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

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

Owing mainly to an increase in temporary stoppages in the coal mining and textile industries, employment showed a decline at 25th April, as compared with 21st March.

Among workpeople insured against unemployment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the percentage unemployed in all industries taken together was 21·4 at 25th April, 1932, as compared with 20·8 at 21st March, 1932, and 20·9 at 27th April, 1931. For males alone the percentage at 25th April, 1932, was 24·7, and for females 12·7. At 21st March, 1932, the corresponding percentages were 24·1 and 12·5.

Insured Persons in Work in Great Britain.—It is estimated that on 25th April, 1932, there were approximately 9,484,000 insured persons aged 16 to 64 in work in Great Britain. This was 65,000 less than a month before, but was approximately the same as a year before.

Numbers Unemployed (excluding Persons normally in Casual Employment).—At 25th April, 1932, there were 2,031,888 persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain who were out of a situation. This was 10,556 less than a month before, but 183,718 more than a year before. The total on 25th April, 1932, included 1,647,689 men, 60,919 boys, 277,615 women and 45,665 girls. It was made up of 755,029 insured persons with claims for insurance benefit, 949,024 applicants for transitional payments, 197,916 other insured persons not in receipt of insurance benefit or transitional payments, and 129,919 uninsured persons.

Numbers Temporarily Stopped.—At 25th April, 1932, there were registered as unemployed in Great Britain 385,903 men, 11,314 boys, 112,931 women and 6,415 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 516,563 was 93,887 more than a month before, but 40,415 less than a year before. It included 446,407 insured persons with claims for insurance benefit, 42,034 applicants for transitional payments, and 28,122 persons not in receipt of insurance benefit or transitional payments.

Numbers Unemployed normally in Casual Employment.—At 25th April, 1932, there were on the registers in Great Britain 102,375 men, 130 boys, 1,211 women and 14 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 103,730 was 1,518 more than a month before. It included 70,984 insured persons with claims for insurance benefit, 31,720 applicants for transitional payments, and 1,026 persons not in receipt of insurance benefit or transitional payments.

Comparisons of the numbers on the registers, and of the percentages unemployed, with those for a month ago and a year ago, are affected by the results of legislative and administrative changes.

Industries in which Principal Variations occurred.—Employment declined in the coalmining and textile industries (except artificial silk yarn manufacture), in iron and steel, tinplate, glass, and paper manufacture, in constructional engineering, in shipping service, and in dock and harbour service.

On the other hand, there was some improvement in the rubber industry, together with a further slight seasonal improvement in the building, tailoring, dress-making, and distributive trades, and in hotel and boarding house service.

WAGES.

In the industries for which statistics are regularly compiled by the Department, the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation in April resulted in a decrease estimated at about £11,800 in the weekly full-time wages of 187,000 workpeople, and in an increase of £450 in those of 7,000 workpeople.

The principal groups of workpeople affected by the reductions included coal miners in Warwickshire, tube makers in Scotland, textile bleachers, dyers, finishers, etc., in Yorkshire, Lancashire and Scotland, men employed by electrical contractors in England and Wales, and tramway and omnibus employees in various towns in Great Britain outside the Metropolitan area.

During the first four months of 1932 the changes recorded have amounted to net decreases of £136,400 in the weekly wages of 1,120,000 workpeople, and net increases of £5,360 in those of 94,000 workpeople. In the corresponding period of 1931 there were net decreases of £181,000 in the weekly wages of 1,706,000 workpeople, and net increases of £4,050 in those of 77,000 workpeople.

COST OF LIVING.

At 30th April, 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 43 per cent. above the level of July, 1914, as compared with 44 per cent. a month earlier and 47 per cent. a year earlier. For food alone the average percentage increase was approximately 25 per cent. above the pre-war level, as compared with 26 per cent. a month earlier and 29 per cent. a year earlier.

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 April was 35. In addition, 11 disputes which began before April were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The number of workpeople involved in all disputes in April (including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes) was about 12,500, and the aggregate duration of all disputes in April was about 58,000 working days.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR
CONFERENCE.

PROCEEDINGS AT THE SIXTEENTH SESSION.

THE sixteenth Session of the General Conference of the International Labour Organisation of the League of Nations, convened under Article 389 of the Treaty of Versailles, opened at Geneva on 12th April and ended on 30th April, 1932. The Honourable Senator G. D. Robertson, formerly Minister of Labour in Canada, was elected President of the Conference.

A Draft Convention concerning the age of admission of children to employment in non-industrial occupations was adopted by the Conference by 89 votes to 1. The Convention applies, with certain exceptions, to all children not covered by the three Conventions adopted in 1919, 1920, and 1921, fixing the minimum age for the admission of children to industrial employment, to employment at sea, and to employment in agriculture. The normal minimum age is fixed at 14 years. Children over 12 years of age may be employed on light work under specified conditions. In certain conditions children under 12 may be employed in public entertainments or in cinematograph films. On the other hand, provision is made for higher ages to be fixed by national laws or regulations in the case of dangerous occupations and in street trading. The Conference also adopted a Recommendation dealing with the rules and methods to be adopted in connection with light work, employment in public entertainments, dangerous employments, prohibition of employment of children by certain persons, and enforcement.

The Conference agreed, by 109 votes to none, to revise the Convention concerning the protection against accidents of workers employed in loading or unloading ships. The points on which revision was agreed to were mainly technical. The Conference adopted a Recommendation that representatives of the Governments of the principal countries concerned should confer with a view to securing a reasonable uniformity in the application of the Convention. It also agreed to a Resolution instructing the International Labour Office to review in 1934 the position as regards reciprocity.

The Conference considered the questions of invalidity, old age, and widows' and orphans' insurance, and of the abolition of feebly employed agencies, and decided the points relating to each question to be included in the questionnaires which the Office will draft for circulation to the States Members. The Conference decided to place each of these questions on the agenda of the next General Conference.

The Conference discussed the Report of the Director (which dealt with various aspects of the economic crisis), and the Reports of the Governments under Article 408 of the Treaty of Versailles on the measures taken to give effect to the Conventions ratified by them. In addition to the Resolution referred to above, Resolutions on the following subjects were adopted:—

- (i) Drawing the attention of the Governing Body to the need for strict observance of the provisions of Article 401 of the Treaty of Peace, regarding the time of dispatch of the agenda for the International Labour Conference, especially in regard to distant countries.
- (ii) Inviting the Governing Body to investigate the question of the legal institution of the 40-hour week.
- (iii) Suggesting (a) an international conference to arrange for the putting in hand of international works; (b) that the League of Nations should impress on the forthcoming Conference to deal with Reparations the urgency of a final settlement; (c) that an international conference should be convened to deal with currency questions and institute an international monetary system; (d) that an international conference on production and international trade should be convened; and (e) that the Governments concerned should be requested to include in their programme of public works works intended to improve the public health.
- (iv) Requesting the Governing Body to consider placing the question of the methods and conditions of recruiting native labour and the terms of labour contracts on the agenda of an early session of the Conference.
- (v) Inviting the Governing Body to instruct the International Labour Office to submit to next year's session of the Conference the final report on collective agreements in agriculture.
- (vi) Requesting the Governing Body to consider placing the question of workers' housing on the agenda of the Conference.
- (vii) Requesting the Governing Body to consider placing on the agenda of the Conference the question of the inclusion of silicosis in the list of occupational diseases contained in the Convention concerning workmen's compensation for occupational diseases.
- (viii) Requesting the Governing Body to consider the possibility of convening a preparatory advisory conference of the administrations, employers and workers concerned when a question concerning countries not directly represented at the General Conference is on the agenda of the Conference.
- (ix) Requesting the Governing Body to undertake an inquiry into the extent of opium smoking among workers and its effects.
- (x) Requesting the League of Nations to place before its competent bodies as early as possible a proposal for a "gold truce."

WAGES AND HOURS MOVEMENTS
OVERSEAS.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

Coal-mining Industry.—The dispute which, as reported in the previous issue of this GAZETTE, page 132, broke out in the North-West Bohemian coalfield on 23rd March, has since been terminated as a result of negotiations between the employers' and workers' organisations and Government officials. It has been agreed that the closing down of the mine at Brüx, which was the immediate cause of the stoppage, shall be postponed until the end of this year; that no large-scale dismissals shall take place before the end of 1932; that overtime and extra shifts shall be restricted to the lowest possible minimum; and that actual coal-getting by contractors shall be prohibited in all but exceptional cases, in which the workers employed by the contractor must be paid the agreed rates. This agreement, which is to remain in force until the end of the present year, unless previously extended, was recognised on 19th April by the independent committee which had been conducting the strike, and work appears to have been fully resumed on the following day.

DENMARK.

Bacon Industry.—A lock-out of some 4,000 workers employed in co-operative and private bacon factories which became operative on 29th April, terminated on 11th May, 1932. The conciliator's proposals, involving the reduction of weekly wage rates of 60, 58 and 56 kroner by 2 kroner and other agreed rates by 3 per cent., were, after a ballot among the workers, accepted by all parties.

FRANCE.

Textile Industry.—Work was resumed on 22nd April at Viennet (Isère), where, following a decision of the local textile employers' association to reduce wages and revise basic wage-rates, several thousand workers occupied in the wool textile industry ceased work on 1st March, 1932. The terms of the settlement, as reported in the French Press, provide for a wage reduction of 6.85 per cent., to be effected in two equal instalments, operative on the date of resumption and one month thereafter, respectively. The reduction is not to apply to workers employed for less than 30 hours a week.

GERMANY.

General.—According to recent statements by the Federal Minister of Labour, notice had been given of the termination on 30th April, 1932 (the earliest date fixed for the termination of agreements set up under the wages provisions of the Presidential Emergency Order of 8th December, 1931), of wage agreements covering some 2.7 million manual and non-manual workers, and of covering agreements (which regulate the general conditions of work, other than wages) affecting some 3½ million workers. The Minister stated that, notwithstanding the claims of many employers, he maintained the view that a further general reduction of the wage level would be intolerable. Contrary to a report which had appeared in the Press, the Government did not contemplate, nor did the occasion require, the issue of an Order compulsorily extending beyond 30th April, 1932, the wage agreements for certain industries set up under the Emergency Order of 8th December, 1931. In some instances, notably in the case of industries serving the home market, the wage level was disproportionately high, and there existed a certain latitude for adjustments which, for practical considerations, it had not been possible to provide for under the abovementioned Order, but which were expected to be made subsequently. With regard to the period for which new wage agreements should be concluded, the Minister suggested that, having regard to the uncertain economic outlook, it would be inadvisable for this period to extend beyond the autumn of the present year; the normal period of one year might be adhered to in the case of covering agreements.

Information with regard to movements for the revised regulation of working conditions in certain industries are set out below:—

Coal-mining.—The employers in the Ruhr coal-mining industry have given notice to terminate both the covering and the wages agreements for the industry at 31st May, 1932. As regards wages, the aim of the employers is to secure a revised system of regulation which will permit of greater flexibility of application to individual pits. The wage agreements for the combined coal-mining and iron and steel undertakings in Upper Silesia have been extended beyond 30th April until 31st May, 1932, by agreement between the employers and workers.

Iron and Steel and Metal and Engineering.—It is reported that the wage agreement for the North-West Group of the heavy iron and steel industry is to be terminated by the employers at 31st May, 1932. A conciliation award provides for the extension until 31st July, 1932, of the existing wage agreement for the Cologne metal and engineering industry. Subject to one month's notice of termination by either party, the wage and covering agreement for the Krefeld metal and engineering industry has been prolonged indefinitely.

Textile Industry.—A recent conciliation award for the Baden textile industry provides for the reduction of the standard minimum hourly rate for male workers of 25 years of age and over from 54 to 52 pfennigs, with corresponding reductions for all other wage groups.

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

OWING mainly to an increase in temporary stoppages in the coal mining and textile industries (except artificial silk yarn manufacture) employment showed a decline at 25th April as compared with 21st March. Employment also declined in iron and steel, tinplate, glass, and paper manufacture, in constructional engineering, in shipping service and in dock and harbour service. On the other hand, there was some improvement in the rubber industry, together with a further slight seasonal improvement in the building, tailoring, dressmaking, and distributive trades, and in hotel and boarding house service.

The decline in employment was most marked in the North-Eastern Division and in Wales, and there was also some decline in the Midlands and North-Western Divisions. In all these districts, and also in Scotland and Northern Ireland, employment was very bad. In London and the Southern Counties there was a slight improvement and employment was relatively moderate.

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 25th April, 1932 (including those temporarily stopped as well as those wholly unemployed), was 21.4, as compared with 20.8 at 21st March, 1932, and with 20.9 at 27th April, 1931. The percentage wholly unemployed at 25th April, 1932, was 17.3, as compared with 17.5 at 21st March, 1932, while the percentage temporarily stopped was 4.1, as compared with 3.3. For males alone, the percentage at 25th April, 1932, was 24.7, and for females 12.7; at 21st March, 1932, the corresponding percentages were 24.1 and 12.5.

At 25th April, 1932, the number of persons on the Registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain was 2,031,888 wholly unemployed, 516,563 temporarily stopped, and 103,730 normally in casual employment, making a total of 2,652,181. This was 84,849 more than a month before, and 132,068 more than a year before. The total included 2,135,967 men, 72,363 boys, 391,757 women and 52,094 girls. Comparison of the numbers on the registers, and of the percentages unemployed, with the figures for a month before and a year before is affected by the results of legislative and administrative changes. This subject was dealt with in an article on page 128 of the April, 1932, issue of this GAZETTE.

The 2,031,888 wholly unemployed included 755,029 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); 949,024 insured persons with applications for transitional payments; 197,916 insured persons not in receipt of insurance benefit or transitional payments; and 129,919 uninsured persons.

In Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the total number of persons on the Registers of Employment Exchanges at 25th April, 1932, was 2,712,355.

Mining and Quarrying.—Employment in the coal mining industry declined and was bad. There was an increase in short-time working in nearly all districts. The total number of wage-earners on the colliery books at 23rd April, 1932, showed a decrease of 1.0 per cent. as compared with 19th March, 1932, and of 4.6 per cent. as compared with 25th April, 1931. The average number of days worked per week in the fortnight ended 23rd April, 1932, was 4.61, a decrease of 0.27 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 19th March, 1932, and of 0.50 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 25th April, 1931.

In the iron mining industry employment showed little change and remained very bad. It was very bad also in the West Lothian shale mines. In the limestone quarries in the Cleveland area employment was bad; in the Clitheroe area it was fair. In the slate quarries in North Wales employment was fair, on the whole. At chalk quarries and at tin mines employment was very slack, and at china clay quarries it was slack. At the East of Scotland whinstone quarries employment showed a further decline and was very bad.

Pig Iron, Iron and Steel, and Tinplate.—In the pig-iron industry employment showed little change and remained very bad. The number of furnaces in blast at the end of April was 69, as compared with 72 at the end of March, and 78 at the end of April, 1931.

At iron and steel works employment showed some decline and was very bad. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed was 47.6 at 25th April, 1932, as compared with 46.7 at 21st March, 1932, and 45.1 at 27th April, 1931.

In the tinplate industry employment showed a decline and was very slack. There was a decline also in steel sheet manufacture, and employment was bad.

Engineering, Shipbuilding and Metal Industries.—Employment in engineering showed little general change and remained very bad. In electrical engineering there was a further slight improvement and employment was moderate. In constructional engineering it showed a decline and was very bad, and it remained very bad also, with little change, in general and textile engineering and in motor vehicle manufacture. In marine engineering the acute depression continued. In shipbuilding and ship-repairing employment showed little change and remained very depressed. Such fluctuations as occurred during the month were the result mainly of variations in the amount of repair work available.

In the other metal trades employment was still either moderate or slack, but showed a slight improvement in some sections. It was moderate in the hollow-ware, wire manufacturing, and needle and fishing tackle trades; and slack in the sheet metal, tube, brasswork, stove and grate, cutlery, metallic bedstead, chain and anchor, and jewellery and plated ware trades.

Textile Industries.—In the cotton industry employment showed some decline and was slack. There was a decline in the number of workers wholly unemployed, but an increase in the number temporarily stopped. Production was fairly well maintained in the spinning section, but in the manufacturing section the depression continued. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed was 24.9 at 25th April, 1932, as compared with 23.4 at 21st March, 1932, and with 38.2 at 27th April, 1931.

In the wool textile industry employment showed a decline, especially in the woollen section. In the spinning and combing departments of the worsted section employment was fairly good, in the weaving department it was moderate; in the woollen section employment was slack or moderate in all departments. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed was 18.0 at 25th April, 1932, as compared with 15.3 at 21st March, 1932, and with 25.7 at 27th April, 1931. In the carpet section employment continued fair on the whole.

Employment in the hosiery trade showed a decline, but was still moderate on the whole. In the lace industry it showed a slight decline, but was fairly good on the whole. In the silk and artificial silk industries there was little general change, and employment remained slack. In the linen industry it showed a slight decline and was very slack. In the jute industry there was a marked decline and employment was very bad. It declined also in the textile bleaching, printing, dyeing, etc., trades and was 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 a slight improvement but was still only moderate on the whole. In the dressmaking and millinery trades there was an improvement, and employment was fair. In the shirt and collar trade employment remained moderate, and in the corset and glove trades it was good. In the felt hat trade employment showed a decline and was moderate, much short time being worked.

In the boot and shoe industry employment showed little general change and remained slack on the whole. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed was 20.0 at 25th April, 1932, as compared with 20.5 at 21st March, 1932, and 18.4 at 27th April, 1931.

Leather Trades.—Employment in the leather trades showed a slight decline and was slack in all sections.

Building, Woodworking, etc.—In the building trades employment generally was very slack or bad, but showed a slight improvement, mainly due to seasonal activity in the painting and decorating section. As regards individual occupations employment was slack on the whole with painters and bad with each of the other classes of operatives; there was a slight improvement with carpenters, bricklayers and slaters, and a further substantial improvement with painters, while with masons, plasterers and plumbers it showed little change. In brick manufacture employment showed little change and remained very slack on the whole.

Employment in the furnishing trades showed little change and remained very slack; with millers and coachbuilders it declined slightly and was very slack.

Paper Manufacture, Printing and Bookbinding.—In the paper-making industry employment showed some decline, but was moderate on the whole. With letterpress printers employment showed little change and continued moderate on the average; it was again described as bad or slack at some of the larger centres, including London, Birmingham, Bristol, Leeds, Liverpool, Edinburgh and Glasgow; on the other hand it was reported as fair at a number of smaller towns. With electrotypers and stereotypers employment was moderate on the whole. With lithographic printers it remained slack. With lithographic artists employment was described as bad at Liverpool, slack in London, and generally slack to fair elsewhere. With bookbinders employment declined and was slack on the whole.

Pottery and Glass.—In the pottery industry employment in North Staffordshire showed a slight decline and was bad on the whole, with increased short-time working. At Bristol and at Worcester, however, employment showed a slight improvement, although short-time working continued in some departments at the latter centre. At Derby employment remained slack.

In the glass trades employment showed a slight decline and was very slack in all sections.

Fishing.—Employment with fishermen showed little change and was bad on the whole.

Dock Labourers and Seamen.—Employment with dock labourers showed a decline and was very slack; and it remained very slack, on the whole, with seamen.

SUMMARY OF EMPLOYERS' RETURNS.

In Tables which appear on subsequent pages of this GAZETTE detailed statistics bearing on the state of employment during April 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.

Table showing Workpeople included in the Returns for April, 1932, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month before, and Year before. Includes columns for Industry, Workpeople included in the Returns for April, 1932, Days Worked per week by Mines, Furnaces in Blast, Mills working, Shifts Worked (one week), and Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month before and Year before.

(b) OTHER INDUSTRIES.

Table showing Number of Workpeople Employed, Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before, and Year before. Includes columns for Industry, Week ended 23rd April, 1932, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before, Year before, Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople, £, Per cent., and Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before, Year before.

UNEMPLOYMENT SUMMARY BY DISTRICTS.

The following Table shows the variations in the rates of unemployment at 25th April, 1932, among insured persons in the respective divisions into which the country is divided for the purpose of the administration of the Unemployment Insurance Acts :-

Table showing Divisions, Estimated Numbers Insured at July, 1931, Percentage Unemployed at 25th April, 1932, and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Total Percentages as compared with a Month before, Year before. Includes columns for Divisions, Estimated Numbers Insured at July, 1931, Males, Females, Total, Percentage Unemployed at 25th April, 1932, and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Total Percentages as compared with a Month before, Year before.

UNEMPLOYMENT DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS.

The following Table shows, month by month from April, 1931, 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.

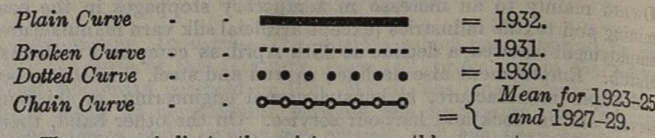
The percentages for each month have been calculated on the basis of the estimated numbers of insured persons at the end of the preceding June, no allowance having been made for the monthly increase in the insured population between June of one year and May of the following year.

Table showing Percentages Unemployed among Insured Workpeople, Numbers (Insured and Uninsured) registered at Employment Exchanges, etc. Includes columns for Date, Males, Females, Wholly Unemployed and Casuals, Temporarily stopped, Total, and Number.

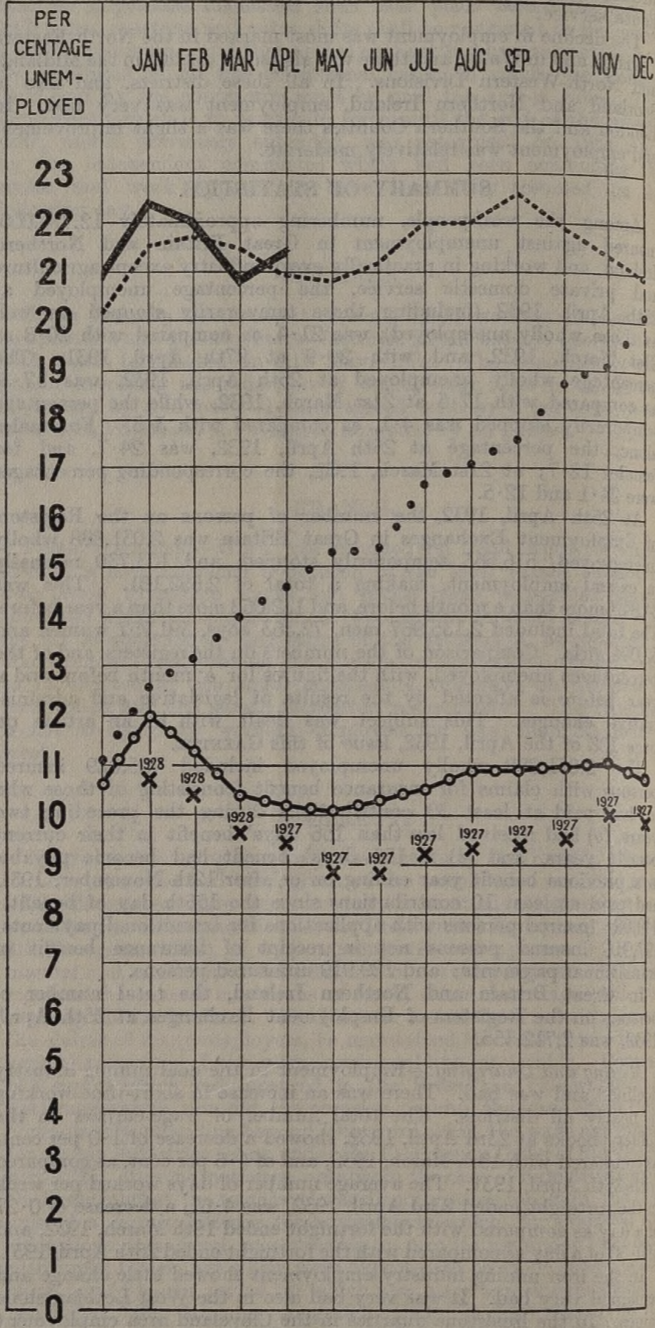
* Comparison of earnings is affected by reduction in rates of wages.

UNEMPLOYMENT CHART.

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



× The crosses indicate the minimum monthly percentages unemployed during the years 1923-25 and 1927-31. The maximum percentages in those years occurred in 1931.



NEW ENTRANTS INTO UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

APPLICATIONS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT BOOKS RECEIVED AT LOCAL OFFICES OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR IN GREAT BRITAIN DURING APRIL, 1932.

Table showing Area, Men, Boys, Women, Girls, Total, and Percentage of numbers Insured at July, 1931. Includes columns for Area, Men, Boys, Women, Girls, Total, and Percentage of numbers Insured at July, 1931.

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.

COAL MINING.

EMPLOYMENT during April continued bad, and showed a decline as compared with the previous month. This was due, in the main, to increased short-time working in nearly all districts.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 32.9 at 25th April, 1932, as compared with 26.9 at 21st March, 1932, and 26.1 at 27th April, 1931. The percentage wholly unemployed increased by 0.5 (from 19.4 to 19.9), and the percentage temporarily stopped by 5.5 (from 7.5 to 13.0).

The total number of wage earners on the colliery books at 23rd April, 1932, showed a decrease of 1.0 per cent. as compared with 19th March, 1932, and of 4.6 per cent. as compared with 25th April, 1931.

The average number of days worked per week* in the fortnight ended 23rd April, 1932, was 4.61, a decrease of 0.27 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 19th March, 1932, and of 0.50 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 25th April, 1931.

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 23rd April, 1932, 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.

Table showing Districts, Total Number of Wage Earners on Colliery Books at 23rd April, 1932, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month before, Year before, Average Number of Days worked per week* by the Mines, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month before, Year before. Includes columns for Districts, Total Number of Wage Earners on Colliery Books at 23rd April, 1932, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month before, Year before, Average Number of Days worked per week* by the Mines, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month before, Year before.

Table showing Area, Insured Persons Recorded as Unemployed at 25th April, 1932, Numbers, Percentages, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Total percentages as compared with a Month before, Year before. Includes columns for Area, Insured Persons Recorded as Unemployed at 25th April, 1932, Numbers, Percentages, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Total percentages as compared with a Month before, Year before.

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 5,079,500 tons in April, 1932, as compared with 4,474,300 tons in March, 1932, and with 5,022,900 tons in April, 1931.

IRON AND SHALE MINING.

IRON MINING.

EMPLOYMENT showed little change during April, and remained very bad. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, in the iron ore and ironstone mining industry was 40.2 at 25th April, 1932, as compared with 39.4 at 21st March, 1932, and 32.3 at 27th April, 1931.

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

Table showing Districts, Number of Workpeople employed at Mines included in the Returns, Average No. of Days worked per week by the Mines, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month before, Year before. Includes columns for Districts, Number of Workpeople employed at Mines included in the Returns, Average No. of Days worked per week by the Mines, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month before, Year before.

SHALE MINING.

The number of workpeople employed at the West Lothian mines during the fortnight ended 23rd April, 1932, by firms making returns was 1,607, showing an increase of 2.7 per cent., as compared with March, 1932, but a decrease of 36.2 per cent., as compared with April, 1931. The average number of days worked per week* by the mines making returns was 5.65 in April, 1932, as compared with 6.00 in March, 1932, and 5.93 in April, 1931.

* See footnote * in previous column.

* 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.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during April showed little change and remained very bad. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 41.8 at 25th April, 1932, as compared with 43.3 at 21st March, 1932, and 35.9 at 27th April, 1931.

According to information received from the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, 69 furnaces were in operation at the end of April, 1932, as compared with 72 at the end of March, 1932, and 78 at the end of April, 1931. In the case of 68 firms employing 9,873 workpeople at the end of April, 1932, the returns showed a decrease of 0.2 per cent. in the numbers employed compared with March, 1932, and a decrease of 12.4 per cent. compared with April, 1931.

The following Table shows the number of furnaces in operation at the end of April, 1932, March, 1932, and April, 1931:—

Table with columns: Districts, Total Number of Furnaces, Number of Furnaces in Blast (April 1932, Mar. 1932, April 1931), Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before, Year before.

The production of pig iron in April, 1932, amounted to 316,900 tons, compared with 335,600 tons in March, 1932, and 323,200 tons in April, 1931.

TINPLATE AND STEEL SHEET INDUSTRIES.

In the tinplate industry employment showed a decline and was very slack. In the week ended 23rd April, 1932, 348 mills were in operation at works for which information is available, as compared with 360 in the week ended 19th March, 1932, and with 300 in the week ended 25th April, 1931.

Table with columns: Works, Number of Works Open (Week ended 23rd April, 1932, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before, Year before), Number of Mills in Operation (Week ended 23rd April, 1932, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before, Year before).

The exports of tinned and galvanised plates and sheets in April, 1932, amounted to 75,521 tons, or 6,928 tons less than in March, 1932, but 15,529 tons more than in April, 1931.

IRON AND STEEL MANUFACTURE.

EMPLOYMENT during April showed a slight decline and continued very bad. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 47.6 at 25th April, 1932, as compared with 46.7 at 21st March, 1932, and 45.1 at 27th April, 1931.

At certain firms, employing 48,375 workpeople, from which returns were received for the week ended 23rd April, 1932, the volume of employment in that week (as indicated by the number of shifts * during which work was carried on in each department) decreased by 1.4 per cent. as compared with the week ended 19th March, 1932, but increased by 0.6 per cent. as compared with the week ended 25th April, 1931.

* 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 were open was 5.0 in the week ended 23rd April, 1932, compared with 5.1 in March, 1932, and 5.0 in April, 1931.

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

Table with columns: DEPARTMENTS, No. of Workpeople employed by Firms making returns (Week ended 23rd Apr., 1932, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month before, Year before), Aggregate number of Shifts* (Week ended 23rd Apr., 1932, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month before, Year before).

The production of steel ingots and castings, as shown in returns received from the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, amounted to 433,300 tons in April, 1932, as compared with 462,800 tons in March, 1932, and 397,400 tons in April, 1931.

SHIPBUILDING AND SHIP-REPAIRING.

EMPLOYMENT remained very bad during April, and showed little change compared with the previous month.

Such fluctuations as occurred during the month were the result, mainly, of variations in the amount of repair work available.

Compared with a year ago there was a decline in most districts.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, at 25th April, 1932, and the increase or decrease as compared with 21st March, 1932, and 27th April, 1931:—

Table with columns: Divisions, Total Number of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 25th April, 1932, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Numbers Unemployed as compared with a Month before, Year before, Percentage Unemployed at 25th April, 1932, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Percentage Unemployed as compared with a Month before, Year before.

ENGINEERING.

EMPLOYMENT during April showed little general change and remained very bad. In electrical engineering there was a further slight improvement and employment was moderate. In constructional engineering it showed a decline and was very bad, and it remained very bad also, with little change, in general and textile engineering and in motor vehicle manufacture.

In the industry as a whole employment was slightly worse than it was a year before, the greatest decline being in marine and constructional engineering.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, at 25th April, 1932, and the increase or decrease as compared with a month before and a year before:—

Table with columns: Division, Number of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 25th April, 1932, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Month before, Year before, Percentages Unemployed at 25th April, 1932.

On the North-East Coast employment in general and marine engineering remained very bad. It remained very bad also in Yorkshire and Lincolnshire, although the improvement previously reported was maintained at some of the principal Lincolnshire centres. In Lancashire and Cheshire employment in general engineering showed a decline, on the whole, and was very bad; in the textile section there was a further improvement at some centres, but employment generally was still very bad.

In Scotland there was a slight improvement in general engineering at some centres, but employment in that section and in marine engineering was still very bad. It remained very bad also in Wales and in Northern Ireland.

COTTON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT in April showed some decline as compared with the previous month, but was much better than in April, 1931.

There was a decline between 21st March and 25th April in the number of insured workers wholly unemployed, but an increase in the number temporarily stopped. Production during April was fairly well maintained in the spinning section; in the manufacturing section the depression continued.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 24.9 at 25th April, 1932, as compared with 23.4 at 21st March, 1932, and with 38.2 at 27th April, 1931.

At Ashton-under-Lyne a number of mills in the American spinning section were temporarily stopped, especially mule spinning mills on medium counts of yarns; ring spinners were also somewhat slack; in the doubling section there was a slight decline. At Stockport several of the larger spinning firms, and all the doubling mills, resorted to short time. At Glossop the general position showed no change; at Hyde there was still a considerable amount of short time; and at Stalybridge increased short time was reported both in the American and in the Egyptian spinning sections.

At Oldham employment in the spinning section remained bad; it was rather worse than in March, but better than a year ago; much short time was worked, and the volume of employment was only 58 per cent. of full capacity. In the manufacturing section employment continued bad, but in this section also it was better than a year ago; employment with operatives on velvets and fustians was bad or very bad, while in the heavy goods section it was fairly

good. At Middleton intermittent short time continued in the American spinning section, with full time in the Egyptian section. At Shaw irregular short-time working was in operation in the Egyptian spinning section, and there was much under-employment in the American section.

At Bolton, employment with spinners was below the level of March, and it continued slack with cardroom workers; on coarse weaving employment remained quiet, whilst on fine weaving it was reported as fair. The proportion of operative cotton spinners working less than half-time remained at about 30 per cent. At Bury, short time was general in the spinning department; in the weaving department the slight improvement reported last month was maintained. At Rochdale there was a slight decline.

At Preston much under-employment continued, and a large amount of machinery was idle. At Chorley the improvement of the previous three months was maintained; several mills in the town, however, which had been closed for more than a year, remained closed. At Blackburn the position was practically unchanged; it was reported, on 23rd April, that 59 mills were temporarily stopped. At Accrington there was little change. At Great Harwood there was a slight improvement in the weaving section. At Darwen employment remained very bad; 31 mills remained closed, exclusive of those which have been dismantled and the machinery scrapped; only about 13,000 looms out of a total of 37,500 were running in April; irregular time was still worked in the preparatory departments. At Burnley and Padiham there was little general change. At Colne, employment was still bad, but showed a further slight improvement. At Nelson, there was a slight decline, and the improvement reported last month was not fully maintained. In the Rossendale Valley employment was very bad, and worse than in March; various mills closed down for periods ranging from 3 days to 2 weeks, and, in addition, there was a large amount of under-employment among weavers and winders.

Employment in Yorkshire showed, on the whole, some improvement, particularly in the section spinning Egyptian cotton; at Todmorden and at Keighley employment was good, but at Sowerby Bridge there was a marked decline.

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

Table with columns: DEPARTMENTS, DISTRICTS, Number of Workpeople, Total Wages paid to all Workpeople, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on a Month before, Year before.

Returns from firms employing about 77,000 operatives in the week ended 23rd April, showed that nearly 11 per cent. of these operatives were on short time in that week, losing about 14 hours each on the average.

The following Table shows the number of men and of women (other than casuals) on the registers of 56 Employment Exchanges in the principal cotton trade centres in Lancashire at 25th April, 1932:—

Table with columns: Department, Numbers (excluding Casuals) on the Registers at 25th April, 1932, Wholly Unemployed, Temporarily Stopped, Total.

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 25th April, 1932 :-

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

The following Table shows the increases and decreases as compared with 21st March, 1932 :-

Table showing changes in wholly unemployed and temporarily stopped workers for various departments compared to March 21st, 1932.

The exports of boots and shoes in April, 1932, amounted to 101,610 dozen pairs, or 19,941 dozen pairs more than in March, 1932, and 16,978 dozen pairs more than in April, 1931.

POTTERY INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT in North Staffordshire showed a decline and was bad on the whole, with increased short-time working. At Bristol and at Worcester, however, employment showed a slight improvement, although short-time working continued in some departments at the latter centre.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 29.5 at 25th April, 1932, as compared with 29.1 at 21st March, 1932, and 33.8 at 27th April, 1931.

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

Table with columns: BRANCHES, DISTRICTS, and various employment statistics. Rows include China Manufacture, Earthenware Manufacture, etc.

Returns from employers relative to short-time working showed that, of 9,300 workpeople employed by firms making returns, 3,720, or 40 per cent., were working on an average 16 hours less than full time in the week ended 23rd April, 1932; the amount of overtime worked was very small.

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

BRICK INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during April showed little change, and remained very slack on the whole.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 21.9 at 25th April, 1932, the same as at 21st March, 1932, compared with 17.9 at 27th April, 1931.

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

Table with columns: Districts, Number of Workpeople, Total Wages paid to all Workpeople. Rows include Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire, etc.

Returns from employers relative to short-time working, exclusive of time lost on account of bad weather, showed that, of 7,664 workpeople employed by firms furnishing information, nearly 11 per cent. were working on an average about 1 1/2 hours less than full time in the week ended 23rd April, 1932; the amount of overtime worked was very small.

BUILDING.

EMPLOYMENT showed a slight improvement during April, mainly attributable to seasonal activity in the painting and decorating section. On the whole, employment was generally very slack or bad, although it was reported as fair or fairly good at a few centres, including Preston, Macclesfield, Oxford, and Southend-on-Sea.

As regards individual occupations employment was slack, on the whole, with painters, and bad with each of the other classes of operatives. During the month there was a slight improvement with carpenters, bricklayers and slaters, and a further substantial improvement with painters; it remained at about the same level with masons, plasterers and plumbers.

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 25th April, 1932, together with the increase or decrease as compared with the previous month and with April, 1931 :-

Table with columns: OCCUPATIONS, DIVISIONS, and employment statistics. Rows include Carpenters, Bricklayers, Masons, etc.

BUILDING PLANS APPROVED.

Returns from Local Authorities in 143 of the principal urban areas in Great Britain (except the London County Council area), with a total population of 17,397,000, show that in April, 1932, plans were passed for buildings of an estimated cost of £5,517,700, as compared with £5,389,900 in March, 1932 and £5,840,800 in April, 1931.

Of the total for April, 1932, dwelling-houses accounted for £3,939,500; factories and workshops for £215,400; shops, offices, warehouses and other business premises for £286,700; and other buildings, and additions and alterations to existing buildings, for £1,076,100.

PAPER MANUFACTURE, PRINTING, AND BOOKBINDING.

EMPLOYMENT in the paper making industry during April was moderate on the whole. It showed some decline compared with March, but was better than during April, 1931. Short time continued prevalent at a number of places, though full time was worked at some mills, where employment was reported as good.

Employment in the letterpress printing industry continued moderate generally, and showed little change compared with the previous month. It was again described as bad or slack at some of the larger centres, including London, Birmingham, Bristol, Leeds, Liverpool, Edinburgh and Glasgow.

Employment in the lithographic printing industry continued slack on the whole. It was reported as bad in London and at Birmingham and Liverpool, with a fair amount of short time at all three places. At some of the smaller towns employment was described as moderate, whilst at others it was fair or good.

In the bookbinding industry employment declined during the month, and on the whole was slack.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed in the paper and paper-board industries was 11.9 at 25th April, 1932, compared with 10.6 at 21st March, 1932, and 13.8 at 27th April, 1931.

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

Table with columns: No. of Members of Unions at end of April, 1932, Percentage Unemployed at end of April, 1932, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on a. Rows include Letterpress Printing, Lithographic Printing, etc.

SEAMEN.

EMPLOYMENT during April remained very slack on the whole. The supply of ratings was more than adequate for requirements at the majority of ports.

Among insured workpeople in the shipping service the percentage unemployed at 25th April, 1932, was 34.4, compared with 33.3 at 21st March, 1932, and 34.3 at 27th April, 1931.

The demand for men on the Thames declined until the last week, when there was a slight improvement, and conditions at the end of the month were quiet. On the Tyne the demand was slack throughout the month; on the Wear it improved during the first three weeks but declined in the last week, and at the end of April was quiet.

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

Table with columns: Principal Ports, Number of Seamen* shipped in April, 1932, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a, Four Months ended April, 1932, April, 1931. Rows include ENGLAND AND WALES, SCOTLAND, NORTHERN IRELAND.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

EMPLOYMENT was very slack in April, and rather worse than in March. Among insured workpeople in the dock, harbour, river and canal service, 35.6 per cent. were unemployed at 25th April, 1932, as compared with 34.1 per cent. at 21st March, 1932.

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

Table with columns: Period, Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London. Rows include Week ended, Average for 5 weeks, Average for Mar., 1932, Average for Apr., 1931.

Tilbury.—The average daily number of dock labourers employed during April was 738, compared with 731 in March, and with 866 in April, 1931.

East Coast.—Employment at most of the North East Coast ports remained slack. It was reported as moderate at Hull. It continued fair at Yarmouth, Lowestoft and King's Lynn, but declined and was slack at Ipswich.

Liverpool.—Employment remained bad. The average weekly number of dock labourers registered at the clearing-houses under the Liverpool Docks Scheme as employed in the four weeks ended 29th April, 1932, was 10,566, compared with 10,723 in March, 1932, and with 11,253 in April, 1931.

Other Ports in England and Wales.—Employment remained slack generally at the South Wales ports, but was fair with coal trimmers at Swansea. At Bristol employment was fair to quiet.

Scottish and Irish Ports.—Employment remained bad at Dundee, but showed some improvement at Glasgow, although still slack. At Leith it declined and was bad. At Belfast it remained fair.

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

Table with columns: INDUSTRY, ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AT JULY, 1931 (Males, Females, Total), PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED AT 25TH APRIL, 1932 (Wholly Unemployed, Temporary Stoppages, Total), INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN TOTAL PERCENTAGES AS COMPARED WITH (21st MAR., 1932, 27th APR., 1931, 28th APR., 1930), GREAT BRITAIN ONLY TOTAL PERCENTAGE AT 25TH APR., 1932.

* For 28th April, 1930, 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), PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED AT 25TH APRIL, 1932 (Wholly Unemployed, Temporary Stoppages, Total), INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN TOTAL PERCENTAGES AS COMPARED WITH (21st MAR., 1932, 27th APR., 1931, 28th APR., 1930), GREAT BRITAIN ONLY TOTAL PERCENTAGE AT 25TH APR., 1932.

* The percentages at each date have been calculated on the basis of the estimated numbers of insured persons at the end of the preceding June, no allowance having been made for the monthly changes in the insured population between June of one year and May of the following year.

NUMBERS OF INSURED WORKPEOPLE UNEMPLOYED. PROPORTIONS IN 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 25th April, 1932, differed from the figures for 21st March, 1932, to the extent of 1,000 or more.

Table with columns: Industry, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Numbers recorded as Unemployed at 25th April, 1932, as compared with 21st March, 1932 (Males, Females, Total).

COMPOSITION OF UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS: GREAT BRITAIN.

On page 182 an explanation is given of the unemployment statistics published in the Press, and in this GAZETTE. The following Table gives an analysis relating to the 25th April, 1932, of the composition of these statistics.

Table with 6 columns: Men, Boys, Women, Girls, Total. Rows include Claims admitted, Claims under consideration, Insured persons not entitled to benefit, etc.

NUMBERS ON THE REGISTERS OF EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES.*

ANALYSIS OF FIGURES FOR 25TH APRIL, AND FOR 21ST MARCH, 1932.†

Table with columns for 25th April, 1932, and 21st March, 1932. Rows include Persons normally in Regular Employment, Wholly Unemployed, etc.

VACANCIES NOTIFIED AND FILLED.

(GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.)

Table with columns for Period 29th December, 1931, to 25th April, 1932, and Period 22nd March, 1932, to 25th April, 1932. Rows include Applications from Employers, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a year before, etc.

* 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...

† "Vacancies Filled" includes certain types of cases (described as Class B placements) in which the work of the Exchanges was limited; for instance, obtaining for an employer former employees or placing the same men in relief work in alternate weeks...

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 25th April, 1932.

Large table with columns for Area, Number of Persons on Register at 25th April, 1932, and Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in total as compared with 21st Mar. or 27th Apr. 1931. Rows list various towns like London, Brighton, Plymouth, etc.

[Percentage rates of unemployment for each of 714 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 25TH APRIL, 1932.

Table with columns for Division, Boys (Insured, Uninsured, Total), Girls (Insured, Uninsured, Total). Rows list London, South-Western, Midlands, etc.

JUVENILES PLACED IN EMPLOYMENT. FIVE WEEKS ENDED 25TH APRIL, 1932.

Table with columns for Division, Number of Vacancies Filled (Boys, Girls, Total), and Juveniles placed in first situation since leaving School (Boys, Girls, Total).

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

Table with columns for Division, Estimated number insured at July, 1931, and Percentage Unemployed at 25th April, 1932 (Boys, Girls, Total).

JUVENILES IN ATTENDANCE AT APPROVED COURSES OF INSTRUCTION.

Table with columns for Division, Average daily attendance (Week ended 20th April, 1932, Month ended 20.4.32), Total No. of separate Individuals who have attended since 1st April, 1932.

There were 74 Junior Instruction Centres for boys, 27 for girls and 32 mixed Centres open in Great Britain during the week. In addition there were 14 Junior Instruction Classes for boys, 5 for girls and 3 mixed Classes.

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

PERIODS OF REGISTERED UNEMPLOYMENT.

ANALYSIS IN RESPECT OF PERSONS APPLYING FOR INSURANCE BENEFIT OR TRANSITIONAL PAYMENTS.

The following Table gives an analysis of persons applying for insurance benefit or transitional payments who were on the registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain at 25th April, 1932, according to the length of their last spell of registered unemployment.

Table with columns for Persons who had been on the Register (Less than 3 months, 3 months but less than 6 months, etc.) and Total. Rows include Men, Boys, Women, Girls.

PERCENTAGES.

Table with columns for Men, Boys, Women, Girls and percentages (52.6, 84.0, 66.0, 87.1, etc.).

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 25th April, 1932, 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...

In item 4 in the Table relating to adults, 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...

The Table shows that of the 1,608,596 wholly unemployed insured men on the registers at 25th April, 1932, there were 629,738 with claims to insurance benefit, and 865,226 with applications for transitional payments; while 113,632 were either not entitled to benefit or payments or had claims under consideration.

Among the 246,257 wholly unemployed insured women, 102,814 had claims for insurance benefit, 83,798 were applicants for transitional payments, and 59,645 were either not entitled to benefit or payments or had claims under consideration.

ADULTS.

Table with 4 columns: Section of Register, Men, Women, and 6 rows of insurance and transitional payment data.

JUVENILES.

Table with 4 columns: Section of Register, Boys, Girls, and 4 rows of insurance and transitional payment data.

APPLICATIONS FOR TRANSITIONAL PAYMENTS. DETERMINATIONS OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AUTHORITIES.

The following Table gives the number of determinations made by Public Assistance Authorities on applications submitted to them during the period 21st March to 2nd April, 1932, analysed so as to show separately the determinations given on initial applications on the one hand and renewed and revised determinations on the other—

Table with 7 columns: Nature of Determination, Initial Applications, Renewals and Revisions, and 6 rows of application statistics.

ADJUDICATIONS UNDER STATUTORY CONDITIONS FOR INSURANCE BENEFIT AND TRANSITIONAL PAYMENTS.

PERIOD 1ST TO 30TH APRIL, 1932, GREAT BRITAIN.

The following Table gives, for the period from 1st to 30th April, 1932, inclusive, an analysis of the decisions of Courts of Referees and of the Umpire on claims for insurance benefit and transitional payments, the number of cases disallowed by Insurance Officers under the trade dispute disqualification, and the number of appeals against such disallowances dealt with by Courts of Referees.

Table with 4 columns: Ground on which referred, Claims Allowed, Claims Disallowed, Total. Includes sections A, B, C, and D.

B.—Trade Dispute Cases.†

Table with 4 columns: Cases dealt with by Insurance Officers, Appeals against disallowances by Insurance Officers, and Total Appeals.

C.—Decisions by Umpire.‡

Table with 4 columns: Appeals by Insurance Officers, Appeals by Associations, Appeals by Claimants, and Total.

* In the case of juveniles the condition in question was the full first statutory condition, viz., the payment of 30 contributions in the preceding two years. For men and women the figures relate mainly to applications for transitional payments referred on the ground that less than 3 contributions had been paid in the past two years and less than 30 at any time.

CUMULATIVE FIGURES, 1ST JANUARY TO 30TH APRIL, 1932.

Table with 4 columns: Claims Allowed, Claims Disallowed, Total. Includes sections: Decisions of Courts of Referees, Trade Dispute Cases, Decisions by Umpire.

UNEMPLOYMENT FUND. GREAT BRITAIN.

The following Table shows, approximately, the income and expenditure of the Fund:—

Table with 4 columns: Five weeks ended 30th April, 1932, Four weeks ended 26th March, 1932, Four weeks ended 25th April, 1931, and Total.

* 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.

† The figures may include a number of test cases and the total number of individuals affected by such decisions may be considerably in excess of the figures shown in the Table.

‡ A detailed account of the Fund is presented to Parliament annually. (See House of Commons Paper No. 17 of 1932 for the period ended 31st March, 1931.)

§ The payment of Deficiency Grant by the Exchequer commenced in March, 1932, on the exhaustion of the statutory borrowing powers of the Fund; prior to this the deficiency of the Fund was met by Treasury advances, which accounted for the difference in March, 1932, between "Total Income" and "Total Expenditure."

** 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)

POOR RELIEF IN APRIL, 1932.

(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 April, 1932, in the forty-seven selected areas named below, was 693,083, or 0.1 per cent. more than in the previous month and 21.0 per cent. more than in April, 1931. The numbers relieved at these three dates were equivalent, respectively, to rates of 417, 416, and 345 per 10,000 of the population.

In the forty-three selected areas in England and Wales the number of persons relieved in April, 1932, was 575,980, an increase of 0.3 per cent. as compared with a month earlier and an increase of 20.7 per cent. as compared with April, 1931. In the four areas in Scotland the number relieved was 117,103, or 0.7 per cent. less than in the previous month but 22.3 per cent. more than in April, 1931.

Recipients of indoor relief in the forty-seven areas in April, 1932, numbered 100,472, or 2.4 per cent. less than in the previous month and 11.8 per cent. less than a year ago. Recipients of outdoor relief numbered 592,611, or 0.6 per cent. more than in the previous month and 29.1 per cent. more than in April, 1931.

Of the forty-seven areas, twenty-four showed increases in the number per 10,000 relieved in April, 1932, as compared with March, 1932, while eighteen showed decreases. In five areas there was no change. Compared with April, 1931, forty-six showed increases, including Sheffield (431 per 10,000), Norwich (189 per 10,000), Liverpool (186 per 10,000), Bristol (179 per 10,000), Manchester (176 per 10,000), West Ham (171 per 10,000), and Glasgow (161 per 10,000); while one (Edinburgh) showed a decrease.

Table with 5 columns: Indoor, Outdoor, Total, Rate per 10,000 of Population, and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with a Month ago. Year ago.

Table with 6 columns: County of London, and 5 columns of relief statistics for England and Wales.

Table with 6 columns: Total of the above-named County Boroughs, and 5 columns of relief statistics.

Table with 6 columns: Total, County of London and Selected County Boroughs, and 5 columns of relief statistics.

Table with 6 columns: Total for the above Scottish Burghs, and 5 columns of relief statistics.

Table with 6 columns: Total for above 47 areas in April, 1932, and 5 columns of relief statistics.

* The figures include dependants, but exclude persons in receipt of outdoor medical relief only and casuals. In England and Wales, rate-aided patients in mental hospitals, and, in Scotland, lunatics and mental defectives, are also excluded.

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

Rates of Wages.

In the industries covered by the Department's statistics* the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation in April in Great Britain and Northern Ireland resulted in an aggregate decrease of about £11,800 in the weekly full-time wages of 187,000 workpeople and in an increase of £450 in those of 7,000 workpeople.

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

Table with 5 columns: Group of Industries, Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by (Increases, Decreases), Estimated Amount of Change in Weekly Wages (£, £).

The largest bodies of workpeople affected by reductions in the textile group of industries consisted of bleaching, dyeing, finishing, etc., workers in Yorkshire, Lancashire and Scotland, whose wages were reduced by the operation of cost-of-living sliding-scales; in Yorkshire the reductions amounted to about 2 and 1 1/2 per cent. on the current rates of timeworkers and pieceworkers respectively, while in Lancashire and Scotland the reductions amounted to 11d. per week in the case of adult male workers and 7d. per week in that of adult female workers.

The reductions in the transport group applied chiefly to tramway and omnibus employees in various districts in Great Britain outside the Metropolitan area, the reductions amounting to 3/4d. per hour for those on rates over 54s. per week and 3/4d. per hour for those on rates over 47s. 6d. per week up to 54s.

In the other industrial groups the principal bodies of workpeople who sustained reductions in April included coal miners in Warwickshire, for whom there was a slight decrease in the percentage addition to basis rates (equivalent to less than 1 per cent. on current rates); men employed in the tube trade in Scotland, who had a bonus of 2s. per week withdrawn; and men employed by electrical contractors in England and Wales, whose wages were reduced by 1/4d. per hour.

rates fixed for certain classes of workpeople in the dressmaking and women's light clothing trade in Northern Ireland, and in those fixed for female workers 16 years of age and over in the cement making trade in Great Britain.

Of the estimated total decrease of £11,800 per week, £4,500 took effect under cost-of-living sliding-scales, £300 took effect under arrangements made by Conciliation Boards or Trade Boards, and the remaining sum was chiefly the result of direct negotiation between employers and workpeople, or of independent action on the part of employers.

Nearly the whole of the increase of £450 per week was the result of direct negotiation.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES REPORTED IN JANUARY—APRIL, 1932.

The following Table shows the number of workpeople in Great Britain and Northern Ireland affected by changes in rates of wages reported to the Department during the first four completed months of 1932, and the net aggregate amounts of such changes:—

Table with 5 columns: Group of Industries, Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by Net (Increases, Decreases), Estimated Net Amount of Change in Weekly Wages (£, £).

In the corresponding four months of 1931, there were net increases of £4,050 in the weekly full-time wages of about 77,000 workpeople, and net decreases of £181,000 in those of 1,706,000 workpeople.

Hours of Labour.

No important changes were reported in April.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING APRIL, 1932.

Main table with 5 columns: Industry, District, Date from which Change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of Change (Decreases in italics).

* The particulars of numbers affected and amount of change in weekly wages exclude changes affecting Government employees, agricultural labourers' shop assistants and clerks, for which classes the information available is not sufficient to form a basis for statistics.

† At three collieries where a lower percentage is payable the percentage was reduced by 1 per cent. to 42 per cent. at one colliery, and remained unaltered at 40 and 42 per cent. at the other two collieries respectively.

‡ The substance wage for adult able-bodied underground workers at the majority of the collieries remained unchanged at 8s. 3d. per day.

§ Under selling-price sliding-scale arrangements.

¶ This reduction is the second of two equal instalments of a total reduction of 20 per cent.—the first 10 per cent. having been withdrawn in January last.

‡ This decrease forms the second of three equal instalments of a total reduction of 10s. per week—the first having operated from 15th February whilst the third and final instalment is due to operate from 21st July.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING APRIL, 1932 (continued).

Main table with 5 columns: Industry, District, Date from which Change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of Change (Decreases in italics).

* The reduction is in accordance with the terms of a notice issued by the Yorkshire branch of the National Master Farriers' Association. No trade union was a party to the arrangement.

† The change took effect under agreements arrived at between certain non-federated firms and the Huddersfield and District Headers' and Twisters' Society, the Leeds and Huddersfield Cloth Pressers' Amalgamation, the National Union of Textile Workers, the Huddersfield and District Worsted and Woollen Wappers' Association, and the Yorkshire Association of Power Loom Overlookers.

‡ The change applied to workers employed by firms who are members of the Yorkshire Master Dyers' Committee (which includes, amongst others, the British Cotton and Wool Dyers' Association, Ltd. (Slubbing Section), the Leeds Dyers' and Finishers' Federation, the Yorkshire Indigo, Scarlet and Colour Dyers, Ltd., the Leeds and District Worsted Dyers' and Finishers' Association, Ltd., the Huddersfield and District Master Dyers' Association, and the West Riding of Yorkshire Master Slubbing Dyers' Association), the Bradford Dyers' Association, Ltd., and the Employers' Federation of Cotton Yarn Bleachers, Dyers and Sizers (certain firms).

§ In respect of the preceding pay period. ¶ A special temporary payment of 2s., 2s. 6d. or 3s. per week (according to basic rates) for men, and of 1s. per week for women, is made in addition in the case of timeworkers engaged in productive process work for which a system of collective piecework has not yet been introduced.

** The change applied to workers employed by firms who are members of the Federation of Calico Printers, the Employers' Federation of Dyers and Finishers, the Employers' Federation of Bleachers and the Employers' Federation of Cotton Yarn Bleachers, Dyers and Sizers (certain firms).

†† The above reduction took effect under a local agreement to which the National Joint Council for the Building Industry was not a party.

‡‡ The change applied mainly to workers employed by firms affiliated to the Scottish Building Contractors' Association.

§§ The change affected mainly workers employed by firms affiliated to the National Federated Electrical Association. The reduction was equivalent to 2 per cent. on the rates paid in April, 1931, leaving wages 31 per cent. below these rates, except in Grade A areas where the rate includes an increase of 5 per cent. on current rates granted in May, 1931.

¶¶ Grade A.—London district (within a 12-mile radius of Charing Cross) and Watford.

¶¶ Grade B.—Mersey district (including Liverpool, Birkenhead, and Wallasey), Chester, Shotton, and Wrexham, Southport, Manchester district (including Ashton, Atherton, Bolton, Bury, Dukinfield, Hyde, Leigh, Northwich, Oldham, Preston, Rochdale, Stockport, Warrington, and Wigan), South Wales and Monmouthshire (including Bargoed, Barry, Cardiff, Chepstow, Llanelli, Newport, Penarth and Swansea), Tyneside, Hartlepool, Sunderland, Stockton, Darlington, Middlesbrough, West Riding of Yorkshire districts (including Barnsley, Batley, Bradford, Castleford, Dewsbury, Doncaster, Halifax, Harrogate, Ilkley, Keighley, Leeds, Morley, Normanton, Pontefract, Selby, Shipley, Wakefield and York), Sheffield district, Hull, Birmingham, Coventry, Wolverhampton, Bristol, and Crews.

¶¶ Grade C.—Bath, Bournemouth, Brighton, Cambridge, Carlisle, Chatham, Crayford, Dartford, Devonport, Faversham, Gravesend, Hove, Luton, Maidstone, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Rochester, Sheerness, Sittingbourne, Southampton, Belfast, Londonderry, towns and districts (other than those already specified) in the Counties of Northumberland, Durham, Yorkshire, Lancashire, Cheshire, Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex and Hertfordshire (outside London Area), Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, Derbyshire, Northamptonshire, Staffordshire, Surrey and Middlesex (outside London Area), Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Berkshire, Oxfordshire, Huntingdonshire, and Cambridgeshire.

¶¶ Grade D.—Other towns and counties in England and Wales.

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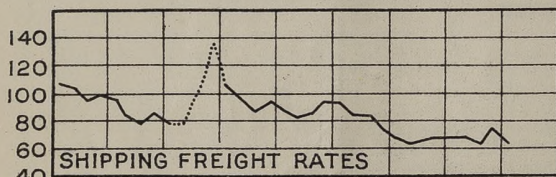
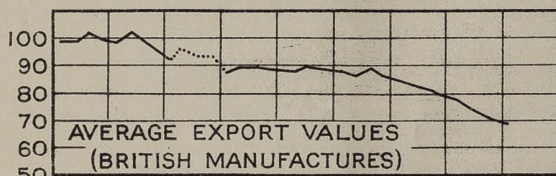
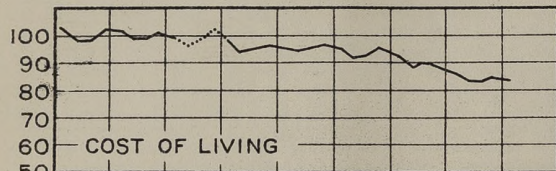
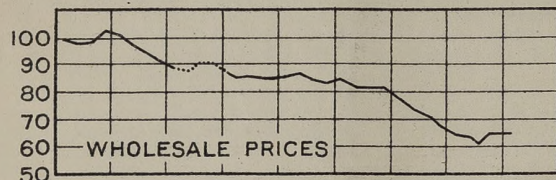
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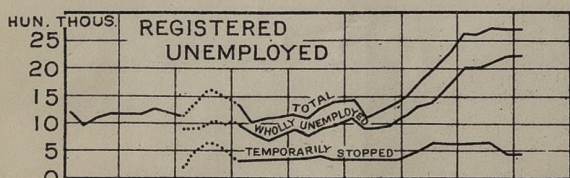
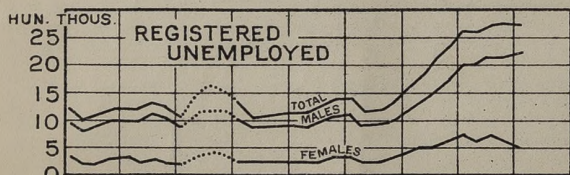
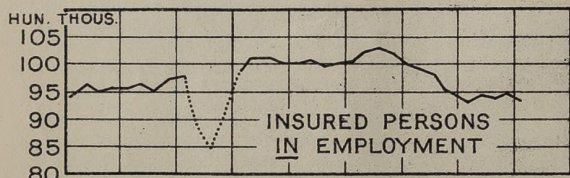
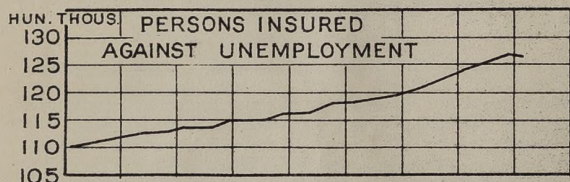
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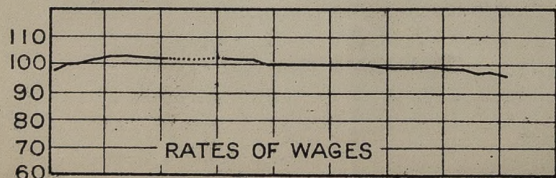
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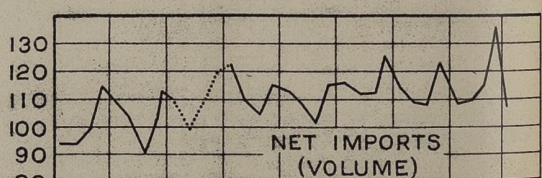
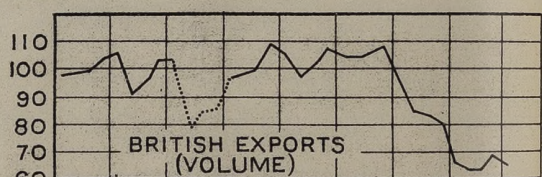
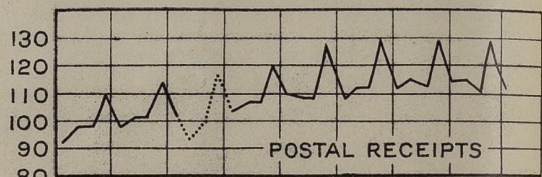
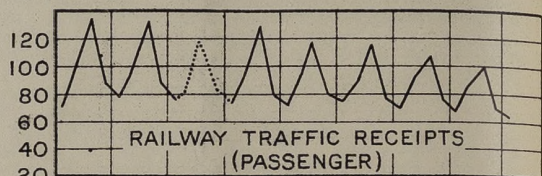
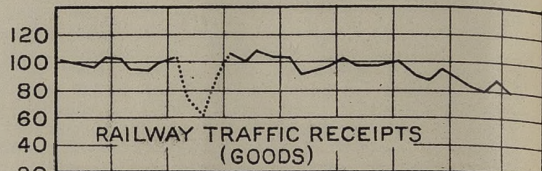
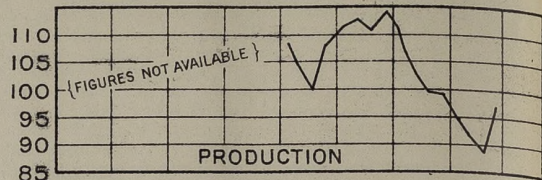
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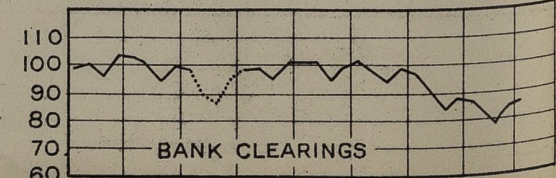
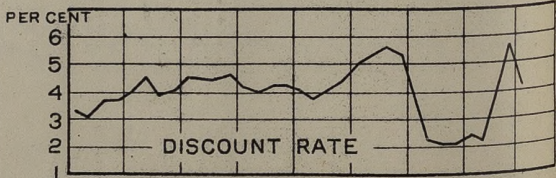
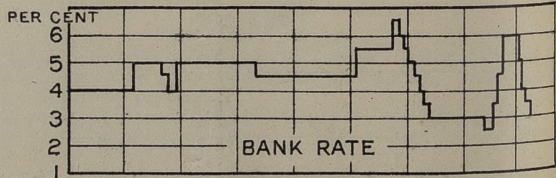
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PRODUCTION AND TRADE



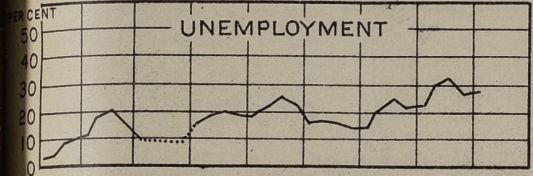
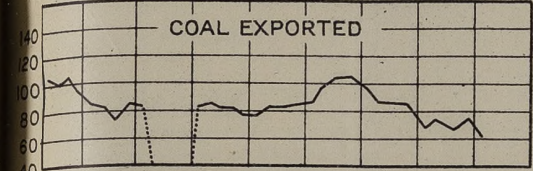
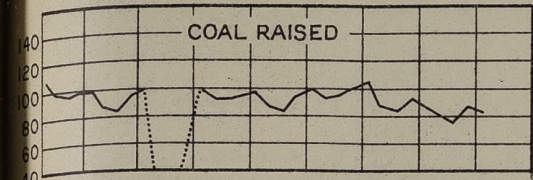
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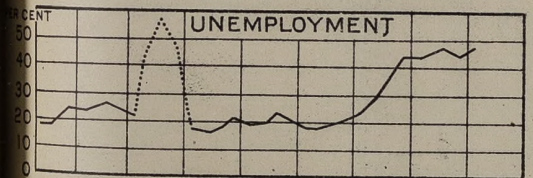
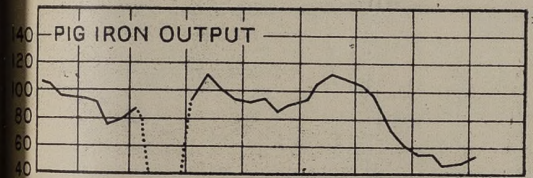
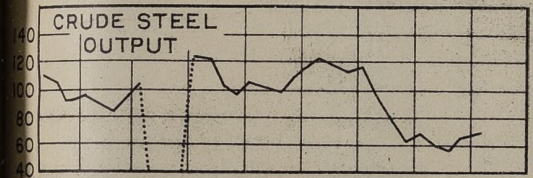
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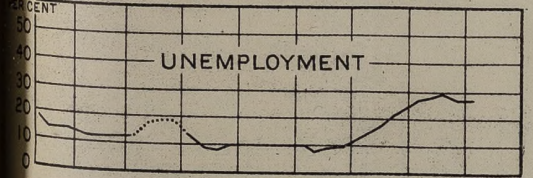
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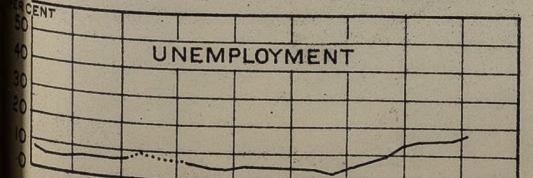
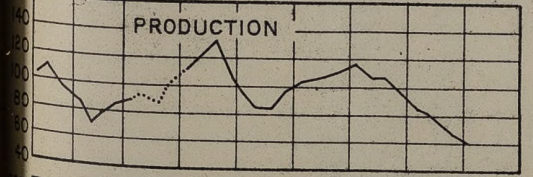
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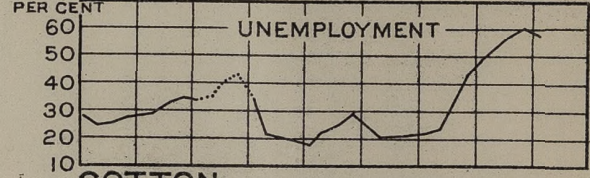
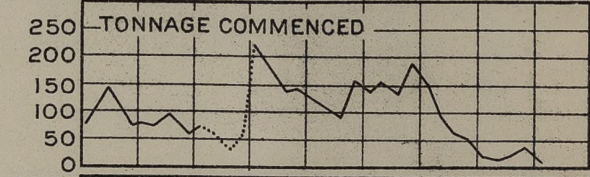
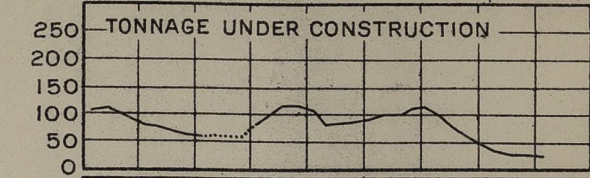
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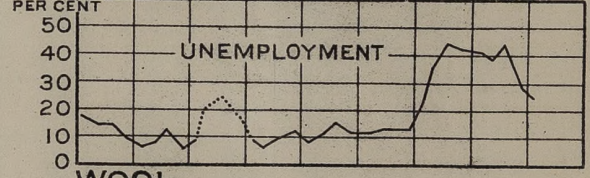
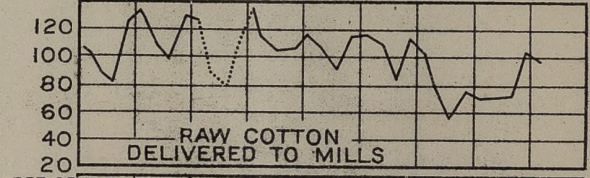
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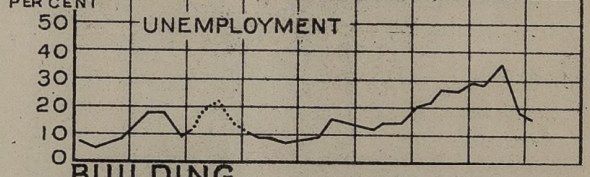
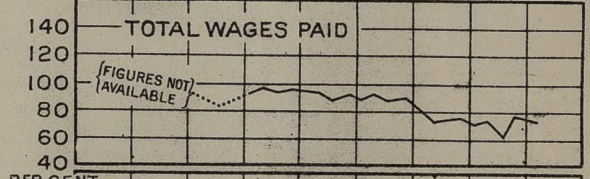
SHIPBUILDING



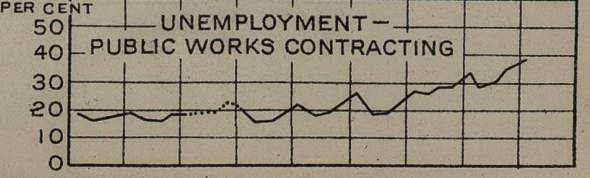
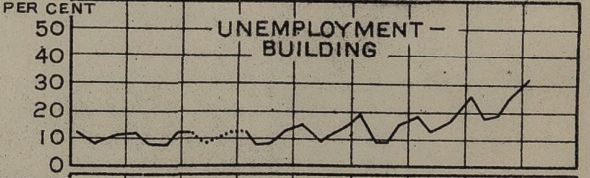
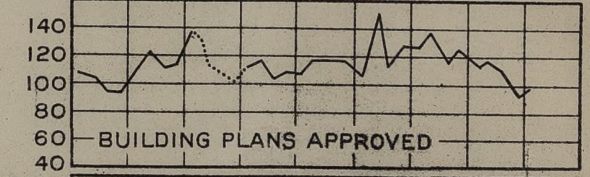
COTTON



WOOL



BUILDING



1924 1925 1926 1927 1928 1929 1930 1931 1932

