days worked per week* in the period, by the mines making returns, was 5.72 in November, 1931, as compared with 5.81 in October, 1931, and 5.99 in November, 1930.

* See footnote * in previous column

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during November showed little change and continued very bad. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 40.9 at 23rd November, 1931, as compared with 41.5 at 26th October, 1931, and 33.9 at 24th November, 1930.

According to information received from the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, 70 furnaces were in operation at the end of November, 1931, as compared with 66 at the end of October, 1931, and 92 at the end of November, 1930. In the case of 68 firms, employing 9,656 workpeople, at the end of November, 1931, the returns showed an increase of 9.6 per cent. in the numbers employed compared with October, 1931, but a decrease of 26.1 per cent. compared with November, 1930.

The following Table shows the number of furnaces in operation at the end of November, 1931, October, 1931, and November, 1930:—

Districts.	Total Number of Furnaces.	Number of Furnaces in Blast.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Nov., 1931.	Oct., 1931.	Nov., 1930.	Month before.	Year before.
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
Durham and Cleveland	87	18	18	25	...	- 7
Cumberland and W. Lancs.	36	5	5	9	...	- 4
Parts of Lancs. and Yorks. (including Sheffield) and North Wales	25	4	4	8	...	- 4
Derby, Leicester, Nottingham and Northants	43	23	22	22	+ 1	+ 1
Lincolnshire	23	6	6	8	...	- 2
Staffs., Shropshire, Worcester and Warwick	38	6	6	8	...	- 2
South Wales and Monmouthshire	21	3	2	2	+ 1	+ 1
England and Wales	273	65	63	82	+ 2	- 17
SCOTLAND	83	5	3	10	+ 2	- 5
GREAT BRITAIN	356	70	66	92	+ 4	- 22

The production of pig iron in November, 1931, amounted to 296,400 tons, compared with 284,200 tons in October, 1931, and 384,100 tons in November, 1930.

TINPLATE AND STEEL SHEET INDUSTRIES.

In the tinplate industry employment was still very slack on the whole. In the week ended 28th November, 1931, 330 mills were in operation at works for which information is available, as compared with 344 in the week ended 24th October, 1931, and with 296 in the week ended 29th November, 1930.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 29.2 at 23rd November, 1931, as compared with 33.4 at 26th October, 1931, and with 44.5 at 24th November, 1930.

There was some improvement in steel sheet manufacture, but employment was still bad. In the week ended 28th November, 1931, 92 mills were in operation at works for which information is available, as compared with 87* in the week ended 24th October, 1931, and with 72 in the week ended 29th November, 1930.

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

Works.	Number of Works Open.			Number of Mills in Operation.		
	Week ended 28th Nov., 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 28th Nov., 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month before.	Year before.		Month before.	Year before.
Tinplate ...	58	- 5	+ 5	330	- 14	+ 34
Steel Sheet	11	+ 1*	+ 5	92	+ 5*	+ 20
TOTAL ...	69	- 4*	+ 10	422	- 9*	+ 54

The exports of tinned and galvanised plates and sheets in November, 1931, amounted to 67,379 tons, or 391 tons less than in October, 1931, but 6,084 tons more than in November, 1930.

IRON AND STEEL MANUFACTURE.

EMPLOYMENT during November showed a slight decline and continued very bad. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 45.5 at 23rd November, 1931, as compared with 44.4 at 26th October, 1931, and 44.7 at 24th November, 1930.

At certain firms, employing 47,654 workpeople, from which returns were received for the week ended 28th November, 1931, the volume of employment in that week (as indicated by the number of

* Revised figures.

shifts* during which work was carried on in each department) decreased by 2.8 per cent. as compared with the week ended 24th October, 1931, and by 5.5 per cent. as compared with November, 1930. The average number of shifts during which the works were open was 5.2 in the week ended 28th November, 1931, as compared with 5.2 in October, 1931, and 5.1 in November, 1930.

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

DEPARTMENTS.	No. of Workpeople employed by Firms making returns.		Aggregate number of Shifts.*			
	Week ended 28th Nov., 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	Week ended 28th Nov., 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a		
				Month before.	Year before.	
		Per cent.		Per cent.	Per cent.	
Open Hearth Melting Furnaces ...	4,097	- 3.9	11.2	23,281	- 5.1	- 10.7
Puddling Forges ...	1,047	- 7.4	- 11.3	3,920	- 15.5	- 16.4
Rolling Mills ...	17,998	- 7.2	- 5.4	86,371	- 7.6	+ 3.1
Forging & Pressing	1,291	+ 6.1	- 25.8	5,804	+ 1.5	- 32.1
Founding ...	6,084	- 1.8	- 12.1	33,486	- 0.8	- 11.5
Other Departments	6,578	- 2.7	- 6.0	36,870	- 2.9	- 5.6
Mechanics, Labourers ...	10,559	+ 5.9	- 6.9	58,092	+ 5.9	- 6.8
TOTAL ...	47,654	- 2.6	- 8.0	247,824	- 2.8	- 5.5
DISTRICTS.						
Northumberland, Durham and Cleveland ...	10,253	- 1.9	- 3.5	55,924	- 3.2	+ 0.4
Sheffield & Rotherham ...	14,398	- 1.5	- 9.2	74,978	- 2.3	- 8.3
Leeds, Bradford, etc.	424	+ 24.7	+ 24.3	1,755	+ 11.1	+ 2.1
Cumberland, Lancs. and Cheshire ...	3,862	- 9.4	+ 15.6	20,752	- 4.2	+ 26.5
Staffordshire ...	4,560	+ 2.6	+ 2.0	24,361	+ 2.5	+ 8.0
Other Midland Counties ...	3,003	+ 2.9	+ 4.4	15,988	+ 5.4	+ 6.4
Wales and Monmouth ...	5,237	+ 2.8	- 9.1	27,342	+ 0.8	- 5.7
Total England and Wales ...	41,737	- 0.9	- 3.6	221,100	- 1.2	- 0.5
Scotland ...	5,917	- 12.9	- 30.7	26,724	- 14.1	- 33.6
TOTAL ...	47,654	- 2.6	- 8.0	247,824	- 2.8	- 5.5

The production of steel ingots and castings, as shown in returns received from the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, amounted to 459,200 tons in November, 1931, as compared with 457,400 tons in October, 1931, and 433,800 tons in November, 1930.

SHIPBUILDING AND SHIP-REPAIRING.

EMPLOYMENT remained very bad during November, and was slightly worse, on the whole, than during the previous month.

In the North-Eastern division and in Scotland (the two principal districts) there was a further decline, and the percentages of insured workpeople recorded as unemployed, already higher than in any of the other divisions, rose to 72.9 and 71.6 respectively. The two Southern divisions, where there was some improvement, were the only two divisions with less than 40 per cent. unemployed. In Wales there was a slight improvement in employment, but in the North-Western division and in Northern Ireland there was a decline.

Compared with a year ago there was a decline in all districts; it was particularly heavy in Scotland, the North-Eastern Area, and Northern Ireland.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, at 23rd November, 1931, and the increase or decrease as compared with 26th October, 1931, and 24th November, 1930:—

Divisions.	Total Number of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 23rd Nov., 1931.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Numbers Unemployed as compared with a		Percentage Unemployed at 23rd Nov., 1931.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Percentage Unemployed as compared with a	
		Month before.	Year before.		Month before.	Year before.
London ...	3,841	- 286	+ 499	40.4	- 3.0	+ 5.6
South-Eastern ...	1,339	- 67	+ 254	19.4	- 1.0	+ 4.9
South-Western ...	5,682	- 553	+ 1,170	27.0	- 2.6	+ 5.8
Midlands ...	154	+ 35	+ 47	48.1	+ 10.9	+ 15.7
North-Eastern ...	41,322	+ 1,275	+ 10,202	72.9	+ 2.3	+ 21.9
North-Western ...	15,825	+ 392	+ 3,564	56.3	+ 1.4	+ 13.7
Scotland ...	38,827	+ 1,495	+ 13,097	71.6	+ 2.8	+ 26.0
Wales ...	4,257	- 536	- 239	61.3	- 7.7	+ 0.4
Northern Ireland	6,325	+ 514	+ 2,861	54.5	+ 4.4	+ 26.7
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND ...	117,572	+ 2,269	+ 31,475	60.2	+ 1.2	+ 18.1

* The figures relate to the number of shifts during which the works were in operation, taken in conjunction with the number of men employed. No account is taken of 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.

ENGINEERING.

EMPLOYMENT during November remained bad. There was a further slight improvement in textile and general engineering, but employment in those sections was still very bad. It remained very bad also in marine and constructional engineering and in motor vehicle manufacture. In electrical engineering it showed little change and remained slack. Compared with a year ago employment was much worse in all sections and in all areas.

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

Division.	Number of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 23rd November, 1931.						Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	
	General Engineering, including Iron and Steel Foundry.	Electrical Engineering.	Marine Engineering, etc.	Constructional Engineering.	Motor Vehicles, Cycles, and Aircraft.	TOTAL.	Month before.	Year before.
London ...	10,909	1,743	246	674	6,750	20,322	+ 6	+ 7,498
South-Eastern ...	7,872	893	425	167	4,512	13,869	+ 198	+ 4,066
South-Western ...	5,180	302	995	95	4,183	10,755	+ 47	+ 4,125
Midlands ...	18,650	4,469	294	2,034	28,954	54,401	- 1,400	+ 14,765
North-Eastern ...	39,281	1,484	12,134	2,274	2,686	57,859	- 793	+ 10,170
North-Western ...	46,413	4,130	354	1,065	6,222	58,184	- 1,882	+ 7,123
Scotland ...	26,816	673	9,874	2,253	2,477	42,093	- 2,820	+ 10,662
Wales ...	11,830	68	55	240	678	2,871	+ 99	+ 315
Northern Ireland	2,395	55	3,265	72	446	6,233	+ 404	+ 3,232
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND	159,346	13,817	27,642	8,874	56,908	266,587	- 6,339	+ 61,956
	Percentages Unemployed at 23rd November, 1931.							
London ...	13.1	11.8	36.7	17.0	16.8	14.2	...	+ 5.4
South-Eastern ...	17.9	11.8	19.4	18.6	15.3	16.5	+ 0.3	+ 5.3
South-Western ...	14.5	8.2	14.7	18.3	14.5	14.3	+ 0.1	+ 5.4
Midlands ...	21.1	14.8	20.4	27.8	29.3	24.1	- 0.6	+ 6.0
North-Eastern ...	35.4	15.0	59.5	30.6	18.4	35.4	- 0.5	+ 7.0
North-Western ...	37.2	18.9	43.2	35.3	26.7	33.5	- 1.1	+ 4.4
Scotland ...	34.9	19.6	55.0	41.4	21.9	36.6	- 2.5	+ 9.3
Wales ...	32.6	16.2	39.3	28.9	28.0	30.4	- 1.1	+ 1.9
Northern Ireland	35.1	7.5	66.9	42.4	19.0	41.7	+ 2.7	+ 22.8
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND	27.6	14.9	50.0	30.0	22.6	26.5	- 0.7	+ 6.4
<i>Ditto, Oct., 1931</i>	28.9	14.9	49.7	29.6	22.4	27.2	—	—
<i>Ditto, Nov., 1930</i>	22.3	11.4	27.9	23.2	15.9	20.1	—	—

On the North-East Coast employment in general and marine engineering remained very bad. In Yorkshire there was some further improvement in textile engineering but employment generally was still bad, and in Lincolnshire also it continued bad. In Lancashire and Cheshire there was little change, apart from a further slight improvement in the textile section, and employment remained very bad.

In the Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Coventry district employment in general engineering continued to improve slightly but was still bad, and it also remained bad, with but little change, in the motor vehicle section. In the Nottingham, Derby and Leicester district employment remained slack. In London and the Southern Counties employment remained quiet, being much the same as in the previous month.

In Scotland employment in general engineering showed a slight improvement but was still very bad, and it was also very bad in marine engineering, over one-half of the insured persons in that section being recorded as unemployed. In Wales employment showed little change and remained very bad. In Northern Ireland it showed a decline, mainly in marine engineering, and was very bad.

COTTON INDUSTRY.

In this industry there was a further improvement in all the principal departments and districts. In the spinning department a further number of closed mills were re-opened during November, and there was a further reduction in the number of operatives on short time; employment in this section was reported as approximately 50 per cent. better than two months ago. In the weaving department more looms were running than for a long time past. Employment generally was much better than a year ago.

The percentage of insured workpeople recorded as unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 29.3 at 23rd November, as compared with 34.4 at 26th October, and with 40.3 at 24th November, 1930.

At Ashton-under-Lyne a gradual improvement was reported in all sections, and firms engaged in doubling were very well employed. At Glossop increased production was reported, and a number of operatives were re-engaged. At Stockport and at Stalybridge less short time was worked; there was also an improvement at Hyde, though employment with cardroom operatives was still bad.

At Oldham employment in the spinning section was still described as bad, much short time still being worked; it was, however, rather better than in the preceding month and in November, 1930. In the manufacturing section employment was better with operatives engaged on fancies, sheetings, and heavy goods, but worse with those on velvets; on the whole there was little change.

At Bolton and at Leigh the improvement reported last month in the spinning section was maintained, though employment was still described as bad at Bolton; the percentage of operative spinners at Bolton working less than half time was 26 per cent. in the week ended 21st November, as compared with 29 per cent. on 24th October. Employment with cardroom workers at Bolton was slack, though better than in October. In the weaving section there was still considerable under-employment both in quilt manufacture and in the narrow looms section, although there was a slight improvement in the latter. At Bury the improved position was maintained; spinners were being gradually re-absorbed, and more mills were running full time than for some time past. At Rochdale the improvement continued; employment was more regular, and one mill was re-started.

At Preston there was a further slight improvement; at Chorley there was little change; short-time working and under-employment were still prevalent. At Blackburn there was an appreciable improvement; five weaving mills were partially re-opened, mostly on orders for the Indian market, and in addition a number of mills engaged mainly in the home trade engaged additional workpeople. In spite of the improvement, however, about 70 mills remained closed at the end of November, compared with 75 at the end of October. At Accrington the general position was more satisfactory. At Darwen employment was still very bad; the preparation departments of almost every mill were working irregular short time, and there was much under-employment among those operatives who were working full time; there was a resumption of work, however, at two mills during the month, a number of operatives were re-engaged, and approximately 600 more looms resumed work. At Great Harwood there was less unemployment, 300 more weavers being at work at Burnley the improvement reported in October continued during November; none of the mills were closing down for a week at a time, as many had been doing for a long time previously. At Nelson employment was generally better than in the previous month; those operatives who had been partially employed were getting more work. At Colne employment was bad, but slightly better than in October; at Padiham it was described as fair, and as better than in October. In the Rossendale Valley employment continued bad, but showed some improvement.

In Yorkshire there was a further improvement; nearly all firms were on full time, and much overtime was reported with cotton doubling firms.

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

DEPARTMENTS.	Number of Workpeople.		Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.			
	Week ended 28th Nov., 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	Week ended 28th Nov., 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		
					Month before.	Year before.
Preparing ...	12,904	+ 3.0	+ 17.5	21,036	+ 6.7	+ 31.2
Spinning ...	25,336	+ 7.0	+ 20.5	40,329	+ 8.2	+ 38.1
Weaving ...	28,701	+ 7.6	+ 11.7	48,088	+ 11.0	+ 21.1
Other ...	8,260	+ 3.8	+ 8.1	19,020	+ 6.8	+ 14.7
TOTAL ...	75,201	+ 6.2	+ 15.1	128,473	+ 8.8	+ 26.5
DISTRICTS.						
Ashton ...	6,320	+ 11.6	+ 47.9	10,196	+ 16.8	+ 71.7
Stockport, Glossop and Hyde ...	5,707	+ 12.1	+ 5.5	9,799	+ 17.9	+ 22.0
Oldham ...	11,090	+ 5.5	+ 33.0	19,745	+ 10.2	+ 48.5
Bolton and Leigh ...	13,404	+ 2.3	+ 9.7	21,732	+ 3.3	+ 27.0
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Walsden and Todorden ...	7,528	+ 4.0	+ 14.1	13,129	+ 6.2	+ 20.5
Manchester ...	5,136	+ 11.2	+ 33.3	8,273	+ 12.2	+ 43.7
Preston and Chorley ...	5,286	+ 2.1	- 8.0	8,608	+ 4.2	- 7.6
Blackburn, Accrington and Darwen ...	6,385	+ 4.0	+ 12.8	11,015	+ 5.3	+ 21.4
Burnley and Padiham ...	3,720	+ 8.9	+ 16.1	7,551	+ 9.9	+ 20.1
Colne and Nelson ...	2,559	+ 5.4	- 5.2	5,602		

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

Department.	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.			Total.
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	
Card and Blowing	— 327	— 2,840	— 3,167	— 235	— 1,517	— 1,752	— 4,919
Spinning ...	— 2,228	— 2,394	— 4,622	— 639	— 1,338	— 1,977	— 6,599
Beaming, Winding and Warming	— 375	— 2,432	— 2,807	— 285	— 1,440	— 1,725	— 4,532
Weaving ...	— 1,128	— 5,116	— 6,244	— 1,256	— 3,716	— 4,972	— 11,216
Other Processes ...	— 509	— 192	— 701	— 64	— 34	— 98	— 799
Total ...	— 4,567	— 12,974	— 17,541	— 2,479	— 8,045	— 10,524	— 28,065

The imports (less re-exports) of raw cotton (including cotton linters) were 168,464,500 lbs. in November, 1931, compared with 55,809,000 lbs. in October, 1931, and with 133,661,200 lbs. in November, 1930.

The exports of cotton yarn were 11,808,900 lbs. in November, 1931, compared with 12,817,400 lbs. in October, 1931, and with 10,964,200 lbs. in November, 1930.

The exports of cotton piece goods in November, 1931, were 125,990,500 square yards, compared with 143,060,100 square yards in the previous month, and 130,313,200 square yards in November, 1930.

WOOL TEXTILE INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT showed a further improvement in all the principal departments, both in the worsted and in the woollen sections. There was a further reduction in unemployment and short time, and an increase in overtime. In the carpet trade also there was a further improvement.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed in the woollen and worsted industries, including those temporarily stopped, was 17.9 at 23rd November, 1931, as compared with 22.0 at 26th October, 1931, and with 25.1 at 24th November, 1930.

Worsted Section.—Employment showed a further improvement. At Bradford much overtime was worked in the combing and in the spinning departments; there was also some improvement in the manufacturing department. At Huddersfield there was no improvement in the fine worsted section, and short time was worked at most of the factories. At Keighley a great improvement was reported with spinners; many firms were working overtime and night shifts. Employment also improved at Halifax and at Leeds. In the worsted section as a whole, returns from employers for the week ended 28th November showed that about 15 per cent. were on short time,* losing nearly 13 hours each on the average; while 36 per cent. worked overtime, to the extent of about 6½ hours each on the average.

With wool sorters employment was reported as good, better than in October and better also than a year ago; only a small amount of short time was reported. In the wool combing department, the merino section was running full time, and some firms were working overtime; there was also some improvement in the crossbred (carding) and preparing sections. About 11 per cent. of the operatives covered by the employers' returns in the sorting, combing, and preparing departments lost, on an average, about 15½ hours each in short time in the week ended 28th November; about 32 per cent. were on overtime, to the extent of 9 hours each on the average.

In the worsted spinning department there was again a marked improvement, and much overtime was reported. Less than 8 per cent. of the operatives covered by the employers' returns worked short time in the week ended 28th November, losing about 11 hours each on the average; while overtime was worked by 46½ per cent., to the extent of 6½ hours each on the average.

Employment was also better with worsted weavers. Nearly 27 per cent. of the operatives covered by the employers' returns worked short time in the week ended 28th November, losing about 12 hours each on the average; overtime was worked by 25 per cent., to the extent of 5½ hours each on the average.

Woollen Section.—This section also showed a further improvement. Employers' returns for the week ended 28th November showed that 24 per cent. of the workers in the spinning department were on short time, losing about 10 hours each on the average; the corresponding figures for the weaving department* were 28½ per cent. and 11 hours. Overtime was worked by 29½ per cent. of the workers in the spinning section, to the extent of 8 hours each, and by 19 per cent. of those in the weaving section, to the extent of 5½ hours each. In the woollen section as a whole 26 per cent. of the operatives lost, on an average, about 11 hours each in short time* in the week ended 28th November, and 23 per cent. worked overtime, to the extent of 7 hours each on the average.

At Huddersfield and in the Colne Valley there was a further improvement, and employment in the manufacture of low and medium woollen cloths was good. Some sections worked overtime, and some firms had started a night shift. The improvement previously reported in the Heavy Woollen District (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.) was maintained; some firms were running a night shift. There was an improvement in the Leeds district. Some improvement was reported in the rag and shoddy trade and in the blanket trade,

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

in both of which employment was described as fair; some overtime was reported in the blanket trade.

In the Stockport and Rochdale district the improvement reported last month was maintained, and employment was fairly good, though most firms at Rochdale still had part of their machinery idle.

In the West of England there was an improvement at Trowbridge with firms making cheaper cloths; employment was good at Frome. In Wales little general change was reported, but there was some improvement at Newtown (Montgomery).

In Scotland there was, on the whole, little change; several firms were not working to full capacity. The improvement recently reported at Galashiels was largely seasonal, and was already beginning to show signs of slackening in some departments. Employment at Alloa, however, was very good, some departments working night and day.

Carpet Section.—Employment showed a further improvement. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 14.1 at 23rd November, 1931, as compared with 17.2 at 26th October, 1931, and with 21.4 at 24th November, 1930.

At Kidderminster employment was moderate, better than in October, and better also than a year ago; irregular time was reported in the Wilton section, but full time (and some overtime) in the Axminster section, and full time also in the tapestry section. In Yorkshire there was a further improvement. In Scotland there was little general change.

In the carpet section as a whole, 19½ per cent. of the workpeople covered by the employers' returns were on short time in the week ended 28th November, losing 15½ hours each on an average; 29 per cent. were on overtime, to the extent of 7 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 28th Nov., 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a month before.	Index figure, (Jan., 1926 = 100.)	Week ended 28th Nov., 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a month before.	Index figure, (Jan., 1926 = 100.)
WORSTED SECTION :						
Wool Sorting and Combing ...	11,809	+ 5.9	93.0	27,221	+ 10.0	84.4
Spinning ...	36,685	+ 4.6	90.4	54,510	+ 7.4	85.6
Weaving ...	18,368	+ 3.7	88.4	32,399	+ 6.5	75.3
Other Depts. ...	9,474	+ 1.3	93.9	20,887	+ 1.8	78.1
Not specified ...	1,820	+ 2.7	102.0	3,164	+ 5.2	70.9
Total—Worsted	78,156	+ 4.1	90.6	138,181	+ 6.7	81.6
WOOLLEN SECTION :						
Wool Sorting ...	909	- 0.1	72.6	2,006	+ 0.1	74.5
Spinning ...	12,597	+ 3.8	87.6	26,513	+ 5.0	94.3
Weaving ...	21,977	+ 3.5	93.2	39,016	+ 5.7	94.4
Other Depts. ...	16,033	+ 1.8	90.9	34,838	+ 3.1	90.5
Not specified ...	2,363	+ 10.9	84.6	4,881	+ 12.9	91.5
Total—Woollen	53,879	+ 3.7	90.5	107,254	+ 4.9	92.4
CARPET SECTION ...	9,890	+ 1.6	106.3	18,904	+ 5.6	109.1
Total—Wool Textile Industry ...	141,925	+ 3.8	91.3	264,339	+ 5.9	87.5
Districts :						
WORSTED SECTION :						
Bradford ...	34,283	+ 6.4	88.3	64,976	+ 11.1	78.4
Huddersfield ...	8,451	+ 3.5	93.4	14,532	+ 5.4	74.5
Leeds ...	8,376	+ 3.6	86.7	13,322	+ 5.2	76.2
Keighley ...	8,176	+ 4.0	95.1	13,475	+ 4.9	87.6
Heavy Woollen (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.) ...	8,072	+ 5.3	92.6	13,742	+ 11.0	91.1
Total, West Riding ...	70,829	+ 4.1	90.3	125,323	+ 7.1	80.4
West of England and Midlands ...	4,829	+ 2.4	89.0	8,618	+ 1.8	82.4
Lancashire ...	390	+ 20.4	133.7	708	+ 15.1	123.7
Scotland ...	2,108	+ 5.7	101.0	3,532	+ 4.1	137.2
Total—Worsted	78,156	+ 4.1	90.6	138,181	+ 6.7	81.6
WOOLLEN SECTION :						
Huddersfield ...	12,157	+ 8.2	87.6	28,038	+ 12.1	88.8
Heavy Woollen (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.) ...	10,627	+ 1.5	90.4	21,225	- 0.1	100.8
Leeds ...	7,180	+ 3.6	96.1	14,779	+ 5.8	98.4
Halifax and Calder Vale ...	2,136	+ 2.5	88.2	4,558	+ 6.2	82.1
Bradford ...	1,272	+ 1.1	99.7	2,411	+ 10.0	79.5
Total, West Riding ...	33,372	+ 4.3	91.7	71,011	+ 6.5	95.5
Lancashire ...	4,819	+ 4.8	89.6	9,101	+ 2.5	87.7
West of England and Midlands ...	3,760	+ 3.9	92.0	6,479	+ 5.0	97.2
Scotland ...	11,755	+ 1.5	86.6	20,438	+ 0.6	85.7
Wales ...	173	+ 2.4	135.2	225	+ 3.7	126.7
Total—Woollen	53,879	+ 3.7	90.5	107,254	+ 4.9	92.4
CARPET SECTION ...	9,890	+ 1.6	106.3	18,904	+ 5.6	109.1
Total—Wool Textile Industry ...	141,925	+ 3.8	91.3	264,339	+ 5.9	87.5

* Comparison of earnings is affected by reductions in rates of wages which have been made by certain firms at various dates since February, 1929.

† Most of the districts are indicated by the names of their principal towns, but neighbouring towns and areas are included in each case.

The following Tables show, by districts and by departments, the percentage increases and decreases in the numbers employed in the week ended 28th November, 1931, by those firms who supplied returns for the purpose of the foregoing Table (excluding the carpet section), as compared with the week ended 24th October, 1931:—

Department.	Percentage Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in numbers employed as compared with previous month. (—without a figure, signifies "few or no workpeople returned.")				
	Wool Sorting and Combing.	Spinning.	Weaving.	Other Depts.	All Depts. (including not specified).
WORSTED SECTION :					
Bradford ...	+ 6.9	+ 6.4	+ 7.0	+ 4.6	+ 6.4
Huddersfield ...	- 2.9	+ 4.5	- 7.3	- 7.2	- 3.5
Leeds ...	+ 1.2	+ 2.5	+ 10.9	+ 3.5	+ 3.6
Keighley ...	-	+ 2.2	+ 7.1	+ 4.6	+ 4.0
Heavy Woollen (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.) ...	+ 0.9	+ 6.5	+ 5.1	+ 2.4	+ 5.3
Total, West Riding ...	+ 5.0	+ 4.1	+ 3.8	+ 3.7	+ 0.9
West of England and Midlands ...	+ 6.3	+ 1.4	+ 3.7	+ 1.8	+ 2.4
Lancashire ...	-	+ 22.6	-	-	+ 20.4
Scotland ...	+ 0.9	+ 7.6	-	+ 3.0	+ 5.7
TOTAL ...	+ 5.9	+ 4.6	+ 3.7	+ 1.3	+ 4.1

Department.	Percentage Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in numbers employed as compared with previous month. (... signifies "no change.")				
	Spinning.	Weaving.	Other Depts.	All Depts. (including not specified).	
WOOLLEN SECTION :					
Huddersfield ...	+ 5.3	+ 11.6	+ 4.3	+ 8.2	
Heavy Woollen (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.) ...	- 0.8	+ 1.8	+ 3.0	+ 1.5	
Leeds ...	+ 2.8	+ 5.4	+ 0.9	+ 3.6	
Halifax and Calder Vale ...	+ 4.4	+ 0.8	+ 4.3	+ 2.5	
Bradford ...	+ 5.1	+ 1.0	0.5	+ 1.1	
Total, West Riding ...	+ 2.9	+ 6.1	+ 3.0	+ 4.3	
Lancashire ...	+ 7.3	+ 4.3	+ 1.3	+ 4.8	
West of England and Midlands ...	+ 4.7	+ 2.8	+ 4.4	+ 3.9	
Scotland ...	+ 5.4	+ 0.8	- 1.7	+ 1.5	
Wales ...	-	+ 2.9	+ 3.8	+ 2.4	
TOTAL ...	+ 3.8	+ 4.5	+ 1.8	+ 3.7	

The following Table shows the numbers of men and of women (other than casuals) on the registers of 17 Employment Exchanges in the principal wool textile trade centres at 23rd November, 1931:—

Department.	Numbers (excluding Casuals) on the Registers at 23rd November, 1931.						
	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.			Total.
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	
Wool Sorting ...	186	4	190	164	4	168	358
Wool Washing and Preparing ...	679	674	1,353	277	224	501	1,854
Wool Combing ...	442	196	638	386	170	556	1,194
Wool Carding ...	606	170	776	338	60	398	1,174
Woolen Spinning ...	400	179	579	252	129	381	960
Worst Drawing and Spinning ...	746	2,074	2,820	184	790	974	3,794
Wool Winding and Warming ...	132	39	171	301	22	323	494
Worst Winding and Warming ...	189	319	508	274	264	538	1,046
Woolen Weaving ...	216	1,117	1,333	364	1,554	1,918	3,251
Worst Weaving ...	246	893	1,139	200	1,726	1,926	3,065
Other Processes ...	1,530	142	1,672	942	102	1,044	2,716
Total ...	5,372	5,807	11,179	3,682	5,045	8,727	19,906

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

Department.	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.			Total.
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	
Wool Sorting ...	- 116	- 2	- 118	- 17	- 2	- 19	- 137
Wool Washing and Preparing ...	- 116	- 278	- 394	- 49	- 35	- 84	- 478
Wool Combing ...	- 66	- 538	- 604	- 109	- 114	- 223	- 827
Wool Carding ...	- 80	- 60	- 140	- 105	- 25	- 130	- 270
Woolen Spinning ...	- 69	- 123	- 192	- 14	- 82	- 96	- 288
Worst Drawing and Spinning ...	- 264	- 2,025	- 2,289	- 184	- 655	- 839	- 3,128
Wool Winding and Warming ...	- 18	- 21	- 39	- 47	- 48	- 95	- 134
Worst Winding and Warming ...	- 37	- 358	- 395	- 2	- 157	- 159	- 554
Woolen Weaving ...	- 195	- 888	- 1,083	- 56	- 408	- 464	- 1,547
Worst Weaving ...	- 102	- 1,217	- 1,319	+ 23	- 1,221	- 1,198	- 2,517
Other Processes ...	- 35	- 115	- 150	- 239	- 27	- 266	- 416
Total ...	- 1,098	- 5,625	- 6,723	- 799	- 2,774	- 3,573	- 10,296

The imports (less re-exports) of raw wool (sheep's or lambs') were 42,604,100 lbs. in November, 1931, compared with 5,850,800 lbs. in the previous month, and 29,198,900 lbs. in November, 1930.

The exports of woollen and worsted yarns in November, 1931, were 3,417,900 lbs., compared with 3,959,900 lbs. in October, 1931, and with 3,791,900 lbs. in November, 1930.

The exports of woollen and worsted tissues in November, 1931, were 6,350,400 square yards, compared with 6,669,800 square yards in the previous month, and with 8,270,600 square yards in November, 1930.

The exports of blankets were 24,436 pairs, 38,545 pairs, and 45,310 pairs in November, 1931, October, 1931, and November, 1930, respectively.

BOOT AND SHOE INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during November continued moderate on the whole. The improvement shown in October was maintained in the early part of November, but later

The following Table shows the number of men and of women (other than casuals) on the registers of 53 Employment Exchanges in the principal centres of the boot and shoe industry at 23rd November, 1931:—

Department.	Numbers (excluding Casuals) on the Registers at 23rd November, 1931.						Total.
	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.			
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	
Boot and Shoe Manufacture:							
Preparing Department ...	250	40	290	113	33	146	436
Rough Stuff Department ...	427	30	457	236	27	263	720
Clicking Department ...	918	23	941	1,433	47	1,480	2,421
Closing Department ...	28	1,081	1,109	15	1,441	1,456	2,565
Making Department ...	2,594	33	2,627	1,681	68	1,749	4,376
Finishing Department ...	1,759	510	2,249	911	323	1,234	3,483
Slipper Making ...	369	124	493	321	226	547	1,040
Clog Making ...	16	3	19	1	—	1	20
Repairing and Hand-sewn Work ...	712	5	717	40	—	40	757
TOTAL ...	7,053	1,849	8,902	4,751	2,165	6,916	15,818

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

Department.	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.			Total.
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	
Boot and Shoe Manufacture:							
Preparing Department ...	+ 6	- 21	- 15	+ 25	+ 5	+ 30	+ 15
Rough Stuff Department ...	- 42	- 18	- 60	+ 86	+ 23	+ 109	+ 49
Clicking Department ...	- 3	- 11	- 14	+ 358	+ 6	+ 364	+ 350
Closing Department ...	- 8	- 713	- 721	+ 382	+ 382	+ 764	+ 339
Making Department ...	+ 116	- 32	+ 84	+ 404	+ 35	+ 439	+ 529
Finishing Department ...	- 107	- 399	- 506	+ 183	+ 77	+ 260	- 246
Slipper Making ...	- 16	- 92	- 108	- 15	- 79	- 94	- 202
Clog Making ...	- 4	—	- 4	+ 1	—	+ 1	- 3
Repairing and Hand-sewn Work ...	- 97	+ 1	- 96	+ 11	—	+ 11	- 85
TOTAL ...	- 155	- 1,285	- 1,440	+ 1,053	+ 449	+ 1,502	+ 62

The exports of boots and shoes in November, 1931, amounted to 72,494 dozen pairs, or 16,071 dozen pairs less than in October, 1931, and 23,552 dozen pairs less than in November, 1930.

POTTERY INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT in North Staffordshire showed little general change and remained bad on the whole, with much short-time working. At Worcester and at Bristol employment continued fair, but at Derby it was again reported as slack.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 29·8 at 23rd November, 1931, as compared with 30·5 at 26th October, 1931, and 25·0 at 24th November, 1930.

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

BRANCHES.	Number of Workpeople.				Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.			
	Week ended 28th Nov., 1931.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before.		Week ended 28th Nov., 1931.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before.	
	Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.		
China Manufacture ...	1,593	- 0·3	- 14·5	3,070	+ 4·1	- 12·2		
Earthenware Manufacture ...	6,558	- 3·5	- 3·7	10,798	- 1·8	- 11·9		
Other Branches (including unspecified) ...	1,671	- 0·3	- 6·3	2,812	+ 0·0	- 16·4		
TOTAL ...	9,822	- 2·5	- 6·1	16,680	- 0·5	- 12·7		
DISTRICTS.								
North Staffordshire ...	7,650	- 3·0	- 5·1	11,863	- 2·2	- 13·3		
Other Districts ...	2,172	- 0·5	- 9·5	4,817	+ 3·9	- 11·2		
TOTAL ...	9,822	- 2·5	- 6·1	16,680	- 0·5	- 12·7		

Returns from employers relative to short-time working showed that, of 9,187 workpeople employed by firms making returns, 4,014, or nearly 44 per cent., were working on an average about 14 hours less than full time in the week ended 28th November, 1931; the amount of overtime worked was very small.

* Comparison of earnings is affected by reductions in rates of wages.

BRICK INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during November showed a further slight decline, and continued slack on the whole.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 19·9 at 23rd November, 1931, as compared with 19·0 at 26th October, 1931, and 17·3 at 24th November, 1930.

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

Districts.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 28th Nov., 1931.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before.	Week ended 28th Nov., 1931.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.	
Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire ...	1,734	+ 4·6	- 2·0	4,145	+ 2·4	+ 0·4
Midlands and Eastern Counties ...	6,335	- 2·9	- 5·1	16,556	- 4·8	- 8·1
South and South-West Counties and Wales ...	1,944	+ 0·7	+ 1·8	4,318	- 1·7	- 7·0
Scotland ...	171	—	- 5·5	394	- 5·5	- 10·7
TOTAL ...	10,184	- 0·9	- 3·3	25,513	- 3·2	- 6·7

Returns from employers relative to short-time working, exclusive of time lost on account of bad weather, showed that, of 9,501 workpeople employed by firms furnishing information, 10 per cent. were working on an average nearly 6 hours less than full time in the week ended 28th November, 1931; the amount of overtime worked was very small.

BUILDING.

EMPLOYMENT continued to decline during November and was generally very slack or bad, although it was reported as fair at a few centres. Unfavourable weather conditions occasioned considerable short-time working on outside operations in a number of districts. As compared with November, 1930, employment was slightly worse in the North-Eastern Counties of England and considerably worse in each of the other administrative divisions.

As regards individual occupations, employment declined with each class of operative, the decline being most marked with painters and plasterers. Employment was very slack with bricklayers, masons and tradesmen's labourers, and bad with plumbers, carpenters, slaters, plasterers and painters. As compared with November, 1930, employment was much worse with each class of operative.

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

OCCUPATIONS.	Estimated Numbers of Insured Workpeople at July, 1931.	Total Numbers Unemployed at 23rd Nov., 1931.	Numbers Included in Previous Column who were Temporarily Stopped.	Per cent. Unemployed.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Percentage as compared with a Month before.		Year before.
					Month before.	Year before.	
Carpenters ...	151,060	31,014	1,171	23·7	+ 1·5	+ 7·3	
Bricklayers ...	79,010	15,372	778	19·5	+ 2·8	+ 4·4	
Masons ...	21,620	4,378	473	20·2	+ 2·7	+ 6·4	
Slaters ...	6,370	1,546	107	24·3	+ 2·9	+ 8·7	
Plasterers ...	26,500	6,614	368	25·0	+ 4·2	+ 7·3	
Painters ...	111,220	45,425	2,002	40·8	+ 6·2	+ 7·9	
Plumbers ...	35,500	7,859	474	22·1	+ 0·4	+ 5·4	
Labourers to above ...	245,110	61,979	1,839	25·3	+ 1·3	+ 4·8	
All other occupations ...	201,780	57,470	2,024	28·5	+ 1·9	+ 6·2	
TOTAL ...	858,170	231,657	9,236	27·0	+ 2·3	+ 6·0	
DIVISIONS.							
London ...	182,790	51,985	91	28·4	+ 2·6	+ 9·9	
South-Eastern ...	137,690	27,951	368	20·3	+ 2·1	+ 7·3	
South-Western ...	105,180	23,632	370	22·5	+ 2·2	+ 6·5	
Midlands ...	104,260	24,154	1,792	23·2	+ 2·0	+ 5·2	
North-Eastern ...	101,780	29,882	2,593	29·4	+ 3·2	+ 0·5	
North-Western ...	103,410	33,548	2,286	32·4	+ 2·0	+ 3·6	
Scotland ...	78,430	22,284	1,263	28·4	+ 1·9	+ 3·6	
Wales ...	26,780	11,738	444	43·8	+ 4·0	+ 6·7	
Northern Ireland ...	17,850	6,473	29	36·3	+ 0·7	+ 10·8	
Great Britain and Northern Ireland ...	858,170	231,657	9,236	27·0	+ 2·3	+ 6·0	

BUILDING PLANS APPROVED.

Returns from Local Authorities in 144 of the principal urban areas in Great Britain (except the London County Council area) with a total population of 16,237,000, show that in November, 1931, plans were passed for buildings of an estimated cost of £4,045,400, as compared with £5,064,000 in October, 1931, and £4,980,500 in November, 1930. Of the total for November, 1931, dwelling-houses accounted for £2,825,500; factories and workshops for £198,000; shops, offices, warehouses and other business premises for £181,600; and other buildings, and additions and alterations to existing buildings, for £840,300.

PAPER MANUFACTURE, PRINTING, AND BOOKBINDING.

EMPLOYMENT in the paper-making industry during November continued fair on the whole. The improvement reported during October was maintained generally, though short time was still reported at a few centres.

Employment in the letterpress printing industry was again moderate generally. It was reported as bad in London and at Birmingham, Liverpool and Manchester, and as slack, and worse than during October, at Edinburgh and Glasgow; it continued fair in many of the smaller towns. With electrotypers and stereotypers employment was mainly fair.

In the lithographic printing industry employment again declined slightly and was slack generally. At Manchester and Glasgow, however, some improvement was noted during the month, though employment was described as bad in these two districts. At a number of the smaller centres it was reported as fair. With lithographic artists employment generally continued slack to moderate.

In the bookbinding industry employment showed some improvement, but, on the whole, remained slack.

The percentage unemployed among insured workpeople in the paper and paper-board industries was 11·2 at 23rd November, 1931, compared with 11·9 at 26th October and 10·4 at 24th November, 1930. In the printing and bookbinding industries the percentage was 11·1 at 23rd November, compared with 11·2 at 26th October and 8·2 at 24th November, 1930. In the cardboard box, paper bag and stationery industries the percentage was 9·5 at 23rd November, compared with 11·0 at 26th October and 8·5 at 24th November, 1930.

The following Table summarises the returns received from certain trade unions which furnished information as to the extent of unemployment among their members:—

	No. of Members of Unions at end of November, 1931.	Percentage Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on a	
		Nov., 1931.	Oct., 1931.	Nov., 1930.	Month before.	Year before.
Letterpress Printing:						
London ...	33,317	9·0	8·8	4·7	+ 0·2	+ 4·3
Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire ...	14,000	7·7	8·2	5·4	- 0·5	+ 2·3
Midlands and Eastern Counties ...	7,588	7·1	6·7	3·8	+ 0·4	+ 3·3
Scotland ...	5,365	11·7	9·9	5·0	+ 1·8	+ 6·7
Other Districts ...	8,803	7·5	7·1	4·4	+ 0·4	+ 3·1
TOTAL ...	69,073	8·5	8·3	4·7	+ 0·2	+ 3·8
Lithographic Printing	11,581	11·2	10·8	5·7	+ 0·4	+ 5·5
Bookbinding ...	8,438	13·6	15·3	7·1	- 1·7	+ 6·5
Printing and Bookbinding (branches not distinguished) ...	25,464	5·1	5·8	2·8	- 0·7	+ 2·3

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

EMPLOYMENT during November was slack, but somewhat better than in the previous month. Among insured workpeople in the dock, harbour, river and canal service, 37·3 per cent. were unemployed at 23rd November, 1931, as compared with 39·4 per cent. at 26th October, 1931, and with 37·4 per cent. at 24th November, 1930.

London.—Employment was moderate, and better than in October.

The following Table shows the average daily number of dock labourers employed at docks and wharves in respect of which returns were received:—

Period.	Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London.				
	In Docks.			At Wharves, Docks and Principal Wharves.	
	By the Port of London Authority or through Contractors.	By Ship-owners, etc.	Total.	Wharves making Returns.	Total.
Week ended—					
7th Nov., 1931	4,344	1,535	5,879	8,230	14,109
14th " "	4,237	1,555	5,792	8,168	13,960
21st " "	4,366	1,380	5,746	7,959	13,705
28th " "	5,193	1,747	6,940	8,416	15,356
Average for 4 weeks ended 28th Nov., 1931 ...	4,535	1,554	6,089	8,193	14,282
Average for Oct., 1931	4,170	1,516	5,686	7,904	13,599
Average for Nov., 1930	4,588	1,662	6,250	7,988	14,238

Tilbury.—The average daily number of dock labourers employed during November was 864, compared with 729 in October, 1931, and with 827 in November, 1930.

East Coast.—Employment continued slack on the whole on the North-East Coast. It was fair at South Shields, and at Hartlepool and Sunderland increased coal shipments provided additional work. At Middlesbrough employment declined and was poor. It was moderate at Hull and fair at Yarmouth, Lowestoft, King's Lynn and Ipswich.

Liverpool.—Employment was somewhat better than in the previous month. The average weekly number of dock labourers registered at the clearing houses under the Liverpool Docks Scheme as employed in the four weeks ended 27th November, 1931 was 12,155, compared with 10,892 in October, 1931, and with 13,287 in November, 1930. The average weekly amount of wages paid to these men through the clearing houses was £28,514 in the four weeks ended 27th November, 1931, compared with £24,252 in October, 1931, and with £30,901 in November, 1930.

Other Ports in England and Wales.—There was a distinct improvement at Manchester. Employment remained slack in general at the South Wales ports, but at Cardiff imports of pitwood and of potatoes provided a fair amount of work. Conditions were fair at Bristol but less favourable at Avonmouth. Employment remained slack at Southampton, Plymouth and other South-Western ports.

Scottish and Irish Ports.—There was a further improvement at several Scottish ports, and employment was good at Dundee and fair at Glasgow, Grangemouth and Leith. At Belfast it remained fair.

SEAMEN.

DURING November employment was very slack on the whole. The aggregate number of engagements of seamen was considerably lower than in October, 1931, and November, 1930, and the supply of ratings was more than adequate for requirements at all ports.

Among insured workpeople in the shipping service, the percentage unemployed at 23rd November, 1931, was 35·0, compared with 35·3 at 26th October, 1931, and 32·1 at 24th November, 1930.

The demand for men on the Thames was moderate in the first week but very slack during the rest of November. On the Tyne it was slack generally but showed signs of improvement in the later stages; on the Tees it was quiet, with a slight upward tendency in the second half of the month. At the Hartlepoons, apart from some slight activity in the first half of November, the demand was very slack; on the Wear it declined, and at the end of the month was slack. At Hull the demand was very quiet, with a slightly better tendency at the end of November. At Southampton it was very slack, except during the third week, when conditions were more active. At Bristol the demand was slack throughout the month; at Avonmouth and at Newport it improved during the first half of November, but declined thereafter, and at the end of the month was dull. The demand at Cardiff was moderate generally, some increase in activity being noted in the second week; at Swansea it was very poor. On the Mersey it improved during the first half of the month and was fair, but during the latter part of November it was very slack; at Manchester it was fair generally. On the Clyde it was quiet, with slackness more marked in the second and third weeks. At Leith it was very dull, and at Belfast very slack throughout the month.

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 November:—

Principal Ports.	Nov., 1931.	Number of Seamen* shipped in			
		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before.		Eleven Months ended	
		Month before.	Year before.	Nov., 1931.	Nov., 1930.
ENGLAND AND WALES:					
Liverpool ...	7,544	+ 298	- 1,055	100,658	130,155
Manchester ...	638	+ 274	+ 29	6,997	7,247
London ...	7,297	- 1,208	- 95	88,747	106,761
Southampton ...	5,161	- 1,197	- 1,980	89,212	105,106
Tyne Ports ...	2,250	- 556	+ 822	23,284	23,968
Sunderland ...	244	+ 85	+ 68	2,705	2,643
Middlesbrough ...	175	- 104	- 121	2,450	3,622
Hull ...	687	- 368	- 136	9,505	11,190
Bristol ...	567	- 617	+ 61	10,561	10,133
Newport, Mon. ...	309	- 8	- 245	4,287	6,096
Cardiff ...	1,966	- 367	+ 340	21,093	23,176
Swansea ...	201	- 253	- 521	5,860	8,187
SCOTLAND:					
Leith ...	121	- 166			

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED INDUSTRIES.

THE statistics here presented show, industry by industry, the estimated number of persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, the number and percentage of such persons who were unemployed on 23rd November, 1931, and the increase or decrease at that date in the total percentages unemployed compared with a month earlier, a year before, and two years before, respectively.

The Unemployment Insurance Acts provide, subject to certain exceptions, for the compulsory insurance against unemployment of substantially all employed persons. The principal classes of persons who are excepted from such compulsory insurance are juveniles under 16 years of age and (since 2nd January, 1928) persons aged 65 and over, persons employed otherwise than by way of manual labour at a rate of remuneration exceeding in value £250 per annum, persons employed in agriculture and private domestic service, and outworkers. Persons employed by local public authorities, railways and certain other public utility undertakings, members of the police forces, and persons with rights under a statutory superannuation scheme may, in certain circumstances, also be excepted.

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

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

are included in the statistics of unemployment, for a period of two months from the date on which the insured person was last in touch with the Employment Exchange.

The numbers unemployed given in the following Table relate only to persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts. They include insured persons who are maintaining registration at Employment Exchanges, together with those whose unemployment books remain lodged in the "two months" file referred to above. The figures given on page 478 relating to persons registered at Employment Exchanges include uninsured as well as insured persons who are maintaining registration for employment, but not insured persons whose books are in the two months file.

A Table showing the composition of the two series of figures is given on page 478.

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.

Under the provisions of the Widows', Orphans', and Old Age Contributory Pensions Act, 1925, all persons aged 65 and over ceased to be insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts as from 2nd January, 1928. Such persons do not now appear in the statistics showing the estimated numbers of insured persons or the number of insured persons recorded as unemployed, and the figures for dates subsequent to 2nd January, 1928, are therefore not comparable with those for earlier dates. For all practical purposes, however, the percentages unemployed can be regarded as comparable with the corresponding figures published each month since July, 1925.

An article dealing with the effect on the unemployment figures of recent changes in the scheme of unemployment insurance, appears on page 457 of this issue. It will be seen, however, that these changes have not yet affected the statistics of unemployment among insured persons on which the following Tables are based.

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

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	6,064	79	6,143	109	5	114	6,173	84	6,257	6,144	83	6,227
Mining :-												
Coal Mining	197,054	1,085	198,139	85,605	258	85,863	282,659	1,343	284,002	282,611	1,343	283,954
Iron Ore and Tonstone Mining, etc.	4,786	4	4,790	693	—	693	5,479	4	5,483	5,446	4	5,450
Lead, Tin and Copper Mining ...	3,153	14	3,167	304	—	304	3,457	14	3,471	3,457	14	3,471
Stone Quarrying and Mining ...	7,343	18	7,361	2,669	1	2,670	10,012	19	10,031	9,460	17	9,477
Slate Quarrying and Mining ...	1,216	3	1,219	45	—	45	1,261	3	1,264	1,260	3	1,263
Mining and Quarrying not separately specified	2,789	240	3,029	597	29	626	3,386	269	3,655	3,295	269	3,564
Clay, Sand, Gravel and Chalk Pits	3,386	27	3,413	597	5	602	3,983	32	4,015	3,915	32	3,947
Non-Metallic Mining Products :-												
Coke Ovens and By-Product Works	3,356	29	3,385	463	6	469	3,819	35	3,854	3,819	35	3,854
Artificial Stone and Concrete ...	3,818	192	4,010	710	11	721	4,528	203	4,731	4,482	202	4,684
Cement, Limekilns and Whiting ...	3,111	163	3,274	630	4	634	3,741	167	3,908	3,676	166	3,842
Brick, Tile, Pipe, etc., Making ...	12,307	1,614	13,921	2,698	805	3,503	15,005	2,419	17,424	14,652	2,419	17,071
Pottery, Earthenware, etc.	5,565	7,310	12,875	4,109	6,501	10,610	9,674	13,811	23,485	9,666	13,809	23,475
Glass Trades :-												
Glass (excluding Bottles and Scientific Glass)	3,865	989	4,854	1,138	92	1,230	5,003	1,081	6,084	4,987	1,081	6,068
Glass Bottles	3,349	870	4,219	1,062	34	1,096	4,411	904	5,315	4,411	904	5,315
Chemicals, etc. :-												
Chemicals	14,927	1,861	16,788	1,212	167	1,379	16,139	2,028	18,167	16,045	2,026	18,071
Explosives	1,394	786	2,180	341	90	431	1,735	876	2,611	1,735	876	2,611
Paints, Varnish, Red and White Leads	1,621	473	2,094	174	40	214	1,795	513	2,308	1,792	513	2,305
Oil, Glue, Soap, Ink, Matches, etc.	6,624	1,955	8,579	980	266	1,246	7,604	2,221	9,825	7,558	2,191	9,749
Metal Manufacture :-												
Pig Iron (Blast Furnaces)	6,716	33	6,749	1,211	16	1,227	7,927	49	7,976	7,924	49	7,973
Steel Melting and Iron Puddling, Iron and Steel Rolling and Forging	41,444	522	41,966	34,947	140	35,087	76,391	662	77,053	76,376	662	77,038
Brass, Copper, Zinc, Tin, Lead, etc.	7,500	514	8,014	2,656	36	2,692	10,156	550	10,706	10,088	549	10,637
Tin Plates	4,421	431	4,852	3,660	373	4,033	8,885	804	9,689	8,081	804	8,885
Iron and Steel Tubes	5,671	228	5,899	6,842	42	6,884	12,513	270	12,783	12,512	270	12,782
Wire, Wire Netting, Wire Ropes ...	2,807	607	3,414	2,146	101	2,247	4,953	708	5,661	4,952	707	5,659
Engineering, etc. :-												
General Engineering; Engineers' Iron and Steel Founding	118,032	5,286	123,318	34,965	1,063	36,028	152,997	6,349	159,346	150,616	6,335	156,951
Electrical Engineering	9,146	2,107	11,253	2,180	384	2,564	11,326	2,491	13,817	11,272	2,490	13,762
Marine Engineering, etc.	23,740	143	23,883	3,691	68	3,759	27,431	211	27,642	24,166	211	24,377
Constructional Engineering	6,574	140	6,714	2,129	31	2,160	8,703	171	8,874	8,631	171	8,802
Construction and Repair of Vehicles :-												
Motor Vehicles, Cycles and Aircraft	41,149	3,201	44,350	11,862	696	12,558	53,011	3,897	56,908	52,572	3,890	56,462
Carriages, Carts, etc.	3,083	300	3,383	532	33	565	3,615	333	3,948	3,548	333	3,881
Railway Carriages, Wagons and Tramcars	10,271	141	10,412	2,037	32	2,069	12,308	173	12,481	12,297	173	12,470

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 ...	110,977	611	111,588	5,905	79	5,984	116,882	690	117,572	110,591	656	111,247
Metal Trades :-												
Stove, Grate, Pipe, etc., and General Iron Founding	15,087	1,356	16,443	4,538	250	4,788	19,625	1,606	21,231	19,538	1,606	21,144
Electrical Wiring and Contracting ...	3,082	74	3,156	329	—	329	3,411	74	3,485	3,364	73	3,437
Electrical Cables, Wire and Lamps	8,243	4,173	12,416	1,031	574	1,605	9,274	4,747	14,021	9,240	4,747	13,987
Hand Tools, Cutlery, Saws, Files ...	5,512	2,184	7,696	3,608	535	4,143	9,120	2,719	11,839	9,101	2,718	11,819
Bolts, Nuts, Screws, Rivets, Nails, etc.	2,492	2,705	5,197	1,739	704	2,503	4,291	3,409	7,700	4,290	3,409	7,699
Brass and Allied Metal Wares	3,378	1,822	5,200	867	249	1,116	4,245	2,071	6,316	4,227	2,071	6,298
Heating and Ventilating Apparatus	1,248	31	1,279	142	5	147	1,390	36	1,426	1,382	36	1,418
Watches, Clocks, Plate, Jewellery, etc	3,029	2,580	5,609	1,275	716	1,991	4,304	3,296	7,600	4,289	3,295	7,584
Metal Industries not separately specified	21,261	12,445	33,706	6,315	2,183	8,498	27,576	14,628	42,204	27,371	14,620	41,991
Textile Trades :-												
Cotton	40,448	87,253	127,701	12,564	20,813	33,377	53,012	108,066	161,078	53,005	108,059	161,064
Woolen and Worsted	10,685	14,566	25,251	7,990	9,578	17,568	18,675	24,144	42,819	18,531	24,081	42,612
Silk Manufacture and Artificial Silk Weaving	3,253	3,811	7,064	1,167	2,660	3,827	4,420	6,471	10,891	4,420	6,463	10,883
Artificial Silk Yarn	2,826	2,096	4,922	606	513	1,119	3,432	2,609	6,041	3,392	2,585	5,977
Linen	5,444	9,084	14,528	937	2,045	2,982	6,381	11,129	17,510	1,170	3,393	4,563
Jute	4,178	9,587	13,765	450	876	1,326	4,628	10,463	15,091	4,628	10,463	15,091
Hemp, Rope, Cord, Twine, etc.	1,267	2,503	3,770	344	797	1,141	1,611	3,300	4,911	1,417	2,944	4,361
Hosiery	1,518	6,138	7,656	1,079	2,749	3,828	2,597	8,887	11,484	2,577	8,809	11,386
Lace	661	897	1,558	523	657	1,180	1,184	2,738	1,184	1,554	2,738	1,554
Carpets	723	1,391	2,114	648	948	1,596	1,371	2,339	3,710	1,371	2,339	3,710
Textiles not separately specified	1,876	4,440	6,316	793	1,716	2,509	2,669	6,156	8,825	2,436	5,553	7,989
Textile Bleaching, Printing, Dyeing, etc.	13,395	5,864	19,260	13,378	4,058	17,436	26,774	9,922	36,696	25,723	8,716	34,439
Leather and Leather Goods :-												
Tanning, Currying and Dressing ...	3,937	1,318	5,255	968	245	1,213	4,905	1,563	6,468	4,899	1,563	6,462
Leather Goods	1,981	1,321	3,302	418	304	722	2,399	1,625	4,024	2,374	1,612	3,986
Clothing Trades :-												
Tailoring	11,692	12,953	24,645	2,361	12,716	15,077	14,053	25,669	39,722	13,288	25,133	38,421
Dress Making and Millinery	1,208	9,985	11,193	99	3,475	3,574	1,397	12,252	13,559	1,287	11,915	13,202
Hats and Caps (including Straw Plait)	1,676	3,039	4,715	986	1,839	2,825	2,662	4,878	7,540	2,661	4,873	7,534
Shirts, Collars, Underclothing, etc.	921	7,468	8,389	66	3,305	3,371	987	10,773	11,760	802	6,702	7,504
Dress Industries not separately specified	1,146	1,139	2,285	296	373	669	1,442	1,512	2,954	1,438	1,506	2,944
Boots, Shoes, Slippers and Clogs ...	10,111	4,076	14,186	6,062	2,739	8,801	16,173	6,814	22,987	15,981	6,811	22,792
Food, Drink and Tobacco :-												
Bread, Biscuits, Cakes, etc.	13,128	6,576	19,704	638	504	1,142	13,766	7,080	20,846	13,101	6,964	20,065
Grain Milling												

NUMBERS INSURED AND PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED.

Table with columns: INDUSTRY, ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AT JULY, 1931 (Males, Females, Total), PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 23RD NOVEMBER, 1931 (Wholly Unemployed, Temporary Stoppages, Total), INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN TOTAL PERCENTAGES AS COMPARED WITH (26th Oct., 1931, 24th Nov., 1930, 25th Nov., 1929), GREAT BRITAIN ONLY, TOTAL PERCENTAGES AT 23RD NOV., 1931.

* For 25th November, 1929, separate figures for each of the two sections are not available.

Table with columns: INDUSTRY, ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AT JULY, 1931 (Males, Females, Total), PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 23RD NOVEMBER, 1931 (Wholly Unemployed, Temporary Stoppages, Total), INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN TOTAL PERCENTAGES AS COMPARED WITH (26th Oct., 1931, 24th Nov., 1930, 25th Nov., 1929), GREAT BRITAIN ONLY, TOTAL PERCENTAGES AT 23RD NOV., 1931.

NUMBERS OF INSURED WORKPEOPLE UNEMPLOYED.

PROPORTIONS IN VARIOUS INDUSTRY GROUPS. In the following Table the numbers of insured workpeople recorded as unemployed in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 23rd November, 1931, are analysed so as to show the proportions of the total unemployed classified as belonging to various industry groups:—

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

PRINCIPAL VARIATIONS IN NUMBERS UNEMPLOYED.

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

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

COMPOSITION OF UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS: GREAT BRITAIN.

On page 474 an explanation is given of the unemployment statistics published weekly in the Press, and monthly in this GAZETTE. The following Table gives an analysis relating to the 23rd November, 1931, of the composition of these statistics. Lines 1 to 4 make up the number of persons on the register; while, by omitting the uninsured persons (line 4) and including lines 5 and 6, the number of books lodged, or, in other words, the number of insured persons recorded as unemployed, is obtained:—

Table showing composition of unemployment statistics for Great Britain, categorized by sex and age group.

NUMBERS ON THE REGISTERS OF EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES.*

Table showing numbers on registers of employment exchanges for Great Britain and Northern Ireland, categorized by date and sex.

Some part of the reduction since 26th October in the numbers on the Registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain has been due to changes in the conditions for the receipt of unemployment benefit, and the resulting disallowance of claims. An estimate of the effect of these influences between 26th October and 23rd November is given on page 457 of this issue.

Analysis of figures for 30th November, 1931.

Table showing analysis of figures for 30th November 1931, categorized by date and sex, including regular and casual employment.

Table showing analysis of figures for 30th November 1931, categorized by date and sex, including total figures for Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

VACANCIES NOTIFIED AND FILLED.

The period in respect of which statistics are compiled regarding applications by employers, and vacancies filled by Employment Exchanges, has recently been changed. Figures are not yet available for the period since 26th October, 1931. They will appear in the issue of this GAZETTE for January, 1932.

* The term "Employment Exchange," as used in this connection, includes Ministry of Labour Employment Exchanges and Branch Employment Offices, and also Juvenile Employment Bureaux under the control of Local Education Authorities which are exercising powers under Sec. 107 of the Education Act, 1921, and Sec. 6 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1923.

NUMBERS ON THE REGISTERS IN THE PRINCIPAL TOWNS.

THE following Table shows for each of the Employment Exchange administrative areas in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and for the principal towns therein, the number of persons registered at Employment Exchanges on 30th November, 1931. In certain cases (e.g., Bristol, Birmingham, Sheffield, Liverpool, Glasgow, etc.) the figures cover more than one Exchange area.

Large table showing numbers on registers in principal towns across various divisions in Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

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

JUVENILE UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS.

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

Table showing numbers of juveniles aged 14 and under 18 on registers, categorized by division and insurance status.

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

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

JUVENILES PLACED IN EMPLOYMENT. FOUR WEEKS ENDED 2ND NOVEMBER, 1931.

Table showing juveniles placed in employment, categorized by division and sex.

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

Table showing juveniles in attendance at approved courses of instruction, categorized by division and attendance type.

There were 76 Junior Instruction Centres for boys, 29 for girls, and 29 mixed centres open in Great Britain during the week. In addition, there were 17 Junior Instruction Classes for boys, 9 for girls, and 4 mixed classes. The number of other Institutions to which unemployed juveniles were admitted was 133 for boys, 99 for girls, 284 mixed. The attendances at these Institutions are mainly in the evening.

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

DETERMINATION OF CLAIMS TO UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT IN GREAT BRITAIN.

13TH OCTOBER TO 9TH NOVEMBER, 1931.

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

Table showing determination of claims to unemployment benefit, categorized by type of claim.

B.—Decisions of Courts of Referees.

Table showing decisions of Courts of Referees, categorized by ground on which referred and benefit status.

* Class (a). Persons who habitually work for less than a full week, and by the practice of the trade in which they are employed nevertheless receive earnings or similar payments of an amount greater than the normal earnings for a full week of persons following the same occupation in the same district; Class (b). Persons whose normal employment is employment for portions of the year only in occupations which are of a seasonal nature; Class (c). Persons whose normal employment is employment in an occupation in which their services are not normally required for more than two days in the week or who owing to personal circumstances are not normally employed for more than two days in the week; Class (d). Married women who, since marriage or in any prescribed period subsequent to marriage, have had less than the prescribed number of contributions paid in respect of them. This class does not include married women whose husbands are incapacitated from work or are unemployed and not in receipt of benefit.

C.—Trade Dispute* Cases.

	Benefit Allowed.	Benefit Dis-allowed.	Total.
Cases dealt with by Insurance Officers ...	90	367	457
Appeals against disallowances by Insurance Officers dealt with by Courts of Referees ...	34 2	151 5	185 7
Men ...	2	2	2
Women ...	32	149	181
Juveniles ...	2	2	2
Total Appeals ...	36	158	194

D.—Decisions by Umpire.*

	Benefit Allowed.	Benefit Dis-allowed.	Total.
Appeals by Insurance Officers ...	147 89 3	380 143 11	527 232 14
Men ...	89	143	232
Women ...	3	11	14
Juveniles ...	147	380	527
Total ...	239	534	773
Appeals by Associations ...	56 23 1	195 68 1	251 91 1
Men ...	56	195	251
Women ...	23	68	91
Juveniles ...	1	1	1
Total ...	79	264	343
Appeals by Claimants ...	88 24 1	565 206 5	653 230 6
Men ...	88	565	653
Women ...	24	206	230
Juveniles ...	1	5	6
Total ...	113	776	889
Total ...	291 136 4	1,140 417 17	1,431 553 21
Men ...	291	1,140	1,431
Women ...	136	417	553
Juveniles ...	4	17	21
Grand Total ...	431	1,574	2,005

CUMULATIVE FIGURES, 10TH MARCH TO 9TH NOVEMBER, 1931.

	Benefit Allowed.	Benefit Dis-allowed.	Total.
Decisions of Courts of Referees.			
First Statutory Condition (applies to juveniles only) ...	169	4,711	4,880
Less than 8 contributions paid in past 2 years and less than 30 contributions paid at any time (Sec. 14(2), U.I. Act, 1927) ...	878	3,284	4,162
Not normally insurable and/or will not normally seek to obtain livelihood by means of insurable employment ...	56,994	124,996	181,990
Class (b) ...	1,876	5,863	7,739
Class (c) ...	54	162	216
Class (d) ...	10,229	72,401	82,630
Anomalies regulations† ...	30,217	55,864	86,081
Employment left voluntarily without just cause ...	21,917	34,530	56,447
Employment lost through misconduct ...	10,237	39,029	49,266
Failure or refusal to apply for or accept suitable employment, or failure to carry out written directions ...	6,775	31,055	37,830
Not unemployed ...	6,777	19,853	26,630
Not capable of work, or not available for work ...	5,713	34,014	39,727
Other grounds ...	151,736	425,762	577,498
Trade Dispute* Cases.			
Cases dealt with by Insurance Officers ...	1,026	11,102	12,128
Appeals against disallowances by Insurance Officers dealt with by Courts of Referees ...	793	2,095	2,888
Decisions by Umpire.*			
Appeals by Insurance Officers ...	1,789	3,747	5,536
Appeals by Associations ...	781	2,586	3,367
Appeals by Claimants ...	1,055	5,473	6,528
Total ...	3,625	11,806	15,431

INSURED UNEMPLOYED.

POSITION UNDER PROVISIONS AS TO INSURANCE BENEFIT AND TRANSITIONAL PAYMENTS.

The following Table gives an analysis of the numbers of insured persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain at 23rd November, 1931, relative to their position with regard to their title to Insurance Benefit and the provisions of the Unemployment Insurance (National Economy) (No. 2) Order, 1931, which deals with Transitional Payments.

The First Statutory Condition requires the payment of not less than 30 contributions in the preceding two years. In cases where this condition is satisfied, insured persons may receive insurance benefit, subject to the fulfilment of the statutory conditions, for not more than 156 days in a benefit year; but in cases where 156 days' benefit has been drawn in a benefit year ending on or after the 12th November, 1931, insurance benefit does not become payable until 10 contributions have been paid after the 156th day of benefit. In cases where 156 days of benefit have been received in a benefit year, or where the 10 contributions rule is not satisfied, and in all cases in

* The decisions on trade dispute disallowances refer largely to test cases. The total number of individuals affected by such decisions may be considerably in excess of the figures shown in the Table.
† See note * on previous page.

which the First Statutory Condition is not fulfilled, adults, but not boys and girls, may make application for Transitional Payments, and if the special transitional conditions are fulfilled, all such applications are referred to Public Assistance Committees for determination of the amount of payment to be made having regard to the needs of the applicant. During the Transitory Period allowed for the disposal of the initial accumulation of cases, payments are made in individual cases at the full insurance benefit rate pending the receipt of the determinations in respect of them.

In the Table below, the cases in which payment was not allowed by Committees are indicated separately in item 3 (b). In item 4 the term "insured non-claimants" includes all those adults on the register whose claims had been disallowed on the ground that they were not normally insurable and would not normally seek to obtain a livelihood by means of insurable employment, together with those who had not made claims for insurance benefit or transitional payments; and, in the case of insured juveniles, all those not entitled to insurance benefit.

The Table shows that of the 1,587,113 wholly unemployed insured men on the Register at 23rd November, 1931, there were 814,065 with claims to insurance benefit, and 682,050 with applications for transitional payments, while 90,998 were either not entitled to benefit or payments or had claims under consideration. The corresponding figures for the 321,375 men temporarily stopped were 278,794, 27,365 and 15,216 respectively. Among the 326,974 wholly unemployed insured women, 151,368 had claims for insurance benefit, 114,342 were applicants for transitional payments and 61,264 were either not entitled to benefit or payments or had claims under consideration. The corresponding figures for the 99,962 women temporarily stopped were 87,040, 8,874 and 4,048 respectively.

ADULTS.

	Section of Register.	Men.	Women.
1. Claims for Insurance Benefit	Wholly Unemployed	814,065	151,368
	Temporarily Stopped	278,794	87,040
	Casuals ...	78,560	1,424
	Total ...	1,171,419	239,832
2. Applications for Transitional Payments.	Wholly Unemployed	682,050	114,342
	Temporarily Stopped	27,365	8,874
	Casuals ...	27,350	389
	Total ...	736,765	123,605
3. Total applications for Transitional Payments:—			
(a) Authorised for payment*		730,005	120,633
(b) Needs of applicants held by Local Authorities not to justify payment ...		6,760	2,972
Total ...		736,765	123,605
4. Insured Non-claimants ...	Wholly Unemployed	57,142	50,387
5. Position under First Statutory Condition not determined.	Wholly Unemployed	33,856	10,877
	Temporarily Stopped	15,216	4,048
	Casuals ...	1,031	22
	Total ...	50,103	14,947
Total Insured Adults on Register.	Wholly Unemployed	1,587,113	326,974
	Temporarily Stopped	321,375	99,962
	Casuals ...	106,941	1,835
	Total ...	2,015,429	428,771

JUENILES.

	Section of Register.	Boys.	Girls.
1. Claims for Insurance Benefit	Wholly Unemployed	16,114	6,777
	Temporarily Stopped	8,083	5,093
	Casuals ...	160	16
	Total ...	24,357	11,886
2. Insured Non-claimants† ...		12,450	8,222
3. Position under First Statutory Condition not determined.	Wholly Unemployed	1,114	637
	Temporarily Stopped	661	429
	Casuals ...	6	1
	Total ...	1,781	1,067
4. Total Insured Juveniles on Register.	Wholly Unemployed	29,678	15,636
	Temporarily Stopped	8,744	5,522
	Casuals ...	166	17
	Total ...	38,588	21,175

UNEMPLOYMENT FUND.

A Table showing, approximately, the receipts and payments and the liabilities of the Fund is given on page 486.

* At 23rd November, 1931, the number of cases on the register in which Local Authorities had given determinations as to the amount of transitional payment to be made (exclusive of "nil" determinations) included approximately 38,000 men and 3,600 women.
† Including 1,632 Boys and 485 Girls who satisfied the First Statutory Condition but were not entitled to Insurance Benefit.

EMPLOYMENT OVERSEAS.

[N.B.—The following paragraphs include an abstract of such official information as is available with regard to the state of employment abroad, in order to indicate, as far as possible, the fluctuations in employment in each country from period to period. The bases of the official statistics published in the various countries are, however, not the same as those of the statistics relating to this country; and therefore the figures quoted below cannot properly be used with those on pp. 465-466 to compare the actual level of employment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland with that of other countries.]

GERMANY.*

UNEMPLOYMENT increased during October, partly owing to seasonal causes.

The total number of persons reported by the Employment Exchanges as available for and seeking work, at the end of October, 1931, was 4,722,801, as compared with 4,460,263 at the end of September, 1931, and 3,320,413 at the end of October, 1930. At 30th November, 1931, the total was 5,152,391 (provisional figure).

The total number of persons reported by the Employment Exchanges as unemployed was 4,623,480 at the end of October, 1931, 4,354,983 at the end of September, 1931, and 3,252,082 at the end of October, 1930. At 30th November, 1931, the provisional total was 5,057,123.

On the last day of October, 1931, 1,184,700 persons were in receipt of standard unemployment benefit, and 1,350,252 in receipt of emergency benefit, giving a total of 2,534,952, as compared with 2,484,364 at the end of September, 1931, and 2,072,472 at the end of October, 1930. The number in receipt of standard and emergency benefit at 30th November, 1931, was 2,771,984 (provisional figure).

Among members of trade unions for which statistics are available 36.6 per cent. were unemployed at 31st October, 1931, as compared with 35.0 at 26th September, 1931, and 23.6 at 25th October, 1930. In addition 22.0 per cent. were working short time, as compared with 22.1 per cent. at the end of September, 1931, and 15.4 per cent. at the end of October, 1930. The following Table gives particulars for various groups of trade unions included:—

Groups of Trade Unions.	Membership reported on at end of October, 1931.	Percentage Wholly Unemployed and on Short Time at end of month.			
		Wholly Unemployed.	On Short Time.	Oct., 1931.	Sept., 1931.
Mining ...	148,900	15.0	14.1	27.4	31.9
Quarrying, stone, brick, pottery, etc. ...	123,800	62.9	57.1	8.3	8.3
Workers subject to seasonal influences ...	83,200	38.8	40.2	18.5	21.5
Other workers ...	910,500	35.2	33.7	30.3	29.6
Engineering and metal ...	107,200	27.1	25.9	35.4	34.4
Chemical ...	316,000	24.4	23.8	41.5	42.4
Textile ...	110,100	27.2	26.9	33.3	33.4
Paper ...	49,400	36.3	37.0	21.3	26.4
Leather ...	279,600	51.9	50.0	11.0	11.9
Food, tobacco, etc. ...	269,300	23.9	23.7	32.2	33.1
Wood ...	144,200	34.5	33.3	34.1	30.8
Clothing, boots and shoes	596,300	73.1	68.7	0.5	0.4
Building ...	150,200	32.0	30.8	18.9	17.1
Printing ...	3,400	21.3	21.8	24.7	21.2
Hairdressing ...	769,100	17.5	16.5	17.7	17.8
Miscellaneous ...					
All Unions making Returns	4,061,800	36.6	35.0	22.0	22.1

FRANCE.†

Unemployment showed a further increase during November. The total number of persons on the registers of the Employment Exchanges at the end of the last week of November was 122,824 (97,291 men and 25,533 women). At the end of October, the corresponding total was 79,688 and at the end of November, 1930, 18,498.

At the beginning of November, the number of persons employed in mining, industrial, transport and commercial undertakings covered by the special monthly official investigation‡ showed a decline of 11.11 per cent. as compared with November, 1930; and the percentage of workpeople in these undertakings on short time to such an extent as to bring their weekly hours below 48 was 40.55 as compared with 5.41 at the beginning of November, 1930. At the later date 21.25 per cent. were working more than 40 and less than 48 hours and 19.30 per cent. 40 hours or less a week.

ITALY.§

There was a further increase in the number unemployed during October. According to statistics furnished by the National Social Insurance Fund, 799,744 workpeople were recorded as unemployed at the end of the month, as compared with 747,764 at the end of September, 1931, and 446,496 at the end of October, 1930. In addition 32,828 persons were partially unemployed at that date, as compared with 29,822 at the end of September, and 19,081 at the end of October, 1930.

* Reichsarbeitsblatt, 25th November, 1931, and Reichs-arbeitsmarkt-Anzeiger, 8th December, 1931. Berlin.
† Bulletin du Marché du Travail, 27th November, 1931, and 4th December, 1931. Paris.
‡ See the March issue of this GAZETTE, page 111.
§ Bollettino Mensile di Statistica, November, 1931. Rome.

AUSTRIA.*

Unemployment showed a further increase during October. The total number of persons in receipt of benefit at the end of the month was 228,101 (85,388 in Vienna), as compared with 202,130 (80,876 in Vienna) at the end of September, 1931, and 192,778 (76,444 in Vienna) at the end of October, 1930.

BELGIUM.†

Unemployment showed a slight increase during September. Provisional returns received by the Ministry of Industry, Labour and Social Welfare from 178 unemployment insurance societies, with a total membership of 718,343, show that 10.3 per cent. of these were totally unemployed at the end of the month (3rd October); in the preceding month the percentage was 9.9 and in September, 1930, 3.6. In addition 16.6 per cent. of the membership were employed intermittently during the month. In September, 1931, 13.6 per cent. of the aggregate possible working days were lost through unemployment; in the preceding month the percentage was 12.5 and in September, 1930, 5.5.

POLAND.‡

Unemployment showed an increase during November. According to the official journal of the Central Statistical Office of Poland, the number of unemployed registered at Employment Exchanges at 28th November, 1931, was 259,600, as compared with 253,400 at the end of October, 1931, and 211,900 at the end of November, 1930. At these dates the number of unemployed persons entitled to benefit was 91,900, 71,500 and 91,200 respectively.

SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES.

Unemployment increased in both Denmark and Sweden during October; in Norway it showed a slight decrease.

Denmark.—Returns supplied to the Danish Statistical Department by the Central Employment Exchange and by Unemployment Insurance Funds show that, out of 295,851 workpeople, 16.0 per cent. were unemployed at the end of October, 1931, as compared with 12.1 per cent. at the end of September, 1931, and 11.4 per cent. at the end of October, 1930.

Sweden.—The percentage of members of trade unions making returns who were unemployed at 31st October, 1931, was 16.4, as compared with 13.3 at the end of September, and 12.3 at the end of October, 1930.

Norway.—Out of 22,107 members of trade unions making returns, 17.1 per cent. were unemployed at the end of October, 1931, compared with 17.7 per cent. at the end of September, and 14.7 per cent. at the end of October, 1930.

SWITZERLAND.**

Unemployment showed a further increase during October. At the end of the month 27,783 applications for employment (21.1 per thousand of the employed population according to the census of 1920) were registered at Employment Exchanges, as compared with 19,789 at the end of September, and 15,268 at the end of October, 1930. Offers of situations at the dates mentioned above numbered 1,407, 2,284 and 1,754 respectively.

Returns from 191 unemployment funds show that out of an aggregate of 381,426 members 4.0 per cent. were wholly unemployed and 11.2 per cent. partially so, at the end of September, 1931. At the end of June, 1931, the corresponding percentages were 3.6 and 9.7 and at the end of September, 1930, 2.5 and 8.3.

UNITED STATES.††

According to returns received by the Federal Bureau of Labour Statistics, covering 48,434 establishments in 15 principal industrial groups, these establishments employed 4,603,617 workpeople in October, 1931, showing a decrease of 2.7 per cent. as compared with the total employed in the preceding month. During the same period the aggregate earnings in these establishments decreased by 0.9 per cent.

If the monthly average index number of employment in manufacturing industries alone in 1926 be taken as 100, the corresponding figure for October, 1931, is 67.3, as compared with 69.6 for September, 1931, and 78.6 for October, 1930.

Among members of trade unions in 24 cities affiliated to the American Federation of Labour, 26.0 per cent. were reported to be unemployed in October, 1931, the same percentage as in September, as compared with 21 per cent. in October, 1930.

CANADA.†††

Employment declined in October due largely to seasonal causes. Returns were received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from 7,890 firms with an aggregate of 938,524 workpeople on their payrolls at 1st November, 1931, as compared with 946,700 at 1st October. If the average employment of the reporting firms in the year 1926 be represented by 100, the index number of employment for November, 1931, is 103.0, as compared with 103.9 at the beginning of the preceding month and 112.9 at the beginning of November, 1930.

* Statistische Nachrichten, 27th November, 1931. Vienna.
† Revue du Travail, October, 1931. Brussels.
‡ Wiadomosci Statystyczne, 5th December, 1931. Warsaw.
§ Statistiske Efterretninger, 20th November, 1931. Copenhagen.
¶ Information supplied by the Department of Social Affairs, Stockholm.
** Information supplied by the Central Bureau of Statistics, Oslo.
†† La Vie Economique, November, 1931. Berne.
††† Trend of Employment and Labour Turnover, October, 1931, and American Federationist, November, 1931. Washington.
††† The November Employment Situation, 1931. Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa.

POOR RELIEF IN NOVEMBER.

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

The number of persons* relieved on one day† in November, 1931, in the forty-seven selected areas named below, was 613,385, or 4.1 per cent. more than in the previous month and 12.9 per cent. more than in November, 1930. The numbers relieved at these three dates were equivalent, respectively, to rates of 369; 354; and 327 per 10,000 of the population.

In the forty-three selected areas in England and Wales, the number of persons relieved in November, 1931, was 510,104, an increase of 4.3 per cent. as compared with a month earlier and an increase of 11.5 per cent. as compared with November, 1930. In the four areas in Scotland, the number relieved was 103,281, or 3.3 per cent. more than in the previous month and 20.3 per cent. more than a year ago.

Recipients of indoor relief in the forty-seven areas in November numbered 103,234, or 1.3 per cent. more than in the previous month, but 12.7 per cent. less than a year ago. Recipients of outdoor relief numbered 510,151, or 4.7 per cent. more than in the previous month and 20.0 per cent. more than in November, 1930.

Of the forty-seven areas, forty-one showed increases in the number per 10,000 relieved in November as compared with October, while four showed decreases. In two areas there was no change. Compared with November, 1930, forty areas showed increases, including Sheffield (349 per 10,000), Manchester (168 per 10,000), Liverpool (148 per 10,000), and Glasgow (117 per 10,000); while six showed decreases. In one area there was no change.

ENGLAND AND WALES.	Number of Persons* in receipt of Poor Relief on one day† in November, 1931.			Rate per 10,000 of Population.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with a	
	Indoor.	Outdoor.	Total.		Month before.	Year before.
County of London	38,105	88,561	126,666	288	+ 8	- 25
Birkenhead	928	4,634	5,562	376	+ 4	+ 94
Birmingham	5,390	13,492	18,882	188	+ 9	- 23
Blackburn	807	2,541	3,348	281	+ 10	+ 28
Baton	927	2,522	3,449	195	+ 10	+ 12
Bradford	1,253	7,001	8,254	277	+ 4	+ 25
Brighton	1,105	2,152	3,257	221	+ 25	+ 17
Bristol	2,143	9,453	11,596	292	+ 48	+ 78
Burnley	520	1,642	2,162	220	+ 2	- 6
Cardiff	1,578	7,385	8,963	401	+ 7	+ 23
Coventry	465	1,538	2,003	120	+ 3	+ 10
Croydon	1,096	2,028	3,124	134	- 2	+ 12
Derby	605	6,576	7,181	504	+ 3	+ 64
East Ham	691	2,847	3,538	248	+ 5	+ 48
Gateshead	786	6,375	7,161	585	+ 6	+ 44
Huddersfield	533	1,315	1,849	153	+ 1	+ 4
Kingston-upon-Hull	1,773	15,098	17,871	570	+ 4	+ 24
Leeds	2,963	11,365	14,328	297	+ 8	+ 11
Leicester	830	4,083	4,913	205	- 1	+ 3
Liverpool	7,624	45,580	53,204	622	+ 27	+ 148
Manchester	3,973	38,131	42,104	549	+ 46	+ 168
Middlesbrough	558	3,610	4,168	301	+ 13	+ 5
Newcastle-on-Tyne	956	14,201	15,157	535	+ 16	+ 63
Norwich	901	5,822	6,723	533	+ 21	+ 77
Nottingham	1,857	9,424	11,281	420	+ 1	+ 47
Oldham	934	1,621	2,555	182	+ 20	+ 51
Plymouth	531	5,848	6,379	306	+ 15	+ 37
Portsmouth	1,360	2,400	3,760	151	+ 4	+ 10
Preston	701	883	1,584	133	+ 10	+ 30
St. Helens	508	3,469	3,977	372	+ 22	+ 33
Salford	1,654	4,631	6,285	281	- 33	+ 11
Sheffield	1,843	41,425	43,268	846	+ 72	+ 349
Southampton	1,359	2,621	3,980	226	+ 8	+ 4
Southend-on-Sea	245	2,152	2,397	200	+ 30	+ 67
South Shields	720	2,877	3,597	317	...	+ 43
Stockport	611	1,627	2,238	178	+ 38	+ 40
Stoke-on-Trent	1,822	5,515	7,337	265	+ 11	+ 40
Sunderland	928	7,597	8,525	459	...	- 26
Swansea	686	5,355	6,041	367	+ 14	+ 14
Wallasey	273	1,110	1,383	142	+ 3	+ 20
Walsall	634	3,300	3,934	382	- 1	+ 3
West Ham	2,290	11,319	13,609	463	+ 10	+ 76
Wolverhampton	619	1,792	2,411	181	+ 2	+ 22
Total of the above-named County Boroughs	57,980	325,458	383,438	370	+ 16	+ 62
Total, County of London and Selected County Boroughs	96,085	414,019	510,104	346	+ 15	+ 37
SCOTLAND.						
Glasgow	5,044	73,246	78,290	719	+ 27	+ 117
Edinburgh	1,003	16,290	17,293	394	+ 2	+ 41
Dundee	680	3,470	4,150	236	+ 5	+ 30
Aberdeen	422	3,126	3,548	212	+ 11	+ 47
Total for the above Scottish Burghs	7,149	96,132	103,281	552	+ 18	+ 82
TOTAL for above 47 areas in November, 1931	103,234	510,151	613,385	369	+ 15	+ 42

* The figures include dependants, but exclude persons in receipt of outdoor medical relief only and casuals. In England and Wales, patients in mental hospitals (formerly referred to as lunatics in asylums), and, in Scotland, lunatics and mental defectives, are also excluded.
† 21st November in London, 28th November in the rest of England and Wales, and 15th November in Scotland.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

The number of workpeople, other than seamen, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, reported during November, 1931, as killed in the course of their employment was 191, as compared with 162 in the previous month and with 169* in November, 1930. Fatal accidents to seamen reported in November, 1931, numbered 40, as compared with 20 in the previous month and with 43 in November, 1930.

RAILWAY SERVICE.		FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS (continued).	
Brakemen and Goods Guards	2	Locomotives, Railway and Tramway Carriages, Motors, Aircraft...	1
Engine Drivers and Motormen	...	Other Metal Trades	5
Firemen	...	Shipbuilding	...
Guards (Passenger)	...	Wood	3
Permanent Way Men	...	Gas	2
Porters	...	Electric Generating Stations	2
Shunters	...	Clay, Stone, Glass, etc.	4
Mechanics	...	Chemicals, etc.	3
Labourers	...	Food and Drink	3
Other Grades	6	Paper, Printing, etc.	1
Contractors' Servants	...	Tanning, Currying, etc.	3
	12	Rubber Trades	...
	...	Other Non-Textile Industries	...

MINES.

Underground	114	PLACES UNDER SS. 104-106, FACTORY ACT, 1901.
Surface	5	Docks, Wharves, etc.
	...	Buildings
	...	Warehouses and Railway Sidings
TOTAL, MINES	119	

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.		SEAMEN.	
Cotton	2	Trading Vessels, Steam	32
Wool, Worsted and Shoddy	1	Fishing Vessels, Steam	8
Textile Bleaching and Dyeing	2		
Metal Extracting and Refining	1	TOTAL, SEAMEN	40
Metal Conversion, including Rolling Mills and Tube Making	6		
Metal Founding	3	TOTAL (including Seamen)	231
Engineering and Machine Making	2		
Boiler Making and Constructional Engineering	...		

INDUSTRIAL DISEASES.

The total number of cases† of poisoning, anthrax, and epitheliomatous and chrome ulceration in Great Britain and Northern Ireland reported during November, 1931, under the Factory and Workshop Act, or under the Lead Paint (Protection against Poisoning) Act, was 34; the total number of deaths‡ reported was 6.

In addition, one case of lead poisoning among plumbers not employed in factories came to the knowledge of the Home Office during November, but notification of such cases is not obligatory. One case of anthrax among dock labourers was also reported.

I. Cases.		I. Cases (continued).	
(a) LEAD POISONING.		(c) ANTHRAX.	
Among Operatives engaged in—		Wool	1
Smelting of metals	...	Handling of Horsehair	1
Plumbing and Soldering	...	Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins	2
Shipbreaking	...		
Printing	...	TOTAL ANTHRAX	4
Tinning of Metals	...		
Other Contact with Molten Lead	1	(d) EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCERATION (SKIN CANCER).	
White and Red Lead Works	...	Tar	6
Pottery	...	Oil	5
Vitreous Enamelling	1	TOTAL, EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCERATION	11
Electric Accumulator Works	1		
Paint and Colour Works	...	(e) CHROME ULCERATION.	
Indiarubber Works	...	Dyeing and Finishing	2
Coach and Car Painting	...	Chromium Plating	4
Shipbuilding	1	TOTAL, CHROME ULCERATION	6
Paint used in Other Industries	1		
Other Industries	1	II. Deaths.	
Painting of Buildings	6	LEAD POISONING.	
	12	Pottery†	1
	...		
	...	EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCERATION (SKIN CANCER).	
	...	Tar	4
	...	Oil	1
	...	TOTAL, EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCERATION	5

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

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR IN NOVEMBER.

In the industries covered by the Department's statistics* the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation in November in Great Britain and Northern Ireland resulted in an aggregate decrease of about £15,900 in the weekly full-time wages of 220,000 workpeople, and in an increase of £175 in those of 3,000 workpeople.

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

Group of Industries.	Approximate Number of Workpeople* affected by		Estimated Amount of Change in Weekly Wages.	
	Increases.	Decreases.	Increases.	Decreases.
Iron and Steel	500	70,000	£5	£2,050
Other Metal	...	28,000	...	2,050
Clothing	...	102,000	...	10,000
Other	2,500	20,000	110	1,800
Total	3,000	220,000	175	15,900

The largest body of workpeople affected by the reductions in the iron and steel industry consisted of workpeople employed in steel melting shops and rolling mills in various districts in England and Scotland, the reduction amounting generally to 1½ per cent. on the basis rates of wages. Other workpeople in this group affected by reductions included various classes of blastfurnace workers in Cumberland, Lincolnshire, and Scotland, in each of which districts there was a reduction of 1 per cent. on basis rates; the reduction was not applied to the lower-paid men in Cumberland and Scotland. In Cumberland lower-paid men received an increase of 6 per cent. on basis rates.

In the other metal industries the principal change taking effect in November was a reduction of about 2½ per cent. in the current wages of tinplate workers (except the lowest-paid men) in South Wales and Monmouthshire. There was also a reduction in this group in the wages of certain classes of hollow-ware makers in the Birmingham district.

The principal change in the clothing group was a reduction, under a cost-of-living sliding scale, in the wages of workpeople employed in the boot and shoe manufacturing industry in Great Britain, the reductions on time rates amounting to 2s. and 1s. per week for men and women respectively, and on piece rates to 3½ per cent. for male workers and 2½ per cent. for female workers. Workpeople employed in the dyeing and dry cleaning industry sustained reductions amounting in most cases to 2s. 6d. per week for adult male workers and 6d. per week for adult female workers.

In the other industrial groups the principal bodies of workpeople affected by reductions included building trade craftsmen at Belfast,

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

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics.)
Agriculture	Yorkshire (East Riding).	24 Nov.	Male workers:— Those boarded and lodged by employer.	Increase in minimum rates for foremen, beastmen, shepherds, waggons and third lads corn carrying, of £2 11s. per year for workers hired by the year, and 1s. per week for workers engaged by the week, the rates for other classes remaining unchanged.
			Those not boarded and lodged by employer.	Decrease in the minimum rates of 1s. or 2s. per week. Minimum rates after change for a week of 52½ hours in summer and 48 in winter—14s. at 14 years of age increasing each year to 33s. at 21 and over.
Agriculture	Yorkshire (West Riding).	24 Nov.	Male workers:— Those living in ...	Decrease in minimum rates of 6d. per week or £1 6s. per annum (except for fourth lads and other beginners for whom there was no change).
			Those not living in ...	Decrease in minimum rate of 6d. per week for those 21 and over, the rates for those under 21 remaining unchanged. Minimum rates after change for a week of 48 hours in winter and 52½ hours in summer for workers except waggons and other horsemen, beastmen and shepherds—10s. at 14 years of age increasing each year to 35s. 6d. at 21 and over.
Agriculture	Cheshire	1 Nov.	Male workers	Decreases in minimum rates of 1s. to 2s. 6d. per week. Minimum rates after change for a week of 54 hours—10s. at 14 years of age increasing each year to 32s. 6d. at 21 and over.
	Hertfordshire	29 Nov.	Male workers employed in glass-houses	Cancellation of the special minimum and overtime rates of wages.
Agriculture	Gloucestershire	1 Nov.	Male workers	Decreases in minimum rates of from 1s. 6d. to 1s. 9d. per week for those 21 and over, with corresponding reductions for those under 21. Minimum rates after change for workers other than carters, shepherds and stockmen—8s. 6d. per week at 14 years of age, increasing each year to 28s. 6d. at 21 and over.
	Iron Mining	North Lincolnshire	1 Nov.	Ironstone miners and quarrymen	Decrease of 1 per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 19½ per cent. above the standard, subject to previous additions and bonuses.
Fireclay Goods Manufacture.	Buckley	5 Nov.	Workpeople employed in the manufacture of fireclay goods.	Decrease of 5 per cent. for those earning up to and including 41s. per week, of 7½ per cent. for those earning over 41s. and up to 50s., and of 10 per cent. for those earning over 50s. Minimum rate after change for men, 39s.

* The particulars of numbers affected and amount of change in weekly wages exclude changes affecting Government employees, agricultural labourers, shop assistants and clerks, for which classes the information available is not sufficient to form a basis for statistics. Where information is available, however, details of changes in the current rates of wages of these classes are included in the list of principal changes recorded. The statistics are based on normal conditions of employment, and do not take into account the effect of short-time working, etc.
† In addition to the numbers quoted, wages stand at the same level as at the beginning of the year in the case of about 4,000 workpeople, whose wages have been increased and reduced by equal amounts during the year.
‡ Changes affecting workpeople employed in railway workshops are included under Engineering.
§ The cancellation of these rates results in the rates fixed (in 1925) for other classes of workers in agriculture in Hertfordshire becoming applicable also to workers in glasshouses.
|| Under selling-price sliding-scale arrangements.

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

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics.)
Stoneware Pottery Manufacture.	Glasgow and Portobello.	1st full pay in Nov.	Male workers	Decrease for those earning more than 70s. per week prior to 11 Jun. e 1931, of 5 per cent., making a total reduction on those rates of 10 per cent.; the rates for other workers remaining unchanged.
Pig Iron Manufacture.	West Cumberland and North Lancashire.	2nd full pay in Nov.	Workpeople (excluding craftsmen and bricklayers on maintenance work) employed at blast-furnaces.	Decrease* of 1 per cent. on standard rates for those workpeople whose base earnings for a normal week are over 6s. 4d. per shift, leaving wages 13 per cent. above the standard; and an increase of 6 per cent. for those whose earnings do not average over 6s. 4d. per shift, making wages 20 per cent. above the standard. The previous additions varying from 10d. to 1d. per shift for men in receipt of base rates of 4s. 10d. to 5s. 7d. per shift to remain unaltered. Minimum rate after change for labourers: 4s. 10d. per shift, plus 20 per cent. plus 10d. per shift.
	North Lincolnshire...	1 Nov.		Decrease* of 1 per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 19½ per cent. above the standard, subject to the previous addition of 1s. 1d. per shift for all classes, with bonuses varying from 11d. to 1d. per shift for day-wage men on base rates of 3s. 8d. to 4s. 10½d. per shift. Minimum rate after change for general labourers, 5s. 8d. per shift, plus 19½ per cent., plus 1s. 1d. per shift, plus bonus of 11d. per shift.
Iron and Steel Manufacture.	West of Scotland ...	1 Nov.	Workpeople (excluding certain lower-paid day-wage men) employed at blast-furnaces.	Decrease* of 1 per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 5 per cent. above the standard (lower-paid day-wage men remaining unchanged at 21 per cent. above the standard).
	England† and West of Scotland.	1 Nov.	Men employed in steel-melting shops:— Melters, pitmen, slagmen, lademen, furnace helpers, etc., and gas producers and charge wheelers.	Decrease* of 1½ per cent. on the standard, leaving wages 23½ per cent. above the standard (basic process) and 1½ per cent. below the standard (acid process).
	North-East Coast Area	1 Nov.	Semi-skilled workers and labourers.	Decrease* of 1½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 23½ per cent. above the standard.
Engineering	North-East Coast Area and Scotland.	1 Nov.	Men employed on direct production in steel-rolling mills.	Decrease* of 1½ per cent. of the total advance in wages given between August, 1914, and 30th April, 1921, making a total net decrease since 1st May, 1921, of 1½ per cent. of such advance.
	Swansea, Llanelly, Neath and Mid-Glamorgan.	30 Nov.	Workpeople employed in engineering and foundry shops.	Decrease* of 1½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 23½ per cent. above the standard.
Shipbuilding and Ship-Repairing.	All federated ship-building and ship-repairing centres in Great Britain and Northern Ireland.‡	1st full pay week in Oct.	Plain time-workers (21 years of age and over) in receipt of wages in excess of the national uniform time rates:— Fully skilled and unskilled ...	Rates higher than the national uniform time rate for that district, subject to the reduction not exceeding 1s. 3d. per week.
			Semi-skilled	Decrease of amount equal to the decrease, if any, sustained by unskilled plain time-workers in the same district or yard.
			Men other than plain time-workers:— All except riveting squads ...	Bonus of 7s. per week reduced to 3s. 6d. per week; remainder of payments under the Standard Ship Cycle, where they existed, withdrawn.† (In the case of blacksmiths' strikers working with pieceworkers and not sharing in earnings as pieceworkers the bonus of 10s. was reduced to 5s. 6d. per week.)
Tinplate Manufacture.	South Wales and Monmouthshire.	1 Nov.	Men on basis rates of over 6s. 10½d. per shift (excluding craftsmen); also youths and boys.	Bonus of 7s. per week, or other bonus based on time and not on output, withdrawn from all members of the squad; existing 2½ per cent. for behoof of holders-on withdrawn; remainder of payments under the Standard Ship Cycle continued, where they existed, but no longer known as such; shorter week enhancement where paid, withdrawn; new percentage addition of 10 per cent. on piecework earnings.**
			Men on basis rates of 6s. 10½d. or less per shift.	Bonus of 7s. per week reduced to 3s. 6d. per week, or other bonuses based on time and not on output, reduced by one-half; existing 2½ per cent. for behoof of holders-on withdrawn; remainder of payments under the Standard Ship Cycle continued, where they existed, but no longer known as such; shorter week enhancement where paid withdrawn.†
Machine Knife and Allied Trades.	Sheffield	1st full pay day after 12 Oct.	Jobbing grinders	Decrease* of 2-625 per cent. on standard basis rates, leaving wages at the standard.
Plane Manufacture	Birmingham, Bristol, London and Sheffield.	17 Oct.	Slacks machine grinders	Decrease* of 2-625 per cent. on standard basis rates, leaving wages at the standard; ex gratia bonus of 5 per cent. previously paid increased to 7½ per cent. Rate after change for labourers: 6s. 10½d. per shift, plus 7½ per cent., or 44s. 4d. per week.
Hollow-ware Manufacture.	Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Lye and Stourbridge districts.	7 Nov.	Adult workers employed in the galvanised section of the wrought hollow-ware trade (except unskilled workers whose wages are regulated by Trade Board).	Bonus addition to earnings reduced by 15 per cent. (60 to 45) where calculated on net earnings, and by 10 per cent. (40 to 30) where calculated on gross earnings.
Silk Manufacture.	Sudbury, Haverhill and Glemsford.	Sept. Nov.	Workpeople employed in silk manufacture.	Bonus addition to earnings reduced by 10 per cent. (50 to 40).
				Decrease of 12½ per cent. on price lists of March, 1918, leaving wages 32½ per cent. above the lists.
				Decrease of 5 per cent. for time and piece workers, leaving piecework prices 10 per cent. below the list of 1919.
				Decrease of 5 per cent. on current rates.
				Further decrease of 5 per cent., making a total reduction of 10 per cent. on rates paid prior to September, 1931.

* Under selling-price sliding-scale arrangements.
 † Principally the North-East Coast, Cumberland, Lancashire, South and West Yorkshire, Lincolnshire and the Midlands.
 ‡ This change took effect as a result of an Agreement between the Welsh Engineers and Founders' Association and the West Wales Allied Engineering Trades Committee. The Agreement also made new provisions relating to rates of pay for overtime and nightshifts.
 § The changes described are the first instalment of changes arising under a Scheme for securing greater uniformity and simplicity in wages in the ship-building and ship-repairing industry. They took effect after prolonged joint discussions between the Shipbuilding Employers' Federation and the whole of the shipyard Trade Unions. The second instalment, which only affects some of the workpeople covered by the first instalment, takes effect in January, 1932. The Scheme has not been embodied in an agreement signed by the Unions, who decided, however, to allow their members to remain at work in accordance with the Scheme under protest. The Scheme includes a hardship clause under which negotiations on points of detail have since taken place between the Shipbuilding Employers' Federation and the United Society of Boilermakers and Iron and Steel Shipbuilders. A small number of men whose wages fluctuate in accordance with wages in other industries are not affected by the Scheme.
 ¶ In the ship-repairing industry in the Manchester and River Thames Districts the only change for all men other than plain time-workers consisted of a reduction in the bonus from 7s. to 3s. 6d. per week.
 ¶ In the Bristol Channel and Bristol District on ship-repairing work, the only change for the classes affected consisted of a reduction in the bonus from 5s. to 2s. 6d. per week, and at Falmouth from 5s. 9d. to 2s. 10½d. per week. The arrangements as to Standard Ship Cycle amounts or shorter working week enhancement did not apply to any men in these districts.
 ¶ In the Bristol Channel and Bristol District on ship-repairing work, the bonus withdrawn from riveting squads on piecework on riveting, was 5s. a week, and at Falmouth it was 5s. 9d. In all these districts the addition to piecework earnings was 5 per cent. The arrangements as to Standard Ship Cycle amounts or shorter working week enhancement did not apply to any men in these districts.

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

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics.)
Elastic Web Weaving.	Leicester	1st pay day after 20 Nov.	Male workers	Bonus increased* from 10s. 6d. to 11s. in the £.
Machine Calico Printing.	Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	1st pay day after 17 Oct.†	Machine calico printers	Supplementary cost-of-living wage reduced from 31-50 per cent. to 20-25 per cent. on basis wages, the flat rate bonuses of 11s. per week for journeymen and 11s. per week for apprentices remaining unchanged.
		1st pay day in Dec.†		Supplementary cost-of-living wage increased* from 20-25 per cent. to 20-70 per cent. on basis wages.
Silk Dyeing and Finishing.	Macclesfield	Pay day in week ending 14 Nov.	Male workers	Decreases* of from 3d. to 8d. per week. Rates after change: 13s. 6d. at 14, increasing each half-year to 45s. 3d. at 21.
			Female workers 18 and over	Decrease* of 4d. per week (26s. 11d. to 26s. 7d.).
Boot and Shoe Manufacture, etc.	Great Britain	1st pay day in Nov.	Workpeople employed in boot and shoe manufacture:— Male timeworkers	Decreases* of from 6d. to 2s. per week. Minimum rates after change: 12s. 6d. at 15, increasing each year to 20s. 3d. at 17, and then each half-year to 54s. at 22 and over.
			Female timeworkers	Decreases* of from 6d. to 1s. 3d. per week. Minimum rates after change: 11s. 6d. at 15, increasing each year to 19s. 6d. at 17, and then each half-year to 33s. at 20 and over.
			Pieceworkers	Decreases* in basis statement prices of 3½ per cent. for male workers and of 2½ per cent. for female workers.
Dyeing and Dry Cleaning.	Various districts in England and Scotland.	1st pay day in Nov.	Hand sewn boot and shoe makers and repairers.	Decrease of 5 per cent. on rates paid in October, 1921 (viz., pre-war rates, plus 100 per cent.), leaving wages 15 per cent. below these rates.
			Hand sewn boot and shoe makers and repairers.	Decrease of 1s. 6d. per pair (20s. 6d. to 19s.) in groundwork price for making.
Baking and Confectionery.	Liverpool, Birkenhead and Wallasey.	23 Nov.	Workpeople employed in the dyeing and dry cleaning trades.	Decreases* of 2s. or 2s. 6d. per week for men, of 6d. to 2s. per week for boys and youths, and of 6d. or 1s. per week for girls and women. Rates after change: men—skilled dyers, 63s. 6d. or 68s. 6d.; dyers (one-colour), 58s. 6d.; wet or dry cleaners, finishers, glazers and other skilled workers, 55s. 6d.; labourers, 49s.; boys and youths—10s. at 14, increasing each year to 40s. at 20; girls and women—10s. at 14, increasing each year to 27s. 6d. at 21.
			Bakers and confectioners	Increase* of 2s. per week for adult workers and of 1s. per week for juniors. Rates after change for daywork: adult workers—forehands and ovenmen, 66s.; tablehands, 60s.; juniors—18 years, 24s.; 19, 29s.; 20, 33s.
Furniture Manufacture.	High Wycombe	Pay day in week ending 28 Nov.	Labourers	Decrease* of 1d. per hour (1s. 1½d. to 1s. 1d.).
			Cabinet makers, carvers, chair makers, upholsterers, polishers, woodworking machinists and sandpaperers.	Decrease of ½d. per hour. Rate after change for skilled men, 1s. 5d.
Building	Bristol, Barnstaple, Bath, Gloucester, and Yatton.	2nd pay day in Nov.†	Bricklayers, stonecutters, carpenters and joiners, woodcutting machinists and sawyers, slaters, plumbers, plasterers, and painters.	Decrease of ½d. per hour (1s. 8d. to 1s. 7½d.).
			Drivers, conductors and conductresses employed by the Corporation.	Decrease of ½d. per hour (1s. 7d. to 1s. 6½d.).
Local Government (Non-Trading Services).	Kilmarnock	12 Nov.	Manual workers	Scales of hourly rates fixed for new entrants as follows:—drivers—on appointment, 1s. 0½d. rising by ½d. every six months to 1s. 2½d. after 24 months; conductors and conductresses—on appointment, 6½d.; after 6 months, 6½d.; after 12 months, 7d.
			Manual workers	Decrease* of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: general labourers, 1s. 0½d.; roadmen, 1s. 3½d.; refuse collectors, 1s. 1½d.; street sweepers, 1s. 0½d.
Omnibus Undertaking.	Derbyshire	16 Nov.	Road workers employed by County Council.	Decreases amounting generally to ½d. or 1d. per hour. Rates after change: general yard labourers and road workers, 1s. 0½d.; road scavengers, 1s. 0½d.; refuse collectors, 1s. 2½d.
			Road workers employed by County Council.	Decrease of 1d. per hour for road scavengers and sweepers (1s. 10 11d.) and of 1s. 3d. per week for permanent workers on road repairs (47s. 3d. to 46s.).
Surrey	St. Albans	20 Nov.	Manual workers	Decrease of 2½ per cent. on wages exceeding 45s. per week. Rates after change, 45s. to 57s. 3d.
			Manual workers	Decrease of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: general yard and road labourers, 1s. 0½d. per hour; road scavengers or sweepers, 45s. 3d. per week; refuse collectors, 49s.
Leather Belt Manufacture.	Surrey	1 Nov.	Manual workers	Decrease of 2½d. per day for general yard and road labourers, of 1d. per hour for paviors and masons, of 38d. per hour for refuse collectors, and of varying amounts for other classes. Rates after change: general yard and road labourers, 7s. 10d. per day; refuse collectors (day work), 1s. 1-62d. per hour; road paviors and masons, 1s. 6½d. per hour.
			General labourers	Decreases varying from 2s. 6d. to 11s. per week. Rates after change: road labourers, 40s. to 45s. ||
Basket Making	Edinburgh	16 Nov.	Manual workers (excluding females and non able-bodied employees with wages not exceeding 45s. per week).	Decrease of 1d. per hour (1s. 0½d. to 1s. 0½d.).
			Road workers employed by County Council.	Decrease of 5 per cent., subject to such abatement not reducing the normal wages below a minimum wage of 65s. 8d. per week. Rates after change: general yard and road labourers, road scavengers or sweepers, 67s.; refuse collectors (day work), 71s., less in each case, 5 per cent.
Basket Making	Perthshire	15 Nov.	Manual workers (excluding females and non able-bodied employees with wages not exceeding 45s. per week).	Decreases varying from 1s. per week for those in receipt of 51s. per week to 3s. per week for those in receipt of 66s. to 75s. per week; those receiving over 75s. to be reduced by approximately 4 per cent. ¶
			Road workers employed by County Council.	Decrease of 2½ per cent. Minimum rates after change for labourers on road repair work, 6s. 6d. to 7s. 2d. per day.
Basket Making	Great Britain	1st pay day in Nov.	Workpeople employed in leather belt manufacture.	Percentage payable on base rates embodied in agreement of November 1922, reduced* from 41 to 45 for pieceworkers and timeworkers. Rates after change for timeworkers: skilled—London, 1s. 1½d.; Provinces, 1s. 1d.; semi-skilled—London, 10½d.; Provinces, 10½d.
			Basket makers	Bonus of 50 per cent. on 1916 list reduced to 35 per cent. Rate after change for timeworkers, 1s. per hour, plus 35 per cent.

* Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements.
 † In respect of the preceding pay period.
 ‡ Excluding clerks, engineers, electricians, mechanics, stokers, porters, sweepers-up, lift or hoist men, caretakers and timekeepers, labourers and odd-job men not engaged in actual manufacture.
 § Members of the West End Master Bootmakers' Association.
 ¶ See also under "Changes in Hours of Labour."
 ¶ In the case of present employees, service increments are to be continued, subject to readjustment in respect of the reductions specified; but in the case of new entrants to the service, or entrants to a new grade, service increments are not to operate, the pay for any grade to be the minimum of the scale, with a proficiency increment of 1s. after one year's service.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED DURING NOVEMBER, 1931.

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change.
Local Government (Non-Trading Services).	Derbyshire ...	16 Nov.	Road workers employed by County Council.	Average hours (summer and winter) increased from 45½ to 48 per week.*
	Surrey ...	1 Nov.	Road workers employed by County Council.	Working week of 49 hours in summer and 45 in winter adopted in lieu of a uniform week of 48 hours all the year round.*
	Tunbridge Wells ...	28 Nov.	Manual workers ...	Uniform week of 51 hours adopted in lieu of 56½ in summer and 51 in winter.*
	Somerset ...	Nov.	Road workers employed by County Council.	Working week of 50 hours in summer and 45 in winter adopted in lieu of a uniform week of 48 hours all the year round.
	Radnorshire ...	Oct.	Road workers employed by County Council.	Working week of 48 hours in summer and 45 in winter adopted in lieu of 50 in summer and 46 in winter.

* See also under "Changes in Rates of Wages."

TRADE DISPUTES IN NOVEMBER.*

Number, Magnitude and Duration.—The number of disputes involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as beginning in November in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was 33, as compared with 28 in the previous month and 27 in November, 1930. In these new disputes about 8,300 workpeople were directly involved, and 700 indirectly involved (i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, though not themselves parties to the disputes). In addition, about 200 workpeople were involved, either directly or indirectly, in 3 disputes which began before November and were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The number of new and old disputes was thus 36, involving about 9,200 workpeople, and resulting in a loss, during November, of about 42,000 working days.

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

Industry Group.	Number of Disputes in progress in Month.			Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress in Month.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress in Month.
	Started before beginning of Month.	Started in Month.	Total.		
Mining and Quarrying ...	1	13	14	7,200	28,000
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding ...	1	6	7	900	5,000
Textile ...	1	3	4	300	2,000
Clothing ...	...	3	3	400	6,000
Other ...	...	8	8	400	1,000
Total, Nov., 1931 ...	3	33	36	9,200	42,000
<i>Total, Oct., 1931 ...</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>36</i>	<i>13,600</i>	<i>53,000</i>
<i>Total, Nov., 1930 ...</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>8,800</i>	<i>64,000</i>

Causes.—Of the 33 disputes beginning in November, 7, directly involving 800 workpeople, arose out of proposed reductions in wages; 9, directly involving 3,300 workpeople, on other wage questions; 2, directly involving 800 workpeople, on questions as to working hours; 7, directly involving 800 workpeople, on questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons; 4, directly involving 900 workpeople, on other questions of working arrangements; and 4, directly involving 1,700 workpeople, on questions of Trade Union principle.

Results.—Settlements were effected in the case of 25 new disputes, directly involving 5,700 workpeople, and one old dispute, directly involving 100 workpeople. Of these new and old disputes, 7, directly involving 1,200 workpeople, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 9, directly involving 2,100 workpeople, were settled in favour of the employers; and 10, directly involving 2,500 workpeople, were compromised. In the case of 2 disputes, directly involving 400 workpeople, work was resumed pending negotiations.

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

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

* 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 these totals 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, slight.

Industry Group.	January to Nov., 1930.			January to Nov., 1931.		
	No. of Disputes beginning in period.	Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.	No. of Disputes beginning in period.	Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.
Coal Mining ...	128	53,600	182,000	142	279,400	2,833,000
Other Mining and Quarrying ...	7	500	7,000	8	500	11,000
Brick, Pottery, Glass, etc. ...	7	600	6,000	11	1,000	19,000
Chemical ...	3	400	3,000	6	1,000	2,000
Engineering ...	10	800	7,000	8	700	11,000
Shipbuilding ...	22	4,100	15,000	14	2,400	36,000
Textile ...	32	4,600	37,000	36	8,700	53,000
Other Metal ...	41	128,100	3,367,000	32	160,700	3,691,000
Clothing ...	20	1,500	10,000	20	1,300	11,000
Food, Drink and Tobacco ...	2	600	2,000	4	5,100	11,000
Woodworking, Furniture, etc. ...	21	3,300	87,000	13	5,800	82,000
Paper, Printing, etc. ...	6	800	7,000	4	400	1,000
Building, Public Works Contracting, etc. ...	47	3,800	43,000	56	12,200	144,000
Transport ...	21	5,100	25,000	17	5,300	13,000
Commerce, Distribution and Finance ...	5	3,500	51,000	9	700	2,000
Other ...	10	700	6,000	16	1,400	12,000
Total ...	382	212,000	3,855,000	396	486,600	6,932,000

[The usual tabular statement of principal disputes in progress during the month is omitted, as there were no disputes involving large numbers of workpeople in November.]

UNEMPLOYMENT FUND.

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

	Four weeks ended 28th November, 1931.	Five weeks ended 31st October, 1931.	Five weeks ended 29th November, 1930.
I. Insurance Account.	£	£	£
Contributions received from:—			
Employers ...	1,615,000	1,655,000	1,660,000
Employed persons ...	1,580,000	1,580,000	1,395,000
Exchequer ("Equal thirds") ...	1,590,000	1,620,000	1,500,000
Total Receipts ...	4,785,000	4,855,000	4,555,000
Insurance Benefit ...	5,655,000	8,475,000	7,265,000
Cost of Administration ...	415,000	545,000	520,000
Interest accrued on Treasury Advances ...	395,000	475,000	255,000
Other Items ...	...	10,000	70,000
Total Expenditure ...	6,465,000	9,505,000	8,110,000
Treasury Advances outstanding ...	109,470,000	108,110,000	56,600,000
Other Liabilities (net), including accrued interest and deposits ...	940,000	620,000	525,000
II. Transitional Payments Account.			
Transitional Payments, and Cost of Administration thereof* ...	2,715,000	2,880,000	2,225,000

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

* The cost of transitional payments (including their administration) is repaid in full to the Fund by the Exchequer. The figure given in this line for the corresponding period of last year relates to transitional benefit (including administration).

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

Summary: Average Increases since July, 1914.

All Items included 48%
Food only 32%

FOOD.

At 1st December the average level of the retail prices of the principal articles of food showed an advance as compared with 31st October. Flour and bread, milk, eggs, potatoes and cheese contributed to this upward movement, which was, however, partly counteracted by a fall in the average prices of meat, bacon and butter.

As a net result of all the changes recorded the average increase over the level of July, 1914, in the retail prices (in Great Britain and Northern Ireland) of the articles of food included in these statistics was 32 per cent. at 1st December, 1931, as compared with 30 per cent. at 31st October, 1931, and 41 per cent. at 1st December, 1930.

In the following Table is given a comparison of retail prices of these articles of food in July, 1914, and at 31st October and 1st December, 1931:—

Article.	Average Price (per lb. unless otherwise indicated—to the nearest ½d.)			Average Inc. (+) or Dec. (–) at 1st Dec., 1931, as compared with	
	July, 1914.	31st Oct., 1931.	1st Dec., 1931.	July, 1914.	31st Oct., 1931.
Beef, British—	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Ribs ...	0 10	1 3½	1 3½	+ 0 5½	– 0 0½
Thin Flank ...	0 6½	0 8½	0 8½	+ 0 1½	– 0 0½
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—					
Ribs ...	0 7½	0 9½	0 9½	+ 0 2½	...
Thin Flank ...	0 4½	0 5	0 5	+ 0 0½	...
Mutton, British—					
Legs ...	0 10½	1 4½	1 4½	+ 0 5½	– 0 0½
Breast ...	0 6½	0 8½	0 8½	+ 0 2	– 0 0½
Mutton, Frozen—					
Legs ...	0 6½	0 10½	0 10	+ 0 3½	– 0 0½
Breast ...	0 4	0 4½	0 4½	+ 0 0½	– 0 0½
Bacon (streaky)* ...	0 11½	0 11	0 10½	– 0 1	– 0 0½
Flour ... per 7 lb.	0 10½	0 10½	0 11½	+ 0 0½	+ 0 0½
Bread ... per 4 lb.	0 5½	0 6½	0 7	+ 0 1½	+ 0 0½
Tea ...	1 6½	1 8½	1 8½	+ 0 2½	...
Sugar (granulated) ...	0 2	0 2½	0 2½	+ 0 0½	...
Milk ... per quart	0 3½	0 5½	0 6½	+ 0 2½	+ 0 0½
Butter—					
Fresh ...	1 2½	1 5½	1 5½	+ 0 2½	...
Salt ...	1 2½	1 4	1 3½	+ 0 1½	– 0 0½
Cheese† ...	0 8½	0 10½	0 11	+ 0 2½	+ 0 0½
Margarine ...	0 7	0 7	0 7	...	...
Eggs (fresh) ... each	0 1½	0 2½	0 2½	+ 0 1½	...
Potatoes ... per 7 lb.	0 4½	0 7½	0 8½	+ 0 3½	+ 0 0½

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

Article.	Average Percentage Increase at 1st Dec., 1931, as compared with July, 1914.			Corresponding General Average for 31st Oct., 1931.
	Large Towns (Populations over 50,000).	Small Towns and Villages.	General Average.	
Beef, British—	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Ribs ...	52	54	53	56
Thin Flank ...	22	26	24	27
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—				
Ribs ...	27	31	29	32
Thin Flank ...	—	6	3	5
Mutton, British—				
Legs ...	52	58	55	59
Breast ...	30	32	31	36
Mutton, Frozen—				
Legs ...	46	42	44	49
Breast ...	2	8	5	8
Bacon (streaky)* ...	– 9	– 7	– 8	– 3
Fish ...	108	89	99	98
Flour ...	7	10	8	3
Bread ...	22	20	21	13
Tea ...	5	20	13	13
Sugar (granulated) ...	24	18	21	22
Milk ...	74	78	76	65
Butter—				
Fresh ...	14	23	19	19
Salt ...	8	10	9	12
Cheese† ...	30	26	28	24
Margarine ...	1	– 4	– 2	– 1
Eggs (fresh) ...	110	103	107	92
Potatoes ...	83	59	71	64
All above articles of Food (Weighted Percentage Increase) ...	32	32	32	30

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

‡ The increases in the prices of eggs, though appreciable, were insufficient to alter the average price as stated to the nearest farthing.

RENT, CLOTHING, FUEL AND LIGHT.

As regards rents, inquiries which have been made into the changes which have taken effect under the Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Acts indicate that the average increase in the controlled rents (including rates) of working-class dwellings between July, 1914, and 1st December, 1931, was approximately 49 per cent. When decontrolled rents are also included, the combined average increase in working-class rents since July, 1914, is approximately 54 per cent. This latter figure has been utilised in calculating the final percentage increase for all the items included in these statistics.

As regards clothing, owing to the wide range of quotations, both now and before the war, to changes in qualities and in stocks held by retailers, and to variations in the extent to which different articles and qualities have been affected by price changes, it is impossible to make an exact calculation of the increase in prices; but information as to the movements of prices of men's suits and overcoats, woollen and cotton materials, underclothing and hosiery, and boots, received from retailers in the principal towns, indicates that at 1st December 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 90 per cent. higher than in July, 1914.

In the fuel and light group the prices of coal at 1st December averaged approximately 85 per cent. above the level of July, 1914. The average price of gas remained between 45 and 50 per cent. above the pre-war level. For the fuel and light group as a whole (including coal, gas, oil, candles and matches) the average increase at 1st December, as compared with July, 1914, was about 75 per cent.

ALL ITEMS.

If the average increases in the cost of all the foregoing items are combined in accordance with their relative importance in pre-war working-class family expenditure, allowance being also made for the increase in the prices of soap, soda, domestic ironmongery, brushware and pottery, tobacco, fares and newspapers (averaging about 75 per cent.), the resultant general average increase for 1st December, 1931, is approximately 48 per cent. over the level of July, 1914, as compared with 46 per cent. at 31st October, 1931, and 55 per cent. at 1st December, 1930.

The result of this calculation (in which the same quantities and, as far as possible, the same qualities of each item are taken in 1931 as in 1914) is to show the average increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the pre-war standard of living of working-class families (i.e., the standard actually prevailing in working-class families before the war, irrespective of whether such standard was adequate or not). In view of 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, the standard of living may have been raised in many cases in which wages have been increased in greater proportion than prices. No allowance is made in the figures for any such alterations in the standard of living, as to which trustworthy statistics are not available.

SUMMARY TABLE: 1920 to 1931.

The following Table shows the average percentage increase, as compared with July, 1914, for all the items included in the statistics, at the beginning of each month, 1920 to 1931:—

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

Month (beginning of).	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931
Jan. ...	125	165	92	78	77	80	75	75	68	67	66	53
Feb. ...	130	151	88	77	79	79	73	72	66	65	64	52
Mar. ...	130	141	86	76	78	79	72	71	64	65	61	50
Apr. ...	132	133	82	74	73	75	68	65	64	62	57	47
May ...	141	128	81	70	71	73	67	64	64	61	55	47
June ...	150	119	80	69	69	72	68	63	65	60	54	45
July ...	152	119	84	69	70	73	70	66	65	61	55	47
Aug. ...	155	122	81	71	71	75	70	64	65	63	57	45
Sept. ...	161	120	79	73	72	74	72	65	65	64	57	45
Oct. ...	164	110	78	75	76	76	74	67	66	65	56	45
Nov. ...	176	103	80	75	80	76	79	69	67	67	57	46
Dec. ...	169	99	80	77	81	77	79	69	68	67	55	48

NOTE.

A detailed account of the method of compilation of these statistics "The Cost of Living Index Number: Method of Compilation" has been published, and may be purchased, price 3d. net (3½d. post free), from H.M. Stationery Office, at any

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.*

Country.	Percentage Increase as compared with July, 1914.*					Latest figures available.
	July, 1928.	July, 1929.	July, 1930.	July, 1931.	Per cent.	
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND ...	57	49	41	30	32	1931. 1 Dec.
FOREIGN COUNTRIES.						
Czechoslovakia... ..	...	...	50	17	11	Oct.
Denmark	53	49	37	19	19	Oct.
Egypt (Cairo)†	44	40	32	...	16	Aug.
Finland	1,016	979	837	718	722	Oct.
France (Paris)† ... ..	...	522‡	503‡	517‡	461‡	Nov.
„ (other towns)† ... ..	...	503**	514**	502**	502‡	Aug.
Germany	54	56	46	30	23	Oct.
Italy	416	458	407	342	341	Oct.
Norway	73	57	51	38	36	Nov.
Spain (Madrid)† ... ..	...	73	77	80	93	Sept.
„ (Barcelona)† ... ..	...	65	73	72	77	81 Sept.
Sweden	57	51	40	30	29	Nov.
Switzerland	57	55	52	40	38	Oct.
United States	50	55	41	17	17	Oct.
BRITISH DOMINIONS, &c.						
Australia	52	60	47	25	24	Oct.
Canada	47	50	49	10	7	Oct.
India (Bombay):						
Native families	45	45	36	0	0	Nov.
Irish Free State	66	66	56	43**	43	Aug.
New Zealand	46	46	43	18‡	19‡	Oct.
South Africa	16	16	9	4	3	Oct.

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.*

Country.	Items on which Computation is based.†	Percentage Increase as compared with July, 1914.*					Latest figures available.
		July, 1928.	July, 1929.	July, 1930.	July, 1931.	Per cent.	
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND ...	A,B,C,D,E	65	61	55	47	48	1931. 1 Dec.
FOREIGN COUNTRIES.							
Belgium	A,C,D,E	711	771	769	689	681	Oct.
Czechoslovakia (Prague)	A,B,C,D,E	...	...	9	4	1	Oct.
Denmark	A,B,C,D,E	76	73	65	54	54	Oct.
Egypt (Cairo)	A,B,C,D,E	51	50	48	35	35	Aug.
Finland	A,B,C,D,E	1,113	1,101	1,008	904	897	Oct.
France (Paris)	A,B,C,D,E	419‡	455‡	492‡	465‡	465	3rd Qr.
Germany	A,B,C,D,E	53	54	49	37	33	Oct.
Holland (Amsterdam)	A,B,C,D,E	70§	69§	62§	54§	51	Sept.
Italy	A,B,C,D,E	...	...	...	...	296‡	Jan.-June
„ (Milan)	A,B,C,D,E	426	442	431	386	377	Sept.
„ (Rome)	A,B,C,D,E	387	407	400	...	349	Sept.
Norway	A,B,C,D,E	93	80	75	67	50‡	Nov.
Poland (Warsaw)	A,B,C,D,E	23	23	19	5	3	Nov.
Sweden	A,B,C,D,E	73	69	64	58	58	Oct.
Switzerland	A,B,C,D	61	61	59	50	48	Oct.
United States	A,B,C,D,E	70§	70§	67§	50§	50	June
BRITISH DOMINIONS, &c.							
Australia	A,B,C,D,E	47‡	50‡	41‡	25‡	25	3rd Qr.
Canada	A,B,C,D,E	55	56	56	37	35	Oct.
India (Bombay):							
Native families	A,B,C,D	47	48	40	8	8	Nov.
Irish Free State	A,B,C,D,E	73	74	68	57**	57	Aug.
New Zealand	A,B,C,D,E	62	60	58	45‡	43‡	Oct.
South Africa	A,B,C,D,E	31	31	28	22	22	Oct.

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

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

Workmen's Compensation Act, 1925.

ACCIDENT ARISING OUT OF EMPLOYMENT. ADDED PERIL. FISHERMAN DROWNED WHILST ATTEMPTING TO SAVE LIFE.

THE widow and two children of a fisherman, who lost his life by drowning in an attempt to save his comrade, claimed compensation from the employers on the ground that the "act causing the accident was done for the purposes of, and in connection with, his employers' trade or business." It was contended on behalf of the employers that the accident did not come within the scope of the Act, because there was nothing unintended or unexpected in the act of the deceased, but he purposely and deliberately submitted himself to danger.

Judge Langman found that the death was caused by an accident arising out of, and in the course of, his employment. The act of plunging into the sea was deliberate, but death by drowning was not intended or expected. The claim was therefore allowed.—*Baxter v. Humphrey and Sleight. Grimsby County Court. 17th November, 1931.*

ACCIDENT TO ROAD REPAIRER—WHETHER IN THE COURSE OF EMPLOYMENT.

A workman engaged on road repairing appealed against a decision refusing compensation for injury sustained by a kick from a horse. On leaving his work he mounted his bicycle, which had been left by the roadside, in order to return home. As he was proceeding along the road on a portion that had been swept prior to tar spraying, he passed two horses which had been used by a separate contractor to move the tar-spraying apparatus. One of these kicked out as he passed and injured him.

Lord Buckmaster, in giving judgment, said that any other member of the public was entitled to use the highway for lawful purposes under exactly the same conditions as those of the workman. He could not see that the fact that the horses happened to be on part of the highway which had been swept changed the situation that would have existed had they been equally on the highway a few yards further up. When once the employer's premises had been left, and the workman was not lawfully under any control, he was in all respects and for all purposes in the same position as an ordinary member of the public. The danger he suffered was one which other members of the public equally shared.

The appeal was therefore dismissed. Lords Warrington of Clyffe, Atkin, Russell of Killowen, and MacMillan concurred.—*Sparey v. Bath Rural District Council. House of Lords. 16th November, 1931.*

Master and Servant.

ALLEGED WRONGFUL DISMISSAL. REFUSAL TO OBEY REQUEST OF EMPLOYER. SCOPE OF EMPLOYMENT.

A marine superintendent, engaged by the defendants under an oral contract, claimed damages for wrongful dismissal consequent on his refusal to visit Russia. He pleaded he was not contractually bound to make such a visit. Further, it involved such risk to his life and liberty as to make compliance with the order impossible. The jury found that the plaintiff was dismissed, but that he had refused to go to Russia to satisfy a non-commercial requirement of the defendants. His refusal was therefore justified. They gave no answer to the question put to them regarding the danger, as, in view of their finding, this point did not arise. Damages amounting to twelve months' salary were awarded.—*Kaukul v. The Anglo-Soviet Shipping Co., Ltd. King's Bench Division. 20th November, 1931.*

Trade Boards Act (Northern Ireland), 1923.

LINEN AND COTTON HANDKERCHIEF AND HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND LINEN PIECE GOODS TRADE (NORTHERN IRELAND).

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

The Court imposed fines of £5, 10s., and £1, respectively; and in addition allowed costs amounting to £3 ls., and witnesses' expenses amounting to £2 5s.—*J. H. Craig v. Samuel McCrudden & Co., Ltd. Belfast Petty Sessions. 5th November, 1931.*

MINERS WELFARE NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME.

THE Trustees of the Miners' Welfare National Scholarship Scheme invite applications for a limited number of University Scholarships under the Scheme.

Candidates must be either workers in or about coal mines in Great Britain or sons or daughters of such workers, and must be not less than 17 years of age on 25th January, 1932.

Forms of application and full particulars may be obtained from the Secretary, Miners' Welfare National Scholarship Scheme, Mines Department, Dean Stanley Street, London, S.W.1. Applicants for forms must state whether they apply as workers in or about mines or as children of such workers, as the form is different in each case. Persons who come within both categories should apply as miners.

Intending candidates are advised to write for application forms as early as possible, as completed forms received after 25th January, 1932, cannot in any circumstances be considered.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTS, 1920-31.

DECISIONS GIVEN BY THE UMPIRE.

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

Appeals to the Umpire may be made by the Insurance Officer or by an Association of which the claimant is a member, or, with the permission of the Court of Referees, by the claimant himself. The claimant may also appeal if the decision of the Court was not unanimous.

The following decisions are of general interest:—

Case No. 22160/31. (12.11.31.)

SECTION 7 (1) (ii) OF PRINCIPAL ACT—NOT UNEMPLOYED—COAL TRIMMERS' POOLED EARNINGS—RECEIVED SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNTS FROM POOL WHEN "STOOD OFF"—HELD TO BE NOT UNEMPLOYED.

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

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

"The coal trimmers employed at Cardiff, Penarth and Barry Docks (of whom the claimant is one) work in gangs or squads, and they are paid on a piece-work basis. All the earnings are pooled and are distributed equally between all the trimmers irrespective of their individual earnings and the periods worked by the individual trimmer. The number of coal trimmers employed at the above-mentioned places exceeds the number for which there is continuous employment and, so far as is practicable, the trimmers are allocated work so as to give an equality of employment. To effect this object the gangs are 'stood off' in rotation: an arrangement recognised by the employers' and the claimant's associations.

"Under the pooling arrangement a gang of trimmers, when standing off, shares in the pool into which the wages of the trimmers who are working that week are placed. At the date material to this case the sum received by each coal trimmer each week from the pool was about £2 10s.

"When a gang is standing off it is liable to be recalled in case of unexpected pressure of work; but during the time that it is standing off its members are not expected to report to the supervisor, who allocates the work, and they do not do so. If, however, a member of the gang intends to take a definite holiday during his period of standing off he acquaints the supervisor of his intention, and that official then knows that he cannot count on the services of that person should the occasion arise for his gang to be given employment.

"When standing off coal trimmers do not, save in exceptional circumstances, seek to obtain employment other than coal trimming. The only occasions on which they have done so has been during the general stoppage of work in the coal industry in 1926, and in the general stoppage in the South Wales coalfield in January of this year: two occasions on which there was no coal trimming to be done at the docks.

"The claimant was standing off from 29th June to 4th July of this year. He did not during that period report for work, and he did not inform the supervisor that he intended to take a holiday.

"The question referred to the Court of Referees was whether during that period the claimant was available for work.

"In my view the first question to be determined is whether the claimant in the week in question can be said to be unemployed. If he cannot the question of availability does not arise.

"That question was determined in three printed cases somewhat similar to the present case, namely 135/20,† 571/20,‡ and 4362/20.§

"In the first of these cases the claimant was held not to be unemployed and so not to be entitled to receive benefit during the period when he was standing off and was receiving a substantial sum of money from a pool. In the two latter cases the claimants were held to be unemployed and entitled to receive benefit when not actually working.

"The distinction between these cases is that when the sum received from the pool during a period of standing off is of a substantial amount, and it is shown that the person standing off does not, while so doing, seek other employment, the inference to be drawn is that in consideration of the sum received when standing off the workman is holding himself in readiness to accept the work done by the contributors to the pool whenever his services may be

required, and he cannot in such circumstances be held to be unemployed (see Decisions 135/20, 8838/29* and 18279/31).† Where, on the other hand, the sum received from the pool is so small that it cannot be inferred that its receipt would influence the recipient in not being willing to undertake other employment when standing off, or where it is shown that when standing off he does normally seek other employment, the inference cannot be drawn that the receipt of money from the pool is in consideration of his holding himself in readiness to undertake his usual employment so he may be held to be unemployed (see Decisions 571/20, 4362/20 and 397/28). The last-mentioned decision, which is not printed and is a revised decision, was given after some hesitation and after presentation of further facts.

"In my opinion this case is indistinguishable in principle from Decisions 135/20, 8838/29 and 18279/31. Had the claimant accepted work other than coal trimming when he was standing off he would not have been available for coal trimming if his services had been required, and he would not have participated in the pool. The participation in the pool, therefore, was, on the authority of the decisions last referred to, in consideration of his holding himself in readiness for coal trimming when standing off, and benefit cannot be allowed from 29th June to 4th July inclusive.

Case No. 22319/31. (14.11.31.)

SECTION 8 (2) OF PRINCIPAL ACT.—EMPLOYMENT LEFT VOLUNTARILY—FOUR-LOOM WEAVER LEFT EMPLOYMENT WHEN REDUCED TO TWO LOOMS—WORKED SAME NUMBER OF HOURS, BUT WAGES EQUIVALENT ONLY TO JUVENILE RATE—HELD TO BE JUST CAUSE.

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

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

"I agree with the Court of Referees.

"In Decision 9857/31 (not printed) was considered the case of a woman, 53 years of age, who for practically all her working life had been a four-loom weaver and who was still fully capable of that work. She had refused to accept an offer of employment on two looms, and the question to be determined was whether the employment offered was 'suitable in her case,' and whether her refusal of it was 'without good cause,' having regard to the provisions of section 4 (2) (b) of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1930.

"In that decision all the important cases on the subject were discussed, commencing with Decision 1572/O.W.D., and in conclusion it was said:

"Having regard to the claimant's record and experience, and to all the circumstances of her case, I think she was entitled to say that an offer of employment which required her for an indefinite period to work the full hours of the mill for a wage which would be only one-half of her usual earnings, and which would be little, if any, more than the wages of a juvenile, was not an offer of employment which was 'suitable in her case,' and was an offer which she had 'good cause' for refusing."

"In the case now before me the claimant is a married man with a family. He is 40 years of age, and he has for years been a four-loom weaver. He had been at the same mill for nine years. Owing to depression in the industry he dropped from four looms to three, and eventually to two looms. His earnings for a full working week dropped from 39s. or 40s. to 20s. 6d. a week. He retained this reduced employment for about seven months in the hope that he might obtain more looms. During that time he was really doing the work of a juvenile and getting no more, or only a little more, than a juvenile would earn. Having a son 17 years of age out of work, who had been employed at the same mill and who, in his opinion, was capable of doing the work which he himself was doing, the claimant suggested that his son should take his place. The employers would not accept this suggestion, saying that the youth did not make good enough work. The claimant thereupon refused to continue doing the work of a juvenile and left the employment. The question to be determined is whether he had 'just cause' for so doing.

"Before proceeding I may state that in my opinion the fact that the claimant continued for some months on two looms in the hope of improvement ought not to weigh against him; it is rather in his favour.

"Without saying that the circumstances which may constitute 'good cause' for refusing an offer of employment must in all cases constitute 'just cause' for leaving employment voluntarily they do so in the present case, where the reason for leaving the employment was that it was not suitable.

"It has been held in many cases that where a claimant has taken, or has continued for a time in, employment which he would have been entitled to refuse as not suitable if it had been offered to him while unemployed, he has justification for leaving it when he finds that he has no prospect of its developing into suitable employment. (See Decisions 5779/O.W.D.,‡ 3724/20,‡ 7687/20,§ 8231/20,|| and unprinted Decisions 1417/26, 2883/29, 69/30), and there have been numerous cases in which the claimant has been held justified in leaving employment in which the earnings had turned out to be unremunerative or inadequate.

* See U.I. Code 8a, Umpire's Selected Decisions, page 366.

† Not published.

‡ See Vol. II, Umpire's Selected Decisions, Pamphlet No. 14.

§ See U.I. Code 8, Umpire's Selected Decisions, page 489.

|| See U.I. Code 8, Umpire's Selected Decisions, page 522.

* Volumes containing selected decisions of the Umpire are published annually by H.M. Stationery Office, the latest being a volume of selected decisions given during the year 1930 (price 7s. 6d. net). A volume containing a special selection of important decisions given by the Umpire prior to 19th April, 1928 (price 15s. net), and a volume containing selected decisions given from 19th April, 1928, to 12th March, 1930 (price 6s. net), have also been issued; also an analytical guide to decisions given before 13th March, 1930 (price 2s. 6d. net). Selected decisions are also issued monthly in pamphlet form, and may be obtained, as and when issued, on payment of an annual subscription, the latest pamphlet being that for October, 1931.

† See Vol. I, Umpire's Selected Decisions, page 58 and U.I. Code 8.

‡ See Vol. I, Umpire's Selected Decisions, page 194 and U.I. Code 8.

§ See U.I. Code 8, Umpire's Selected Decisions, page 302.

"It is said that the issue involved in this case is one of great interest both to employers and members of Trade Unions in Lancashire. I have no doubt of it and I can appreciate the views of both. This leads me to think that I am face to face with a question of policy which is a matter for the Legislature to determine but is not within the province of the Umpire (see Decisions 698/27,* 754/27,† 927/28,‡ 336/30§).

"Different views may be taken of the advisability of an insured contributor during times of depression accepting employment on any terms rather than being out of work, or of the advisability of providing employment to a given number of employees for a full week at half earnings instead of a half week at full earnings. Fortunately these are not matters upon which the Umpire is required to decide. His duty is to determine issues according to the statutory provisions and the decisions thereon without being influenced by other considerations (see Decision 1673/25||).

"The Unemployment Insurance Act was not intended to force insured contributors to accept inadequate wages' (Decision 4472/28¶).

"On the contrary, the Legislature have protected the insured contributor against this and other unfavourable conditions by declaring (*inter alia*) in Section 4 (2) (b) of the Act of 1930, as in previous Acts, what shall not be deemed to be suitable employment in the insured contributor's usual occupation in the district where he was last ordinarily employed.

"It is upon that provision the claimant takes his stand, and I am unable to distinguish his case in principle from that which was discussed in Decision 9857/31.¶¶

Case No. 22981/31. (26.11.31.)

REGULATION 4 OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (ANOMALIES) REGULATIONS, 1931—MARRIED WOMEN—WEAVER AGED 50, MARRIED IN 1904—WORKED 24 YEARS SINCE MARRIAGE AND HAD BEEN UNEMPLOYED SINCE 1929—REGULATION 4 (ii) HELD TO BE SATISFIED.

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

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

"The claimant is a married woman living at Burnley, who for 20 years to the year 1924 was employed as a weaver at the Cliveger mill, and for four years to February, 1929, was similarly employed by the Wood Top Manufacturing Company. She was married in 1904, and her husband is a miner who is in employment.

"Since February, 1929, the claimant has been unemployed and has been signing the unemployed register, and so far as I know has been in receipt of benefit during that period.

"On 23rd October of this year the claimant's application for unemployment benefit came before a fully-constituted Court of Referees at Burnley, and it was considered by the Court under the provisions of the Unemployment Insurance Anomalies Regulations, 1931 (S.R. & O., 1931, No. 818).

"The material regulation in this case is Regulation 4, which reads as follows:—

"A married woman (other than a married woman whose husband is incapacitated from work or is unemployed and not in receipt of benefit) who since marriage has had less than fifteen contributions paid in respect of her, or who, if more than six months have elapsed since her marriage, has had less than eight contributions paid in respect of her during the period of three months preceding the beginning of her benefit quarter, shall be entitled to benefit only if, in addition to satisfying the other requirements of the Acts for the receipt of benefit, she also proves—

"(i) That she is normally employed in insurable employment and will normally seek to obtain her livelihood by means of insurable employment, and

"(ii) That having regard to all the circumstances of her case and particularly to her industrial experience and the industrial circumstances of the district in which she resides, she can reasonably expect to obtain insurable employment in that district."

"The Court of Referees has made the following findings of fact:—

"1. Claimant is a person who has less than 8 contributions during the three months prior to 20th October, 1931, and one to whom Unemployment Insurance Regulations 1931, 4 (i) and (ii) apply.

"2. She satisfies Regulation 4 (i).

"3. If Regulation 4 (ii) means that she must have a reasonable expectation of obtaining insurable employment now, the Court finds that neither she nor any other unemployed weaver has such an expectation; but if the Regulation means (as the Court thinks it does) that it is sufficient to have such an expectation if the industry in which she has been engaged becomes fully employed, then the Court decides she can, having regard to all the circumstances of her case and to her industrial experience, reasonably expect to obtain insurable employment in the district.

"On those findings the Court of Referees has given a decision allowing benefit, against which the Insurance Officer has appealed.

"In considering the intention of Regulation 4 of the Unemployment Insurance Anomalies Regulations there must be borne in mind

* See U.I. Code 8, Umpire's Selected Decisions, page 871.

† See U.I. Code 8, Umpire's Selected Decisions, page 873.

‡ See U.I. Code 8a, Umpire's Selected Decisions, page 49.

§ See U.I. Code 8a, Umpire's Selected Decisions, page 381.

¶ See U.I. Code 8, Umpire's Selected Decisions, page 661.

¶¶ Not published.

the purpose for which it and the other regulations contained in S.R. & O., No. 818 of 1931, were enacted.

"In June, 1931, the Royal Commission on Unemployment Insurance issued its first report, the recommendations in which were confined to three matters, the third of which was 'the suggestion that unemployment benefit is being paid to certain classes of persons in circumstances which the Unemployment Insurance Scheme was never intended to cover.'

"Paragraphs 103 to 125 inclusive of the Majority Report deal with that matter under the heading 'Anomalies,' and paragraphs 117 to 121 inclusive relate to married women.

"Under the last-mentioned paragraphs the Report refers to the fact that it is 'the exception rather than the rule for women after marriage to earn their livelihood in insurable employment.' 'It follows,' continues the report, 'that in the case of married women as a class, industrial employment cannot be regarded as the normal condition. These facts must be remembered in considering whether special provision should not be made for married women claimants under the Unemployment Insurance Acts... Regard must, of course, be paid to the fact that many women work after marriage, especially in those districts and industries where they are customarily employed in large numbers. But we cannot avoid the conclusion that, under the present conditions, married women who have no wish to work have no difficulty in obtaining unemployment benefit and we are satisfied on the evidence before us that there are many married women receiving benefit who have not since marriage worked in an insurable trade, and, in their existing circumstances, have no intention of doing so. In all the circumstances we are of opinion that, as an interim measure pending our final Report, the best method of eliminating those claims by married women which are not reasonable is by requiring a married woman claimant, whenever the Insurance Officer thinks fit, to satisfy the Court of Referees that she has not, as a result of marriage, withdrawn from industrial employment. We therefore recommend that a married woman shall be entitled to benefit only if she has satisfied the statutory authorities that—

"(1) she has not abandoned insurable employment, and

"(2) that having regard to her industrial experience and to the industrial circumstances of the district she can reasonably expect to obtain insurable employment in the district in which she is residing."

"This Report was presented to Parliament, and after it had been so presented Parliament thought fit to pass the Unemployment Insurance (No. 3) Act, 1931, by which it required the Minister of Labour to frame Regulations 'for the purpose of removing anomalies which have arisen in the operation of the Unemployment Insurance Acts,' and it was under that power that the Unemployment Insurance Anomalies Regulations came into existence.

"It will have been observed that sub-paragraph (i) of Regulation 4 is, in other phraseology, the first condition which the Report of the Royal Commission suggested should be a condition for the receipt of benefit by a married woman. Sub-paragraph (ii) of the Regulation enlarges on the wording suggested by the Royal Commission, but retains all the words contained in the Commission's suggestion. The enlargement is 'having regard to all the circumstances of her case.'

"From the passages which I have quoted from the Report of the Royal Commission it clearly appears that the 'anomaly' which the members of the Commission who signed the majority Report considered should be removed, was the receipt of benefit by married women who 'as a result of marriage' have 'withdrawn from industrial employment,' and it was to remove that 'anomaly' that they suggested that before being entitled to benefit a married woman should prove the matters suggested in their two conditions, the second of which is now included in sub-paragraph (ii) of Regulation 4 of the Unemployment Insurance Anomalies Regulations.

"As the Minister, when he framed Regulation 4, had before him the Report of the Royal Commission, and as he had adopted the phraseology suggested in the Report, I must take it that he intended to frame a regulation with regard to married women which would carry out the suggestions contained in the Majority Report, unless there is anything to show that he meant to extend the scope of the Regulation beyond what was suggested in the Report.

"The earlier part of the Regulation, which limits its operation to the cases of married women whose husbands are not incapacitated, etc., and to women who have not paid in respect of them the specified number of contributions since marriage, cannot affect the interpretation of sub-paragraph (ii) of the Regulation, with which interpretation this decision is concerned.

"The particular words of the sub-paragraph, which created a difficulty in the minds of the members of the Court of Referees, and to which the Insurance Officer's appeal relates, are 'the industrial circumstances of the district in which she resides.'

"I cannot see that the addition of the words 'having regard to the circumstances of her case' shows any intention on the part of the Minister to extend the scope of the Regulation beyond the removal of the anomaly suggested by the Royal Commission. Indeed, I think that the addition of those words was intended to take account of a matter mentioned in the Majority Report; 'in many cases married women who might wish to seek employment are prevented by their domestic responsibilities from doing so.'

"There is one circumstance which might indicate that the Regulation was intended to go beyond the removal of the anomaly suggested by the Royal Commission, and was intended to deprive of benefit married women who were unable, owing to the present acute industrial depression, to obtain in the more or less near future insurable employment, and that is the Report of the Advisory Committee, to whom reference is made in Section 1 (6) and Section 2 of the Unemployment Insurance (No. 3) Act, 1931.

"The Report of the Advisory Committee is dated 28th September, 31, and the greater part of it is concerned with draft Regulation 4 (e paragraphs 11 to 25 inclusive of the Report).

"In paragraphs 18, 19 and 20, the Advisory Committee suggests that the words 'having regard to... the industrial circumstances of the district in which she resides' are open to two interpretations. 'Does this' reads paragraph 18 of the Report, 'refer solely to the industrial practice in the district where a married woman resides of refusing to employ married women to which the Commission had previously referred, or was it intended to include such circumstances as the depressed state of trade in the district which is, in terms, certainly an industrial circumstance, which might deprive a married woman of any reasonable expectation of obtaining insurable employment in the district where she resides?'

"In paragraph 20 of its Report the Advisory Committee says 'If, on the other hand, the intention of the Royal Commission or of Parliament was not to disqualify for benefit married women whose inability to obtain insurable work is due to industrial depression, it might be in accordance with that intention to substitute for the words 'industrial circumstances of the district in which she resides' in draft Regulation 4 (ii) the words 'industrial practice of the district in which she resides, in the occupation in which she has been accustomed to work.' The object of doing this would be to permit benefit to be paid to those married women desiring work who had been accustomed to work in occupations in which, in the district where they reside, it is the practice to employ married women. Their title to benefit would not be affected by the fact that owing to industrial depression the prospect of their obtaining employment in their normal occupation was somewhat remote. An alternative method which was suggested with the same object in view was to introduce words that would allow account to be taken only of normal industrial circumstances in times of good trade.'

"I do not think that it can be said that because the Minister has not adopted the suggestion of the Advisory Committee by substituting other words in the Regulation for the words 'industrial circumstances of the district in which she resides' that thereby he intended to indicate that benefit should not be payable to married women because 'owing to industrial depression the prospect of their obtaining employment in their normal occupation was somewhat remote.'

"No useful purpose would be served by speculating on which of the many reasons which occur to the mind caused the Minister not to adopt the suggestion of the Advisory Committee. The important fact is that he has adopted in sub-paragraph (ii) of the Regulation the words suggested by the Royal Commission for carrying out the removal of the anomaly which they had specified, which, to my mind, is a clear indication that his intention was substantially the same as that of the Royal Commission.

"This does not mean that industrial depression can never be a factor which will determine whether a married woman has a reasonable expectation of obtaining insurable employment in the district in which she is residing. Industrial depression may have been the cause of extinguishing in the district in which a claimant resides the particular industry in which she was employed, and there is no other industry in that district into which she can reasonably expect to enter.

"Again industrial depression might have been the cause of a mill at which a married woman was employed closing never to reopen, and her age might debar her from obtaining employment at any other mill in the district in which she resides.

"In either of the events mentioned in the two preceding paragraphs (which are not intended to be exhaustive illustrations) it could reasonably be said that trade depression was an industrial circumstance to which, when regard was had, it could not be said that the married woman could reasonably expect to obtain insurable employment in the district in which she resided.

"To neither of these illustrations could regard be had if the words 'having regard to the industrial practice of the district,' as suggested by the Advisory Committee, had been substituted in the Regulation for the words 'having regard to the industrial circumstances of the district.' Under the Regulation as worded they can be.

"I cannot, however, think that it was intended that temporary industrial depression, which at the moment renders employment difficult to obtain, should, in itself, be a bar to a married woman obtaining unemployment benefit.

"The question of the duration of, and need for, the receipt of unemployment benefit is dealt with in the Unemployment Insurance (National Economy) (No. 2) Order 1931 (S.R. & O. 1931, No. 853).

"For these reasons I agree with the decision of the Court of Referees that benefit should be allowed in this case.

"I do not agree with the test which the Court has applied, namely, whether the claimant would be employed 'if the industry in which she has been engaged becomes fully employed.' It is now many years since the textile trade in Lancashire has been fully employed, and no one can say when it will be fully employed again.

"The figures given in the observations put forward by the claimant's association in answer to the Insurance Officer's grounds of appeal show a material decrease in the numbers of unemployed textile workers in Burnley between 21st September and 3rd November of this year, and I see no ground for saying that, having regard to the matters to which Regulation 4 of the Unemployment Insurance Anomalies Regulations says I must have regard, the claimant has not a reasonable prospect of obtaining insurable employment, though possibly by reason of trade depression that employment may not be obtained in the immediate future.

"Had the Court of Referees found that the industrial depression in the district was such that it was left in doubt as to the prospect of a sufficient recovery in trade in the future to offer a reasonable

prospect of the claimant resuming employment, having regard to all the circumstances of her case and to her industrial experience, she would not have discharged the burden of proof which the Regulations place upon her. The Court has so not found, and the evidence before me does not entitle me so to find."

Case No. 23143/31. (26.11.31.)

REGULATION 2 OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (ANOMALIES) REGULATIONS, 1931—SEASONAL WORKERS—EMPLOYED AS ICE-CREAM VENDOR FOR LAST FOUR SEASONS—NO OTHER EMPLOYMENT SINCE 1926 EXCEPT FIVE WEEKS AS A LABOURER BETWEEN LAST TWO SEASONS—SEASONAL OCCUPATION HELD TO BE NORMAL EMPLOYMENT.

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

Decision.—"On the facts before me my decision is that the claim for benefit should be disallowed during the 'off-season.'

"The claimant is 46 years of age. The Court of Referees has recorded that two years ago he worked for various builders and road contractors for a period of 7 or 8 months. I find a difficulty in appreciating on what evidence the Court has found that the claimant performed this work, as his record of employment which appears on Form U.I. 624 does not appear to have been challenged.

"That record is that from April to 29th September, 1928, and from 21st March to 29th September, 1929, the claimant was employed as an ice-cream salesman. For eight weeks to 1st June, 1930, he was similarly employed. For five weeks to October, 1930, he was employed as a labourer, and from 4th April to 26th September, 1931, again as an ice-cream salesman.

"The claim was submitted to the Court of Referees for consideration under the provisions of Regulation 2 of the Unemployment Insurance Anomalies Regulations, 1931 (S.R. & O. 1931, No. 818).

"A person's normal employment is not a seasonal employment because for one or two seasons he has been able to obtain seasonal work only despite his desire for employment which is not seasonal. When, however, over a number of years an insured contributor has had no substantial period of employment outside his seasonal employment, and when that has been substantial, a strong presumption is raised that seasonal employment is his normal employment. To say that a man is normally employed in a seasonal employment is only another way of saying that as a general rule he is employed in a seasonal employment (see Decisions 4271/30* and 7410/31†).

"For four summer seasons, namely in 1928, 1929, 1930 and 1931 the claimant has had no employment except the seasonal employment of an ice-cream salesman. Apart from that employment his only employment since April, 1928, has been for five weeks in September and October, 1930, as a labourer. The fact that the claimant says that he prefers labouring work to selling ice-cream does not, in my opinion, suffice to negative the presumption which his four seasons of engagement in seasonal employment raises.

"In my view the claimant's record of employment indicates that the selling of ice-cream during the ice-cream season is now the claimant's normal employment, and as the Court of Referees has found (as the record of employment clearly indicates in the case) that the claimant does not fulfil the requirements of sub-paragraph (a) of Regulation 2 (i) of the Unemployment Insurance Anomalies Regulations, 1931, he cannot be allowed benefit in the 'off-season,' which appears to be from 1st October of one year to Easter Monday of the following year.

"It is unnecessary to refer to sub-paragraph (b) of the Regulations as the claimant is required to prove the satisfaction of both (a) and (b) before benefit can be allowed in the 'off-season.'"

Case No. 23357/31. (30.11.31.)

REGULATION 2 OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (ANOMALIES) REGULATIONS, 1931—SEASONAL WORKERS—SKILLED MACHINE FITTER EMPLOYED AS ICE-CREAM VENDOR FOR LAST THREE SEASONS—OBTAINED FOUR MONTHS' WORK AT HIS TRADE BETWEEN LAST TWO SEASONS—SEASONAL OCCUPATION HELD NOT TO BE NORMAL EMPLOYMENT.

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

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

"The claimant is a skilled mechanic, being by trade a machine fitter.

"For the past three seasons the claimant has been employed as an ice-cream salesman from the middle of March to nearly the end of September, and the question arises whether he is a member of a class of persons whose normal employment is employment for part of the year only in an occupation of a seasonal nature. If he is, his claim must be decided under the provisions of Regulation 2 of the Unemployment Insurance Anomalies Regulations 1931, and as he does not fulfil the requirements of sub-paragraph (i) (a) of that Regulation he cannot be allowed benefit during the 'off-season.'

"I said in Decision 23143/31 (quoted above): 'A person's normal employment is not seasonal employment because for one or two seasons he has been able to obtain seasonal work only despite his desire for employment which is not seasonal. When, however, over a number of years an insured contributor has had no substantial employment outside his seasonal employment, and when that has been substantial, a strong presumption is raised that seasonal employment is his normal employment.'

* See Vol. IX, Umpire's Selected Decisions, page 79 (Pamphlet No. 7/1930).
† See Pamphlet No. 4/1931, page 87, Umpire's Selected Decisions.

"In that case for four seasons the claimant had been employed as an ice-cream salesman, and the only other employment which he had had in that period had been for five weeks as a labourer.

"In case 23267/31* a young man, 24 years of age, had had no employment since 1925, except the seasonal employment of selling ice-cream in 1930 and 1931. He had arranged with his late employer to again employ him as an ice-cream salesman in 1932.

"In each of the above cases I held that the presumption had been raised, and had not been rebutted, that seasonal employment had become the claimant's normal employment.

"In case 23144/31* a young woman, who for seventeen months to January, 1930, had been employed as a clerk, had thereafter undertaken for two seasons at Southend employment as a waitress. Between these two spells of seasonal employment she had had two short spells of employment as a shop assistant or cashier. In her case it was held that seasonal employment had not become her normal employment.

"In addition to his employment for three seasons as an ice-cream salesman, the claimant in the present case was employed from 3rd October, 1929, to 30th January, 1930, a period of about four months, as a machine fitter—the occupation for which he is registered at the Employment Exchange, and for which I assume he had become qualified by serving an apprenticeship. On these facts I do not think that the presumption, to which I referred in Decision 23143/31, is raised, and I agree with the Insured Contributors' Representative that this claim does not fall to be decided under Regulation 2 of the Unemployment Insurance Anomalies Regulations 1931. Therefore benefit may be allowed."

TRADE BOARDS ACTS.

I.—CONFIRMING ORDER.

Milk Distributive Trade Board (England and Wales).

Order M.D. (16), dated 19th November, 1931, confirming the variation of general minimum time-rates and overtime rates for certain classes of male and female workers, and specifying 30th November, 1931, as the date from which such rates should become effective.

II.—NOTICE OF PROPOSAL.

Coffin Furniture and Cerement-Making Trade Board (Great Britain).

Proposal U. (29), dated 1st December, 1931, to vary general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates and overtime rates for female workers in the cerement-making section of the trade, and to cancel all the minimum rates of wages for male and female workers in the coffin furniture section of the trade in their application to workers employed in the casting shop, the plating shop and the engraving department.

Objection period expires 1st February, 1932.

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

Higher rates of wages became effective as from 1st December, 1931, in the undermentioned trade. The minimum rates now applicable are those appropriate to a cost-of-living figure of 46, and are set out in the Confirming Orders quoted below:—

Chain Trade Board (Great Britain), C. (25) and C. (27), column 7.

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

Recent Proceedings. INDUSTRIAL COURT DECISIONS.

ELECTRICAL WORKERS, RAILWAY COMPANIES IN GREAT BRITAIN. Railway Companies v. Electrical Trades Union, National Union of Railwaymen, and Amalgamated Engineering Union. Difference.—Claim for increase of 3d. per hour to staff employed in railway electricity generating stations and sub-stations and on high tension cables between them, and determination of claim of railway companies that gross earnings of such staff shall be subject to a deduction of four and a sixth per cent. (Interpretation of Award 1513). *Decision.*—The Court decided against both claims. Award issued 19th November, 1931. (1521).

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

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

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY.—Committee on Finance and Industry. *Minutes of evidence. Vol. I. November 28th, 1929, to May 15th, 1930. Vol. II. May 16th, 1930, to February 19th, 1931. Appendices and Index.* (S.O. publications; price £1 12s. 6d. each.)

HEALTH INSURANCE.—National Health Insurance (prolongation of insurance). *Memorandum by the Minister of Health and the Secretary of State for Scotland explaining the proposed financial resolution.* (Cmd. 3966; price 1d.) (See page 457.)

INDUSTRIAL ASSURANCE.—Industrial assurance, statistical summaries 1924-1930. (S.O. publication; price 2d.)

POOR RELIEF.—Statement showing the number of persons in receipt of poor relief in England and Wales in the quarter ending in September, 1931, with some particulars as to the number of "unemployed" persons in receipt of such relief. (S.O. publication; price 4d.)

* Not published.

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES.—Return showing the total expenditure in England and Wales under certain Acts of Parliament during the financial years 1890, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1929 and 1930, respectively and the total number of persons directly benefiting from the expenditure for the financial year 1929, together with similar particulars for Scotland. (Cmd. 3971; price 4d.) (See page 459.)

ROAD FUND.—Report on the administration of the Road Fund for the year 1930-1931. Ministry of Transport. (S.O. publication; price 2s.)

SHOP ASSISTANTS.—Report from the Select Committee on Shop Assistants. Vol. I. Report, together with the proceedings of the Committee. Vol. II. Appendices. Vol. III. Minutes of evidence. (H.C. 148; price 2s., 6s., and 17s. 6d., respectively.) (See page 458.)

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.—(i) *Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1931. Selected decisions given by the Umpire during the month of October, 1931. U.I. Code 8B. Pamphlet 10/1931.* Ministry of Labour. (S.O. publication; price 6d.) (ii) *Minutes of evidence taken before the Royal Commission on Unemployment Insurance, fortieth day.* Ministry of Labour. (S.O. publication; price 3s.)

VITAL STATISTICS.—The Registrar-General's statistical review of England and Wales for the year 1930. (New Annual Series, No. 10.) Tables. Part II. Civil. (S.O. publication; price 2s.)

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.

LIST OF NEW CONTRACTS, NOVEMBER, 1931.

ADMIRALTY.

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

Rosyth: Timber: James Donaldson & Sons, Ltd., Leven, Fife. **Chatham: Steelwork:** Wilfred Robbins, Ltd., Tipton. **Earthenware Drain Pipes:** Elliott's West Howe Pottery, Ltd., Bournemouth.

(Contract and Purchase Department.)

Alternators, Motor: Electric Construction Co., Ltd., Wolverhampton; Haslam & Newton, Ltd., Derby. **Alternators, Motor Generator and Spare Armatures:** Small Electric Motors, Ltd., Beckenham. **Aluminium Sheets and Circles:** British Aluminium Co., Ltd., London, E.C. **Asbestos Fibre:** G. MacLellan & Co., Ltd., Glasgow; Turner Bros. Asbestos Co., Ltd., Rochdale. **Asbestos Sheeting and Tape:** Beldam Asbestos Co., Ltd., Hounslow. **Blades, Hack Saw:** A. Balfour & Co., Ltd., Sheffield; Chas. Baynes, Ltd., Blackburn. **Boots, Half:** Adams Bros. (Raunds), Ltd., Raunds; Owen Smith, Raunds. **Cloth, Leather:** Leather Cloth Co., Ltd., London, E.C. **Clutches, Operating Gear, Shafts and Bearings:** J. S. White & Co., Ltd., East Cowes. **Couplings, Quick Release:** Vickers-Armstrongs, Ltd., London, S.W. **Distilling Machinery:** John Kirkealdy, Ltd., Colchester. **Doors, W.T.:** Mechans, Ltd., Glasgow. **Engines, Diesel, Marine:** Peter Brotherhood, Ltd., Peterborough. **Engines, Petrol, Marine:** Ferry Engine Co., Ltd., Wootton, Southampton. **Flour:** Spillers, Ltd. (W. Vernon & Sons' Branch), London, E.C. **Frames, Cast Steel Rudder:** Steel Co. of Scotland, Ltd., Glasgow. **Gears, Hydroplane:** Brown Bros. & Co., Ltd., Edinburgh. **Handkerchiefs, White Cotton:** Wm. Chapman, Ltd., Manchester. **Iron, Pig:** Wm. Jacks & Co., London, E.C.; Sir W. G. Armstrong Whitworth & Co. (Ironfounders), Ltd., Gateshead; Staveley Coal & Iron Co., Ltd., Chesterfield; Golderdale Iron Co., Ltd., Stoke-on-Trent. **Jerseys, Blue:** I. & R. Morley, Heanor; D. Payne & Son, Ltd., Hinckley. **Lathe, Combination Turret:** Alfred Herbert, Ltd., Coventry. **Lathes, 6½ inch Centres:** Denhams Engineering Co., Ltd., Halifax. **Liners, Forged Steel Cylinder:** Darlington Forge Co., Ltd., Darlington. **Machine, Drilling, Tapping, and Boring:** William Muir & Co., Ltd., Manchester. **Machine, Drilling, Boiler Shell:** Campbells & Hunter, Ltd., Leeds. **Machine, Drilling, Spares:** Consolidated Pneumatic Tool Co., Ltd., London, W. **Machines, Drilling, Plate and Girder Radial:** William Asquith, Ltd., Halifax. **Machines, Milling, Universal:** Ward Haggas & Smith, Keighley. **Machine, Shearing, Guillotine:** Craig & Donald, Ltd., Johnstone. **Machine, Surfacing, Boring, etc.:** George Richards & Co., Ltd., Manchester. **Marmalade:** Crosbies Pure Food Co., Ltd., Southall. **Panels, etc.:** Marconi's W/T Co., Ltd., Chelmsford; H. W. Sullivan, Ltd., London, S.E.; Gambrell Bros., Ltd., London, S.W. **Plates, Boiler:** Consett Iron Co., Ltd., Consett; Park Gate Iron & Steel Co., Ltd., Rotherham. **Plates, Steel Ship:** Appleby Iron Co., Ltd., Scunthorpe; British (Guest Keen Baldwins) Iron & Steel Co., Ltd., Cardiff; Colvilles, Ltd., Glasgow; Consett Iron Co., Ltd., Consett; Dorman Long & Co., Ltd., Middlesbrough; Park Gate Iron & Steel Co., Ltd., Rotherham; Steel Co. of Scotland, Ltd., Glasgow. **Rations, Irish Stew:** Maconochie Bros., Ltd., London, E. **Receivers, Amplifiers, Tuners, Note Magnifiers, etc.:** Radio Instruments, Ltd., Croydon; H. W. Sullivan, Ltd., London, S.E.; The Plessey Co., Ltd., Ilford. **Rolls, Bending, Plate:** Craig & Donald, Ltd., Johnstone. **Sheet, India Rubber:** Avon India Rubber Co., Ltd., Melksham; India Rubber, Gutta Percha, etc., Co., Ltd., London, E.; Leyland & Birmingham Rubber Co., Ltd., Leyland; Macinlop, Ltd., Manchester. **Shirting, Twill:** Ashton Bros. & Co., Ltd., Hyde; Howe & Coates, Ltd., Nelson, Lancs. **Shirts, Soft, White:** Bryce & Weston, Ltd., Londonderry; Johnson & Sons, Ltd., Gorleston; Frank Lane, Ltd., London, E.C.; Milns, Cartwright, Reynolds, Ltd., London, E. **Shoes, Black, Leather:** Adams Bros. (Raunds), Ltd., Raunds. **Shoes, Brown, Canvas:** Adams Bros. (Raunds), Ltd., Raunds. **Shoes, Gymnasium:** North British Rubber Co., Ltd., Edinburgh. **Socks, Blue Cashmere:** Herbert L. Driver, Ltd., Barrow-on-Soar; I. & R. Morley, Leicester; Wolsey, Ltd., Leicester. **Suits, Blue Overall:** J. Compton, Sons & Webb, Ltd., Swindon; J. B. Hoyle

& Co., Hebdon Bridge; Johnson & Sons, Ltd., Great Yarmouth. **Suet, Beef, Refined:** Ogston & Tennant, Ltd., Aberdeen. **Switchgear, E.H.T.:** Allen West & Co., Ltd., Brighton. **Ties, Black Silk:** I. & R. Morley, London, E.C.; Toms, Steer & Toms, Ltd., London, E.C. **Tin in Block and Bar:** Vivian Younger & Bond, Ltd., London, E.C. **Tins, Metal Polish:** Huntley Boorne & Stevens, Ltd., Reading. **Tools, Torpedo:** H. Williams & Son, Ltd., London, E.; T. Smith & Sons of Saltley, Ltd., Birmingham; F. G. Pearson & Co., Ltd., Sheffield; Peter Brotherhood, Ltd., Peterborough. **Towels, Seaman's:** Messrs. Stott & Smith, Ltd., Congleton. **Units, Transmit-Receive and Aerial Rods:** H. W. Sullivan, Ltd., London, S.E. **Wavemeters, Heterodyne Units, Oscillators and Dials:** The Plessey Co., Ltd., Ilford; Marconi's W/T Co., Ltd., Chelmsford; H. W. Sullivan, Ltd., London, S.E.

WAR OFFICE.

Barrows, Stable: East & Son, Ltd., Berkhamsted. **Bearskins:** C. W. Martin & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C. **Blankets, Brown:** T. & D. Lee & Sons, Ltd., Dewsbury; Wormalds & Walker, Ltd., Dewsbury. **Brooms, Sweeping:** C. H. Leng & Sons, Birmingham. **Chairs, Married Soldiers':** O. Haines & Son, High Wycombe. **Chairs, Windsor:** T. Glenister, Ltd., High Wycombe. **Chassis, Six-wheeled:** Morris Commercial Cars, Ltd., Birmingham. **Copper Ingot:** Brandeis, Goldschmidt & Co., London, E.C. **Cresoli:** Jeyes Sanitary Compounds Co., Ltd., London, E. **Curtains, Mosquito:** Donald & Co., Nottingham. **Drawers, Woollen:** I. & R. Morley, Heanor; J. Haines & Co., Leicester. **Drill, Khaki:** J. H. Greenhow & Co., Ltd., Manchester. **Flannelette:** J. Wilkinson (Manchester and Nelson), Ltd., Nelson. **Generators:** Electro Dynamic Construction Co., Ltd., London, S.E. **Gutters and Piping, C.I.:** McDowall, Stevens & Co., Ltd., London, E.C. **Hydraulic Pump and Accumulator:** Hydraulic Engineering Co., Ltd., Chester. **Iron, Wrought, Flat:** N. Hingley & Sons, Ltd., Dudley. **Jerseys, Pullover:** I. & R. Morley, Heanor. **Lagging:** Sutcliffe Bros. & Bryce, Ltd., London, E. **Linen, White:** York Street Flax Spinning Co. (London), Ltd., Belfast. **Lockers, Metal:** Waddells (Stratford Steel Equipment), Ltd., London, E. **Machines, Automatic:** Burton, Griffiths & Co., Ltd., Birmingham. **Magnesium Powder:** British Maxium, Ltd., London, S.W. **Maul Heads:** East & Son, Ltd., Berkhamsted. **Metal Rod (Copper Alloy):** Vickers-Armstrongs, Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne. **Oil, Lubricating:** Stermol, Ltd., London, E. **Piping, Spun Iron:** Stanton Ironworks Co., Ltd., Nottingham; Shaw (Glasgow), Ltd., Glasgow. **Puttees:** Astrachans, Ltd., Bradford; Fox Bros. & Co., Ltd., Wellington, Somerset; R. Brearley & Son, Ltd., Batley; Hall, Tankard & Co., Ltd., Batley. **Sanitary Appliances:** Wilmer & Sons, Ltd., London, E.; B. Finch & Co., Ltd., London, S.E. **Sashes, Silk and Worsted:** Dalton, Barton & Co., Ltd., Coventry. **Seats, Cotton:** Ashton Bros. & Co., Ltd., Hyde; J. Hoyle & Sons, Ltd., Bacup. **Spares for Six-wheeled Chassis:** Morris Commercial Cars, Ltd., Birmingham. **Steel, Mild:** United Steel Cos., Ltd. (Steel Peck and Tozer Branch), Sheffield. **Sulphobast:** Boots Pure Drug Co., Ltd., Nottingham. **Tents, Marquee and Store:** T. Briggs (London), Ltd., London, N.; C. Groom, Ltd., London, E.; Adam, Lane & Neve, Ltd., London, E.; J. Mellwraith & Co., Ltd., Glasgow. **Vests, Cotton, Gymnasia:** Moore, Eady & Murott Goode, Ltd., Leicester. **Vests, Woollen:** S. D. Stretton & Sons, Ltd., Leicester. **Works Services: Building Works and Services:** Aldershot, Cambridge Hospital, Provision of Pathological Laboratory: G. Kemp, Stroud & Co., Ltd., Aldershot. Aldershot, R.A.O.C. Workshops, Additions: Lee Bros. (Aldershot), Ltd., Aldershot. Aldershot, Mons Barracks, Provision of Warrant Officers' Quarters: G. Kemp, Stroud & Co., Ltd., Aldershot. Brighton, Preston Barracks, Provision of Sanitary Annexes: E. J. Logan, London, W.C. Canterbury, Artificers Work: H. Goodsell, Maidstone. Caterick, R.A.O. Depot, Steel Shelving: Waddells (Stratford Steel Equipment), Ltd., London, E. Caterick, Additional Accommodation for R.A.S.C. personnel: G. Dougill & Sons, Darlington. Caterick, R.A.O.D. Workshops, Heating Installation: Steel & Co., Ltd., Sunderland. Caterick, Education Rooms: G. Dougill & Sons, Darlington. Caterick, Erection of R.E. Stores: F. Perks & Son, Ltd., Long Eaton. Exeter, Topsham Barracks, Annexes: F. J. Stanbury, Plymouth. Feltham, R.A.S.C. M.P. Depot, Re-roofing and Alterations to Regimental Institute Block: E. H. Burgess, Ltd., London, S.W. Glasgow, Maryhill Barracks, Painting: W. G. Chisholm & Co., Glasgow. Gosport, New Barracks, Bath Room Annexes: Gosport, Brookhurst, Sanitary Annexes: Gosport, Periodical Services: J. Hunt, Ltd., Gosport. Hamilton Barracks, Renewal of Fire-Damaged Roof: R. Kemp & Sons, Glasgow. Hilsa, Additions and Alterations to Commanding Officers' Quarters: Cortis & Hankins, Cosham. Isle of Wight, Periodical Services: F. Holdsworth, Ltd., Shipley. Lichfield, Dining Room and Wash-up: W. H. James & Son, Sutton Coldfield. Lincoln, Repairs to Roads: Orton & Dalby, Hugglescote. Longmoor, Hants, Provision of Warrant Officers' Quarters: G. Kemp, Stroud & Co., Ltd., Aldershot. Mill Hill Barracks, Renewal of Water Mains: J. B. Edwards & Co. (Whyteleaf), Ltd., London, W. Lydd, Extension of Bathing Accommodation: Ellis Bros., New Romney. Lydd, Pellett Range: G. H. Bates & Son, Lydd. Portland, Weymouth and Dorchester, Periodical Services: Arundel (Contractors), Ltd., Bradford. Portsmouth, Hilsa, Gosport, Winchester, Netley, Isle of Wight, Portland and Christchurch, Road Repairs: W. F. Rees, Ltd., Cheltenham. Shorncliffe, Extension of Children's School: R. J. Barwick, Dover. Shorncliffe, Risborough Barracks, Erection of Barrack Blocks: Ellis Bros., New Romney. Strensall, Erection of Barrack Blocks: Jaram & Son, Scarborough. Tidworth, Improvements to Vehicle Inspection Shed: W. E. Chivers & Son, Ltd., Devizes. Woolwich, Construction of Sanitary Annexes: G. E. Wallis & Sons, Ltd., Gravesend.

AIR MINISTRY.

Aircraft, Modifications: Handley Page, Ltd., London, N.W. **Aircraft, Spares:** A. V. Roe & Co., Ltd., Manchester; Handley Page, Ltd., London, N.W.; Vickers (Aviation), Ltd., Weybridge. **Aircraft, Work on:** Short Bros. (Rochester and Bedford), Ltd., Rochester. **Ammeters:** Ferranti (Ltd., Hollinwood. **Buildings and Works Services:** Artificers' Work (North Weald); S. Cronin & Sons, Brentwood. Drainage (Usworth): Hodsons, Ltd., Nottingham. Married Quarters (Cranwell): W. Wright & Sons, Ltd., Lincoln. Meteorological Office and Married quarters (Boscombe Down): Carkeek & Sons, Ltd., Redruth. Petrol Pump Installations (Thornaby, Peterborough, Farnborough): Drysdale & Co., Ltd., Glasgow. Underground Cables (Abingdon): Electrical Installations, Ltd., London, E.C. Water Supply and Drainage (Peterborough): F. Hossack & Son, Ruskington. **Camera Films:** Ilford, Ltd., Ilford. **Cloth, Blue Grey:** George H. Hirst & Co., Batley; Colbeck Bros., Ltd., Wakefield; Jas. Watkinson & Sons, Ltd., Holmfirth; J. Hainsworth & Sons, Farsley. **Demolition of Bombs:** John Debeer, Ltd., Hull. **Engines, Aircraft, Conversion:** Armstrong Siddeley Motors, Ltd., Coventry. **Engines, Aircraft, Development Test:** Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Bristol; Gillett, Stephen & Co., Ltd., Bookham, Surrey. **Engines, Aircraft, Rebuilding:** Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Bristol. **Engines, Aircraft, Reconditioning, &c.:** Rolls Royce, Ltd., Derby. **Engines, Aircraft, Repairs:** D. Napier & Son, Ltd., London, W. **Engines, Aircraft, Spares:** A.B.C. Motors, Ltd., Walton-on-Thames; Armstrong Siddeley Motors, Ltd., Coventry; D. Napier & Son, Ltd., London, W.; Rolls Royce, Ltd., Derby. **Engines, Aircraft, Test:** Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Bristol. **Generator Controls:** Everett, Edgumbe & Co., Ltd., London, S.W. **Glycerine:** Glycerine, Ltd., London, E.C. **Kite Balloons:** R.F.D. Co., Guildford. **Morris 6-wheeler Spares:** Morris Commercial Cars, Ltd., Birmingham. **Photographic Film:** Ilford Ltd., Ilford. **Serge, Blue Grey:** Jas. Watkinson & Sons, Ltd., Holmfirth; Fox Bros. & Co., Ltd., Wellington, Somerset; Reuben Gaunt & Sons, Ltd., Farsley; Peter Womersley & Sons, Pudsey; Jas. Harper & Sons, Bradford; Jas. Crowther & Sons (Millsbridge), Ltd., Huddersfield. **Storage Racks, Components:** Alfred Allen & Sons, Ltd., Lower Gornal. **Suits, Aviation:** A. Whymann, Ltd., Leeds. **Switchboxes:** Phoenix Telephone & Electric Works, Ltd., London, N.W. **Tail Drift Sights:** W. Ottway & Co., Ltd., London, W. **Thermometers:** Negretti & Zambra, London, E.C. **Transmitters:** Johnson & Phillips, Ltd., London, S.E. **Tyres, M.T.:** Goodyear Tyre & Rubber Co., Ltd., Wolverhampton. **Valves, W/T:** Mullard Radio Valve Co., Ltd., London, S.W. **Wheels, Aero:** Palmer Tyre, Ltd., London, W.C. **Winches, Aerial:** Walters Electrical Manufacturing Co., Ltd., London, W.

CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

Asbestos Cement Sheets: Asbestos Cement Building Products, Ltd., London, E.C. **Blankets:** T. & D. Lee & Sons, Earlsheaton. **Boilers:** Carron Co., Carron; Palmers Shipbuilding & Iron Co., Ltd., Hebburn. **Canvas:** Waterproofing Co., Ltd., London, S.W. **Casters:** J. Dickinson & Co., Ltd., London, E.C. **Cement:** Cement Marketing Co., Ltd., London, S.W. **Clothing:** D. Payne & Son, Hinckley; T. Briggs (London), Ltd., London, E.C. **Colas:** Colas Products, Ltd., London, S.W. **Concrete Plant:** British Steel Piling Co., Ltd., London, S.W. **Drill:** E. Spinner & Co., Manchester. **Drugs:** Southall Bros. & Barclay, Ltd., Birmingham. **Dynamite:** Nobel's Explosives Co., Ltd., London, S.W. **Electric Motors:** General Electric Co., Ltd., London, W.C. **Equipment for Cranes:** Ransomes & Rapier, Ltd., London, S.W. **Hoyt's Metal:** Hoyt Metal Co., of Great Britain, Ltd., London, S.W. **Limousine:** Rootes, Ltd., London, W. **Lorries:** Morris Commercial Cars, Ltd., Birmingham. **Paper:** North of Ireland Paper Mill Co., Ltd., Ballyclare; Thomas & Green, Ltd., Woburn Green. **Pipes:** Stanton Ironworks Co., Ltd., Nottingham. **Road Roller Spares:** Aveling & Porter, Ltd., Rochester. **Steel Cylinders:** Sir Wm. Arrol & Co., Ltd., Glasgow. **Steel Furniture:** G. A. Harvey & Co. (London), Ltd., London, S.E. **Steel Plates:** Barrow Hæmatite Steel Co., Ltd., London, S.W. **Steel Windows:** Crittall Manufacturing Co., Ltd., London, W.C. **Steelwork:** William Baird & Sons, Ltd., Glasgow; F. Braby & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Midland Iron & Hardware Co. (Cradley Heath), Ltd., Cradley Heath; Motherwell Bridge & Engineering Co., Ltd., Motherwell. **Tar:** Lancashire Tar Distillers, Ltd., Manchester. **Teleprinters:** Creed & Co., Ltd., Croydon, Surrey. **Train Lighting Spares:** Chloride Electric Storage Co., Ltd., London, S.W. **Tubes:** Howell & Co., Ltd., Sheffield. **Vialit:** Fox, Stockell & Co., London, E.C. **Water Meters:** Manchester Water Meter Co., Manchester. **Weighbridge:** W. & T. Avery, Ltd., Birmingham.

H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE.

Addressograph Equipment: Addressograph, Ltd., London, N.W. **Cord:** The Belfast Ropework Co., Ltd. (Northern Ireland), Belfast. **Envelopes:** J. Dickinson & Co., Ltd., Hemel Hempstead; McCrorquodale & Co., Ltd., Wolverton. **Paper:** Caldwells Paper Mill Co., Ltd., Inverkeithing; Carrongrove Paper Co., Ltd., Denny; Robert Craig & Sons, Ltd., Airdrie; Alex. Cowan & Sons, Ltd., Penicuik; Jas. Cropper & Co., Ltd., Kendal; Golden Valley Paper Mills, Ltd., Bittou; Imperial Paper Mills, Ltd., Gravesend; London Paper Mills Co., Ltd., Dartford; Ryburndale Paper Mill Co., Ltd., Rippon; Wiggins, Teape & A. Pirie (Sales), Ltd., Aberdeen. **Printing, Ruling, Binding, etc.:** 1,075 Assessment Books: Morrison & Gibb, Ltd., Edinburgh. Income Tax and Land Tax Receipt Books; 75,000 Pads, S. 1320c: Waterloo & Sons, Ltd., Dunstable. **Rotaprint Plates:** Kaye's Rotaprint Agency, Ltd., London, E.C. **Toilet Rolls:** British Patent Perforated Paper Co., London, E.

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Cable Submarine: Anglo-Belgian (1932): Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Conduit-laying etc.:** Hove (Sackville Road, etc.) and Preston, Brighton (Neville Road, etc.): James F. Hodge, Birmingham. Enfield, Middlesex (Enfield Highway, Hertford Road, etc.); Eltham (London, S.E.); Canonbury-Stamford Hill, N.; East Albert Dock, Victoria Docks Approach Road, E.: O. C. Summers, London, N. Glasgow Central: J. McAdam & Sons, Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne. Tandem-G.P.O. (South)-Lee Green-Eltham, S.E.; Luton (Beds): J. E. Billings & Co., Ltd., London, S.W. London-Brighton Road (Muddleswood-Hickstead Bridge): W. P. & P. G. Hayes, Ltd., Warrington. Maidstone, Rainham, etc.: Norwest Construction Co., Ltd., Liverpool. Great Yarmouth-Caister: F. R. Hipperson & Son, London, E.C. Uxbridge-Ruislip: Moore & Rowley, Birmingham. Adel (Leeds) and Leeds-Adel: Sangwin, Ltd., Hull. Broseley-Worfield and Quatt: Wm. Connolly & Co., Ltd., Liverpool. Narberth (Pembrokeshire): Watson & Horrocks, Ltd., Bridgend.—**Lifts, Electric:** Newcastle-on-Tyne Head Post Office: Pickering, Ltd., Leicester. Derby, Midland Road Branch Post Office: Wm. Wadsworth & Sons, Ltd., Bolton.—**Power Plant:** Hull Telephonic Repeater Station: Haslam & Newton, Ltd., Derby. Sub-contractors: Alton Battery Co., Ltd., Alton, for Batteries.—**Telephone Exchange Equipment:** J. & N. Phillips & Co., Ltd. (Manchester); Hereford; Wisbech (Cams); West Hartlepool; Hartlepool; Sutton Coldfield (Birmingham Automatic Area): Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E. Sub-contractors for Sutton Coldfield: Chloride Electrical Storage Co., Ltd., Manchester, for Batteries; Crompton Parkinson, Ltd., Chelmsford, for Ringing Machines; English Electric Co., Ltd., London, W.C., for Charging Machines. Acomb (York Multi-Exchange Area): Cosham (Portsmouth); Burnham (Bucks); Horsforth (Leeds Multi-Exchange Area): Automatic Telephone Manufacturing Co., Ltd., London, W.C. Sub-contractors for Horsforth: Alton Battery Co., Ltd., Alton, for Batteries; Electric Construction Co., Ltd., London, W.C., for Charging Machine. Bury St. Edmunds (Suffolk): General Electric Co., Ltd., Coventry. Welbeck (London Area); London Trunk Exchange: Standard Telephones & Cables, Ltd., London, W.C.—**Telephonic Repeater Equipment Extensions:** Catterick (Yorks); London (G.P.O. South): Standard Telephones & Cables, Ltd., London, W.C. Bristol: General Electric Co., Ltd., Coventry.

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Building Works: Anderston P.O.—Plumber: Kennedy & Bain, Glasgow. Ashford Sorting Office Garage—Erection: Hammond & Co. (Canterbury), Ltd., Canterbury. Berwick-on-Tweed Coast-guard Station—Carpenter: Lillie & Renwick, Berwick; Painter: R. P. Little & Son, Berwick; Plasterer: T. Turner, Berwick; Plumber: Grant & Evans, Berwick. Brighthouse Employment Exchange—Joiner: L. Robinson & Sons, Barnoldswick; Painter: Owen Simpson & Co., Halifax; Plumber: T. Cowgill, Barnoldswick. Bromley Head P.O.—Alterations: E. A. Vickers & Son, Ltd., Bromley. Bury St. Edmunds, "Collingwood" Telephone Exchange—Adaptations: Pollard & Skerritt, Ipswich. Cranwell, R.A.F. College—Lead Work: W. Freer, Ltd., Leicester. Dollis Hill Research Station—Steel Sashes: Crittall Manufacturing Co., Ltd., London, W.C. Epsom Head P.O.—Steelwork: T. W. Palmer & Co., London, S.W.; Stonework: J. Bysouth, London, N.; Plasm Co., Ltd., Hershaw; Wandsworth Stonemasonry Works, London, S.W. Epsom Telephone Exchange—Roofing: Field & Palmer, Ltd., London, N. Glasgow, Duke Street, P.O.—Alterations: J. Stephenson, Glasgow; Glazier: A. J. Wright & Co., Ltd., Glasgow; Mason: T. Cooper & Co., Glasgow; Painter: R. Muir, Glasgow; Plasterer:

J. Struthers & Sons, Glasgow; Plumber: Kennedy & Bain, Glasgow; Steelwork: P. & W. Maclellan, Ltd., Glasgow. Hayling Island Telephone Exchange—Asphalter: Limmer & Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co., Ltd., London, S.W.; Plumber: A. V. Kidd, Southsea; Roofing: Permainite, Ltd., London, E.; Slater: Diespeker & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Stonework: Emerson & Norris, Ltd., Brentford. Hendon Repository—Plumber: Ellis (Kensington), Ltd., London, S.W. Highams Park, E., "Larkwood" Telephone Exchange—Erection: Stanley & Sons, London, E. Ilford, "Valentine" Telephone Exchange—Painter: A. Higginbotham & Sons, Bradford; Plasterer: Nolan & Perry, Colchester. Kettering Employment Exchange—Glazier: W. H. Heywood & Co., London, S.W.; Plumber, etc.: H. P. Hodge, Ltd., Kettering. Kew Gardens, Director's Office—Plasterer: F. Whittaker, London, S.W.; Plumber: H. Foster & Co., Ltd., London, S.W. Leeds P.O. Garage—Painter: Foyle & Kirk, Leeds; Plumber: T. Reyner, Otley; Steelwork: G. Dupledge & Co., Ltd., Leeds. Ludlow P.O. Garage—Steelwork: A. D. Dawnay & Sons, Ltd., London, S.W. Manchester, Dickinson Street P.O.—Adaptations: Tinker & Young, Ltd., Manchester. Midhurst P.O.—Tiler: W. Dibben & Sons, Ltd., Southampton. Mount Pleasant, E.C., Letter Office—Asphalter: General Asphalte Co., Ltd., London, W.C.; Painter: G. Jones & Son, Liverpool. National Gallery, W.C.—Marble Work: J. Whitehead & Sons, Ltd., London, S.E. Norwood P.O.—Alterations: E. Orpin & Son, London, S.E. Old Street, E.C., P.O.—Alterations: J. Jennings & Son, Ltd., London, E. Pershore P.O.—Asphalter: Limmer & Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co., Ltd., London, S.W.; Steelwork: Rubery, Owen & Co., Darlaston. Pinhoe Telephone Exchange—Asphalter: Limmer & Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co., Ltd., London, S.W.; Steelwork: H. Peers & Co., Bolton; Stonework: Ham Hill, Doulting & Portland Stone Co., Ltd., Stoke-under-Ham. Plaistow, "Plasnet" Telephone Exchange—Plasterer: Wheeler Bros., London, E. Redhill P.O.—Completion: Pitcher Construction Co., Ltd., London, N.; Glaziers: Grey & Marten, Ltd., London, S.E.; W. H. Heywood & Co., Ltd., London, S.W. Shirley Telephone Exchange—Asphalter: Asphalte & Cement Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Mason: Wragg Bros., Birmingham; Steelwork: Redpath, Brown & Co., Ltd., Edinburgh. Shoreditch County Court—Slater: Vine & Wright, Ltd., London, S.W.; Steelwork: Redpath, Brown & Co., Ltd., Edinburgh. South Audley Street, W., P.O.—Alterations: A. Davies & Co. (Shopfitters), Ltd., London, W. Surbiton, "Elmbridge" Telephone Exchange—Roofing: Helical Bar & Engineering Co., Ltd., London, S.W. Swadlincote Telephone Exchange—Asphalter: Ragusa Asphalte Paving Co., Ltd., London, W.; Steelwork: Burton Constructional Engineering Co., Ltd., Burton-on-Trent. Swinton P.O.—Asphalter: Val de Travers Asphalte Paving Co., Ltd., London, E.C. Thornton Heath Telephone Exchange—Steelwork Erection: Cozens & Sutcliffe, London, N. Wembley Sorting Office—Extension: J. B. Sharman, Ltd., Ramsgate. Willesden Sorting Office—Roofing: Concrete, Ltd., Leeds; Field & Palmer, Ltd., London, N. Wokingham P.O.—Erection: W. A. James & Sons, Maidenhead. Woodseats Telephone Exchange—Steelwork: W. H. Blake & Co., Ltd., Sheffield. Worcester Sorting Office—Steelwork: Rubery, Owen & Co., Darlaston. Yeovil P.O.—Plumber: A. Soull & Son, Ltd., Bristol.—**Maintenance Work:** Chatham: J. W. Leech & Son, Ltd., Rochester. Ilford: W. H. C. Heath & Son, Ilford. Ilfracombe: J. Ellis & Sons, Ilfracombe. North Shields: P. W. Mummery, North Shields. Oldham—Plumber, etc.: W. Unsworth & Sons, Oldham. South Shields: M. Swales, South Shields.—**Engineering Services:** Cranwell, R.A.F. College—Electric Lighting, etc.: Kershaws (Electrical Engineers), Ltd., Manchester. Dorking P.O.—Heating: R. H. & J. Pearson, Ltd., London, W. Hendon Repository—Lifts: EtcHELLS, Congdon & Muir, Ltd., Manchester. Surbiton, "Elmbridge" Telephone Exchange—Heating: Heath & Co., London, W. Teddington Laboratory—Rails: Markham & Co., Ltd., Chesterfield.—**Painting:** A. Bagnall & Sons, Ltd., Shipley; Sykes & Son, Ltd., London, W.C.—**Miscellaneous:** Furniture and Fittings: Baxter (Woodcraftsmen), Ltd., Glasgow; Fielding & Bottomley, Halifax; W. Hands & Sons, Ltd., High Wycombe; Milners' Safe Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Roneo, Ltd., London, E.C. Laundry Work: Westmore Syndicate, Ltd., London, S.W.

METROPOLITAN POLICE.

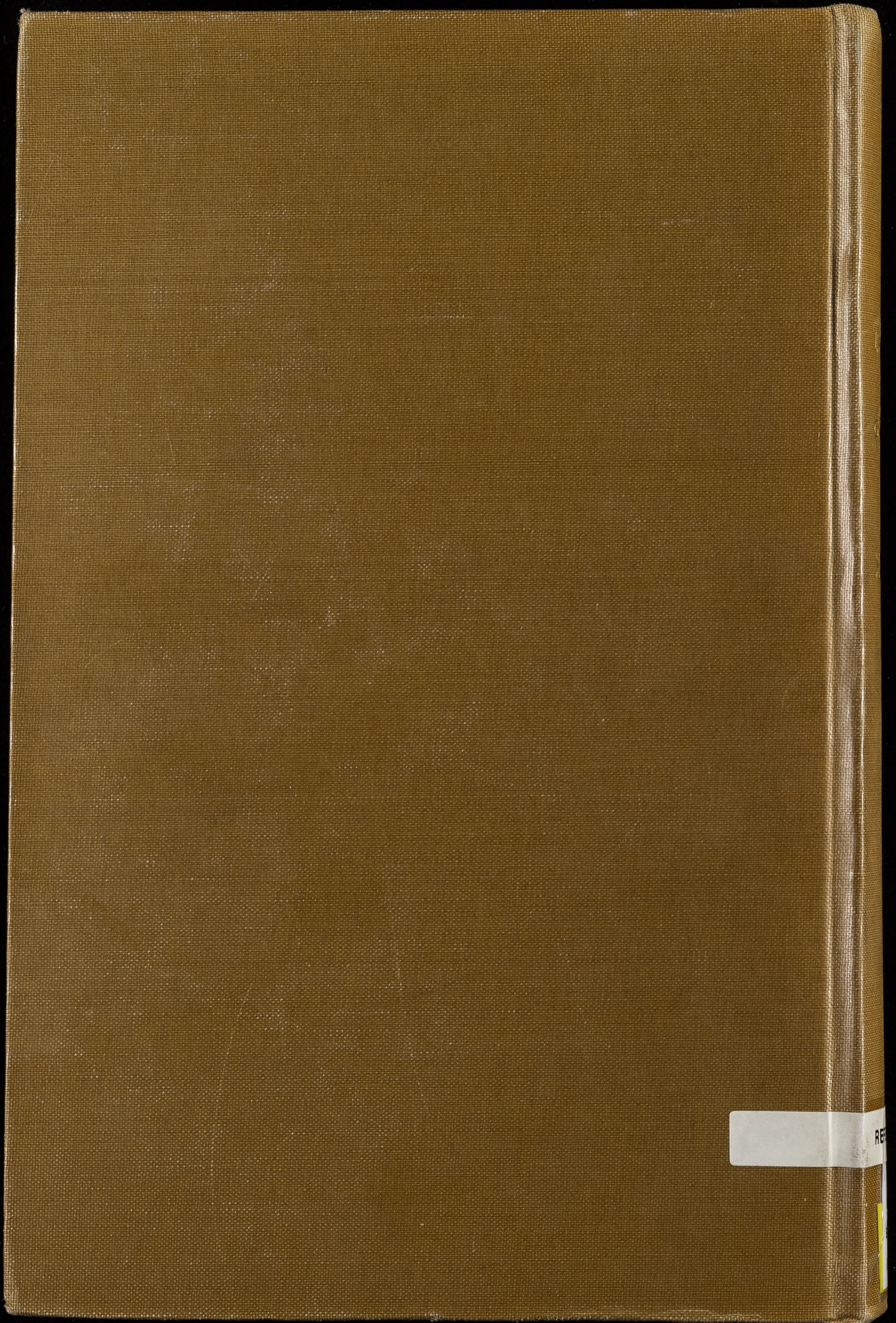
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