

THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

VOL. XXXIX.—No. 10.]

OCTOBER, 1931.

[PRICE SIXPENCE NET.]

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

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

EMPLOYMENT during September showed, on the whole, a further decline.

Among workpeople insured against unemployment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the percentage unemployed in all industries taken together was 23·2 at 21st September, 1931, as compared with 22·7 at 24th August, 1931, and 17·6 at 22nd September, 1930. For males alone the percentage at 21st September, 1931, was 24·3, and for females 20·4. At 24th August, 1931, the corresponding percentages were 23·7 and 20·0.

Insured Persons in Work in Great Britain.—It is estimated that on 21st September, 1931, there were approximately 9,326,000 insured persons aged 16 to 64 in work in Great Britain. This was 39,000* less than a month before, and 353,000* less than a year before.

Numbers Unemployed (excluding Persons normally in Casual Employment).—At 21st September, 1931, there were 2,044,482 persons on the Registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain who were out of a situation. This was 86,087 more than a month before, and 631,240 more than a year before. The total on 21st September, 1931, included 1,502,133 men, 62,148 boys, 430,855 women and 49,346 girls. It was made up approximately of 1,363,300 insured persons who had paid at least 30 contributions during the preceding two years, and therefore satisfied the full contributions condition for the receipt of unemployment benefit; 571,070 insured persons who had paid less than 30 contributions during the preceding two years; and 110,110 uninsured persons. The claimants for benefit, numbering 1,855,512, included 270,605 men, 6,518 boys, 59,168 women and 3,550 girls, who had been on the Register for less than one month.

Numbers Temporarily Stopped.—At 21st September, 1931, there were registered as unemployed in Great Britain 433,697 men, 14,451 boys, 194,529 women and 12,078 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 654,755 was 7,074 less than a month before, but 57,982 more than a year before.

Numbers Unemployed normally in Casual Employment.—At 21st September, 1931, there were on the Registers in Great Britain 109,885 men, 226 boys, 2,244 women and 23 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 112,378 was 1,180 less than a month before, but 12,735 more than a year before.

Industries in which Principal Variations occurred.—The decline in employment continued in the building trade, in public works contracting, and in the brick, tile, artificial stone and cement, glass, and iron and steel industries. Unemployment also increased in the engineering, paper, cotton, silk and artificial silk, and jute trades;

in textile bleaching and finishing, in the tailoring and distributive trades, and in shipping, hotel, restaurant and boarding-house services.

There was a further improvement in coal mining, and the numbers unemployed also decreased in the pottery, motor vehicle, wool textile, carpet, hosiery, and leather trades, and in dock and harbour 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 September, exclusive of those affecting boot and shoe operatives (as to which see below), resulted in an estimated decrease of £7,000 in the weekly full-time wages of 57,000 workpeople, and in an increase of £400 in those of 14,000 workpeople.

The principal bodies of workpeople whose wages were reduced during the month included electrical cable makers, chain makers and hollow-ware makers (under Trade Board Orders), blastfurnacemen in Cumberland, iron puddlers and millmen in the North-East Coast area and Scotland, woollen and worsted operatives employed by certain firms in Yorkshire, lace curtain makers in the Nottingham district and Scotland, and hosiery workers at Hawick. The principal increase affected coal miners in Warwickshire. In addition to the foregoing, a large number of workpeople in the boot and shoe manufacturing industry were affected by adjustments in piece rates of wages, the effect of which cannot at present be estimated.

COST OF LIVING.

During September there was very little change in the general level of working-class cost-of-living, and at 1st October 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 the same as at 1st September viz., 45 per cent. above that of July, 1914; the figure for food alone, 28 per cent. above pre-war, was also unchanged. The corresponding percentages a year ago were 56 and 43 respectively.

These statistics are designed to indicate the average increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the pre-war standard of living of working-class families. 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 September was 28. In addition, 12 disputes which began before September were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The number of workpeople involved in all disputes in September (including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes) was about 13,300, and the aggregate duration of all disputes in September was about 101,000 working days

* The figures for 24th August, 1931, and 22nd September, 1930, have been revised.

THE NATIONAL ECONOMY ACT, 1931.

The National Economy Act, 1931, received the Royal Assent on 30th September.*

The Act provides that, during the period of one month after its commencement, His Majesty may, in respect of the services specified in the schedule to the Act [viz., unemployment insurance, education, national health insurance, police, and roads], and in respect of the remuneration (otherwise than by way of pension accrued before the commencement of the Act) of persons in His Majesty's Service make such Orders in Council as appear to him to be expedient for the purposes of effecting economies in the expenditure falling to be defrayed out of the Consolidated Fund, out of moneys provided by Parliament, or out of any fund established by the enactments relating to the said services, and of effecting improvements in the arrangements for meeting such expenditure.

Among the measures which may be taken to effect such economies or improvements, the following are particularly specified:—

Alteration in the respective proportions in which expenditure in respect of any such service is to be defrayed out of any fund so established as aforesaid and out of moneys provided by Parliament.

Increasing the contributions to be made to the Unemployment Fund, and securing that, as from the date on which the Treasury cease to have power to make advances for the purpose of meeting deficiencies in that Fund, any such deficiency shall be met out of such moneys as may be provided by Parliament for that purpose.

The Act also provides that any Order in Council or regulations made under the Act shall, as from such date, not earlier than 1st October, 1931, as may be specified in the Order or regulations, have effect notwithstanding anything in any enactment.

Two Orders have been issued under this Act, the first dealing with the changes in the rates of unemployment insurance contribution and benefit, the second with "transitional" payments. The operative portion of the first Order is printed in full on pages 406-7 of this issue; the second Order (the text of which was received too late for inclusion in this issue) has been published in the series of Statutory Rules and Orders.†

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

REPORT OF ANOMALIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DRAFT REGULATIONS.

The Advisory Committee appointed under the Unemployment Insurance (No. 3) Act, 1931,‡ have presented their Report§ on draft Regulations submitted to them by the Minister of Labour.

Married Women.—The Report is mainly concerned with the regulation affecting married women. The regulation submitted by the Minister proposed that a married woman who fails to satisfy certain contribution tests since marriage should not be entitled to benefit unless (a) she is normally employed in insurable employment and will normally seek to obtain her livelihood by means of insurable employment, and unless (b), 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 Committee discuss the question whether it should be the intention to deprive of benefit married women who, because of prevailing trade depression, have no reasonable expectation of obtaining insurable employment in the district where they reside, or whether the restriction should be confined to those married women who have no reasonable expectation of obtaining insurable employment in the district where they reside because it is not the industrial practice in that district to employ married women. The Report sets out the arguments on both sides of this point, and finally leaves it, without a definite recommendation, to the decision of the Minister.

Seasonal Workers.—The Committee suggest certain alterations in the regulation proposed for seasonal workers. The proposed regulation was to the effect that a seasonal worker, if he claims benefit during the "off-season," should have to prove that, during each of the three preceding years, he had had substantial insurable employment during the "off-season," and that he can reasonably expect to obtain insurable employment for a substantial part of the "off-season." The Committee suggest that the requirement of employment during the "off-season" of the three preceding years is a higher test than necessary, and recommend the substitution of two years for three years. They also recommend an improved definition of the "off-season."

Other Classes.—With regard to the other two classes defined in the Act, namely, persons who normally work not more than two days a week, and persons who habitually work less than a full week, but, by the practice of the trade, receive earnings or similar payments of an amount greater than the normal full week's earnings in the same

* 21 and 22 Geo. 5, ch. 48. H.M. Stationery Office; price 1d. net (1½d. post free).

† The Unemployment Insurance (National Economy) (No. 2) Order, 1931. Statutory Rules and Orders, 1931, No. 853. H.M. Stationery Office; price 2d. (2½d. post free).

‡ See the issues of this GAZETTE for August, 1931, page 296, and for September, page 335.

§ Unemployment Insurance (No. 3) Act, 1931: Report of the Advisory Committee on Draft Regulations. H.C. 150. H.M. Stationery Office; price 2d. net (2½d. post free).

occupation in the district, the Committee take no exception to the regulations proposed by the Minister; but they point out that very few persons will be affected by the former of these two classes, and express doubt whether any persons will be found in the latter class.

The Minister, since receiving the Report, has made the regulations, incorporating the Committee's recommendations.* They are printed in full on page 407.

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS IN EMPLOYMENT IN GREAT BRITAIN, 1928-31.

In the issue of this GAZETTE for July, 1931 (page 254), a statement was published giving for the period July, 1928, to June, 1931, estimates of the numbers of insured persons in employment in Great Britain. In the following Table the series is continued to September, 1931. The figures in col. 6 have been obtained by deducting from the total estimated numbers insured, the average numbers recorded as unemployed and the numbers directly involved in trade disputes, together with an allowance of 3½ per cent. of the numbers insured in respect of absences from work through sickness and other forms of unrecorded non-employment other than "recognised" holidays.

The figures previously published, for July, 1930, to June, 1931, have been revised.

(1)	Estimated Total Insured, Aged 16-64.	Number Unemployed.	Number not Recorded as Unemployed.	Estimated Number in Employment after Allowance for Sickness, etc.:	
				(A) Including Persons directly involved in Trade Disputes:	(B) Excluding such Persons.
	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1928.					
July-Sept. ...	11,694	1,317	10,377	9,968	9,966
Oct.-Dec. ...	11,750	1,351	10,399	9,987	9,985
1929.					
Jan.-Mar. ...	11,786	1,333	10,453	10,040	10,032
Apr.-June ...	11,822	1,138	10,684	10,270	10,265
July-Sept. ...	11,870	1,156	10,714	10,299	10,297
Oct.-Dec. ...	11,923	1,269	10,654	10,236	10,233
1930.					
Jan.-Mar. ...	11,995	1,552	10,443	10,023	10,021
Apr.-June ...	12,115	1,784	10,331	9,907	9,868
July-Sept. ...	12,197	2,056	10,141	9,714	9,712
Oct.-Dec. ...	12,290	2,317	9,973	9,543	9,540
1931.					
Jan.-Mar. ...	12,380	2,595	9,785	9,352	9,308
Apr.-June ...	12,467	2,550	9,917	9,480	9,474
July-Sept. ...	12,550	2,758	9,792	9,353	9,342
July ...	12,525	2,732	9,793	9,354	9,353
August ...	12,550	2,738	9,812	9,373	9,365
September ...	12,575	2,804	9,771	9,331	9,326

Index Numbers. Average 1924 = 100.

1928.					
July-Sept. ...	105.6	115.8	104.2	104.4	104.8
Oct.-Dec. ...	106.1	118.8	104.6	104.6	105.0
1929.					
Jan.-Mar. ...	106.5	117.2	105.2	105.2	105.4
Apr.-June ...	106.8	100.1	107.5	107.6	107.9
July-Sept. ...	107.2	101.7	107.8	107.9	108.2
Oct.-Dec. ...	107.7	111.6	107.2	107.2	107.6
1930.					
Jan.-March ...	108.3	136.5	105.1	105.0	105.3
Apr.-June ...	109.4	156.9	104.0	103.8	103.7
July-Sept. ...	110.2	180.8	102.1	101.7	102.1
Oct.-Dec. ...	111.0	203.8	100.4	99.9	100.3
1931.					
Jan.-Mar. ...	111.8	228.2	98.5	97.9	97.8
Apr.-June ...	112.6	224.3	99.8	99.3	99.6
July-Sept. ...	113.3	242.6	98.6	98.0	98.2
July ...	113.1	240.3	98.6	98.0	98.1
August ...	113.3	240.8	98.8	98.2	98.4
September ...	113.6	246.6	98.3	97.7	98.0

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PORT EMPLOYMENT.

In accordance with recommendations contained in the Report of the Committee of Inquiry on Port Labour,† the National Joint Council for Dock Labour has appointed a Standing Advisory Committee on Port Employment, representative of the employers' and workpeople's organisations, to encourage and assist in the development of measures calculated to regularise port employment.

All communications should be addressed to Mr. L. G. Bullock, Secretary of the Committee (Queen Anne's Chambers, Broadway, London, S.W. 1).

* Statutory Rules and Orders, 1931, No. 818. H.M. Stationery Office; price 1d. (1½d. post free).

† Port Labour Inquiry Report. H.M. Stationery Office; price 1s. 6d. net (1s. 8d. post free).

MEMBERSHIP OF TRADE UNIONS AND TRADE UNION FEDERATIONS.

TRADE UNIONS.

On page 405 statistical Tables are given showing the number and membership of Trade Unions in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at the end of 1930. Unions having their head offices in the Irish Free State or overseas, and the memberships of such Unions, are excluded from the statistics.

The statistics are compiled from returns collected by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies, and by the Registrar of Friendly Societies for Northern Ireland, from Trade Unions registered under the Trade Union Acts, and by the Ministry of Labour from unregistered Unions. They relate to all organisations of employees—including those of salaried and professional workers, as well as those of manual wage earners—which are known to include among their functions that of negotiating with employers with the object of regulating the conditions of employment of their members.

Number of Unions in 1930* in comparison with 1929.

The total number of such Unions known to have been in existence at the end of 1930 was 1,098, as compared with 1,113 at the end of 1929. The number of Unions dissolved in 1930, so far as reported, was 7, with an aggregate membership of 1,000 at the end of 1929; 28 Unions, with an aggregate membership of 23,000 at the end of 1929, amalgamated with other Unions; while 20 new Unions, with a total membership of 10,000, were reported as formed during the year. Of the total of 1,098 Unions at the end of 1930, twenty had their headquarters in Northern Ireland.

Membership in 1930* in comparison with 1929.

The total membership at the end of 1930 was approximately 4,825,000, as compared with 4,839,000 at the end of 1929, a decrease of 14,000, or 0.3 per cent. The number of males was 4,034,000, a decrease of 8,000, or 0.2 per cent., as compared with the previous year; and the number of females was 791,000, a decrease of 6,000, or 0.8 per cent.

The total of 4,825,000 includes about 31,000 members in Irish Free State branches, and about 27,000 in overseas branches of certain Unions (compared with 30,000 in Irish Free State branches and with 28,000 in overseas branches in the previous year). It also includes a certain number of persons who are members of more than one Society, and are therefore counted more than once in the figures; but the amount of such duplication is believed to be so small that it may be regarded as negligible. The net membership in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was thus about 4,767,000 at the end of 1930, compared with about 4,781,000 at the end of 1929. Of this total approximately 75,000 was the membership of Unions or branches of Unions in Northern Ireland.

Distribution of Membership in 1930.

The distribution of the male, female, and total membership of all Unions at the end of 1930 is given in detail in Tables on page 405. The manufacturing industries groups represented 40 per cent. of the total membership at the end of 1930; and of these the metal groups, with 601,000 members, and the textile groups, with 560,000 members, together accounted for 24 per cent. of the total membership of all Unions. Railway service (448,000 members), and other transport and general labour (851,000), accounted for 27 per cent., and mining and quarrying (612,000) for 13 per cent. Other groups with large membership were government (378,000), commerce, distribution and finance (248,000), and teaching (227,000). Of the female membership of all Unions, 58 per cent. was in the textile and teaching groups.

Changes in Distribution of Membership, 1929-1930.

Table I on page 405 shows that, of the 32 groups under which the Unions have been classified, there was a decrease in the total membership in 19 groups and an increase in 12 groups, one group showing no change. The largest changes in membership were a decrease of 31,000 in the textile groups and an increase of 29,000 in the railway service group.

Comparison with 1913 and with 1920.

The second of the detailed Tables given on page 405 shows the total membership (also subdivided into male and female) in each of the main groups of Unions at the end of 1913 and of 1920, 1928, 1929 and 1930. In comparison with 1920, the year in which Trade Union membership reached its highest point, the total membership at the end of 1930 had fallen by 3,514,000, or 42 per cent. Compared with 1913, the total membership showed an increase of 690,000, or 14 per cent.

The total female membership in 1930 had decreased by 41 per cent. as compared with 1920. It was, however, 83 per cent. greater than in 1913, notwithstanding that the group with the largest number of female members, viz., cotton, showed little increase.

Totals for 1892-1930.

The following Table shows the total number of Unions known to have been in existence in Great Britain and Northern Ireland in each year from 1892 to 1930, and their aggregate membership

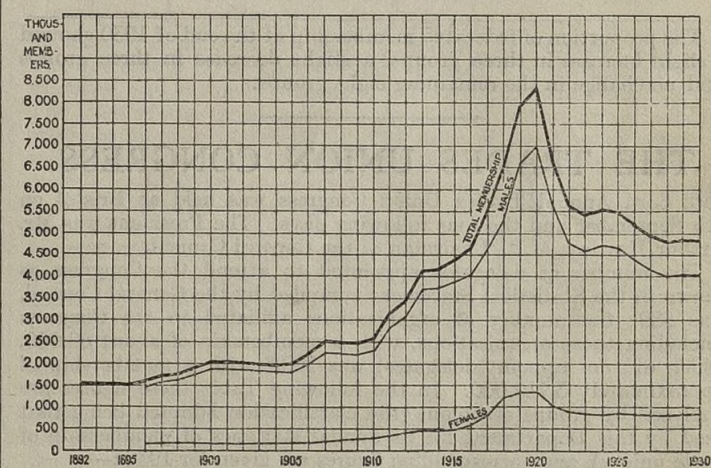
* The figures for 1930 are provisional and may be subject to slight revision when further information is available. The figures for earlier years have been revised as necessary in accordance with the latest information. The subdivision of the total membership into male and female is not exact, as estimates have been made for some Trade Unions which are unable to state precisely the numbers of males and of females comprised within their membership.

to the nearest thousand. The figures of membership include members in Irish Free State and overseas branches of such Unions.

Year.	Number of Trade Unions at end of Year.	Membership at end of Year.			Percentage Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on Total Membership of previous Year.
		Males.	Females.	Total.	
1892...	1,233	1,576	1,576	1,576	—
1893...	1,279	1,559	1,559	1,559	+ 1.1
1894...	1,314	1,530	1,530	1,530	- 1.9
1895...	1,340	1,504	1,504	1,504	- 1.7
1896...	1,358	1,466	142	1,608	+ 7.0
1897...	1,353	1,584	147	1,731	+ 7.6
1898...	1,326	1,608	144	1,752	+ 1.3
1899...	1,325	1,761	150	1,911	+ 9.1
1900...	1,323	1,868	154	2,022	+ 5.8
1901...	1,322	1,873	152	2,025	+ 0.1
1902...	1,297	1,857	156	2,013	- 0.6
1903...	1,285	1,838	156	1,994	- 1.0
1904...	1,254	1,802	155	1,957	- 1.8
1905...	1,244	1,817	180	1,997	+ 1.6
1906...	1,282	1,999	211	2,210	+ 10.7
1907...	1,283	2,263	250	2,513	+ 13.7
1908...	1,268	2,230	255	2,485	- 1.1
1909...	1,260	2,214	263	2,477	- 0.3
1910...	1,269	2,287	278	2,565	+ 3.5
1911...	1,290	2,804	335	3,139	+ 23.4
1912...	1,252	3,026	390	3,416	+ 8.8
1913...	1,269	3,702	433	4,135	+ 21.0
1914...	1,260	3,708	437	4,145	+ 0.3
1915...	1,229	3,868	491	4,359	+ 5.2
1916...	1,225	4,018	626	4,644	+ 6.5
1917...	1,241	4,621	878	5,499	+ 18.4
1918...	1,264	5,324	1,209	6,533	+ 19.8
1919...	1,360	6,600	1,326	7,926	+ 21.3
1920...	1,368	6,998	1,341	8,339	+ 5.2
1921...	1,258	5,620	1,004	6,624	- 20.6
1922...	1,213	4,745	871	5,616	- 15.2
1923...	1,173	4,601	820	5,421	- 3.5
1924...	1,173	4,723	812	5,535	+ 2.1
1925...	1,156	4,663	834	5,497	- 0.7
1926...	1,143	4,398	811	5,209	- 5.2
1927...	1,137	4,115	793	4,908	- 3.8
1928...	1,123	4,001	791	4,792	- 2.3
1929...	1,113	4,042	797	4,839	+ 1.0
1930...	1,098	4,034	791	4,825	- 0.3

A considerable part of the reduction in the total number of Trade Unions in recent years has been due to amalgamations of Unions among themselves. Since the end of 1920 there has been a net decrease of 270 in the number of Unions. The total reduction due to amalgamations during this period was 230, and that due to dissolutions was 326; while 286 new Unions were formed (other than by amalgamation of existing Unions). In the year 1930, as stated above, the net reduction was 15.

The movement of the membership figures in the above Table is shown graphically below:—



FEDERATIONS OF TRADE UNIONS.

At the end of 1930 the gross total membership of Federations of Trade Unions in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as shown by returns furnished to the Ministry of Labour, was about 3,263,000. Corresponding figures are given below for the end of each year since 1913:—

Year.	Number of Federations.	Approximate Gross Total Membership.	Year.	Number of Federations.	Approximate Gross Total Membership.
1913	125	4,370,000	1922	95	6,236,000
1914	137	4,730,000	1923	92	5,585,000
1915	148	4,943,000	1924	90	4,441,000*
1916	163	4,980,000	1925	82	4,193,000
1917	182	6,481,000	1926	82	3,901,000
1918	152	8,631,000	1927	79	3,438,000
1919	134	9,836,000	1928	75	3,327,000
1920	116	10,747,000	1929	77	3,267,000
1921	105	8,622,000	1930	75	3,263,000

the total number or membership of Federations. The reduction in the number of Federations during 1918-23 was largely the result of amalgamations.

At the end of 1930 the largest Federations were the Miners' Federation of Great Britain, representing an affiliated membership of 527,000, and the General Federation of Trade Unions, which included 94 organisations in various industries, paying fees on a membership of 515,000. Other large Federations were the Federation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades; the Northern Counties Textile Trades Federation and the United Textile Factory Workers' Association (representing the cotton industry); the National Association of Unions in the Textile Trade (representing the other textile industries); the Printing and Kindred Trades Federation; and the National Federation of Building Trades Operatives.

In many instances Trade Unions, or branches of Trade Unions, are affiliated to more than one Federation, and therefore a large number of Trade Union members are counted more than once in the gross membership given above. In the following Table the actual or estimated federated membership of each federated Trade Union is counted once only, irrespective of the number of Federations to which the Trade Union was affiliated. The Table shows for the years 1929 and 1930: (a) the total membership (to the nearest thousand) of the Trade Unions in each group; (b) the net federated membership (whether of Trade Unions or of sections or branches of Trade Unions); and (c) the percentage proportion of (b) to (a).

Group of Trade Unions.	Total Membership of Trade Unions (000's omitted.)		Net Federated Membership of Trade Unions affiliated to Federations. (000's omitted.)		Percentage Proportion of Federated Membership to Total Membership.	
	1929.	1930.	1929.	1930.	1929.	1930.
Agriculture, Horticulture, etc. ...	35	35	...	...	...	...
Mining and Quarrying ...	625	612	578	567	93	93
Metals, Machines, Conveyances, etc. ...	613	601	185	185	30	31
Textile ...	591	559	552	509	93	91
Clothing (including Boot and Shoe) ...	159	159	19	18	12	11
Woodworking and Furniture Manufacture ...	65	64	48	47	73	73
Paper, Printing, etc. ...	184	187	175	178	95	95
Building ...	310	306	217	215	70	70
Railway Service ...	419	449	55	60	13	13
Other Transport and General Labour ...	862	851	104	118	12	14
Commerce, Finance, etc. ...	239	248	46	46	19	19
National and Local Government ...	367	378	121	121	33	32
Teaching ...	219	227	...	...	...	...
Miscellaneous ...	151	149	43	46	29	31
Totals ...	4,839	4,825	2,143	2,110	44	44

The proportion of federated membership at the end of 1930 showed a slight increase in three groups, a slight decrease in three groups and no change in the remaining eight groups.

THE TRADES UNION CONGRESS.

The 63rd Annual Trades Union Congress was held at Bristol on 7th September and the four following days. The President was Mr. Arthur Hayday, M.P., Chairman of the General Council.

The number of delegates appointed to attend the Congress, as shown in the Statistical Statement compiled by the General Council, was 589; the number of organisations affiliated to the Congress (including those organisations, with a membership of about 82,000, which did not appoint delegates) was 169,* with a membership of approximately 3,719,000. In the following Table these figures are analysed by groups of unions (the classification adopted being that used by this Department for its annual statistics of membership of trade unions), and corresponding figures are given for 1930:—

Group of Organisations.	1930.			1931.		
	Number of Organisations.	Number of Delegates.	Number of Members.	Number of Organisations.	Number of Delegates.	Number of Members.
Agriculture ...	1	4	30,000	1	4	30,000
Mining and Quarrying ...	8	128	629,025	8	117	628,541
Metals, Machines, Conveyances, etc. ...	49	78	507,640	49	71	498,946
Textile ...	29*	105	460,222	28*	100	431,979
Clothing ...	8	29	154,881	8	30	149,206
Woodworking and Furniture ...	8	11	58,376	8	10	58,886
Paper, Printing, etc. ...	12	29	140,925	14	30	150,898
Building, Public Works Contracting, etc. ...	9	29	288,300	8	26	276,660
Food, Pottery and Other Manufacturing Industries ...	14	14	43,573	14	14	48,200
Railway Service ...	3	23	411,505	3	25	427,698
Other Transport and General Labour ...	6	117	764,531	6	123	755,871
Commerce, Distrib'n, Finance ...	8	26	187,358	8	26	195,532
Government, Nat'l and Local ...	6	10	32,249	6	10	34,628
Entertainments, Sport and Miscellaneous ...	8	3	35,735	8	3	32,356
TOTALS ...	169*	606	3,744,320	169*	589	3,719,401

The figures of trade union membership represented at the Congress show little general change in comparison with those of the previous

Congress; the most considerable changes in the group figures are a decrease of 28,243 (or 6 per cent.) in the textile group, and an increase of 16,193 (or 4 per cent.) in the railway service group.

The ordinary work of the Congress was overshadowed by the financial and political situation, to which the President's opening address was largely devoted.

The principal ordinary business of the Congress was the consideration of the General Council's Report, a document of 240 pages, covering their work during the preceding twelve months; also of the agenda, containing resolutions, and amendments thereto, on various labour questions. The resolutions sent in by affiliated trade unions numbered 49, and the amendments twelve; but seven of the resolutions were withdrawn, and seven others were merged in composite resolutions. The General Council themselves also put forward one resolution. The method by which the Congress deals with its ordinary business is to take the General Council's Report item by item, and to consider concurrently therewith any resolutions bearing on the same subjects.

The General Council also submitted a special supplementary Report on the financial situation of August, 1931. The Report deals with the financial and political situation, and with the negotiations which took place between the General Council and the late Government; it also sets out what the General Council believe to be the definite problems in the country's economic situation. These difficulties they believe to be due to the failure of industry to adapt itself to the new conditions, to the unsound monetary policy pursued by successive Governments, and to the reparations and war debts settlements. The remedies the Council suggest are the cessation of the deflation policy, the reconstruction of basic industries on modern lines as public utility services, and an international policy aiming at world peace and the revision of international debts and reparations. They further urge the raising of the world level of wholesale prices. They suggest that the weakness of the exchanges is due to the lack of balance between our imports and exports. They strenuously oppose wage reductions as a remedy for the situation, and advocate "devaluation." They pronounce no opinion upon the question of a revenue tariff, but recommend that a full investigation should forthwith be made into the whole question of fiscal policy, and that a report should be submitted later to a special conference of trade union executives.

The General Council's resolution (referred to above) advocated a policy of planned economic development. Its terms were as follows:—

"This Congress, being in accord with the traditional policy of the trade union movement, welcomes the present tendency towards a planned and regulated economy in our national life.

"Having regard to the seriousness of the economic situation, Congress expresses the view that only by a comprehensive planning of our economic development and regulated trading relations can the needs of the present day be met.

"Congress therefore instructs the General Council boldly to advance this policy both nationally and internationally, keeping in mind that, in order to maintain and improve the standard of living, the people as consumers must be protected from exploitation by public control and regulation."

This was carried on a card vote, after discussion, by 2,866,000 votes to 749,000.

A comprehensive resolution was submitted by the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation calling attention to the national importance of the iron and steel industry, and declaring that, owing to the conflicting interests of private enterprise, it is necessary to bring the industry within the control of a public utility corporation. Some opposition was raised to one paragraph in the resolution, which read as follows:—"The Central Board would act for the industry as a whole in formulating agreements with other countries in regard to inter-trading relations, and would have authority to regulate, restrict, or prohibit imports if the nature of the competition and other circumstances justified that course, and to fix prices of iron and steel in the home market, with due regard to the necessity of stimulating the activities of important using trades." This was interpreted by some delegates as a plea for a tariff. The resolution was, however, carried by 1,794,000 votes to 1,434,000. An attempt was made to amend the resolution so as to make representation of trade unions having membership in the industry obligatory on any authorities set up; but this was defeated.

Another resolution, urging that transport should be organised under a national authority, was moved by Mr. Bromley, M.P., of the Locomotive Engineers' and Firemen's Union. The resolution was seconded, by Mr. Walkden, M.P., of the Railway Clerks' Association, and carried unanimously.

A resolution was submitted by the Transport and General Workers' Union calling upon the Government to make provision that the workers, through their trade union representatives, should have adequate and direct share in the control and administration of industries and services transferred from private to public ownership or control. Some discussion arose on this, it being felt that, while the proposal should be accepted in principle, the General Council, rather than trade unions directly concerned, were more suited to decide upon the best type of representative. The resolution was accepted in principle, and its practical application was referred to the General Council.

A resolution protesting against the institution of Training Centres for the unemployed, when the trades concerned are already suffering from unemployment, was carried.

* In some of the textile trades not only are amalgamated associations represented as such, but the branch associations of which they consist send separate delegates. These branch associations have not been reckoned as separate organisations.

INDUSTRIAL CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES IN 1930.

The following particulars relating to industrial co-operative societies have been compiled by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies from the statutory returns furnished to his Department. The figures relate only to such of the societies registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts as are primarily connected with industries other than agriculture and are co-operative in character.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

There were 1,397 industrial co-operative societies in Great Britain in 1930, and the aggregate membership of these societies at the end of the year was 6,404,000. Their sales during the year amounted to £327,794,000,* and resulted in a net surplus (before deduction of interest on share capital) of £29,614,000. The total share, loan, and reserve capital was £206,990,000.†

As compared with 1929 membership increased by 239,000, or about 4 per cent.; while capital increased by £14,465,000, or 7½ per cent. The bulk of the membership is in the retail general distributive societies; and the continuous increase in membership of these societies in the five years 1926-30, during which period there was an influx of no less than 1,506,000 new members, is generally attributed to intensive propaganda and to the extension of credit facilities, particularly by schemes such as the "mutuality" system introduced by the London society in 1923. From the Table below, which shows the disposition of membership of the retail general distributive societies and the relative increases during the period, it will be seen that the societies in and around London show by far the largest expansion in membership, their membership having more than doubled in the course of only five years; while the expansion is least marked in societies in Scotland.

Area.	Membership.			
	At end of year		Increase.	Per cent.
	1925.	1930.		
ENGLAND:—				
Northern ...	2,139,000	2,553,000	414,000	19
North Midlands ...	710,000	983,000	273,000	38
South Midlands ...	120,000	177,000	57,000	48
Eastern ...	169,000	215,000	46,000	27
London and Home Counties ...	482,000	973,000	491,000	102
South-Western ...	419,000	539,000	120,000	29
Wales ...	130,000	156,000	26,000	20
SCOTLAND ...	656,000	735,000	79,000	12
Total ...	4,825,000	6,331,000	1,506,000	31

Sales by all industrial societies in 1930 showed an aggregate decrease of £4,900,000, or about 1½ per cent., as compared with 1929. The decrease is largely attributable to the fall in the prices of commodities, and is chiefly evident in the case of the wholesale societies. The sales of the retail societies, despite the fall in prices, actually show an increase of £588,000. The sales of the English wholesale society decreased by £3,975,000, and those of the Scottish wholesale society by £658,000, or about 4½ per cent. and 3½ per cent., respectively. The sales of the joint tea, etc., department (excluding goods invoiced to the two parent wholesale societies for re-sale) decreased by £236,000; it should be noted, however, that the accounts of the department covered a period of 53 weeks in 1929, and of 52 weeks in 1930. The sales of the consumers' productive societies decreased by £437,000; but here the decrease was attributable to the inclusion in 1930 of only 36 weeks' trading in respect of the United Co-operative Baking Society, Limited (the largest society in the group), owing to a change in its financial year, and of only nine months' trading in respect of the Derwent Co-operative Flour Mill Society, Limited, which was taken over by the English wholesale society in the latter part of 1930. Similarly, the decrease of £182,000 in sales of the workers' societies was largely attributable to the absorption of the Co-operative Sundries Manufacturing Society, Limited, by the English wholesale society early in 1930.

The total number of persons directly employed by societies in 1930 was about 253,000, or 9,000 more than in 1929. The total amount paid in salaries and wages was £32,958,000,‡ or £1,151,000 more than in 1929. These figures, and those given below under the heading of "Production," are exclusive of native labour employed by the joint department of the wholesale societies, and of particulars relating to the department's tea plantations in India and Ceylon.§

While some of the societies are engaged only in distribution and some only in production, others are engaged in both forms of industry. In the following statistics production and distribution are dealt with separately.

(a) Production.

In 1930 there were 1,074 industrial co-operative societies of various types engaged in production. The number of persons employed in production by these societies was 94,000; the amount paid as salaries and wages during the year was £12,251,000; and the value of productions (including materials), £82,947,000. The corresponding

* Including farm and dairy produce valued at £1,716,000, and sales of wholesale and productive societies to other societies for re-sale; but excluding goods invoiced by the joint tea, etc., society to the two parent wholesale societies for re-sale.

† Including capital contributed by retail societies to wholesale and productive societies.

‡ In addition, bonus amounting to £191,000 was allotted to employees.

§ See note ‡ at foot of next column.

A resolution proposed by the Miners' Federation of Great Britain declared "that one of the first tasks of a majority Labour Government should be the introduction of a measure to secure the nationalisation of mines and minerals and bye-products." This was carried.

A resolution calling for the repeal of the Trade Disputes and Trade Unions Act, 1927, was carried.

A resolution declaring opposition to proposals to reduce unemployment benefit and increase contributions, and upholding the principle of "work or maintenance," was carried.

A composite resolution was passed calling for a normal working week limited to 40 hours, without any reduction in the weekly wage, and with no overtime except on work of agreed urgency; and calling upon the General Council to inaugurate a campaign to secure this. Another composite resolution was passed urging that all statutory and customary holidays, in addition to two weeks annual holiday, should be paid for.

A resolution complaining of the chaotic condition and unfairness of the present Workmen's Compensation legislation (especially in view of recent decisions in the Courts), and calling upon the Government to introduce at an early date a Workmen's Compensation Bill on the lines of the Trades Union Congress and Labour Party draft Bill, was submitted by the Miners' Federation of Great Britain and carried unanimously.

A resolution was carried calling for the amendment of the National Health Insurance Acts, so that sickness benefit would be paid for the three waiting days.

Legislation was urged with a view to re-establish the agricultural National Wages Board, and calling upon the Government to give no further monetary assistance to the industry unless reasonable wage rates are maintained. A further resolution was carried calling for a National Rural Housing Board, to cope with the need for better housing in agricultural areas.

Another resolution called for safeguards against the introduction of a seven-day working week in places of entertainment, and urged that the inquiry into conditions of labour of cinema employees should be expedited.

A resolution calling for the ratification of the Geneva Convention regulating Hours of Work in Commerce and Offices, with omissions rectified, was carried.

In the election of the new General Council, Mr. R. Spence, general secretary of the National Union of Seamen, takes the place of Mr. Tillet, who has retired.

DISPUTE IN THE LACE CURTAIN INDUSTRY.

In October, 1930, the Nottingham and District Lace Curtain Manufacturers' Association and the Scottish Lace Manufacturers' Association gave notice to the British Lace Operatives' Federation of a general reduction in wages. Conferences were held, as a result of which the employers' proposals were modified; but the modified proposals were rejected by the unions.

On May 1st, 1931, notices of reductions were posted by the employers. The notices were to take effect as from 1st June, 1931, but were postponed pending negotiations. During the first week of June the employers' proposals were further modified, but were rejected by the operatives.

A stoppage began on 15th June; and, though several firms in Nottingham continued working on the existing rates, the dispute in other districts was general. At the invitation of the Provost of Newmilns (Ayrshire), the executives of the trade organisations met him on 27th July, but no agreement was reached. On August 26th and 27th, in response to an invitation of the Ministry of Labour, the parties met in conference at Birmingham under the chairmanship of the Ministry of Labour's Chief Conciliation Officer for the Midlands area; the conference was adjourned until 2nd September to enable the representatives to consult their constituents.

At the conference on 2nd September a memorandum of proposals was drawn up for submission to the respective organisations. These proposals involved reductions in the rates for most classes of work-people, and suggested the consideration by sub-committees of certain anomalies, including those in regard to coloured cotton and in regard to silk and artificial silk goods. These terms were acceptable in Nottingham, but the Scottish operatives desired that definite proposals should be put forward covering the additions for the coloured and silk goods.

Joint conferences under the chairmanship of the Ministry of Labour's Chief Conciliation Officer for Scotland were held at Kilmarnock on 8th and 10th September to deal with this and several other points. The meetings did not result in definite settlement, but revealed possible lines of accommodation. The Nottingham employers and operatives met a few days later; and, after separate discussion, arrived at a settlement. Later, the Nottingham arrangement was adopted by the two sides in Glasgow, following which the dispute was confined to the Irvine Valley, Ayrshire. Work was resumed in Nottingham on 15th September, and at Glasgow on 18th September.

On 22nd September the Ayrshire employers and operatives were brought together, and drafted terms which the representatives of both sides agreed to recommend to their constituents. This provisional agreement, with slight modification, was endorsed by the two organisations, and work was resumed in Ayrshire on 28th September. A summary of the final terms of settlement will be found on page 400 of this GAZETTE.

figures for 1929 were 1,100 societies; 93,000 employees; £12,122,000 salaries and wages; and £84,906,000 value of productions. The decrease in the number of societies engaged in production was due in part to amalgamations.

In the following Table the value of productions for each group of societies, together with the totals for all societies, is shown for the year 1914, and for each of the years 1920-1930:—

Year.*	Value of Productions (including materials).				
	Associations of Consumers.		Productive Societies.	Associations of Workers.	Grand Total of all Societies.
	Productive Departments of Distributive Societies.	Retail Societies.				Wholesale Societies.
			£	£	£
1914	15,705,339	12,790,390	2,326,994	1,778,664	32,601,387
1920	38,376,634	48,072,892	3,538,300	5,403,814	95,391,640
1921	38,123,374	37,925,115	3,218,201	3,435,150	82,701,840
1922	29,980,520	27,619,886	2,537,214	2,671,345	62,808,965
1923	27,982,498	28,264,425	2,449,756	2,844,026	61,540,705
1924	29,661,159	32,242,225	2,787,817	2,979,988	67,671,199
1925	32,626,333	35,134,054	3,134,110	3,005,333	73,900,430
1926	32,950,547	34,012,676	3,052,505	2,880,367	72,896,095
1927	37,907,153	35,930,416	3,470,155	3,420,617	80,728,341
1928	38,645,066	35,927,177	3,615,588	3,516,606	81,704,437
1929	39,072,790	38,484,175	3,832,709	3,515,900	84,905,574
1930	40,078,860	36,138,456	3,382,992	3,346,626	82,946,934

The productive work undertaken in 1930 is analysed by industry in the following Table:—

Groups of Industries.	Associations of Consumers.			
	No. of Em- ployees.	Salaries and Wages.	Value of Productions, including Materials.	Approx. Cost of Materials used.
Farming and dairying	2,551	272,000	1,716,000	1,220,000
Food and tobacco	26,819	3,940,000	55,836,000	43,265,000
Clothing	21,978	2,444,000	6,624,000	3,387,000
Soap, candles and starch	2,068	281,000	2,960,000	1,846,000
Textiles	3,901	379,000	1,837,000	1,333,000
Mining and quarrying	740	81,000	172,000	12,000
Building and woodworking	10,652	1,788,000	4,275,000	2,168,000
Papermaking, printing, etc.	3,443	492,000	1,384,000	618,000
Metal, engineering, etc.	2,175	354,000	1,207,000	717,000
Miscellaneous, including productive transport	11,093	1,218,000	3,589,000	2,242,000
Totals, 1930	85,410	11,249,000	79,600,000	56,806,000
„ 1929	83,793	11,116,000	81,390,000	59,167,000

Groups of Industries.	Associations of Workers.			
	No. of Em- ployees.	Salaries and Wages.	Value of Productions, including Materials.	Approx. Cost of Materials used.
Farming and dairying	...	£	£	£
Food and tobacco	...	...	...	...
Clothing	6,214	637,000	2,312,000	1,348,000
Soap, candles and starch	...	...	...	...
Textiles	426	55,000	295,000	196,000
Mining and quarrying	210	20,000	51,000	5,000
Building and woodworking	218	26,000	59,000	29,000
Papermaking, printing, etc.	1,191	188,000	493,000	203,000
Metal, engineering, etc.	430	60,000	108,000	44,000
Miscellaneous, including productive transport	218	26,000	49,000	19,000
Totals, 1930	8,907	1,002,000	3,347,000	1,842,000
„ 1929	9,045	1,006,000	3,516,000	1,991,000

From the above Tables it will be seen that, of the gross total of £82,947,000 shown as the value of productions of all co-operative societies in 1930, the cost of materials as returned by societies aggregated £58,648,000. The net value created by co-operative production was therefore about £24,299,000, of which the retail societies were responsible for about £12,006,000, the wholesale societies for £9,002,000, the consumers' productive societies for £1,786,000, and the workers' societies for £1,505,000. In these figures the value for retail societies is probably overstated, as some societies show the values of their productions at retail instead of at wholesale prices.

The productions of the retail and of the wholesale societies differ in character, and the latter cover a wider field of operations than the former. In the retail societies the dominating productive operations are baking and slaughtering, which in 1930 together accounted for nearly two-thirds of the aggregate net value created. In the wholesale societies the value of productions in these departments in 1930 represented only a thirtieth of the aggregate net value created.

* In 1914 and 1920, the figures given relate to Great Britain and Ireland; subsequent figures are exclusive of societies registered in Ireland.

† These figures include produce (£1,387,000 in 1929, and a similar figure in 1930) of the English wholesale society's bacon factories, for which no comparable figures have been furnished for previous years.

‡ Exclusive of productions of the India and Ceylon tea plantations owned by the joint department of the wholesale societies, as figures for cost of materials are not available. The gross value of the productions of these plantations for 1930 was returned at £371,000.

§ Laundering accounts for a substantial part of these figures.

|| The wholesale societies returned no productions under "slaughtering."

The following Table shows, for the retail societies, the aggregate net values of the various industrial groups in 1930, and the net increases or decreases as compared with 1929:—

	Net Values, 1930.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) over 1929.
Farming and dairying	408,000	+ 36,000
Food and tobacco	8,285,000	+ 575,000
Clothing	1,620,000	+ 5,000
Building and woodworking	1,117,000	+ 45,000
Metal and engineering	167,000	+ 12,000
Miscellaneous (including laundering)	409,000	- 3,000
Total	£12,006,000	+£670,000

The principal departmental increases were recorded in baking (£493,000) and milling (£37,000); slaughtering showed a decrease of £46,000. The increase in baking was most marked in the societies in London and the Home Counties.

For some few years past the comparison of net values in the wholesale societies has been vitiated owing to changes in the financial years of the societies. In 1929 and 1930, however, the accounting periods both of the English and of the Scottish wholesale societies covered 52 weeks; those of the joint tea, etc., department covered 52 weeks in 1930 as against 53 weeks in 1929, but the disparity of one week's trading in that department—the productive operations of which are confined to coffee roasting and blending and cocoa and chocolate manufacture (included in the Table under "food and tobacco")—does not materially affect the comparison.

The net values of the productive work of the wholesale societies showed a total net decrease of £52,000; but the totals for the several industrial groups showed considerable divergences, as follows:—

	Net Values, 1930.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) over 1929.
Farming and dairying	88,000	- 39,000
Food and tobacco	3,298,000	- 127,000
Clothing	1,615,000	+ 99,000
Textiles	504,000	- 73,000
Soap, candles and starch	1,113,000	+ 30,000
Mining and quarrying	160,000	+ 13,000
Building and woodworking	909,000	- 10,000
Papermaking, printing, etc.	589,000	+ 12,000
Metal and engineering	311,000	- 7,000
Miscellaneous	415,000	+ 50,000
Total	9,002,000	- 52,000

It may be mentioned that the major part of the decrease under "food and tobacco" was shown under the head of jam making and fruit preserving. As compared with 1929 the total net decrease was little more than 1/2 per cent., while the fall in wholesale prices generally, as indicated by the Board of Trade index number, was 12 per cent. It is probable therefore that there was an actual increase in the volume of productions of these societies; this is, indeed, definitely known as regards several products of the English wholesale society.

The consumers' productive societies returned an aggregate decrease in net values of £47,000; but this was wholly due to the inclusion of only 36 weeks' trading in the accounts for 1930 of the United Co-operative Baking Society. But for this the figures would probably have shown an increase of about £160,000. In the papermaking and printing group an increase of £62,000 was attributable to the operations of the National Co-operative Publishing Company, Ltd., which produces a weekly newspaper and various other publications. Other increases in the consumers' productive group were in brewing, which is undertaken by federations of clubs, and in laundry work, where the increase was mainly due to a large society in Lancashire formed specifically to undertake this work, the value of whose productions was returned at nearly £300,000, or £31,000 more than in 1929.

The net value of production in the workers' societies showed a decrease of £20,000. There was an increase of £34,000 in tailoring and other clothing, which was outweighed by decreases in other groups. The net decrease, however, was more than accounted for by the transfer of the productions of the Co-operative Sundries Manufacturing Society from this group, to which it belonged in 1929, to the wholesale societies group, owing to its absorption by the English wholesale society in 1930.

When allowance is made for the surplus earned and expenses chargeable to distribution, the wholesale value of the goods sold by the retail societies for £216,000,000 may be estimated approximately at about £170,000,000. Of this value about £24,000,000, or one seventh, represents the net value created within the movement.

The profits of the wholesale societies arising from productive operations in 1930 show a further decline. The English wholesale society recorded an aggregate profit on production of £682,000, as against £761,000 in 1929; while the Scottish wholesale society showed a profit on production in 1930 of £164,000, as compared with £196,000 in 1929. In the English society the decrease in 1930 was wholly attributable to the first half-year's working, profits on the second half-year being in excess of the corresponding period of 1929. In the Scottish society, on the other hand, the decrease was almost wholly in the second half-year, and was due to a loss of nearly £40,000

by its clothing factories. The 146 consumers' and workers' productive societies in 1930 returned an aggregate profit of £536,000, or £77,000 less than in 1929. The reduction was in large measure due to the changes already referred to in regard to two large societies. For retail distributive societies no figure for profit on production is available.

Farming.—In recent years a number of retail co-operative societies have ceased farming operations, owing to the difficulties experienced and heavy losses sustained, which in many instances have seriously reduced the surplus earned by the ordinary trading departments. None of the Welsh retail societies now undertakes farming; but a few of the retail societies in England and Scotland continue to do so. These numbered 118 in 1930, and returned a total acreage under farms of about 41,000, and a capital of £1,791,000 as invested in farm land and buildings, implements, stocks, etc. Their sales or transfers of farm produce, etc., totalled about £654,000, and resulted in a net loss of £73,000, as against a net loss of £74,000 in 1929. In addition to the loss on working, one society in 1930 incurred a further loss of over £20,000 on disposing of its farm land and buildings, etc. As in 1929, roughly one society in three showed a surplus on farming operations, but the surpluses aggregated only £9,000. The farms owned by the two principal wholesale societies covered some 17,000 acres, as against 21,000 in 1929. Capital invested in farm land, buildings, etc., by the wholesale societies totalled about £662,000; their sales or transfer values of farm produce, etc., in 1930 amounted to £277,000. Both the wholesale societies showed losses on their farming operations in 1930; the losses aggregated approximately £22,000, or some £15,000 less than in 1929.

Associations of Workers: Share of Employees in Membership, Capital and Management.—There were 78 societies classified as associations of workers in 1930. Membership totalled 31,563; sales, £3,637,000; share and loan capital and reserves, £2,115,000. They employed 9,156 persons, whose wages amounted to £1,045,000; and they returned an aggregate net surplus on the year's working of £215,000, of which £40,000 was distributed by way of bonus to employees. Fifty-three of these associations, with sales amounting to £2,819,000, furnished returns indicating that their employees shared both in the provision of capital and in management. The returns showed that these fifty-three societies had a total membership of 15,946, of whom 5,527, or 35 per cent., were employees; 6,912, or 43 per cent., other individuals; and 3,507, or 22 per cent., other societies. Out of a total capital of £960,000 some £274,000, or 28 per cent., was held by the employees; £294,000, or 31 per cent., by other individuals; and £392,000, or 41 per cent., by other societies. Out of a total of 484 committeemen of these associations 281, or 58 per cent., were employees; 171, or 35 per cent., other individuals; and 32, or 7 per cent., representatives of other societies. Returns made by twelve other societies, whose sales totalled £797,000, showed that their employees shared in the provision of capital but not in management; out of a total membership of 15,000 in these twelve societies the employees numbered 287, and held about £19,000 out of an aggregate capital of some £600,000.

(b) Distribution.

In 1930 there were 1,248 retail and three wholesale co-operative societies engaged in distribution, including the English and Scottish Joint Co-operative Wholesale Society, Ltd. (the joint tea, etc., department of the English and Scottish wholesale societies, which is registered as a separate society). The retail societies in 1930 had a membership of 6,353,000, and share, loan, and reserve capital of £142,246,000; they recorded an aggregate surplus on the year's working (before deducting £4,804,000 for share interest) of £26,715,000. The corresponding figures for 1929 were: membership, 6,114,000; capital, £133,963,000; surplus, £25,912,000. The three wholesale societies in 1930 had a membership of 1,934 (including 592 employees in the case of the Scottish society); share, loan, and reserve capital of £59,345,000; and a surplus (before deducting £499,000 for share interest) of £2,363,000. The corresponding figures for 1929 were: membership, 1,956; capital, £53,415,000; surplus, £2,650,000. The total number of persons employed by all trading societies in distribution (including those in the buying departments of the wholesale societies and those engaged in distributive transport and in sundry service departments) was 159,000; and their total salaries and wages bill amounted to £20,707,000. These figures compare with 151,000 and £19,685,000, respectively, in 1929.

In the following Table the sales for the year 1914 and for each of the years 1920-1930 are shown separately for the retail and for the wholesale societies:—

Year.†	Retail Societies.		Wholesale Societies.	
	Number.	Sales.	Sales of English Society.	Sales of Scottish Society.
1914	1,385	87,979,898	34,910,813	9,425,384
1920	1,491	245,406,124	105,439,628	29,559,314
1921	1,455	218,321,770	80,884,661	22,041,158
1922	1,392	168,799,221	65,904,812	17,009,251
1923	1,377	164,122,688	66,205,566	17,261,828
1924	1,368	174,473,315	72,888,064	17,312,194
1925	1,344	182,543,583	76,585,764	17,714,967
1926	1,318	183,820,126	75,292,833	16,728,948
1927	1,314	198,172,850	86,894,379	17,718,055
1928	1,293	207,652,086	87,294,025	15,714,510
1929	1,272	215,739,361	89,288,125	18,352,766
1930	1,248	216,327,406	85,313,018	17,694,410

* This figure does not include capital provided by the English and Scottish wholesale societies for their registered joint tea, etc., undertaking, amounting, with accrued interest, to £4,236,000.

† The figures for 1914 and 1920 include, while those for subsequent years exclude, societies registered in Ireland.

In connection with the above Table it should be mentioned that most of the goods sold by the registered joint tea, etc., undertaking are invoiced through the English and Scottish wholesale societies for re-sale, and so do not require to be separately stated as "sales." Goods to the value of £6,382,066 out of a total of £7,721,056 sold by the joint undertaking were so invoiced in 1930.

Dividends on Sales.—For 1930 the retail societies distributed dividends aggregating £20,433,000, or an average of 1s. 10½d. in the £ on sales, as compared with 1s. 10d. in the £ for 1929. The dividends of 3d. and 6d. in the £ distributed by the English and Scottish wholesale societies respectively for 1929 were maintained for 1930, and aggregated £1,398,000.

POOR RELIEF: SECOND QUARTER, 1931.

ENGLAND AND WALES.

According to a statement* issued by the Ministry of Health, the total number of persons† in receipt of poor relief (domiciliary and institutional) in England and Wales at the end of June, 1931, was 966,930. This compares with 1,029,114 at the end of March, 1931, and with 927,821 in June, 1930. Apart from slight increases following the Easter and Whitsuntide holidays, the numbers showed a steady decrease during the quarter.

The totals given above include large numbers returned as persons who would ordinarily be employed. Nearly all the relief given to these persons is domiciliary. The following Table gives figures for persons in receipt of domiciliary relief in England and Wales in June, 1931, with comparative totals for March, 1931, and June 1930; the figures represent averages of the numbers in receipt of relief on each Saturday of the respective months:—

Classes of persons in receipt of domiciliary relief.‡	England and Wales.	
	Numbers.	Numbers per 10,000 of the estimated population.
1. (a) Unemployed persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts ...	31,580	8
(b) Wives and dependent children of above persons ...	85,480	21
2. Unemployed persons not insured, but registered at an Employment Exchange, and their dependants ...	35,444	9
3. Other persons ordinarily engaged in some regular occupation, and their dependants...	132,057	33
4. Totals of above three classes:—		
June, 1931	284,561	71
March, 1931	316,735	80
June, 1930	232,555	59
5. All other persons:—		
June, 1931	495,352	124
March, 1931	503,434	127
June, 1930	487,992	123
6. Totals (all persons):—		
June, 1931	779,883	195
March, 1931	820,169	207
June, 1930	720,547	182

SCOTLAND.

The following Table shows the numbers of persons§ in receipt of outdoor relief in Scotland, on the 15th of each month, in the second quarter of 1931. The corresponding total figures for each month in the first quarter of 1931 and in the second quarter of 1930 are also given:—

Classes of persons in receipt of outdoor relief.¶	First month.	Second month.	Third month.
1. (a) Unemployed persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts ...	11,608	12,026	11,888
(b) Wives and dependent children of above persons ...	27,311	26,775	26,515
2. (a) Unemployed persons not insured but registered at Employment Exchanges	3,491	3,499	3,463
(b) Wives and dependent children of above persons ...	3,364	3,380	3,445
3. (a) Other unemployed persons ordinarily engaged in some regular occupation	1,478	1,628	1,610
(b) Wives and dependent children of above persons ...	2,400	2,761	2,640
4. Totals of above three classes:—			
Second quarter, 1931	49,652	50,069	49,561
First quarter, 1931	50,970	49,498	51,223
Second quarter, 1930	36,767	41,840	30,651
5. All other persons:—			
Second quarter, 1931	122,537	121,852	120,856
First quarter, 1931	120,455	121,626	124,209
Second quarter, 1930	108,037	107,048	106,326
6. Totals (all persons):—			
Second quarter, 1931	172,189	171,921	170,417
First quarter, 1931	171,455	171,024	175,432
Second quarter, 1930	144,804	148,888	136,877

* Statement showing the Number of Persons in receipt of Poor Relief in England and Wales in the Quarter ending in June, 1931. H.M. Stationery Office; price 4d. net (4½d. post-free).

† Excluding persons

WIDOWS', ORPHANS' AND OLD AGE CONTRIBUTORY PENSIONS.

ENGLAND AND WALES.

THE Twelfth Annual Report of the Ministry of Health* contains a section relating to the operation during the year ended 31st March, 1931, of the Contributory Pensions Scheme.

Widows' and Orphans' Pensions.—The following Table gives particulars of the year's work under the Act of 1925 in connection with widows' and orphans' pensions during the year 1930-31:—

	Widows' Orphans' Pensions.	
Claims received during year...	83,137	2,268
Awards during year ...	63,722†	1,891
Beneficiaries on 31st March, 1931:—		
Widows ...	308,692	—
Children ...	259,078	14,307

The amount paid in respect of widows' pensions (including children's allowances) during the year was approximately £10,656,800; and the cumulative figure from the commencement of the scheme to 31st March, 1931, was approximately £41,353,300. The corresponding figures for orphans' pensions were £290,500 and £1,360,500, respectively.

During the year under review, in accordance with the provisions of the amending Act of 1929‡, widows' pensions have been awarded to widows aged 55 and over whose husbands died or reached the age of 70 before the commencement of the main scheme on 4th January, 1926. Widows who attained the age of 60 before 1st January, 1931, became entitled to pensions on 1st July, 1930, or on attaining the age of 60, whichever was the later; widows who were between 55 and 60 on 1st January, 1931, became entitled to pensions on that date.

Up to 31st March, 1931, the number of claims received from widows in England and Wales, under this extension of the Acts, was 326,400; the number of widows' pensions awarded was 254,189; and the number of beneficiaries was 237,949. The total amount paid in pensions to widows under these provisions, up to 31st March, 1931, was estimated at £3,970,000.

Contributory Old Age Pensions between ages 65 and 70.—The number of claims received during the year ended 31st March, 1931, was 199,092, and the number of pensions awarded during the year was 168,074. The total number of persons between the ages of 65 and 70 in receipt of old age pensions under these provisions in England and Wales on 31st March, 1931, was 571,983. These figures include wives of men over 70 who became entitled to pensions between the ages of 65 and 70 under the Act of 1929. The number of such awards up to 31st March, 1931, was 26,144.

The amount paid in respect of these claims during the year ended 31st March, 1931, was approximately £14,696,000. The cumulative figure from the commencement of the scheme (2nd January, 1928) to 31st March, 1931, was approximately £42,862,000.

Old Age Pensions at age 70 payable by virtue of the Contributory Pensions Acts.—At 31st March, 1931, the number of Old Age Pensions in payment to persons over 70 years of age in England and Wales by virtue of the Contributory Pensions Acts was 479,631. These totals do not include pensions payable under the Old Age Pensions Acts.

SCOTLAND.

The Second Annual Report of the Department of Health for Scotland§, relating to the year 1930, summarises the position of the Contributory Pensions scheme at 31st December, 1930, as follows:—

Class of Pension.	Claims received.		Claims allowed.	
	During 1930.	Total to 31st Dec., 1930.	During 1930.	Total to 31st Dec., 1930.
Widows' and Orphans' pensions under Act of 1925...	9,459	63,722	7,481	51,036
Widows aged 60 and upwards under 1929 Act ...	29,567	29,567	25,278	25,278
Widows aged 55 under 1929 Act ...	8,914	8,914	7,287	7,287
Old Age pensions between 65 and 70 ...	24,713	127,612	21,442	105,846
Over-70 pensions in right of insurance ...	1,239	76,457	655	60,694

The numbers of pensions and allowances in payment on 31st December, 1930, were:—Widows' pensions under 1925 Act, 36,586; widows' pensions under 1929 Act, 23,082; children's allowances, 37,338; orphans' pensions 2,675; old age pensions at ages 65-70, 64,355. In addition there were 70,766 pensions payable to persons over 70 from moneys voted under the Old Age Pensions Acts where the pension was payable in respect of insurance, free from conditions as to means. The total of these pensions and allowances was 234,802, as compared with 189,404 on 31st December, 1929, the large increase being mainly due to the effect of the Act of 1929.

The payments under the Contributory Pensions Act to widows (including children's allowances) during the nine months from 1st April to 31st December, 1930, were estimated at £1,321,770; and the cumulative total (partly estimated) from 4th January, 1926, to 31st December, 1930, was £5,358,344. The corresponding figures for orphans' pensions were £42,162 and £245,528, respectively; for pensions at ages 65-70 they were £1,285,877 and £4,534,332, respectively.

* Cmd. 3937. H.M. Stationery Office; price 5s. net. (5s. 5d. post free).

† Including allowances for children.

‡ 20 Geo. 5, ch. 10. Notices of this Act appeared in the issues of this GAZETTE for November and December, 1929 (pages 400 and 439-40), and for January, 1930 (page 10).

§ Cmd. 3860. H.M. Stationery Office; price 3s. 6d. net. (3s. 10d. post free).

THE UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM IN GERMANY.

In January, 1931, the German Government appointed a Commission of independent experts, under the chairmanship of Dr. Brauns, a former Federal Minister of Labour, to study and report on the problem of unemployment.

The Commission have issued their Report in three parts. Part I deals with the relief of unemployment by means of a reduction of working hours and of restrictions on the exercise of secondary occupations; Part II with the possibilities of creating additional opportunities of work; and Part III with the direct relief of unemployment under the unemployment insurance, emergency benefit, and poor relief systems.

A complete translation of the whole Report has now been published by H.M. Stationery Office.*

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE AND RELIEF MEASURES IN OVERSEA COUNTRIES.

GERMANY.

In the exercise of the powers conferred by the Second Order of the Federal President, dated 5th June, 1931, for the Safeguarding of the National Finances and Economic Structure,† the Executive Committee of the Federal Employment Exchanges and Unemployment Insurance Board (Federal Board) has decided to reduce the normal maximum period for the receipt of ordinary benefit from 26 to 20 weeks and for seasonal workers from 20 to 16 weeks. This measure, which took effect as from 5th October, 1931, will, it is anticipated, enable the Federal Board to preserve the necessary balance between current revenue and expenditure during the forthcoming winter, on the basis of an estimated maximum figure of 6½ million unemployed persons. On the other hand, under a recent Order of the Federal Minister of Labour, the maximum period for the receipt of emergency benefit (which is financed out of public funds) by persons under 40 years of age has been extended from 32 to 38 weeks.

IRISH FREE STATE.

An amending Act dated 23rd December, 1930, which came into operation on 5th January, 1931, reduced the rates of contribution payable to the Unemployment Fund by the employers and workers covered by the compulsory State scheme of insurance against unemployment.

The following Table shows the old and new rates for employers and workers:—

	Employers' Contributions.		Workers' Contributions.	
	Old Rate.	New Rate.	Old Rate.	New Rate.
Men ...	10d.	7d.	9d.	6d.
Women ...	8d.	6d.	7d.	5d.
Boys ...	5d.	3½d.	4½d.	3d.
Girls ...	4½d.	3d.	4d.	2½d.

The State contribution, which is a prescribed fraction of the total value of the employer's and worker's contributions, has been increased to three-sevenths of the aggregate amount paid by the employer and worker, but the amount of the State contribution will actually be less than hitherto, owing to the reduction in the rates of contribution.

No change has been made in the scale of benefits payable or in the conditions for the receipt of benefit.

QUEENSLAND (AUSTRALIA).

An Order in Council dated 30th June, 1931, extends the provisions of the Income (Unemployment Relief) Tax Act, 1930,‡ for a period of one year from 1st July, 1931, to 30th June, 1932, and amends the Act in various minor respects.

NEW ZEALAND.

The Unemployment Amendment Act, 1931, to amend the Unemployment Act, 1930,§ was passed by the New Zealand legislature on 22nd July, 1931.

The Act empowers the Minister of Finance to make advances within specified limits from the Consolidated Fund in respect of the government subsidy to the Unemployment Fund, reconstitutes the Unemployment Board, and provides for the imposition of an unemployment relief tax, consisting of a general unemployment levy and an emergency unemployment charge, in substitution for the unemployment levy payable under the original Act.

The reconstituted Unemployment Board consists of the Minister responsible for the administration of the Act, a Commissioner of Unemployment, and three paid members appointed by the Govern-

* The Unemployment Problem in Germany; price 1s. 6d. net (1s. 8d. post free).

† See the issue of this GAZETTE for June, 1931, page 217.

‡ See the issue of this GAZETTE for October, 1930, page 364.

§ See the issue of this GAZETTE for December, 1930, page 445.

WAGES AND HOURS MOVEMENTS OVERSEAS.

GERMANY.

Coal-Mining Industry.—An award affecting the Ruhr coal-mining industry, issued under special *ad hoc* arbitration procedure, provided for (i) the extension of the existing hours agreement until 31st March, 1932; and (ii) a 7 per cent. reduction of wages to be operative until 31st January, 1932.

As regards working hours, the award, after its rejection by the workers and acceptance by the employers, was declared binding by the Federal Minister of Labour in the normal exercise of his powers. With regard to wages, the Federal Chancellor had, at an earlier stage, expressed the opinion that, in view of the situation created by the recent currency developments in England, it was desirable for the time being that collective agreements fixing wage rates in Germany should be concluded only for short periods. Accordingly, an Emergency Order of the Federal President, dated 30th September, 1931, empowered the Federal Minister of Labour, when enforcing awards issued under the special arbitration procedure applied in the present case, to amend the period of validity of the award without the concurrence of the parties concerned. In the exercise of these extended powers, the Federal Minister of Labour thereupon limited the period of validity of the wage award in the Ruhr coal-mining industry to 30th November, 1931.

At the same time the Order of 30th September, 1931, empowered the Federal Government, during the period from 1st October to 30th November, 1931, to relieve underground miners and their employers in the Ruhr coal-mining industry of the obligation to pay unemployment insurance contributions, the loss to the unemployment insurance funds being made good by the Federal Exchequer. This concession may be extended beyond the period specified, and may be applied to other coal-mining areas. As the unemployment insurance contribution, which is fixed at 6½ per cent. of the wage, is borne equally by the employer and the worker, the actual loss to the underground miner, on account of a 7 per cent. reduction in wages, would be about 4 per cent., while the total savings of the employer in wages and unemployment insurance contributions in respect of underground miners would amount to about 10 per cent.

For the Aix-la-Chapelle coal-mining industry, an award issued on 3rd October provides, as in the case of the Ruhr, for a wage cut of 7 per cent., with effect from 8th October until 30th November, 1931. In both the Ruhr and the Aix-la-Chapelle areas, the exemption of underground miners and their employers from the obligation to pay unemployment insurance contributions was made by Federal Government Order of 3rd October, 1931, with effect from 1st October to 30th November, 1931. In Lower Silesia, some 19,500 workers are affected by the decision of the employers to terminate the current wage agreement at 31st October next.

Iron and Steel and Metal and Engineering Industry.—Negotiations regarding the conclusion of a fresh working hours agreement for the North-West Group of the heavy iron and steel industry are at present proceeding. The original agreement was (as reported in this GAZETTE for August last, page 299) terminated by the trade unions on 1st October. In Bavaria, under a binding award recently issued, the wage agreement for foundry workers is to be extended without change. In the metal and engineering industry notice of termination of current wages agreements has been given by the employers in Berlin, Silesia, and the Hanover, Brunswick and Hagen-Schwelm areas.

Textile Industry.—A conciliation award recently issued for the Lausitz cloth industry provides that the wage rates in force under the agreement which expired on 31st August last shall be payable until 31st December next. Notice has been given by the employers in the Saxony-Thuringia weaving mills to terminate the current wage agreements.

BELGIUM.

Iron and Steel Industry.—The National Joint Commission for the iron and steel industry met on 16th September to discuss the employers' proposal for a wage reduction of 10 per cent. applicable in two cuts of 5 per cent. each on 1st October and 1st November. The workers' representatives rejected this proposal, and withdrew from the National Joint Commission. In certain undertakings a 5 per cent. wage cut was introduced from 1st October.

NORWAY.

Lock-outs in Various Industries.—As the balloting referred to in this GAZETTE for August (page 299) resulted in the rejection of the Public Conciliator's proposals, further negotiations took place and another ballot was held in the first week of September. The result of this ballot was a majority in favour of acceptance of the proposals, with the minor amendments agreed on in the course of the negotiations. The resumption of work was delayed for a week by the employers' stipulation that the masons' union, a body outside the Federation of Trade Unions, must also accept the Conciliator's proposals; but work was generally resumed by 14th September. The separate proposal for the paper-making industry, involving a reduction of 6 per cent. in time rates, subject to a minimum time rate of 1 krone an hour and a reduction of 8 per cent. in piece rates, was also accepted by both parties.

SWEDEN.

Agreements Terminated in Various Industries.—On 30th September, members of the Confederation of Swedish Employers' Associations gave three months' notice of termination of agreements affecting 150,000 workers, in order, it is stated, to bring about a general reduction in wages. The chief industries affected are iron and steel (29,000 workers); engineering and machine making (63,000 workers); paper pulp industry (17,000 workers); paper manufacture (14,300 workers); saw-milling (16,000 workers), and dock labour.

General for a term of two years. The Board must appoint special committees to deal with the questions of land development and the assistance of women.

The general unemployment levy is payable quarterly, with effect from 1st August, 1931, at the rate of 20s. annually by all male persons, ordinarily resident in New Zealand, who on 1st August, 1931, were of the age of 20 or over, subject to the exemption of the classes of persons who were exempted from payment of the Unemployment Levy under the original Act. The Governor-General is empowered, as under the original Act, to grant exemption, either wholly or in part, to specified persons or classes of persons, on grounds of public policy, while personal exemptions from liability to pay instalments of the levy may now be granted by the Unemployment Board in cases of hardship.

The emergency unemployment charge is payable at the rate of one penny for every six shillings and eightpence, or part thereof, of—

(a) the income from salary or wages (other than wages received by any woman or girl in respect of private domestic service, or wages received by any worker in respect of employment on relief works where wages are paid from the Unemployment Fund) received by any person on or after 1st August, 1931;

(b) two-thirds and one-third, respectively, of the amount of the income from sources other than salary or wages, derived by any person, not wholly exempt from liability to pay the general unemployment levy, for the years ended 31st March, 1931 and 1932;

(c) two-thirds and one-third, respectively, of the amount of the income from sources other than salary or wages derived for the years ended 31st March, 1931 and 1932, by any woman, ordinarily resident in New Zealand, whose total income received from all sources was not less than £250 during this year.

The amount of payments made in any year under the Act may be deducted from the assessable income for the year concerned for the purposes of income tax.

The provisions of the original Act regarding sustenance allowance to unemployed persons remain unchanged.

WAGES IN DENMARK IN 1930.

In *Statistiske Efterretninger* for 22nd May, 1931, the official journal of the Danish Statistical Department, there are published the average hourly earnings of 111,142 workers employed by the members of the Danish Employers' Association in 1930.

The average hourly earnings in the last quarter of 1930, compared with those of the corresponding quarter of 1929, increased from 1.43 to 1.47 kroner for male workers; from 0.86 to 0.87 krone for female workers; and, for all workers covered by the survey, from 1.31 to 1.35 kroner.

The following Table shows for certain industries and occupations the average hourly earnings of workers in Copenhagen and the provinces during the year 1930:—

Industry and Class of Worker.	Average Hourly Earnings.		Industry and Class of Worker.		Average Hourly Earnings.			
	Copenhagen.		Provinces.		Copenhagen.		Provinces.	
	Kr.	Kr.	Kr.	Kr.	Kr.	Kr.	Kr.	Kr.
<i>Textile Industry:</i>								
Men ...	1.23	1.15						
Women ...	0.86	0.77						
<i>Building:</i>								
Bricklayers ...	2.46	1.53						
Joiners ...	2.12	1.38						
Painters ...	1.95	1.41						
<i>Woodworking:</i>								
Wood turners ...	1.37	1.32						
Machine joiners ...	1.51	1.21						
Unskilled workmen ...	1.21	1.04						
<i>Pottery:</i>								
Skilled workmen ...	1.71	1.37						
Unskilled workmen ...	1.32	1.09						
Women workers ...	0.99	0.73						
<i>Paper and Printing:</i>								
Labourers ...	1.19	1.14						
Printers ...	1.73	1.60						
Bookbinders ...	1.83	1.35						
Women bookbinding workers ...	0.97	0.70						
<i>Metal and Engineering:</i>								
Moulders ...	1.95	1.56						
Coppersmiths ...	1.97	1.68						
Smiths and machinists ...	1.71	1.43						
Skilled workmen ...	1.78	1.37						
Labourers ...	1.32	1.20						
Women workers ...	0.91	0.75						
<i>Chemical Industry:</i>								
Oil milling—								
Unskilled workmen ...	1.41	1.39						
Match Manufacture—								
Unskilled workmen ...	1.39	...						
Women workers ...	0.82	...						
<i>Soap Making—</i>								
Unskilled workmen ...	1.25	1.06						
Women workers ...	0.83	0.64						

The average hourly earnings in each occupation were obtained by dividing the total amounts paid in wages, both time and piecework, by the aggregate number of hours worked, except in the printing industry, in which hourly earnings were calculated from the weekly wage for the last week of each quarter. The figures in the above Table relating to printers, in Copenhagen and in the provinces, exclude supplements for night work on newspaper printing and cannot therefore be compared with the figures for the previous year, which included such supplements. The data relate to wage earners of 18 years of age and over, and foremen and forewomen are excluded. The previous article, dealing with the average hourly earnings in Denmark in 1929, appeared in this GAZETTE for August, 1930, page 288.

EMPLOYMENT IN SEPTEMBER.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

EMPLOYMENT during September showed, on the whole, a further decline. The decline continued in the building trade, in public works contracting, and in the brick, tile, artificial stone and cement, glass, and iron and steel industries. Unemployment also increased in the engineering, paper, cotton, silk and artificial silk, and jute trades, in textile bleaching and finishing, in the tailoring and distributive trades, and in shipping, hotel, restaurant and boarding-house services.

There was a further improvement in coal-mining, and the numbers unemployed also decreased in the pottery, motor vehicle, wool textile, carpet, hosiery, and leather trades, and in dock and harbour service.

The decline was experienced in all areas except the Midlands and North-Eastern Divisions. Employment remained moderate in London and the Southern areas and very bad in all other areas.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

Among the workpeople, numbering approximately 12,400,000 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 21st September, 1931 (including those temporarily stopped as well as those wholly unemployed), was 23.2, as compared with 22.7 at 24th August, 1931, and with 17.6 at 22nd September, 1930. The percentage wholly unemployed at 21st September, 1931, was 17.9, as compared with 17.3 at 24th August, 1931; while the percentage temporarily stopped was 5.3, as compared with 5.4. For males alone the percentage at 21st September, 1931, was 24.3, and for females 20.4; at 24th August, 1931, the corresponding percentages were 23.7 and 20.0.

At 21st September, 1931, the numbers of persons on the Registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain were 2,044,482 wholly unemployed, 654,755 temporarily stopped, and 112,378 normally in casual employment, making a total of 2,811,615. This was 77,833 more than a month before, and 701,957 more than a year before. The total included 2,045,715 men, 76,825 boys, 627,628 women, and 61,447 girls.

The 2,044,482 wholly unemployed included approximately 1,363,300 insured persons who had paid at least 30 contributions during the preceding two years, and therefore satisfied the full contributions condition for the receipt of unemployment benefit; 571,070 insured persons who had paid less than 30 contributions during the preceding two years; and 110,110 uninsured persons. The wholly unemployed claimants for benefit, numbering 1,855,512, included 270,605 men, 6,518 boys, 59,168 women and 3,550 girls, who had been on the Register for less than one month.

In Great Britain and Northern Ireland the total number of persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges at 21st September, 1931, was 2,885,268, and at 28th September, 1931, it was 2,896,989.

Mining and Quarrying.—Employment in the coal-mining industry continued to improve but was still bad. The total number of wage earners on the colliery books at 26th September, 1931, showed a decrease of 0.1 per cent. as compared with 22nd August, 1931, and of 7.3 per cent. as compared with 27th September, 1930. The average number of days worked per week in the fortnight ended 26th September, 1931, was 4.63, an increase of 0.04 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 22nd August, 1931, but a decrease of 0.17 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 27th September, 1930.

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

Pig Iron, Iron and Steel, and Tinplate.—In the pig-iron industry employment continued to decline and was very bad. Of 356 furnaces, the number in blast at the end of September was 62, as compared with 64 at the end of August, and 104 at the end of September, 1930.

At iron and steel works employment showed a decline and remained very bad. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed was 46.1 at 21st September, 1931, as compared with 45.2 at 24th August, 1931, and 38.1 at 22nd September, 1930.

In the tinplate industry employment continued to decline and was very bad. It remained very bad also in steel sheet manufacture.

Engineering, Shipbuilding and Metal Industries.—In engineering employment remained bad, and showed a further decline on the whole. In marine, constructional and general engineering it was very bad, and worse than in the previous month. In textile engineering also it remained very bad. In the motor vehicle section it was still bad but showed a slight improvement; while in electrical engineering it remained slack and showed a slight decline.

In ship-building and ship-repairing employment remained very bad and showed little change on the whole. In the North-Eastern division and Scotland (the two principal districts) the percentages

of insured workpeople unemployed were 64.0 and 66.4 respectively, the former showing a slight improvement and the latter a decline.

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

Textile Industries.—In the cotton industry employment continued very bad in all departments; holiday stoppages were extended by many firms. Towards the end of the month, however, there were signs of increased activity. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed was 44.6 at 21st September, 1931, as compared with 42.8 at 24th August, 1931, and 43.7 at 22nd September, 1930.

In the wool textile industry employment, both in the worsted and in the woollen sections, was better at the end of September than in August. It was still bad, however, with much short time working in all the principal districts. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed was 35.2 at 21st September, 1931, as compared with 36.6 at 24th August, 1931, and 26.4 at 22nd September, 1930. In the carpet trade employment showed some improvement, but continued very slack.

Employment in the hosiery trade showed an improvement but was still slack on the whole. In the lace trade it showed little change and continued bad. In the silk and artificial silk industries employment again declined and was very bad. In the jute trade it showed a slight decline and continued very bad; in the linen industry it showed little change and remained bad. In the textile bleaching, printing, dyeing, etc., trades it remained very bad, with much short time working.

Clothing Industries.—Employment in the retail bespoke and in the ready made and wholesale bespoke branches of the tailoring trade remained very slack on the whole. In the dress-making and millinery trades employment was moderate. In the shirt and collar trade it showed a slight decline and was very slack. In the corset trade it was fairly good. In the glove trade it remained slack. In felt hat manufacture it showed a slight decline and remained slack.

In the boot and shoe industry employment showed little change, and continued moderate, with much short-time working. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed was 19.9 at 21st September, 1931, as compared with 20.3 at 24th August, 1931, and 17.0 at 22nd September, 1930.

Leather Trades.—Employment showed a slight improvement but was still slack in all sections.

Building, Woodworking, etc.—In the building trades, particularly in the painting and decorating section, employment showed a decline in all areas except Northern Ireland, and was very slack on the whole. As regards individual occupations, employment declined with bricklayers and masons and was moderate to slack with these classes; it also declined with carpenters, plasterers, tradesmen's labourers and plumbers, and was very slack with the three former classes and bad with the latter. With slaters it showed little change, and remained very slack, while with painters it showed a marked seasonal decline and was bad. In brick manufacture employment showed a further slight decline and was slack on the whole.

Employment in the furnishing trades showed a slight improvement, but was still slack; with coachbuilders it declined slightly, and continued very slack; and it also remained slack with millswyers.

Paper Manufacture, Printing and Bookbinding.—In the paper-making industry employment continued moderate; there was again a considerable amount of short time working in a number of districts. With letterpress printers employment continued moderate on the whole; in London and a number of other centres it showed a decline and was bad. With electrotypers and stereotypers employment remained fairly good on the whole. With lithographic printers it showed a decline and remained slack on the whole; much short time was worked in many centres. With lithographic artists employment declined and was slack; and it was also slack, with further decline, with bookbinders.

Pottery and Glass.—In the pottery industry employment in North Staffordshire showed an improvement but was still bad, on the whole; there was a considerable decrease in short-time working. At Worcester and at Bristol employment continued fair. In the stoneware section in Scotland it remained bad.

In the glass trades employment showed a further decline, and remained bad in all sections.

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

Dock Labourers and Seamen.—Employment with dock labourers showed a slight improvement but was still slack. With seamen it was bad on the whole.

SUMMARY OF EMPLOYERS' RETURNS.

In Tables which appear on subsequent pages of this GAZETTE detailed statistics bearing on the state of employment during September 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 September, 1931.	September, 1931.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	
		Month before.	Year before.	Month before.	Year before.
Coal Mining	821,588	4.63	Days.	+ 0.04	- 0.17
Iron "	4,732	5.23	Days.	+ 1.47	- 0.17
Shale "	1,656	5.88	Days.	- 0.04	- 0.11
Pig Iron ... ..	...	62	Number.	- 2	- 42
Tinplate and Steel Sheet ... ..	...	367	Number.	- 41	- 9
Iron and Steel	45,676	233,398	Per cent.	- 3.7	- 20.7

(b) OTHER INDUSTRIES.

Industry.	Number of Workpeople Employed.			Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 26th Sept., 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before.	Year before.	Week ended 26th Sept., 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before.	Year before.
Textiles:—						
Cotton	61,012	+ 1.8	- 0.5	96,861	+ 0.7	+ 3.6
Woollen	49,174	+ 2.2	- 9.0	88,552	+ 4.1*	- 13.9*
Worsted	68,598	+ 3.5	- 6.5	103,766	+ 6.6*	- 21.0*
Carpet	9,636	+ 1.1	- 0.5	16,420	+ 5.2	+ 7.4
Boot and Shoe	58,582	- 0.0	- 3.1	123,952	- 2.2*	- 6.0*
Pottery	9,856	+ 4.3	- 7.2	16,953	+ 11.8	- 14.1*
Brick	10,468	- 2.8	- 5.9	27,350	+ 0.5	- 6.1

UNEMPLOYMENT SUMMARY BY DISTRICTS.

The following Table shows the variations in the rates of unemployment at 21st September, 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, 1930. (Totals).	Percentage Unemployed at 21st September, 1931.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Total Percentages as compared with a	
		Males.	Females.	Total.	Month before.	Year before.
London	2,255,620	14.6	9.2	12.9	+ 0.5	+ 4.6
South-Eastern	923,770	13.2	9.2	12.3	+ 1.2	+ 4.5
South-Western	854,400	15.7	10.8	14.6	+ 0.8	+ 4.3
Midlands	1,847,230	21.6	22.2	21.8	- 0.1	- 5.7
North-Eastern	2,020,760	31.7	24.5	30.1	...	+ 7.5
North-Western	2,181,890	30.5	32.9	31.3	+ 1.3	+ 4.4
Scotland	1,307,810	30.7	22.1	28.2	+ 0.4	+ 8.0
Wales	592,520	36.2	18.5	34.4	+ 0.9	+ 7.1
Northern Ireland	266,000	30.9	26.0	29.0	+ 0.6	+ 2.1
Special Schemes	139,700	4.6	1.1	3.5	+ 0.1	+ 1.1
Total	12,405,700	24.3	20.4	23.2	+ 0.5	+ 5.6

UNEMPLOYMENT DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS.

The following Table shows, month by month from September, 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.	Total.	Number.
1930.						
22 September	18.0	16.8	12.7	4.9	17.6	2,230,000
27 October	19.4	16.8	13.9	4.8	18.7	2,308,000
24 November	19.8	17.2	14.8	4.3	19.1	2,4 Nov.
22 December	20.7	18.8	14.9	5.3	20.2	2,725,000
1931.						
26 January	22.1	19.9	16.5	5.0	21.5	2,671,000
23 February	22.6	19.6	16.7	5.0	21.7	2,694,000
23 March	22.7	18.4	16.5	5.0	21.5	2,655,000
27 April	22.0	18.0	16.3	4.6	20.9	2,594,000
18 May	21.9	17.9	16.3	4.5	20.8	2,702,000
22 June	23.2	18.4	16.4	5.4	21.8	2,736,000
27 July	23.8	19.5	16.7	5.9	22.6	2,783,000
24 August	23.7	20.0	17.3	5.4	22.7	2,834,000
21 September	24.3	20.4	17.9	5.3	23.2	2,897,000

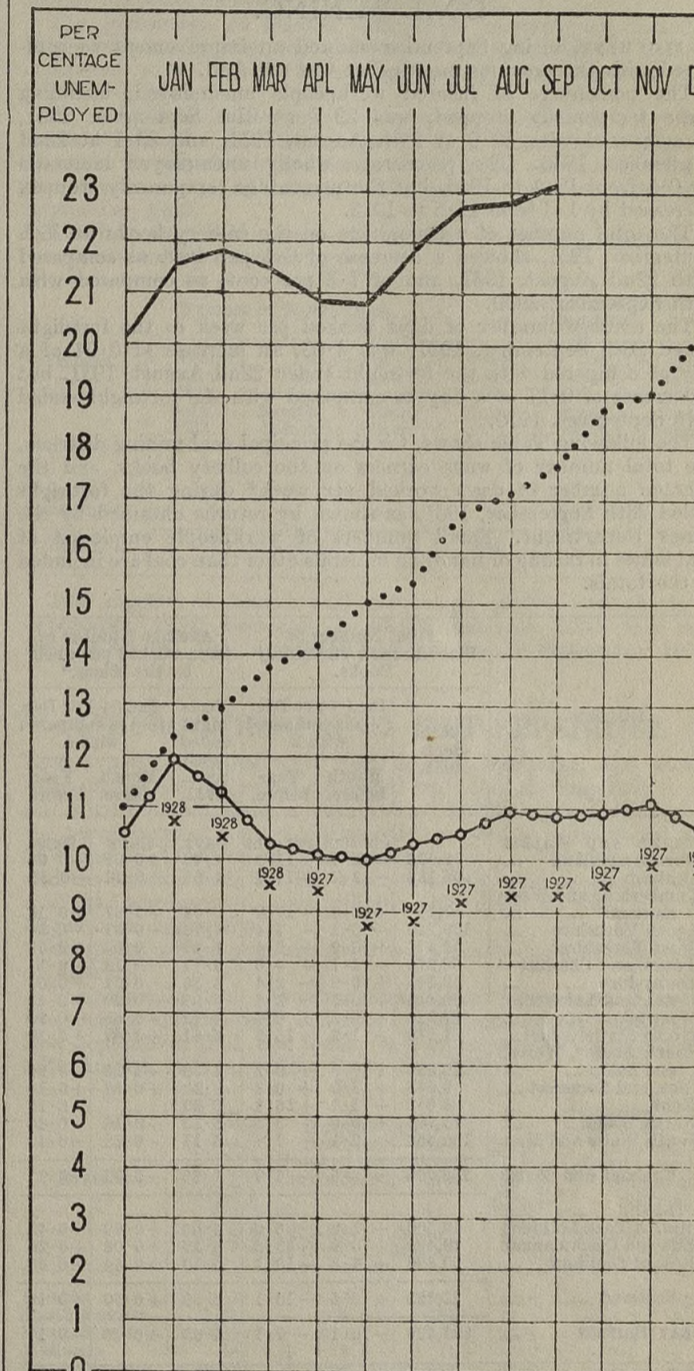
* Comparison of earnings is affected by reductions in rates of wages.

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 SEPTEMBER, 1931.

Area.	Males and Females.				Total.	
	Men.	Boys.	Women.	Girls.	Numbers.	Percentage of numbers Insured at July, 1930.
London	1,253	4,554	2,075	4,381	12,263	0.54
South-Eastern	783	2,311	868	1,640	5,602	0.60
South-Western	789	1,947	637	1,288	4,661	0.54
Midlands	1,533	3,415	497	2,552	7,997	0.43
North-Eastern	780	4,065	802	2,599	8,246	0.41
North-Western	822	3,480	777	3,167	8,246	0.38
Scotland	1,059	2,319	527	1,784	5,689	0.44
Wales... ..	431	1,468	365	537	2,801	0.47
GREAT BRITAIN	7,450	23,559	6,548	17,948	55,505	0.46

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

The tonnage launched during the quarter under review amounted to 80,340 tons, as compared with 170,100 tons in the previous three months, showing a decrease of 89,760 tons.

The total horse-power of marine engines either under construction or being installed on board vessels in Great Britain and Ireland at the end of September, 1931, amounted to 469,155 h.p., as compared with 559,797 h.p. in the previous quarter.

The above figures are exclusive of warships and of merchant vessels of under 100 tons.

ENGINEERING.

EMPLOYMENT during September remained bad, and showed a further decline on the whole. In marine, constructional, and general engineering it was very bad, and worse than in the previous month. In textile engineering also it remained very bad. In the motor vehicle section it was still bad, but showed a slight improvement; while in electrical engineering it remained slack and showed a slight decline. Compared with a year before employment was much worse in all sections and in all areas, the greatest decline being in marine engineering.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, at 21st September, 1931, and the increase or decrease as compared with a month before and a year before:—

Division.	Number of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 21st September, 1931.						Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	
	General Engineering, Iron and Steel Founding.	Electrical Engineering.	Marine Engineering, etc.	Constructional Engineering.	Motor Vehicles, Cycles, and Aircraft.	TOTAL.	Month before.	Year before.
London	10,301	1,609	234	514	6,278	18,936	+ 1,229	+ 8,139
South-Eastern	8,230	1,070	331	154	4,395	14,180	+ 698	+ 5,934
South-Western	5,254	240	921	138	3,741	10,294	- 468	+ 4,765
Midlands	22,494	4,653	182	1,983	32,840	62,152	- 691	+ 20,306
North-Eastern	42,296	1,476	12,151	2,097	2,863	60,883	+ 3,073	+ 16,446
North-Western	50,717	4,063	333	992	5,974	62,079	+ 1,414	+ 16,727
Scotland	29,766	575	10,028	2,256	2,225	44,850	+ 790	+ 20,413
Wales	2,029	79	53	253	546	2,960	+ 60	+ 748
Northern Ireland	2,506	98	3,021	23	351	5,999	+ 604	+ 3,711
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND	173,593	13,863	27,254	8,410	59,213	282,333	+ 6,589	+ 97,189

Division.	Percentages Unemployed at 21st September, 1931.					
	General Engineering, Iron and Steel Founding.	Electrical Engineering.	Marine Engineering, etc.	Constructional Engineering.	Motor Vehicles, Cycles, and Aircraft.	TOTAL.
London	12.0	11.2	29.3	14.6	15.4	13.0
South-Eastern	17.2	12.9	13.4	25.7	15.4	16.2
South-Western	14.6	6.7	14.4	23.8	13.2	13.8
Midlands	25.0	16.0	11.8	28.9	33.3	27.5
North-Eastern	36.5	17.0	55.1	29.5	20.6	36.3
North-Western	39.6	18.4	43.0	33.4	27.5	35.4
Scotland	39.3	18.7	51.0	40.4	20.2	39.0
Wales	36.5	19.8	37.9	36.1	25.3	33.0
Northern Ireland	36.1	24.5	47.8	57.5	16.3	37.8
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND	29.3	15.4	45.4	30.1	24.0	27.8

On the North-East Coast employment remained very bad in general and marine engineering, and showed a decline in both sections. In Yorkshire and Lincolnshire employment remained bad. In Lancashire and Cheshire it was very bad and showed a decline, which was most marked in the motor vehicle section; in textile engineering much short time was worked.

In the Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Coventry district employment in the motor vehicle section showed some improvement but was still very bad; it also remained very bad in general engineering. In the Nottingham, Derby and Leicester district employment showed little general change and remained slack. In London and the Southern Counties employment remained quiet in all sections; there was some decline in general engineering, but in the motor vehicle section in the South-Western division employment continued to improve.

In Scotland employment remained very bad, particularly in marine engineering. In Wales it remained very bad; and it was also very bad in Northern Ireland, where it showed a decline both in general and in marine engineering.

COTTON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT continued very bad in all departments in September; holiday stoppages were extended by many firms. Towards the end of the month, however, there were signs of increased activity.

The percentage of insured workpeople recorded as unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 44.6 at 21st September, 1931, as compared with 42.8 at 24th August, 1931, and with 43.7 at 22nd September, 1930.

At Ashton-under-Lyne employment with spinners continued bad, but showed a slight improvement both in the American and in the Egyptian sections. At Glossop employment was extremely bad; five large mills in this area are closed. At Stalybridge and Stockport the depression continued; at Hyde, although employment was bad, most of the mills were working, and no extension of holiday stoppages was reported. At Oldham employment in the spinning section continued very bad, and was worse than in August; many mills have been totally stopped for a long time; allowing for all forms

of unemployment and under-employment, production was only about 38 per cent. of full capacity. In the weaving section employment continued very slack. In both sections there were signs of improvement at the end of the month.

At Bolton employment remained very bad with spinners, and slack with card-room workers; extended stoppages at the local holidays were fairly general; with weavers and winders employment was reported as bad, with a considerable amount of under-employment. At Leigh employment with spinners continued bad. At Bury a slight improvement was reported in the spinning section, but in the weaving section the position was said to be slightly worse; employment was very poor in both sections. At Rochdale the depression continued.

At Preston, apart from temporary stoppages following the annual holidays, there was little change; employment generally was bad. At Chorley increased short-time was reported. At Blackburn there was no improvement; at the end of September 78 mills were closed down (out of a total of about 130 in the district), and about 64 per cent. of the operatives were unemployed. At Accrington there was a further decline in the employment of weavers. At Darwen employment with weavers showed a further decline; workers in the preparatory processes were working irregular short time, and there was much under-employment among weavers; over 40 mills were closed down. At Great Harwood there was no improvement; 2,800 women weavers were totally unemployed at the end of September. At Burnley there was little change; few of the mills still working had their full complement of looms running, and the number of surplus weavers, winders and other workers was said to be gradually increasing. At Padiham and at Colne employment continued very bad. At Nelson a number of firms extended the holiday stoppage; short-time working was prevalent, and most firms were running with weavers on half or three-quarters of the usual number of looms. In the Rossendale Valley employment continued very bad, with large numbers of workers unemployed or under-employed.

In Yorkshire employment continued very bad, with short time general; over half of the workpeople covered by the employers' returns for the week ended 26th September were on short time, losing about 11 hours each on the average.

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 26th Sept., 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before.	Year before.	Week ended 26th Sept., 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before.	Year before.
Preparing	10,530	+ 1.1	+ 3.4	15,567	+ 0.8	+ 5.9
Spinning	19,666	+ 1.1	+ 1.2	28,485	+ 1.2	+ 6.4
Weaving	23,910	+ 2.9	+ 3.6	37,197	+ 1.7	+ 1.8
Other	7,106	+ 0.7	+ 0.3	15,612	- 0.8	+ 1.0
TOTAL	61,012	+ 1.8	- 0.5	96,861	+ 0.7	+ 3.6

DISTRICTS.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 26th Sept., 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before.	Year before.	Week ended 26th Sept., 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before.	Year before.
Ashton	4,219	+ 6.7	+ 6.6	6,123	+ 6.3	+ 6.8
Stockport, Glossop and Hyde	6,035	+ 16.9	- 17.5	9,233	+ 14.8	- 13.6
Oldham	8,581	- 0.9	+ 5.4	13,854	- 1.6	+ 4.3
Bolton and Leigh	10,605	+ 5.2	+ 4.4	16,418	+ 3.6	+ 9.3
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Walsden and Todmorden	6,466	- 0.2	- 5.9	10,668	+ 2.3	+ 6.4
Manchester	3,525	+ 4.0	- 11.5	5,487	+ 8.5	- 4.1
Preston and Chorley	5,411	+ 0.3	+ 18.1	8,465	- 5.1	+ 12.3
Blackburn, Accrington and Darwen	5,161	- 5.3	+ 9.8	8,753	- 2.3	+ 11.8
Burnley and Padiham	2,976	+ 10.0	+ 0.4	4,955	+ 2.2	+ 7.6
Colne and Nelson	2,407	- 1.6	- 3.8	5,028	- 6.5	+ 6.3
Other Lancashire Towns	1,564	+ 13.6	+ 22.3	1,775	- 3.0	+ 19.4
Yorkshire Towns	1,819	- 21.9	- 30.5	2,946	- 18.0	- 18.6
Other Districts	2,243	- 3.0	- 0.6	3,156	- 7.7	- 1.2
TOTAL	61,012	+ 1.8	- 0.5	96,861	+ 0.7	+ 3.6

Returns from firms employing about 58,500 operatives in the week ended 26th September showed that about 23 per cent. were on short time in that week, with a loss of about 15 hours each on an average.

The following Table shows the number of men and of women (other than casuals) on the registers of Employment Exchanges in the principal cotton trade centres at 21st September, 1931:—

Department.	Numbers (excluding Casuals) on the Registers at 21st September, 1931.						Total.
	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.			
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	
Card and Blowing Room	2,653	14,979	17,632	2,637	11,409	14,046	31,678
Spinning	15,307	11,929	27,236	13,986	9,235	23,221	50,457
Beaming, Winding and Warping	3,041	14,604	17,645	2,747	13,924	16,671	34,316
Weaving	13,548	45,786	59,334	6,877	17,209	24,086	83,420
Other Processes	2,160	568	2,728	799	496	1,295	4,023
Total	36,709	87,866	124,575	27,046	52,273	79,319	203,894

The following Table shows the increases and decreases as compared with 24th August, 1931:—

Department.	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.			Total.
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	
Card and Blowing Room	+ 65	+ 203	+ 268	+ 356	+ 703	+ 1,059	+ 1,327
Spinning	- 197	- 52	- 249	+ 1,197	+ 74	+ 1,271	+ 1,022
Beaming, Winding and Warping	+ 47	+ 227	+ 274	- 119	- 413	- 532	- 258
Weaving	+ 727	+ 925	+ 1,652	+ 571	+ 1,100	+ 1,671	+ 3,323
Other Processes	+ 197	+ 30	+ 227	+ 221	+ 56	+ 277	+ 504
Total	+ 839	+ 1,333	+ 2,172	+ 2,226	+ 1,520	+ 3,746	+ 5,918

The imports (less re-exports) of raw cotton (including cotton linters) were 40,055,000 lbs. in September, 1931, compared with 59,975,800 lbs. in August, 1931, and with 53,621,900 lbs. in September, 1930.

The exports of cotton yarn were 9,006,500 lbs. in September, 1931, compared with 11,195,900 lbs. in August, 1931, and with 9,107,700 lbs. in September, 1930.

The exports of cotton piece-goods in September, 1931, were 128,460,100 square yards, compared with 143,805,900 square yards in the previous month, and 142,716,700 square yards in September, 1930.

WOOL TEXTILE INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT, both in the worsted and in the woollen sections, was better at the end of September than in August; it was still bad, however, with much short time and unemployment in all the principal districts. In the carpet trade also employment showed some improvement, but continued very slack.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed in the woollen and worsted industries, including those temporarily stopped, was 35.2 at 21st September, 1931, as compared with 36.6 at 24th August, 1931, and with 26.4 at 22nd September, 1930.

Worsted Section.—At Bradford and at Huddersfield an improvement was reported towards the end of the month; there was also a slight improvement at most of the other principal centres, except Keighley, where employment was stated to be definitely worse. In the worsted section as a whole, returns from employers for the week ended 26th September showed that about 46 per cent. of the operatives worked short time,* losing about 15 hours each on the average; less than 5 per cent. worked overtime.

With wool sorters employment continued bad; it was worse than in August, and worse also than a year ago; 25 per cent. of the trade union operatives were reported to be on short time. In the wool combing department a slight improvement was reported in the activity of all sections during the latter part of the month; but there was still a considerable amount of short time working. Over 60 per cent. of the operatives covered by the employers' returns in the sorting, combing, and preparing departments lost, on an average, about 16 hours in short time in the week ended 26th September.

In the worsted spinning department employment showed an improvement; slightly less short time working was reported at Halifax. About 42 per cent. of the operatives covered by the employers' returns worked short time in the week ended 26th September, losing about 13 hours each on the average.

In the worsted weaving department there was also an improvement. About 44 per cent. of the operatives covered by the employers' returns worked short time in the week ended 26th September, losing 16 hours each on the average.*

Woolen Section.—Employment, though still bad, was better than in August. Employers' returns for the week ended 26th September showed that 40 per cent. of the workers in the spinning department, and 47 per cent. of those in the weaving department, were on short time,* losing between 13 and 14 hours each on the average in each department. In the woollen section as a whole, 42 per cent. of the operatives lost, on an average, about 14 hours each in short time* in the week ended 26th September; there was very little overtime except in the spinning department, in which 10 per cent. of the operatives worked overtime to the extent of about 8½ hours each on the average.

In the Huddersfield and Colne Valley district an improvement was reported at the end of the month, with more overtime and night work. There was also a slight improvement in the Heavy Woollen District (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.); but the general state of employment at Dewsbury was still very unsatisfactory. At Leeds employment was bad, and showed little change; at Morley there was a considerable decrease in the numbers on short time, but a further increase in the number wholly unemployed; at Stanningley there was an improvement in the low grade woollen trade, but most firms were working short time; much under-employment persisted at Wakefield. Employment in the rag and shoddy trade remained extremely slack. In the blanket trade an improvement was reported in Yorkshire; full time working continued at Hebden Bridge. In the Stockport area there was little change; at Rochdale there was a slight improvement, but employment was still very poor, and worse than a year earlier.

* 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 the West of England some improvement was reported at Trowbridge, but there was a decline at Westbury. In Wales employment showed little change, and remained slack.

In Scotland the depression continued, but there was some improvement at the end of the month. At Galashiels one or two of the mills resumed full time, but there was no marked general improvement. At Alloa there was a further improvement; a number of workpeople resumed work, and there was some night shift working.

Carpet Section.—The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed in the carpet industry, including those temporarily stopped, was 22.8 at 21st September, 1931, as compared with 28.8 at 24th August, 1931, and with 20.9 at 22nd September, 1930.

At Kidderminster employment was bad, but showed a seasonal improvement; operatives in the Wilton section were on short time, but those in the Axminster and tapestry sections were mostly on full time. At Worcester employment in the horsehair carpet trade was fairly good. In Yorkshire a slight improvement was reported, but employment was still very quiet. In Scotland, an improvement was reported at Kilmarnock, but increased short time at Bridgeton (Glasgow) and at Ayr.

In the carpet industry as a whole, 41 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the employers' returns were on short time in the week ended 26th September, losing 12 hours each on an average; little overtime was recorded.

The following Table summarises the returns received from employers:—

Departments :	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 26th Sept., 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before.	Index figure. (Jan., 1926 = 100.)	Week ended 26th Sept., 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before.	Index figure. (Jan., 1926 = 100.)
WORSTED SECTION :						
Wool Sorting and Combing	10,019	+ 2.3	78.4	17,369	- 5.3	53.6
Spinning	32,868	+ 2.1	79.5	42,110	+ 9.7	65.0
Weaving	15,254	+ 8.0	79.6	24,135	+ 13.5	61.2
Other Depts.	8,756	+ 1.7	89.6	17,792	+ 3.4	68.5
Not specified	1,701	+ 7.9	95.4	2,360	+ 7.9	52.9
Total—Worsted	68,598	+ 3.5	80.5	103,766	+ 6.6	62.4
WOOLEN SECTION :						
Wool Sorting	942	+ 3.6	72.2	1,887	+ 2.4	68.4
Spinning	11,522	+ 1.5	79.3	21,460	+ 4.1	75.8
Weaving	20,031	+ 2.2	83.7	31,691	+ 4.7	75.6
Other Depts.	14,858	+ 2.2	84.4	30,025	+ 4.7	77.8
Not specified	1,811	- 1.5	67.9	3,489	- 6.4	68.5
Total—Woollen	49,174	+ 2.2	82.0	88,552	+ 4.1	75.8
CARPET SECTION	9,636	+ 1.1	102.3	16,420	+ 5.2	93.2
Total—Wool Textile Industry	127,408	+ 2.8	82.2	208,738	+ 5.4	69.4
Districts :						
WORSTED SECTION :						
Bradford	28,669	+ 1.8	75.4	44,413	+ 3.5	55.1
Huddersfield	7,872	+ 10.9	92.9	12,228	+ 13.1	67.0
Halifax	14,879	+ 3.8	78.1	21,137	+ 9.3	62.6
Leeds	7,541	+ 8.8	85.9	10,863	+ 14.4	69.6
Keighley	7,035	- 1.9	81.1	9,867	- 3.5	65.6
Heavy Woollen (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.)	3,248	+ 4.7	95.7	4,337	+ 7.7	85.7
Total—Worsted	62,044	+ 3.5	80.2	92,845		

the week ended 26th September, 1931, by those firms who supplied returns for the purpose of the foregoing Table (excluding the carpet section), as compared with the week ended 22nd August, 1931:—

Table showing Percentage Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in numbers employed as compared with previous month for various departments like Wool Sorting and Combing, Spinning, Weaving, etc.

Table showing Percentage Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in numbers employed as compared with previous month for WOOLLEN SECTION and WOOL SORTING and COMBING.

The following Table shows the number of men and of women (other than casuals) on the registers of Employment Exchanges in the principal wool textile trade centres at 21st September, 1931:—

Table showing Numbers (excluding Casuals) on the Registers at 21st September, 1931, categorized by Department and gender.

The following Table shows the increases and decreases as compared with 24th August, 1931:—

Table showing increases and decreases as compared with 24th August, 1931, categorized by Department and gender.

The imports (less re-exports) of raw wool (sheep's or lambs') were 25,646,800 lbs. in September, 1931, compared with 5,528,400 lbs. in the previous month, and 18,204,600 lbs. in September, 1930.

The exports of woollen and worsted yarns were 3,723,800 lbs. compared with 3,097,700 lbs. in August, 1931, and with 3,139,100 lbs. in September, 1930.

The exports of woollen and worsted tissues in September, 1931, were 6,798,100 square yards, compared with 7,910,600 square yards in the previous month, and with 9,593,600 square yards in September, 1930.

The exports of blankets were 32,034 pairs, 27,162 pairs, and 47,312 pairs in September, 1931, August, 1931, and September, 1930, respectively.

BOOT AND SHOE INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during September showed little change as compared with August, and continued moderate, with much short time working; employment was somewhat worse than in September, 1930, at most centres.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 19.9 at 21st September, 1931, as compared with 20.3 at 24th August, 1931, and with 17.0 at 22nd September, 1930.

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

Table summarising information for BOOT AND SHOE INDUSTRY, including Total Wages paid to all Workpeople and various regional data.

Returns received from firms employing about 57,500 workpeople in the week ended 26th September indicated that nearly 42 per cent. of those operatives were on short time in that week, losing about 11 1/2 hours each on the average; on the other hand, about 9 per cent. were on overtime, to the extent of about 3 1/2 hours each on the average.

Employment in London continued moderate generally; at some establishments it was slack. At Leicester employment remained slack generally, and was worse than in September, 1930: in the week ended 26th September, about three-fifths of the workpeople covered by the employers' returns were on short time, losing about 10 1/2 hours each on the average.

In the Bristol and Kingswood district employment remained moderate. At Leeds employment remained bad with most firms. In the slipper trade of Lancashire there was a slight improvement, particularly at Bacup, and employment remained fairly good at Preston; at Rawtenstall, on the other hand, it remained bad: short time was prevalent, and the position was worse than it has been for some time.

In Scotland employment showed little change, and remained moderate on the whole, though it was again reported as fair at Maybole; it was below the level of September, 1930.

The following Table shows the number of men and of women (other than casuals) on the registers of Employment Exchanges in the principal centres of the boot and shoe industry at 21st September, 1931:—

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

Table showing Numbers (excluding Casuals) on the Registers at 21st September, 1931, categorized by Department and gender.

The following Table shows the increases and decreases as compared with 24th August, 1931:—

Table showing increases and decreases as compared with 24th August, 1931, categorized by Department and gender.

The exports of boots and shoes in September, 1931, amounted to 83,760 dozen pairs, or 11,830 dozen pairs more than in August, 1931, but 38,754 dozen pairs less than in September, 1930.

BRICK INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during September showed a further slight decline, and was slack on the whole.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 18.3 at 21st September, 1931, as compared with 17.4 at 24th August, 1931, and 14.1 at 22nd September, 1930.

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

Table summarising information for BRICK INDUSTRY, including Total Wages paid to all Workpeople and regional data.

Returns from employers relative to short-time working, exclusive of time lost on account of bad weather, showed that, of 9,747 workpeople employed by firms furnishing information, about 4 1/2 per cent. were working on an average nearly 11 hours less than full time in the week ended 26th September, 1931; the amount of overtime worked was very small.

BUILDING.

There was a decline in employment during September, which affected all areas, except Northern Ireland, and was most marked in the painting and decorating section of the trade. Employment was, in general, very slack, but was reported as fairly good at some centres, including Coventry, Hull, Leicester, Nottingham and Plymouth. As compared with September, 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 bricklayers and masons and was moderate to slack with these

classes; it also declined with carpenters, plasterers, tradesmen's labourers and plumbers, and was very slack with the three former classes and bad with the latter. There was little change with slaters, with whom employment remained very slack; with painters it showed a marked seasonal decline and was bad. As compared with September, 1930, employment was much worse with each class of worker.

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 21st September, 1931, together with the increase or decrease as compared with the previous month and with September, 1930:—

Table showing numbers and percentages of workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, categorized by Occupations and Divisions.

BUILDING PLANS APPROVED.

Returns from Local Authorities in 145 of the principal urban areas in Great Britain (except the London County Council Area) with a total population of 16,409,000, show that in September, 1931, plans were passed for buildings of an estimated cost of £5,456,300, as compared with £3,143,000 in August, 1931, and £6,908,200 in September, 1930.

POTTERY INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT in North Staffordshire showed an improvement, but was still bad on the whole; there was a considerable decrease in short-time working. At Worcester and at Bristol employment continued fair; in the stoneware section in Scotland it remained bad.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 32.8 at 21st September, 1931, as compared with 36.2 at 24th August, 1931, and 24.7 at 22nd September, 1930.

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

Table summarising information for POTTERY INDUSTRY, including Total Wages paid to all Workpeople and regional data.

Returns from employers relative to short-time working showed that, of 9,189 workpeople employed by firms making returns, 3,616, or nearly 39 1/2 per cent., were working on an average about 13 1/2 hours less than full time in the week ended 26th September, 1931; the amount of overtime worked was very small.

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

PAPER MANUFACTURE, PRINTING, AND BOOKBINDING.

EMPLOYMENT generally continued moderate in the paper making industry during September. There was still much short time working in a number of districts, and in others mills were working irregularly. In some centres, however, full time was reported.

Employment in the letterpress printing trade was again moderate on the whole. It was reported as bad in London and at Bristol, Manchester and Newcastle, and was worse than in August in all of these centres. It was described as slack at Leeds, Liverpool and Glasgow; though at Birmingham, and at many of the smaller centres, employment was fair. With electrotypers and stereotypers employment remained fairly good on the whole.

In the lithographic printing trade employment continued moderate on the whole, and declined somewhat during the month. Short time remained prevalent in many of the larger centres, which included Liverpool, Manchester, Bristol and Glasgow. Reports from some of the smaller towns described employment as fair. Employment with lithographic artists on the whole was slack to moderate, and showed a decline as compared with August.

Employment in the bookbinding trade declined during the month and was generally slack.

The percentage unemployed among insured workpeople in the paper and paper-board industries was 17.8 at 21st September, 1930, compared with 15.3 at 24th August and 9.9 at 22nd September, 1930. In the printing and bookbinding industries the percentage was 10.7 at 21st September, compared with 10.4 at 24th August and 7.1 at 22nd September, 1930. In the cardboard box, paper bag and stationery industries the percentage was 12.8 at 21st September, the same percentage as at 24th August, compared with 8.5 at 22nd September, 1930.

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

Table with 3 columns: Trade Union, No. of Members of Unions at end of September, 1931, and Percentage Unemployed at end of Sept., 1931. Includes Letterpress Printing, Lithographic Printing, Bookbinding, etc.

The figures for letterpress printing and for bookbinding are not comparable with those published in previous issues of this GAZETTE. In the case of certain members who are ordinarily engaged in establishments which cover bookbinding as well as printing, it is no longer possible to distinguish between these two branches. The figures for these workpeople are shown in the last line of the Table. For printing and bookbinding as a whole, however, it is possible to make an approximate comparison. This shows that the average percentage unemployed among the members of trade unions which rendered returns at the end of September, 1931, was 7.3, as compared with 6.8 a month before and 5.7 a year before.

SEAMEN.

EMPLOYMENT during September remained bad on the whole. The supply of seamen was largely in excess of requirements at the majority of ports.

Among insured workpeople in the shipping service the percentage unemployed at 21st September, 1931, was 36.4, compared with 35.1 at 24th August, 1931, and 24.2 at 22nd September, 1930.

The demand for men on the Thames fluctuated somewhat, and at the end of the month was moderate. On the Tyne it declined until the later stages of the month, when some improvement took place; on the Tees it was slack throughout the month. The demand at the Hartlepoons was poor, with slackness more marked during the middle of the month; on the Wear, apart from some activity in the first and third weeks, the demand was dull. At Hull it improved from slack to moderate, but towards the end of the month some falling-off was noted. At Southampton employment improved to fair, but then again declined, and at the end of September was dull. At Bristol, apart from a slight increase in activity in the middle of the month, the demand was dull; at Avonmouth the demand varied and at the end of September was slack. Apart from some slackness in the third week, the demand at Newport was moderate, with an improving tendency towards the end of the month. At Cardiff it was good until the middle of the month and then became quieter; at Swansea it declined throughout the month, and at the end of September was very slack. On the Mersey it was moderate in the first fortnight, and improved somewhat thereafter, but slackened again towards the end of the month. At Manchester it declined, and at the end of September was very slack. On the Clyde and at Leith the demand was slack, but showed an improving tendency towards the end of the month. At Belfast it was quiet, with some falling-off at the end of the month.

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

Table showing Number of Seamen* shipped in British registered foreign-going vessels at various ports (England and Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland) for Sept. 1931, compared with previous months.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

EMPLOYMENT was slack during September, but slightly better than in the previous month. Among insured workpeople in the dock, harbour, river and canal service, 39.4 per cent. were unemployed at 21st September, 1931, as compared with 40.3 per cent. at 24th August, 1931, and with 36.0 per cent. at 22nd September, 1930.

London.—Employment showed a fairly general slight improvement. The following Table shows the average daily number of dock labourers employed at docks and wharves in respect of which returns were received:—

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

Tilbury.—The average daily number of dock labourers employed during September was 820, compared with 666 in August, 1931, and with 798 in September, 1930.

East Coast.—Employment at the North-East coast ports showed little change on the whole, and was generally slack. Timber imports were active at Hull, but otherwise work there was dull. Employment was slack at Ipswich, but continued fair at Yarmouth, Lowestoft and Lynn.

Liverpool.—Employment remained very 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 25th September, 1931, was 10,010, compared with 10,332 in August, 1931, and with 11,780 in September, 1930. The average weekly amount of wages paid to these men through the clearing houses was £20,703 in the four weeks ended September, 1931, compared with £22,648 in August, 1931, and with £26,939 in September, 1930.

Other Ports in England and Wales.—At the South Wales ports employment was still slack, but there were some signs of improvement at the end of the month. Work was fairly plentiful at Avonmouth with timber and grain cargoes, and was good at Gloucester. At Southampton employment continued moderate. It was somewhat better at Plymouth than during August, but remained poor at Salford.

Scottish and Irish Ports.—Employment at Leith was fair. At Glasgow it remained slack. At Dundee it was bad, but improving at the end of the month. It continued fair at Belfast.

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

COMPOSITION OF UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS: GREAT BRITAIN.

On page 392 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 21st September, 1931, of the composition of these statistics. Lines 1 to 3 make up the number of persons on the register; while, by omitting the uninsured persons (line 3) and including lines 4 and 5, 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: Great Britain, categorized by sex and age group (Men, Boys, Women, Girls, Total).

NUMBERS ON THE REGISTERS OF EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES.*

Table showing Numbers on the Registers of Employment Exchanges for Great Britain and Northern Ireland, broken down by date and sex.

Analysis of figures for 28th September, 1931.

Table showing Analysis of figures for 28th September, 1931, including Persons normally in Regular Employment, Persons normally in Casual Employment, and Total.

VACANCIES NOTIFIED AND FILLED. (Great Britain and Northern Ireland.)

Table showing Vacancies notified and filled during the four weeks ended 28th September, 1931, categorized by sex and age group.

Of the 143,166 vacancies filled during the four weeks ended 28th September, 1931, 85,364 were for men, 32,748 for women, and 25,054 for juveniles.

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

† "Vacancies filled" include certain types of cases (described as Class B placings) in which the work of the Exchanges was limited; for instance, obtaining for an employer former employees, or placing the same men in relief work in alternate weeks. During the five weeks ended 7th September, 1931, the average number of placings of casual workers during the four weeks ended 28th September, 1931, was 625 per week.

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 28th September, 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 the Registers in the Principal Towns, categorized by Area and sex, with sub-totals for Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

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

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED INDUSTRIES.

The statistics here presented show, industry by industry, the estimated number of persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, the number and percentage of such persons who were unemployed on 21st September, 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 exempted 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 exempted.

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 391 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 391.

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

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

Special Note. Persons aged 65 and over.

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

NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS RECORDED AS UNEMPLOYED AT 21st SEPTEMBER, 1931.

Table with columns: INDUSTRY, WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED (including Casuals), TEMPORARY STOPPAGES, TOTAL. Sub-headers for Males, Females, Total. Rows include Fishing, Mining, Non-Metallic Mining Products, Brick, Tile, etc., Pottery, Earthenware, etc., Glass Trades, Chemicals, etc., Metal Manufacture, Engineering, etc., Construction and Repair of Vehicles.

Table with columns: INDUSTRY, GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND, GREAT BRITAIN ONLY. Sub-headers for WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED (including Casuals), TEMPORARY STOPPAGES, TOTAL. Rows include Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing, Metal Trades, Textile Trades, Leather and Leather Goods, Clothing Trades, Food, Drink and Tobacco, Sawmilling, Furniture and Woodwork, Printing and Paper Trades, Building and Public Works Contracting, Other Manufacturing Industries, Gas, Water and Electricity Supply, Transport and Communication, Distributive Trades, Commerce, Banking, Insurance and Finance, Miscellaneous Trades and Services.

* Including 115,470 Casuals (Males, 113,189; Females, 2,281).

NUMBERS INSURED AND PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED.

Table with columns: INDUSTRY, ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AT JULY, 1930, PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 21ST SEPTEMBER, 1931, INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN TOTAL PERCENTAGES AS COMPARED WITH 24TH AUG., 1931, 22ND SEPT., 1930, 23RD SEPT., 1929, GREAT BRITAIN ONLY. TOTAL PERCENTAGES AT 21ST SEPT., 1931.

* For 23rd September, 1929, separate figures for each of the two sections are not available.

Table with columns: INDUSTRY, ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AT JULY, 1930, PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 21ST SEPTEMBER, 1931, INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN TOTAL PERCENTAGES AS COMPARED WITH 24TH AUG., 1931, 22ND SEPT., 1930, 23RD SEPT., 1929, GREAT BRITAIN ONLY. TOTAL PERCENTAGES AT 21ST SEPT., 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 21st September, 1931, are analysed so as to show the proportion of the total unemployed classified as belonging to various industry groups :-

Table with columns: Industry Group, Males, Females, Total, Percentage of Total, Percentage of Total Unemployed.

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 21st September, 1931, differed from the figures for 24th August, 1931, to the extent of 1,000 or more :-

Table with columns: Industry, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Numbers recorded as Unemployed at 21st Sept., 1931, as compared with 24th Aug., 1931, Males, Females, Total.

Total 1,722,476 100.0 450,826 100.0 494,604 100.0 212,640 100.0

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

Table with 5 columns: Industry, District, Date from which Change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, and Particulars of Change. Includes entries for Electrical Cable Manufacture, Edge Tool Manufacture, Chain, etc., Manufacture, Woollen and Worsted Industry, Lace Curtain Manufacture, Hosier Manufacture, and Boot and Shoe Manufacture.

* Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements. † The above decreases were the result of individual action on the part of the firms concerned. ‡ The reductions described are in accordance with the recommendation of the West of England Wool Textile Employers' Association.

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

Table with 5 columns: Industry, District, Date from which Change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, and Particulars of Change. Includes entries for Mill-sawing, Crate Making, Furniture Manufacture, Tramway Undertakings, Local Government (Non-Trading Services), Skip and Basket Making, Entertainments, and Glasgow and West of Scotland District.

* The workpeople concerned are mainly pieceworkers whose wages are regulated by the selling price of the crates made, the workman obtaining a fixed proportion of the value of the total output.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

The number of workpeople, other than seamen, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, reported during September, 1931, as killed in the course of their employment was 155, as compared with 122 in the previous month and with 192* in September, 1930.

Table showing Fatal Industrial Accidents by industry: RAILWAY SERVICE, MINES, QUARRIES, FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS, SEAMEN. Includes sub-tables for RAILWAY SERVICE, MINES, QUARRIES, and FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

* The figure previously published for September, 1930, has been revised.

INDUSTRIAL DISEASES.

THE total number of cases* of poisoning, anthrax, and epitheliomatous and chrome ulceration in Great Britain and Northern Ireland reported during September, 1931, under the Factory and Workshop Act, or under the Lead Paint (Protection against Poisoning) Act, was 38; the total number of deaths* reported was 5.

Table showing Industrial Diseases: I. Cases (Lead Poisoning, Epitheliomatous Ulceration), II. Deaths (Lead Poisoning, Anthrax, Epitheliomatous Ulceration).

* 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.

TRADE DISPUTES IN SEPTEMBER.*

Number, Magnitude and Duration.—The number of disputes involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as beginning in September in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was 28, as compared with 36 in the previous month, and 18 in September, 1930. In these new disputes about 6,900 workpeople were directly involved, and 1,300 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 5,100 workpeople were involved, either directly or indirectly, in 12 disputes which began before September and were still in progress at the beginning of that month.

In the following Table is given an analysis of the disputes in progress in September 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 :—

Table showing analysis of disputes in progress in September 1931, comparing it with August 1931 and September 1930. Columns include Industry Group, Started before beginning of Month, Started in Month, Total, Number of Workpeople involved in progress in month, and Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress in month.

Causes.—Of the 28 disputes beginning in September, 7, directly involving 2,000 workpeople, arose out of proposed reductions in wages; 8, directly involving 600 workpeople, on other wage questions; one, directly involving 200 workpeople, on a question as to working hours; 5, directly involving 3,100 workpeople, on questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons; 3, directly involving 400 workpeople, on other questions of working arrangements; and 4, directly involving 600 workpeople, on questions of Trade Union principle.

PRINCIPAL DISPUTES INVOLVING STOPPAGES OF WORK DURING SEPTEMBER, 1931.

Table of principal disputes involving stoppages of work during September 1931. Columns include Occupations and Locality, Approximate Number of Workpeople involved (Directly and Indirectly), Date when Dispute Began and Ended, Cause or Object, and Result.

* 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.
‡ The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople indirectly involved, i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred but not themselves parties to the disputes. The statements of cause and result do not apply to these persons.
§ Nottinghamshire. || Glasgow. ¶ Ayrshire.
** Estimated number involved at 14th August; number subsequently considerably reduced.
†† At the time of going to press it was reported that work was being generally resumed, but full particulars were not available.
‡‡ Estimated number.

Results.—Settlements were effected in the case of 20 new disputes, directly involving 4,300 workpeople, and 6 old disputes, directly involving 2,400 workpeople. Of these new and old disputes, 7, directly involving 700 workpeople, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 11, directly involving 1,000 workpeople, were settled in favour of the employers; and 8, directly involving 5,000 workpeople, were compromised. In the case of 3 disputes, directly involving 2,100 workpeople, work was resumed pending negotiations.

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

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

Table summarising figures for Great Britain and Northern Ireland for the first nine months of 1931 compared with the corresponding period of 1930. Columns include Industry Group, January to Sept., 1930, and January to Sept., 1931. Sub-columns for each year show No. of Disputes beginning in period, Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress, and Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.

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

Summary: Average Increases since July, 1914.

All Items included ... 45%
Food only ... 28%

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 October, 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 October 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 were advanced in a number of towns and at 1st October 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 October, 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 October, 1931, is approximately 45 per cent.* over the level of July, 1914, as compared with 45 per cent. at 1st September, 1931, and 56 per cent. at 1st October, 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.)

Summary table showing average percentage increase since July 1914 for all items from 1920 to 1931. Columns include Month (beginning of), 1920-1931, and rows for Jan., Feb., Mar., Apr., May, June, July, Aug., Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec.

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 of the addresses shown on the cover of this GAZETTE.

At 1st October the average level of the retail prices of the principal articles of food was about the same as at 1st September. Eggs and butter were dearer at the later date and potatoes and meat were cheaper, on the average.

FOOD.

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 28 per cent. at both 1st October and 1st September, 1931, as compared with 43 per cent. at 1st October, 1930.

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

Table comparing retail prices of food items (Beef, Mutton, Flour, Bread, Tea, Sugar, Milk, Butter, Eggs, Potatoes) in July 1914, 1st Sept. 1931, 1st Oct. 1931, and their average increase since July 1914. Columns include Article, Average Price (per lb. unless otherwise indicated—to the nearest 1/2d.), and Average Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) at 1st Oct., 1931, as compared with July, 1914.

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

Table comparing the level of retail prices at the same dates. Columns include Article, Average Percentage Increase at 1st Oct. 1931, as compared with July, 1914. Sub-columns show Large Towns (Populations over 50,000), Small Towns and Villages, General Average, and Corresponding General Average for 1st Sept., 1931.

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

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

RETAIL PRICES OVERSEAS.

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

I.—FOOD.

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

Country.	Percentage Increase as compared with July, 1914.*				Latest figures available.	
	July, 1928.	July, 1929.	July, 1930.	July, 1931.	Rise.	Date.
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND ...	57	49	41	30	28	1 Oct. 1931.
FOREIGN COUNTRIES.						
Czechoslovakia ...	...	...	30	17	13	Aug.
Denmark ...	53	49	37	19	19	July
Egypt (Cairo)† ...	44	40	32	...	19	May.
Finland ...	1,016	979	837	718	741	Aug.
France (Paris)† ...	...	522	503	517	496‡	Sept.
France (other towns)† ...	...	503**	514**	502**	...	Aug.
Germany ...	54	56	46	30	25	Sept.
Italy ...	416	458	407	342	338	Aug.
Norway ...	73	57	51	38	36	Sept.
Spain (Madrid)† ...	73	77	80	93	93	July
Spain (Barcelona)† ...	65	73	72	77	77	July
Sweden† ...	57	51	40	30	30	Sept.
Switzerland ...	57	55	52	40	39	Aug.
United States ...	50	55	41	17	17	Aug.
BRITISH DOMINIONS, &c.						
Australia ...	52	60	47	25	24	Aug.
Canada ...	47	50	49	10	9	Sept.
India (Bombay): Native families ...	43	45	36	0	0	Sept.
Irish Free State ...	66	66	56	43**	43	Aug.
New Zealand ...	46	46	43	18†	16†	Sept.
South Africa ...	16	16	9	4	3	Aug.

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.	Rise.	Date.
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND ...	A,B,O,D,E	65	61	55	47	45	1 Oct. 1931.
FOREIGN COUNTRIES.							
Belgium ...	A,O,D,E	711	771	769	689	687	Aug.
Czechoslovakia (Prague) ...	A,B,C,D,E	...	...	9	4	2	Aug.
Denmark ...	A,B,C,D,E	76	73	65	54	54	July
Egypt (Cairo) ...	A,B,C,E	51	50	48	...	35	June
Finland ...	A,B,C,D,E	1,113	1,101	1,008	904	917	Aug.
France (Paris) ...	A,B,C,D,E	419†	455†	492†	489	489	2nd Qr.
Germany ...	A,B,C,D,E	53	54	49	37	34	Sept.
Holland (Amsterdam) ...	A,B,C,D,E	70§	69§	62§	54§	54	June
Italy (Milan) ...	A,B,O,D,E	426	442	431	386	386	July
Italy (Rome) ...	A,B,O,D,E	387	407	400	...	348	June
Norway ...	A,B,C,D,E	93	80	75	67	65	Sept.
Poland (Warsaw) ...	A,B,C,D,E	23	23	19	5	4	Sept.
Sweden ...	A,B,C,D,E	73	69	64	58	58	Oct.
Switzerland ...	A,B,O,D	61	61	59	50	49	Aug.
United States ...	A,B,O,D,E	70§	70§	67§	50§	50	June
BRITISH DOMINIONS, &c.							
Australia ...	A,B,C,D,E	47†	50†	...	...	35	4th Qr. 1930.
Canada ...	A,B,O,D,E	55	56	56	37	36	Sept.
India (Bombay): Native families ...	A,B,C,D	47	48	40	8	8	Sept.
Irish Free State ...	A,B,C,D,E	73	74	68	57**	57	Aug.
New Zealand ...	A,B,O,D,E	62	60	58	45†	42†	Sept.
South Africa ...	A,B,C,D,E	31	31	28	22	22	Aug.

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

POOR RELIEF IN SEPTEMBER.

(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 September, 1931, in the forty-seven selected areas named below, was 557,640, or 0.7 per cent. less than in the previous month, but 8.6 per cent. more than in September, 1930. The numbers relieved at these three dates were equivalent, respectively, to rates of 335, 338 and 309 per 10,000 of the population.

In the forty-three selected areas in England and Wales, the number of persons relieved in September, 1931, was 459,819, a decrease of 0.7 per cent. as compared with August, 1931, but an increase of 6.2 per cent. as compared with September, 1930. In the four areas in Scotland, the number relieved was 97,821, a decrease of 0.7 per cent. as compared with a month ago, but an increase of 21.4 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Recipients of indoor relief in the forty-seven areas in September numbered 101,414, or 0.5 per cent. less than in the previous month, and 12.1 per cent. less than a year ago. Recipients of outdoor relief numbered 456,226, or 0.8 per cent. less than in the previous month, but 14.6 per cent. more than a year ago.

Of the forty-seven areas, twenty-six showed increases in the number per 10,000 relieved in September, as compared with August, while nineteen showed decreases. In two areas there was no change. Compared with September, 1930, thirty-eight areas showed increases, while seven showed small decreases. In two areas there was no change.

ENGLAND AND WALES.	Number of Persons* in receipt of Poor Relief on one day† in September, 1931.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with a	Month ago.	Year ago.
	Indoor.	Outdoor.	Total.			
County of London	38,242	80,865	119,107	271	- 8	- 31
Birkenhead ...	861	4,481	5,342	361	+ 7	+ 87
Birmingham ...	5,271	12,174	17,445	174	- 3	- 6
Blackburn ...	806	2,539	3,345	273	+ 16	+ 29
Bolton ...	902	2,481	3,383	191	+ 4	+ 7
Brighton ...	1,245	6,896	8,141	273	- 59	+ 36
Bradford ...	1,029	1,795	2,824	192	+ 1	-
Bristol ...	2,106	6,476	8,582	216	+ 2	+ 13
Burnley ...	509	1,630	2,139	218	+ 4	- 6
Cardiff ...	1,562	7,270	8,832	395	+ 13	+ 25
Coventry ...	452	1,543	1,995	119	+ 2	+ 12
Croydon ...	1,022	1,775	2,797	120	+ 3	+ 3
Darby ...	614	5,625	6,239	438	- 10	+ 43
East Ham ...	636	2,681	3,317	233	+ 8	+ 46
Gateshead ...	750	6,187	6,937	567	- 9	+ 24
Huddersfield ...	497	1,416	1,913	169	- 4	+ 19
Kingston-upon-Hull ...	1,653	15,110	16,763	535	+ 2	+ 18
Leeds ...	2,770	11,048	13,818	285	- 6	+ 13
Liverpool ...	822	4,146	4,968	208	- 6	+ 13
Manchester ...	7,066	41,332	48,398	573	+ 5	+ 123
Middlesbrough ...	3,822	31,247	35,069	458	+ 12	+ 117
Newcastle-on-Tyne ...	548	3,249	3,797	274	- 1	- 19
Norwich ...	951	13,264	14,195	501	+ 10	+ 59
Nottingham ...	873	5,112	5,985	474	+ 13	+ 124
Oldham ...	1,795	6,343	10,136	377	+ 1	+ 31
Plymouth ...	936	3,334	2,270	162	+ 4	+ 34
Portsmouth ...	528	5,291	5,819	280	- 1	-
Preston ...	1,377	2,233	3,610	145	+ 3	+ 9
St. Helens ...	669	781	1,450	122	+ 1	+ 31
Salford ...	515	3,285	3,800	356	+ 2	+ 22
Sheffield ...	1,639	4,523	6,162	276	+ 1	+ 6
Southampton ...	1,826	26,329	28,155	550	- 4	+ 112
Southend-on-Sea ...	1,370	2,419	3,789	215	+ 1	+ 11
South Shields ...	285	1,325	1,610	134	+ 18	+ 20
Stockport ...	714	2,815	3,529	311	- 10	- 7
Stoke-on-Trent ...	584	1,084	1,668	133	- 20	+ 2
Sunderland ...	1,745	5,139	6,884	249	- 2	+ 26
Swansea ...	913	7,564	8,477	462	- 2	+ 22
Wallsley ...	705	5,015	5,720	347	- 7	+ 13
Walsall ...	260	1,120	1,380	142	+ 1	+ 26
West Ham ...	558	3,234	3,792	368	- 11	+ 97
Wolverhampton ...	2,170	11,041	13,211	449	+ 2	+ 97
	577	1,744	2,321	174	- 2	+ 20
Total of the above-named County Boroughs ...	55,916	284,796	340,712	329	...	+ 40
Total, County of London and Selected County Boroughs ...	94,158	365,661	459,819	512	- 2	+ 19
SCOTLAND.						
Glasgow ...	4,873	69,490	74,368	683	- 4	+ 123
Edinburgh ...	1,224	15,782	16,226	310	- 12	+ 25
Dunfermline ...	770	3,366	4,156	236	+ 12	+ 56
Aberdeen ...	394	2,697	3,091	185	+ 8	+ 16
Total for the above Scottish Burghs ...	7,256	90,565	97,821	523	- 4	+ 82
TOTAL for above 47 areas in September, 1931 ...	101,414	456,226	557,640	335	- 3	+ 26

* 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.
† 19th September in London, 26th September in the rest of England and Wales, and 15th September in Scotland.
‡ The rate per 10,000 for September, 1931, and August, 1931, are calculated on the basis of the preliminary Report of the Population Census, 1931, and for September, 1930, on the estimated populations at mid-1929.

MEMBERSHIP OF TRADE UNIONS.

[NOTE.—The figures given for 1930 are provisional and subject to slight revision when certain information, at present outstanding, has been received. Some Unions are unable to state exactly the number of males and of females, respectively, comprised within their total membership, and in these cases estimates have been furnished: the totals shown for males and for females, therefore, are only approximate. The industrial classification used for the purpose of the analysis into groups of Unions follows that adopted for the current edition of the Ministry of Labour Directory of Employers' Associations, Trade Unions, etc., which is based upon the standard industrial classification drawn up for the Population Census. The total membership of each Union has been included in the group with which the majority of the members are believed to be connected. A review of the figures appears on pages 375-6.]

I.—NUMBER OF UNIONS IN GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AT THE END OF 1930, WITH MEMBERSHIP (MALE, FEMALE AND TOTAL), AND PERCENTAGE INCREASE OR DECREASE IN MEMBERSHIP COMPARED WITH 1929.

Group of Unions.	No. of Trade Unions at end of 1930.	Membership at end of—						Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Membership at end of 1930 compared with end of 1929.		
		1930.			1929.			Males.	Females.	Total.
		Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.			
Agriculture, Horticulture, etc.* ...	3	34,702	441	35,143	34,256	538	34,794	+ 1.3	- 18.0	+ 1.0
Mining and Quarrying ...	119	609,051	2,500	611,551	622,087	2,504	624,591	- 2.1	- 0.2	- 2.1
Pottery and Glass ...	18	15,323	10,925	26,248	15,004	9,913	24,917	+ 2.1	+ 10.2	+ 5.3
Metals, Machines, Conveyances, etc.**	6	64,736	943	65,679	71,348	1,040	72,388	- 9.3	- 9.3	- 9.3
Iron, Steel, Tinplate, etc., Manufacture										
Engineering, Ironfounding, Shipbuilding, Other Metal Working and Vehicle Building ...	100	530,069	4,907	534,976	534,738	5,609	540,347	- 0.9	- 12.5	- 1.0
Textile—										
Cotton ...	171	138,335	218,280	356,615	142,127	221,319	363,446	- 2.7	- 1.4	- 1.9
Wool, Worsted and Shoddy ...	27	39,587	29,159	68,546	45,008	35,177	80,185	- 12.5	- 17.1	- 14.5
Flax and Jute ...	21	7,714	20,478	28,192	8,906	20,965	29,871	- 13.4	- 2.3	- 5.6
Hosiery ...	6	5,503	18,201	23,704	6,109	13,870	19,979	- 9.9	- 8.4	- 8.9
Bleaching, Dyeing, Finishing, etc. ...	30	52,227	15,738	67,965	56,578	17,196	73,774	- 7.7	- 8.5	- 7.9
Other Textile ...	28	9,804	10,698	20,502	10,161	13,915	24,076	- 3.5	- 23.1	- 14.8
Clothing—										
Boot and Shoe ...	8	62,119	28,160	90,279	61,039	28,299	89,338	+ 1.8	- 0.5	+ 1.1
Tailoring and Other Clothing ...	19	26,910	42,137	69,047	28,105	42,036	70,141	- 4.3	+ 0.2	- 1.6
Food, Drink and Tobacco ...	7	24,513	5,359	29,872	24,418	5,241	29,659	+ 0.4	+ 2.3	+ 0.7
Woodworking and Furniture Manufacture†										
Furniture ...	8	27,546	3,444	30,990	28,177	3,597	31,774	- 2.2	- 4.3	- 2.5
Other ...	25	3								

BUILDING PLANS APPROVED.

THIRD QUARTER OF 1931.

RETURNS have been received from 145 Local Authorities in Great Britain, giving the estimated cost of buildings for which plans were passed during the third quarter of 1931. The summarised figures for the quarter are given in the Table below, together with similar figures as to plans passed by the same Authorities during the corresponding quarter of 1930.

District and Aggregate Population (at Census of 1921) of Towns from which returns have been received.	Estimated Cost of Buildings for which plans were approved in the 145 Towns from which returns have been received.					TOTAL.
	Dwelling Houses.	Factories and Workshops.	Shops, Offices, Warehouses, and other Business Premises.	Churches, Schools, and Public Buildings.	Other Buildings, and Additions and Alterations to Existing Buildings.	

(a) THIRD QUARTER OF 1931.						
ENGLAND AND WALES—Northern Counties (917,000)	£	£	£	£	£	£
Yorkshire (2,334,000)	1,650,000	44,100	141,500	236,100	189,400	2,261,100
Lancashire and Cheshire (3,035,000)	1,666,800	29,700	126,300	537,400	141,000	2,501,200
North and West-Midland Counties (2,910,000)	1,795,600	151,900	127,400	260,500	360,200	2,695,600
South-Midland and Eastern Counties (616,000)	346,600	33,800	73,400	55,400	57,200	566,400
Outer London* (2,142,000)	3,686,500	150,800	404,900	112,900	326,000	4,681,100
South-Eastern Counties (1,041,000)	937,500	59,700	75,400	165,200	219,000	1,456,800
South-Western Counties (433,000)	253,000	15,500	15,900	40,700	52,400	377,500
Wales and Monmouthshire (834,000)	221,900	2,800	20,400	31,900	37,900	314,900
SCOTLAND (2,147,000)	441,500	81,700	95,600	126,700	167,900	913,400
Total (16,409,000)	11,275,700	570,600	1,086,500	1,665,800	1,614,800	16,213,400

(b) THIRD QUARTER OF 1930.						
ENGLAND AND WALES—Northern Counties (917,000)	£	£	£	£	£	£
Yorkshire (2,334,000)	1,276,000	62,900	109,600	201,300	189,100	1,838,900
Lancashire and Cheshire (3,035,000)	982,100	76,300	253,000	275,800	238,900	1,826,100
North and West-Midland Counties (2,910,000)	1,352,200	284,100	174,600	394,100	538,300	2,743,300
South-Midland and Eastern Counties (616,000)	530,700	42,400	31,700	16,300	85,100	706,200
Outer London* (2,142,000)	4,784,600	306,300	261,900	224,400	348,500	5,925,700
South-Eastern Counties (1,041,000)	905,300	31,500	79,000	98,000	185,600	1,299,400
South-Western Counties (433,000)	177,900	19,500	37,900	115,700	88,400	439,400
Wales and Monmouthshire (834,000)	68,300	10,200	42,100	99,700	60,900	281,200
SCOTLAND (2,147,000)	490,800	57,500	111,200	322,600	381,500	1,363,600
Total (16,409,000)	10,879,400	906,100	1,293,400	1,864,300	2,201,500	17,144,700

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

Workmen's Compensation Act, 1925.

TOTAL INCAPACITY: ASSESSMENT OF COMPENSATION HAVING REGARD TO PAYMENT FROM SUPERANNUATION FUND.

AN application was made by the Salford Corporation to reduce the amount of compensation payable to one of their workers. This worker had been permanently incapacitated by an accident arising out of and in the course of the employment, and had been in receipt of compensation of 30s. weekly. Subsequently, he had become entitled to receive a superannuation allowance under the Local Government and Other Officers' Superannuation Act, 1922, and was in receipt of superannuation payment of £1 16s. 6d. a week. Section 9 (1) (b) of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1925, is as follows:—

In fixing the amount of the weekly payment regard shall be had to any payment, allowance, or benefit which the workman may receive from the employer during the period of his incapacity.

It was argued for the Corporation that, since they paid two-thirds of the contribution to the superannuation fund, they were entitled to ask for a reduction of the amount paid as compensation to the extent of two-thirds of the sum paid as superannuation, making the amount payable as compensation 6s. weekly.

* Particulars are not available for the London County Council area.

His Honour, Judge Crosthwaite, said that he did not propose to lay down any rule on the subject. The words of the subsection were very broad. It did not say that the amount of the superannuation or any definite proportion of it should be deducted from the compensation payable; it did not indicate, as it might have done, any precise method of calculation. The words were that "regard must be had" to the amount of superannuation paid. He proposed therefore to "have regard" broadly and in relation to all the circumstances known to him. In this case he would deduct half the superannuation pay, 18s. 3d. a week, from the amount of compensation hitherto paid, 30s. a week, thus assessing the amount of compensation payable by the Corporation at 11s. 9d. a week.—*Corporation of Salford v. Rigby. Salford County Court. 15th September, 1931.*

Trade Boards Acts, 1909-1918.

AERATED WATERS TRADE.

A company and its agent were charged with underpaying three male workers. A fine of £1 was imposed on each summons, and arrears of wages amounting to £39 1s. 5d. were ordered to be paid. *Rez v. Charles Oldham and Son (Wisbech), Ltd. and Charles Oldham. Wisbech Borough Police Court. 3rd September, 1931.*

MILK DISTRIBUTIVE TRADE.

A company was charged with underpaying one male worker and with failing to keep adequate records, and was fined £10 and £1, respectively, with £10 10s. costs. Arrears of wages were ordered to be paid.—*Rez v. Elmhurst Farming and Trading Company. Croydon County Police Court. 19th September and 2nd October, 1931.*

An employer was charged with (a) underpaying two male workers, (b) failing to keep adequate records, (c) failing to post Trade Board notice, and (d) producing a false record. He was fined £5 on one charge of underpayment, £2 on charge (b), and £1 on charge (c). The second charge of underpayment and charge (d) were dismissed under the Probation of Offenders Act. Costs of £7 7s. were awarded, and arrears of wages amounting to £32 were ordered to be paid.—*Rez v. J. R. Scott. North London Police Court. 25th September and 2nd October, 1931.*

An employer was charged with underpaying four male workers and failing to keep adequate records. He was fined £5 on each underpayment charge and £1 1s. on the charge relating to records, with 15s. costs. Arrears of wages amounting to £44 18s. 9d. were paid prior to the hearing.—*Rez v. William Alfred Hall. Aldershot Police Court. 1st October, 1931.*

Trade Boards Act (Northern Ireland), 1923.

RETAIL BESPOKE TAILORING TRADE (NORTHERN IRELAND).

Criminal proceedings were brought against a firm in the tailoring trade in Northern Ireland for failure to keep such records of time worked as were necessary to show that the provisions of the Act were being complied with in respect of three workers.

The defendants' solicitor pleaded guilty, and the Court imposed a fine of 1s. in respect of each summons, and in addition allowed costs amounting to £2 2s.—*J. H. Craig v. W. J. Johnston & Co. Omagh Petty Sessions. 21st September, 1931.*

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTS, 1920-31.

THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (NATIONAL ECONOMY) (No. 1) ORDER, 1931.*

AN Order-in-Council, issued under the National Economy Act, 1931,† and dated 1st October, 1931, provides, after the preamble, as follows:—

1. As from and after the 5th day of October, 1931, until the expiration of the extended period, the contributions payable under the Acts by employed persons and their employers shall be at the respective rates set out in the First Schedule to this Order, and accordingly in paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section four of the Act of 1925 a reference to that Schedule shall be substituted for the reference to the First Schedule to the Act of 1925, and the last-mentioned Schedule and section two of the Act of 1927, (except in so far as it relates to the meaning of the expression "young men and young women"), and the First Schedule to that Act shall be repealed.

2. The following provisions shall have effect as from and after the 8th day of October, 1931, with respect to the rates of benefit under the Acts:—

(a) Subsection (1) of section four of the Act of 1927 shall have effect as if the Second Schedule to this Order was substituted for the Third Schedule to that Act, and the last-mentioned Schedule and subsection (1) of section two of the Act of 1930 and the First Schedule to that Act shall be repealed.

(b) In subsection (2) of section two of the Act of 1930, (which relates to the increase in the weekly rate of benefit in respect of dependants), for the words "nine shillings," wherever those words occur, there shall be substituted the words "eight shillings."

3.—(1) In this Order the following expressions have the meanings hereby assigned to them:—

"The Acts" means the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1931:

"The Act of 1925," "the Act of 1927" and "the Act of 1930" mean respectively the Unemployment Insurance Act,

* *Statutory Rules and Orders, 1931, No. 814. H.M. Stationery Office; price 1d. net (1½d. post free).*
† 21 and 22 Geo. 5, ch. 48. A notice of this Act appears on page 374 of this issue.

1925, the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1927, and the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1930:

"Benefit" means unemployment benefit:
"Extended period" has the same meaning as in subsection (1) of section four of the Act of 1925:
"Young men" and "young women" have the same meanings as in the Act of 1927.

(2) This Order and the Acts shall be construed together, and any reference in any Act or other document to the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1931, or to the enactments relating to unemployment insurance, shall be deemed to include a reference to this Order.

4.—(1) This Order may be cited as the Unemployment Insurance (National Economy) (No. 1) Order, 1931.

(2) This Order shall not extend to Northern Ireland.

FIRST SCHEDULE.

RATE OF CONTRIBUTIONS BY EMPLOYED PERSONS AND EMPLOYERS.

Ordinary Rates.		
From the employed person for each week—		d.
In the case of men	10	
In the case of women	9	
From the employer for each week—		
In the case of employed persons being men	10	
In the case of employed persons being women	9	
Rates in respect of young men and young women.		
From the employed person for each week—		
In the case of young men	9	
In the case of young women	8	
From the employer for each week—		
In the case of employed persons being young men	9	
In the case of employed persons being young women	8	
Rates in case of persons under eighteen.		
From the employed person for each week—		
In the case of boys	5	
In the case of girls	4½	
From the employer for each week—		
In the case of employed persons being boys	5	
In the case of employed persons being girls	4½	

SECOND SCHEDULE.

WEEKLY RATES OF UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT.

Class of persons to whom rate applies—	Rate of benefit.
	s. d.
1. Persons of the age of 21 years and upwards—	
Men	15 3
Women	13 6
2. Persons who have attained the age of 18 years but are under the age of 21 years—	
Young men	12 6
Young women	10 9
3. Persons who have attained the age of 17 years but are under the age of 18 years—	
Boys	8 0
Girls	6 9
4. Persons who are under the age of 17 years—	
Boys	5 6
Girls	4 6

If the total amount payable to any person includes a fraction of a penny, that fraction may be treated as a complete penny.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (ANOMALIES) REGULATIONS, 1931.

The Unemployment Insurance (Anomalies) Regulations, 1931,* dated October 2, 1931, made by the Minister of Labour under the Unemployment Insurance (No. 3) Act, 1931 (21 & 22 Geo. 5, c. 36).

WHEREAS the Minister of Labour (hereinafter called "the Minister") has submitted a draft of these Regulations to the Advisory Committee constituted under Section 2 of the Unemployment Insurance (No. 3) Act, 1931.†

Now, therefore, the Minister by virtue of the powers conferred by Section 1 of the said Act and of all other powers in that behalf hereby makes the following Regulations:—

1.—(i) In the case of the class of 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, the amount of benefit otherwise payable to persons of the said class in respect of any benefit week shall be reduced by the amount by which the aggregate of the earnings or similar payments received by them in that benefit week and of the benefit aforesaid exceeds the normal earnings for a full week of persons following the same occupation in the same district.

(ii) The provisions of sub-paragraph (i) hereof shall not apply to those portions of the said class who have worked as aforesaid and

* *Statutory Rules and Orders, 1931, No. 818. H.M. Stationery Office; price 1d. net (1½d. post free).*
† The Report of the Advisory Committee on the draft Regulations has been published. H.M. Stationery Office; price 2d. net (2½d. post free). A notice of the Report will be found on page 374 of this issue of the GAZETTE.

received earnings or similar payments as aforesaid for a period of less than four consecutive weeks, or who since the last occasion on which they so worked and received such earnings or similar payments have ceased for a period of four consecutive weeks or longer so to work and receive such earnings or similar payments.

2.—(i) A member of the class of persons whose normal employment is employment for a part or parts of the year only in an occupation or occupations of a seasonal nature shall be entitled to receive benefit in respect of any days during the "off-season" only if, in addition to satisfying the other requirements of the Acts for the receipt of benefit, he also proves—

(a) that he has within each year of the period of two years immediately preceding the date of his application for benefit been employed in insurable employment during the off-season to a substantial extent; and

(b) that, having regard to all the circumstances of his case, and particularly to his industrial experience and to the industrial circumstances of the district in which he is residing, he can reasonably expect to obtain insurable employment in that district during a substantial period of the off-season.

(ii) In this paragraph the expression "off-season" means:—

(a) in relation to that portion of the said class whose normal employment is in an occupation followed by them in one district only, that part or those parts of the year during which persons are not normally employed in that occupation in that district; and

(b) in relation to that portion of the said class whose normal employment is in an occupation followed by them in two or more districts, that part or those parts of the year during which persons are not normally employed in that occupation in those districts; and

(c) in relation to that portion of the said class whose normal employment is in an occupation at a holiday or health resort in which employment is to a substantial extent dependent on the presence of visitors thereat during holiday seasons, that part or those parts of the year other than holiday seasons.

(iii) This regulation shall apply only to those portions of the said class which in any district are engaged in occupations in which during a substantial part of the year no substantial amount of employment is normally available in that district, or which are engaged in occupations at a holiday or health resort in which employment is to a substantial extent dependent on the presence of visitors thereat during holiday seasons.

3. A member of the class of 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, shall not be entitled to receive benefit in respect of any days other than those days in the week which constitute his normal employment.

4. 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.

5.—(i) In these Regulations, unless the contrary intention appears:—

the expression "the Acts" means the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1931;

the expression "benefit" means unemployment benefit;

the expression "insurable employment" in relation to an insured contributor means such employment as would make him an employed person within the meaning of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920;

the expression "benefit week" means in relation to any person the period of seven days ending with the latest day in respect of which benefit is commonly computed in his case in each calendar week;

the expression "benefit quarter" has the same meaning as in the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1927.

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

6. These Regulations may be cited as the Unemployment Insurance (Anomalies) Regulations, 1931, and shall come into force on the third day of October, 1931.

Signed by order of the Minister of Labour this second day of October, 1931.

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

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:—

Cases Nos. 7816/30 (15.7.30) and 18565/31 (22.9.31).

SECTION 8 (3) OF PRINCIPAL ACT.—INMATE OF A PUBLIC INSTITUTION—CLAIMANTS ADMITTED TO WORKHOUSE CASUAL WARDS.

The circumstances of these cases are as stated in the following decision given by the Umpire:—

Decision (in first case).—“On the facts before me my decision is that the claim for benefit should be disallowed in respect of 6th and 8th March.

“The claimants went into a workhouse at 6 p.m. on 5th March and remained there until 8 a.m. on 6th March. They again entered the workhouse on 7th March at 6 p.m. and left on 8th March at 9 a.m. On the occasion of each visit the claimants received sleeping accommodation and meals for which no payment was made in cash or labour. They were therefore inmates of a workhouse, and whilst they were such inmates they are disqualified for receiving unemployment benefit under the provisions of Section 8 (3) of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920.

“The sole question for determination is for what period the claimants should be disqualified.

“The Court of Referees has decided that the disqualification operates from 5th to 8th March, inclusive. The Insurance Officer suggests that disqualification for the 6th and 8th March is adequate.

“I agree with the Insurance Officer that the disqualification should only operate for two days, and applying the principle of the Night Work Regulations, 1924 (S.R. & O., 1924, No. 1601) I think that the Insurance Officer has selected the appropriate two days.”

Decision (in second case).—“On the facts before me my decision is that the claim for benefit should be disallowed in respect of any day on which the claimant was an inmate of a workhouse.

“The claimant, between 31st January and 1st April of this year, was on many (if not all) nights an inmate of a casual ward in different workhouses, and the question arises whether in respect of any day, the night of which was spent in a casual ward, the claimant is disqualified for receiving unemployment benefit under the provisions of Section 8 (3) of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920.

“In Decision 7816/30 I decided that where a man entered the casual ward of a workhouse on the evening of one day and left on the morning of the following day that he should not be disqualified for receiving unemployment benefit in respect of both of those days, but that the principle of the Night Work Regulations, 1924 (S.R. & O., 1924, No. 1601) should be applied to determine which was the appropriate day for disallowance of benefit.

“The claimant contends that a man who spends a night only in a workhouse cannot be an ‘inmate’ of a workhouse. I do not agree with that contention (cf. *R. v. Mead*, 59 J.P. 150).

“What, I think, was intended by Section 8 (3) of the Act of 1920 was, that a person who was receiving board and lodging at the public expense was not at the same time to be in receipt of unemployment benefit, and this is what an inmate of the casual ward in fact receives.

“For these reasons I agree with the decision of the Court of Referees, but as it is not clear that the claimant was an inmate of a casual ward on each day between 31st January and 1st April of this year, I have limited the disqualification to those days on which the claimant was such an inmate.”

Case No. 18178/31. (15/9/31.)

SECTION 14 (2) (b) OF 1927 ACT.—NORMALLY EMPLOYED IN INSURABLE EMPLOYMENT—NEW ENTRANT TO INSURABLE EMPLOYMENT WHO HAD BEEN EMPLOYED ABROAD FOR 7 YEARS AND OBTAINED 13 WEEKS INSURABLE WORK SINCE RETURN.

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

Decision.—“On the facts before me my decision is that the claim for benefit should be disallowed on and from the date of the claim which was questioned by the Insurance Officer.

“The claimant, whose age is 23, is a new entrant to insurable employment. His industrial record consists of employment in Spain for 7 years to October, 1929, and insurable employment in this country for 13 weeks to 3rd January, 1931. He did not register for employment between October, 1929, and October, 1930.

“The claim of a new entrant to insurable employment, whose industrial record before he entered insurable employment consisted exclusively of insurable employment (i.e., employment which would be insurable under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, whether in force at the time or not), employment abroad, or in

* 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 August, 1931.

business on his own account, should be considered under Rule 3 of Decision 2203/28,* and he must give ‘evidence of a substantial period of insurable employment previous to his application for benefit.’ It is not desirable to define precisely the period which should be required in the case of a claimant whose record is entirely unisurable, since the period may be affected by the nature of the employment and other circumstances. In the present case a period of 26 weeks would in my view be sufficient.

“The claim of an entrant to insurable employment, whose industrial record consists mainly, but not entirely, of unisurable employment, employment abroad, or in business on his own account, is also considered under Rule 3 of Decision 2203/28, but a shorter period of insurable employment is required to satisfy the rule in his case than in the case of a new entrant whose earlier record is entirely unisurable. The fact that the claimant’s employment was ‘excepted’ only on the ground that his salary exceeded £250 a year, is also a reason for reducing the period.

“If the claimant is a new entrant to insurable employment and has no previous record of unisurable employment, employment abroad, or in business on his own account, a shorter period of insurable employment is required in his case than would be necessary to satisfy Rule 3 of Decision 2203/28. Such claimants are as a rule young people.

“The case of a claimant whose industrial record consists mainly of insurable employment falls under Rule 4 of Decision 2203/28.

“The present claim falls within the first of the categories which I have mentioned, and the claimant’s insurable employment is not, in my view, sufficient to satisfy the rule.”

Case No. 18901/31. (30.9.31.)

SECTION 8 (1) OF PRINCIPAL ACT (AS AMENDED). TRADE DISPUTE—“12 DAYS’ RULE” AS APPLIED TO SHIP-REPAIRERS HABITUALLY EMPLOYED AT FIRMS AT WHICH A STOPPAGE OF WORK HAD TAKEN PLACE—CODIFYING DECISION.

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.

“These claimants are members of the Boilermakers’ and Iron and Steel Shipbuilders’ Society. Three of them are riveters, and the other four are respectively two boilermakers, a plater, and a holder-up.

“In the Port of London there are nineteen firms engaged on ship-repairing. At the premises of six of these nineteen firms a trade dispute occurred in connection with the terms of employment which resulted in a stoppage of work on the 15th July, 1931, as the members of the claimants’ association decided not to accept work on the reduced rate of wages insisted upon by the six firms in question.

“Work continued at the premises of the other thirteen firms, who did not require their employees to submit to any reduction of wages.

“The claims of these claimants for unemployment benefit during the stoppage of work were disallowed by the Insurance Officer, apparently on the ground that they must be held to have lost employment by reason of the stoppage, as they were employed by one of the aforesaid six firms within twelve working days of the stoppage of work.

“To determine whether, and if so how far, what is known as the ‘Twelve Days’ Rule’ can be applied to cases like the present it is necessary to trace the history of the application of that Rule to cases relating to a trade dispute, and to see how Section 8 (1) of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, has been applied in the cases of intermittent workers, as are these claimants.

“An insured contributor is disqualified under the provisions of Section 8 (1) of the Act of 1920 for receiving unemployment benefit during a stoppage of work due to a trade dispute at the premises at which he is employed if he has lost employment by reason of that stoppage.

“It was held, before the passing of the Act of 1920, that employment might be so lost although the claimant was not actually in employment at the date of the stoppage of work if, had there been no stoppage, he would have been employed at the place where the stoppage was taking place during its occurrence (Decision 2898, O.W.D.†).

“The application of this principle to intermittent workers was considered by my predecessor in Decision 5819/20,‡ and the test which he applied was: did the claimants habitually seek work at the premises at which the stoppage of work due to the trade dispute was taking place?

“In Decision 5819/20 the claimants had last been employed at the premises at which there was a stoppage of work due to a trade dispute three weeks before the commencement of the stoppage. In Decisions 5976/20§ and 7478/20|| a period of four weeks had elapsed between the termination of the last spell of employment and the commencement of the stoppage of work. In each of these three last mentioned cases benefit was disallowed during the stoppage because, as the then Umpire explained in Decision 7712/20,¶ ‘I thought, having regard to the extreme irregularity of their work, that dock labourers might not be regarded as having finally lost employment until they had failed to get work for a month.’

“In Decision 7712/20 the ‘Twelve Days’ Rule’ is explained, and it is pointed out that the principle of the Rule was established and well recognised before the passing of the Unemployment Insurance

* See Vol. VII, Umpire’s Selected Decisions, page 152 (Pamphlet No. 8/1928) and U.I. Code 8a.

† See Vol. III (U.I. 440b) Umpire’s Selected Decisions, page 219.

‡ See Vol. III, Umpire’s Selected Decisions (Pamphlet No. 30), and U.I. Code 8.

§ See Vol. III, Umpire’s Selected Decisions (Pamphlet No. 31).

|| See Vol. III, Umpire’s Selected Decisions (Pamphlet No. 41).

¶ See Vol. III, Umpire’s Selected Decisions (Pamphlet No. 43), and U.I. Code 8.

Act, 1920. In that decision the Umpire said that he was prepared to consider the application of the Rule to trade dispute cases.

“The ‘Twelve Days’ Rule’ was first applied to a trade dispute case in Decision 7357/29,* which related to a stoppage of work due to a trade dispute in the cotton industry in Lancashire. Another case in which it was applied, which also related to a stoppage of work in the cotton industry, was Case 13315/31.†

“In the two last mentioned cases no question of habitually seeking work at the premises at which the stoppage of work due to the trade dispute was taking place arose, as the claimants for some time before the stoppage had been working short time in a cotton mill.

“If the ‘Twelve Days’ Rule’ can be applied to cases like the present it will have the result of materially shortening the period of four weeks, which was the test applied by my predecessor in Cases 5819/20, 5976/20 and 7478/20.

“As the ‘Twelve Days’ Rule’ has for many years been applied as a test for determining whether a person may be said to have definitely been discharged (as opposed to suspended until work again became available because there was no immediate work available for him) before a period of recognised holiday, I see no logical reason why it should not equally be applied as a test for determining whether a person has definitely been discharged before a stoppage of work due to a trade dispute.

“The cases in which the Rule has been applied to ship-repairers in respect of holiday periods were reviewed in Decision 16930/31.‡

“In applying the Rule it must be borne in mind that a presumption only is raised, which presumption may be rebutted by definite evidence both in the case of a recognised holiday (Decision 7712/20) and in the case of a trade dispute (Decision 7357/29).

“In a case like the present, where only at the premises of six of the nineteen ship-repairing firms in the Port of London a stoppage of work is taking place, it is vitally necessary, when applying the ‘Twelve Days’ Rule,’ that it should be shown that the claimant habitually sought work at the premises at which the stoppage of work was taking place (Decision 5819/20).

“Were this not done a person who was habitually employed at one of the thirteen firms with whom there was no trade dispute, might be disallowed benefit during the stoppage of work at the premises of the six firms with whom there was a dispute because within twelve working days he had been employed for one day by one of the six firms. In such circumstances it could not reasonably be said that employment had been lost by reason of the stoppage of work due to the trade dispute, because, had there been no stoppage, the probability is that the workman would not have been employed at the premises at which the stoppage was taking place.

“In my opinion the evidence indicates that these claimants habitually seek work at the yard of one of the aforesaid six firms, at which yard they were employed within twelve working days of the stoppage of work, and that they would have been employed during the stoppage of work at the premises at which they habitually sought work had there been no stoppage.

“In these circumstances the claimants are disqualified under the provisions of Section 8 (1) of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, for receiving unemployment benefit during the stoppage of work due to the trade dispute.”

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

Recent Proceedings.

(A)—INDUSTRIAL COURT DECISIONS.

PATTERN-MAKERS, ADMIRALTY ESTABLISHMENTS.—*Shipbuilding Trade Joint Council for Government Departments: Trade Union Side v. Official Side. Difference.*—Claim for basic rate of pay to be increased by 2d. per hour. *Decision.*—The Court decided against the claim. Award issued 16th September, 1931. (1518.)

LABOURERS, NAVAL STORE, VICTUALLING AND NAVAL ARMAMENT SUPPLY ESTABLISHMENTS.—*Shipbuilding Trade Joint Council for Government Departments: Trade Union Side v. Official Side. Difference.*—Claim for increase of allowances for loading and unloading vessels. *Decision.*—The Court decided against the claim. Award issued 30th September, 1931. (1520.)

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

IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRY: SOUTH WALES.—*Ebbw Vale Steel, Iron and Coal Company, Limited v. Iron and Steel Trades Confederation. Difference.*—As to what piece work rates shall be paid to wagon builders and wagon painters employed by the Company. Mr. Lindsay M. Jopling appointed Arbitrator under the Industrial Courts Act, 1919, with Mr. George Pate, O.B.E., and Mr. R. Dennison, J.P., as assessors for the employers and workpeople respectively. *Award.*—For the period 1st September, 1931, to 31st December, 1931, the present wages payable to the workmen concerned to be reduced by 10 per cent., the reduced wages to include compensation for loss of supply of cheap coal. The reference to the Arbitrator having been made under the provisions of an Agreement of 1st December, 1919, which terminates on 31st December, 1931, no award was made in respect of any period after the latter date.

* See Vol. VIII, Umpire’s Selected Decisions, page 280 (Pamphlet No. 10/1929) and U.I. Code 8a.

† See page 149 (Pamphlet No. 7/1931), Umpire’s Selected Decisions.

‡ Not published.

LACE CURTAIN INDUSTRY.—*Nottingham and District Lace Curtain Manufacturers’ Association and Scottish Lace Manufacturers’ Association v. British Lace Operatives’ Federation: see page 377.*

TRADE BOARDS ACTS.

I.—CONFIRMING ORDER.

Hollow-ware Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order H. (22), dated 25th September, 1931, confirming the variation of general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates and overtime rates for male and female workers, and specifying 30th September, 1931, as the date from which such rates should become effective.

II.—NOTICES OF PROPOSAL.

Made-up Textiles Trade Board (Great Britain).

Proposal M.T. (11), dated 16th September, 1931, to vary general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates and overtime rates for male and female workers.

Objection period expires 15th November, 1931.

Drift Nets Mending Trade Board (Great Britain).

Proposal E. (11), dated 29th September, 1931, to vary general minimum time-rates, general minimum piece-rates and overtime rates for female workers.

Objection period expires 25th November, 1931.

Linen and Cotton Handkerchief and Household Goods and Linen Piece Goods Trade Board (Northern Ireland).

Proposal N.I.H.H.G. (N. 45), dated 1st September, 1931, to fix certain additional general minimum piece-rates and to vary certain other general minimum piece-rates and general overtime rates for female workers.

Objection period expired 30th September, 1931.

Retail Bespoke Tailoring Trade Board (Northern Ireland).

Proposal N.I.T.R.B. (N. 29), dated 9th September, 1931, to vary general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates, general minimum piece-rates and general overtime rates for male and female workers employed in the County Boroughs of the Cities of Belfast and Londonderry.

Objection period expired 23rd September, 1931.

III.—REGULATIONS.

Lace Finishing Trade Board (Great Britain).

Regulations dated 6th October, 1931, issued by the Minister of Labour under Section 11 of the Trade Boards Act, 1909, with respect to the Constitution and Proceedings of the Lace Finishing Trade Board (Great Britain).

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.

Building (Amendment) Regulations: Cranes and other Hoisting and Lifting Appliances.

The Home Secretary, on 30th September, 1931, made Regulations* under Section 79 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, amending the Building Regulations, 1926, in respect of cranes and other hoisting and lifting appliances used in certain building operations.

The Regulations, which are in accordance with the revised draft issued on 4th September, 1931,† may be cited as the Building (Amendment) Regulations, 1931.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

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

AGRICULTURAL WAGES.—*Report of proceedings under the Agricultural Wages (Regulation) Act, 1924, for the two years ending 30th September, 1930.* Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. (S.O. publication; price 2s.)

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.—(i) *Report of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies for the year 1930. Part I. General.* (H.C. 132; price 9d.) (ii) *Report of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies for the year 1931. Part 5. Building Societies. Section II. Directory and summaries.* (S.O. publication; price 3s. 6d.)

INDUSTRIAL ASSURANCE.—*Report of the Industrial Assurance Commissioner for the year ended 31st December, 1930.* (H.C. 133; price 2s.)

MINING.—(i) *Coal-mining industry. Statistical summary of output, and of the costs of production, proceeds and profits of the coal-mining industry for the quarter ended 30th June, 1931.* Mines Department. (Cmd. 3955; price 1d.) (ii) *Output and employment at metalliferous mines, quarries, etc., during the quarter ended June 30th, 1931.* Mines Department. (S.O. publication; price 4d.)

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.—(i) *Unemployment Insurance (No. 3) Act, 1931. Report of the Advisory Committee on Draft Regulations.* Ministry of Labour. (H.C. 150; price 2d.) (See page 374.) (ii) *Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1931. Selected decisions given by the Umpire on claims for benefit during the months of July and August, 1931.* U.I. Code 8B. Pamphlets 7-8/1931. Ministry of Labour. (S.O. publication; price 6d.)

* *Statutory Rules and Orders, 1931; No. 819.* H.M. Stationery Office; price 3d. net (3rd. post free).

† See the issue of this GAZETTE for September, 1931 (page 368).

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.

LIST OF NEW CONTRACTS, SEPTEMBER, 1931.

ADMIRALTY.

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

Yard Abroad: **Steelwork:** Cleveland Bridge & Engineering Co., Ltd., Darlington.

(Contract and Purchase Department.)

Blocks, Malleable Cast Iron: Ansell, Jones & Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Fellows Bros., Ltd., Cradley Heath.—**Boats, Motor:** The Ferry Engine Co., Ltd., Southampton.—**Bottles, Air:** Vickers-Armstrongs, Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne.—**Brackets, Cast Steel Shaft:** F. H. Lloyd & Co., Ltd., Wednesbury.—**Capstan, Air Driven:** Cowans, Sheldon & Co., Ltd., Carlisle.—**Castings, Steel, and Shaft Tubes:** F. H. Lloyd & Co., Ltd., Wednesbury; Wm. Beardmore & Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Castings, Stern:** Steel Co. of Scotland, Ltd., Glasgow; Head, Wrightson & Co., Ltd., Thornaby-on-Tees.—**Coolers for Main Motors:** Metropolitan Vickers Electrical Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Crane, Steam Travelling:** Clarke, Chapman & Co., Ltd., Gateshead-on-Tyne.—**Drill, Brown:** Howe & Coates, Ltd., Barley, Burnley; J. H. Greenhow & Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Drums for Steel Wire Rope:** West Moor Engine Works Co., Ltd., Sunderland.—**Dynamometer:** Heenan & Froude, Ltd., Worcester.—**Flour:** J. Rank, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Generator Sets, Motor:** Crompton Parkinson, Ltd., Chelmsford.—**Generator Sets, Steam Driven:** Matthew Paul & Co., Ltd., Dumbarton.—**Glass, Table:** Butterworth Bros., Ltd., Manchester; Edinburgh & Leith Flint Glass Works, Edinburgh; Stevens & Williams, Ltd., Brierley Hill; Stuart & Sons, Ltd., Stourbridge; Thos. Webb & Corbett, Ltd., Stourbridge.—**Gloves, Leather, Various:** E. & W. C. French, Ltd., Taunton; M. Templeman, London, S.E.; G. Waddington & Son, Ltd., Hull.—**Helmets, Sun:** R. Z. Bloomfield, Ltd., London, S.W.; J. Compton, Sons & Webb, Ltd., London, E.; Helmets, Ltd., Wheatthampstead; Everitt W. Vero & Co., London, S.E.—**Hides and Leather:** G. Angus & Co., Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne; Barrowfield Leather Co., Ltd., Glasgow; Bryant & Co., London, S.E.; J. S. Deed & Sons, Ltd., London, W.C.; S. E. Norris & Co., Ltd., London, E.; Wiggins, Thomas & Rudd, Ltd., London, E.—**Hoists, Telemotor-operated:** Vickers-Armstrongs, Ltd., Barrow-in-Furness; MacTaggart Scott & Co., Ltd., Edinburgh.—**Jam, Plum:** J. Stephens, Sons & Co., Ltd., Gloucester.—**Jams, Plum and Apricot:** Crosbie's Pure Food Co., Ltd., Southall.—**Lanterns, Signalling, Portable:** Aldis Bros., Birmingham.—**Lathe:** Denham's Engineering Co., Ltd., Halifax.—**Launch, Motor:** Hugh McLean & Sons, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Linen, Table, Damask:** Broadway Damask Co., Ltd., Belfast; Wm. Ewart & Son, Ltd., Belfast; J. N. Richardson, Sons & Owden, Ltd., Bessbrook; The Ulster Weaving Co., Ltd., Belfast.—**Machine, Boring, Milling:** H. W. Kearns & Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Machine, Milling:** Wm. Muir & Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Machine, Planing, Gear:** John Hetherington & Sons, Ltd., Manchester.—**Machine, Screw, Patent Automatic:** A. Butterworth & Co., Rochdale.—**Milk, Condensed:** Wilts United Dairies, Ltd., Somerset; Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Condensed Milk Co., Ashbourne.—**Oil, Compound:** Shell-Mex, Ltd., London, W.C.—**Plate, Electro:** Elkington & Co., Ltd., London, S.W.; Fenton Bros., Ltd., Sheffield; Joseph Rodgers & Sons, Ltd., Sheffield; T. Wilkinson & Sons, Birmingham.—**Projectors:** Sperry Gyroscope Co., Ltd., Brentford.—**Propellers:** J. Stone & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Pumps, Feed:** G. & J. Weir, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Pumps, Fire and Bilge:** J. P. Hall & Sons, Ltd., Peterborough.—**Pumps, Oil Fuel:** G. & J. Weir, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Resistances, Welding:** Allen, West & Co., Ltd., Brighton.—**Sailcloth, Canvas:** The Boase Spinning Co. (1920), Ltd., Dundee; The Gourcock Ropework Co., Ltd., Port Glasgow; Richards, Ltd., Aberdeen.—**Sausages, Tinned:** C. & T. Harris (Calne), Ltd., Calne.—**Shafting, Intermediate and Propeller:** Wm. Jessop & Son, Ltd., Sheffield; Thos. Firth & John Brown, Ltd., Sheffield.—**Skins, Chamois Leather:** Brewer & Hardy, Ltd., Nottingham; International Sponge Importers, Ltd. (Cresswell Bros. Branch), London, W.C.; The North of England Chamois Co., Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne.—**Steel, Bar:** Colvilles, Ltd., Glasgow; Dorman Long & Co., Ltd., Middlesbrough; Frodingham Iron & Steel Co., Ltd., Scunthorpe; Lancashire Steel Corporation, Ltd., Manchester; Scottish Iron & Steel Co., Ltd., Glasgow; Cargo Fleet Iron Co., Ltd., Middlesbrough.—**Switchgear, E.H.T.:** Allen, West & Co., Ltd., Brighton; Crompton Parkinson, Ltd., Chelmsford.

WAR OFFICE.

Aluminium Ingot: British Aluminium Co., Ltd., Kinlochleven.—**Asbestos Cement Slates, etc.:** Asbestos Cement Building Products, Ltd., Manchester.—**Bags, Kit:** E.H.P. (Hadleigh), Ltd., Hadleigh.—**Blankets, White:** T. Radcliffe & Co., Ltd., Mytholmroyd.—**Bodies, Ambulance:** Mann, Egerton & Co., Ltd., Norwich.—**Bodies for 6-wheeled Vehicles:** J. Chalmers & Sons, Ltd., Redhill; Weybridge Motor Engineering Co., Ltd., Weybridge.—**Bodies, Searchlight:** Ransomes, Sims & Jefferies, Ltd., Ipswich.—**Boxes, Ammunition:** Estler Bros., Ltd., London, E.—**Brass Tubing:** Yorkshire Copper Works, Ltd., Leeds.—**Cases, Cordite:** Boulton and Paul, Ltd., Norwich.—**Casks, Vat:** Oldham Bros., Burton-on-Trent.—**Chassis, 6-wheeled:** Albion Motor Car Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Cloth, Blue:** Colbeck Bros., Ltd., Wakefield; J. Hainsworth & Sons, Leeds.—**Clothing, Made-up (Jackets, Trousers, Coats, Pantaloon, etc.):** J. Compton Sons & Webb, Ltd., London, E.; F. Fryer & Co., London, E.; H. Lotery & Co., Ltd., London, E.; Johnson & Sons, Ltd., Great Yarmouth; J. Hammond & Co. (1922), Ltd., New castle, Staffs.—**Covers, Waterproof:** Gowen & Co., West Mersea.

—**Curtains, Mosquito:** Donald & Co., Nottingham.—**Engines, Petrol:** Stuart, Turner, Ltd., Henley-on-Thames.—**Generating Set, Crude Oil Engine:** W. H. Allen Sons & Co., Ltd., Bedford.—**Glazing Bars, Steel:** W. H. Heywood & Co., Ltd., Huddersfield.—**Grates and Mantels:** Carron Co., Falkirk.—**Grinding Machines:** Churchill Machine Tool Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Iron, Pig:** United Steel Companies, Ltd., Workington.—**Lathes:** A. Butterworth & Co., Rochdale.—**Lead, Pig:** H. Gardner & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Lubricant, Cutting:** A. Duckham & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Magnesium Powder:** British Maxium, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Manhole Covers and Frames:** Forth & Clyde & Sunnyside Iron Cos., Ltd., Falkirk.—**Metal Rod:** I.C.I. Metals, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Meters, Electric:** Reason Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Brighton; Measurement, Ltd., Oldham.—**Milling Machines:** J. Archdale & Co., Ltd., Birmingham; A. Herbert, Ltd., Coventry; Coventry Gauge and Tool Co. (1928), Ltd., Coventry.—**Motor Launch:** Rowledge Ironworks Co., Ltd., Rowledge.—**Plates, Bullet-proof:** Hadfields, Ltd., Sheffield.—**Puttees:** Astrachans, Ltd., Bradford.—**Receivers, Headgear:** S. G. Brown, Ltd., London, W.—**Sheets, Cotton:** Ashton Bros. & Co., Ltd., Hyde.—**Sheets, Ground:** C. Macintosh & Co., Ltd., Manchester; Broadhurst & Co., Ltd., Manchester; G. MacLellan & Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Steel, Round:** S. Fox & Co., Ltd., Sheffield.—**Steel, Tool, High Speed:** Jonas and Colver (Novo), Ltd., Sheffield.—**Suits, Discharged Soldiers':** J. Compton Sons & Webb, Ltd., Swindon.—**Switches, Motor, Directing:** Small Electric Motors, Ltd., Beckenham.—**Targets:** J. McQueen & Son, Ltd., Galashiels.—**Telescopes:** Cooke, Troughton & Simms, Ltd., York.—**Tin Ingot:** Wilbraham & Smith, London, E.C.—**Zinc Ingot:** British Metal Corporation, Ltd., London, E.C.; H. Gardner & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Works Services: Building Works and Services:** Hipswell, Artificers' Work: H. Coxhead & Co., Ltd., Middlesbrough. Scott, Artificers' Work: J. R. Surtees, Blackhill, Co. Durham. Edinburgh District, Artificers' Work: Pirie & Co., Ltd., Edinburgh. Dover and Canterbury, Tarspraying and Repairs to Roads: Smith, Wright & Co. (Asfordby), Ltd., London, S.W. Shorncliffe, Improvements to Married Soldiers' Quarters: G. Lewis & Sons (Dover), Ltd., Dover. Blackdown, Officers' Mess and Quarters; Blackdown and Deepcut, Barrack Blocks: J. B. Edwards & Co. (Whyteleafe), Ltd., London, W. Strensall, Artificers' Work: F. Shepherd & Son, Ltd., York. South Aldershot, Periodical Services: A. A. McDermott & Sons, Ltd., Bradford. North Aldershot, Periodical Services: F. Holdsworth, Ltd., Shipley. Shorncliffe, Risborough Barracks, Equipment Store, etc.: Jenner & Son, Folkestone. Warley, Artificers' Work: A. E. Andrews, Clacton-on-Sea. Gosport, Dining Rooms, etc.: John Hunt, Ltd., Gosport. Bulford, New Drainage System: J. B. Edwards & Co. (Whyteleafe), Ltd., London, W. Woolwich, Repairs to Slated Roofs: A. W. Allard & Co., Ltd., London, S.W. South Aldershot, Artificers' Work: E. J. Logan, London, W.C. Bordon, Artificers' Work: W. Laughton, Bedford. Catterick Camp, R.A.O.D. Workshops Extension, Provision of Electric Light and Power: W. Sykes & Son, Darlington. Catterick Camp, R.A.O.D. Workshops Extension, Travelling Cranes: Holts and Willetts, Manchester. York, Periodical Services: A. A. McDermott & Son, Ltd., Bradford. Canterbury, Periodical Services: C. J. Else & Co., Ltd., Matlock. Maidstone, Improvements to Married Quarters: H. Goodsell, Maidstone. Aldershot, Pinehurst Barracks, Erection of Offices; Buller and Gibraltar Barracks, Re-topping and Pointing Chimneys: T. H. Jones, South Farnborough. Mill Hill Barracks, Repairs to Slated Roofs: E. Matthews & Co., London, W.C. Hounslow Barracks, Repairs to Slated Roofs; Brighton, Preston Barracks, Repairs to Slated Roofs: E. J. Logan, London, W.C. Hounslow, Cavalry Barracks, Repairs and Re-conditioning of Regimental Institute and Keep: J. B. Edwards & Co. (Whyteleafe), Ltd., London, W. Woolwich, Royal Herbert Hospital, Painting; Hounslow, Army Vocational Training Centre, Painting: A. A. McDermott & Sons, Ltd., Bradford. Woolwich, Royal Military Repository Area, etc., Painting: R. J. Butler, Newton Abbey. Warley, Depot Barracks, Miniature Rifle Range: J. S. Cripps, Brentwood. Trowbridge, Alterations to Buildings: F. H. Biddiscombe, Trowbridge. Didcot, R.A.O. Depot and Vauxhall Camp, Repairs to Roads and Tarspraying: Smith, Wright & Co. (Asfordby), Ltd., London, S.W. Larkhill, Alterations to Road Depot: James & Crockerell, Durrington. Exeter, Town Barracks, Renewal of portion of Roof: Woodman & Son, Exeter. Plymouth, Devonport, and Bodmin, Painting: Fields, Ltd., Nottingham. Netheravon, Warrant Officer's Quarter: Hoskings & Pond, Newbury. Stirling, Painting: F. Holdsworth, Ltd., Shipley. Inverness, Artificers' Work: W. Mackenzie & Sons, Inverness. Chatham District, Painting: Arundel (Contractors), Ltd., Bradford.

AIR MINISTRY.

Acetylene Welding Apparatus: British Oxygen Co., Ltd., London, N.—**Aircraft:** Gloster Aircraft Co., Ltd., Hucclecote.—**Aircraft, Modifications:** Boulton & Paul, Ltd., Norwich; Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Bristol.—**Aircraft, Reconditioning and Repairs:** H. G. Hawker Engineering Co., Ltd., Kingston-on-Thames.—**Aircraft, Repair:** Blackburn Aeroplane & Motor Co., Ltd., Brough, Yorks.—**Aircraft Spares:** Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Bristol; Sir W. G. Armstrong Whitworth Aircraft, Ltd., Coventry; Westland Aircraft Works, Yeovil.—**Aircraft Wing:** Vickers (Aviation), Ltd., Weybridge.—**Aircscrews:** Fairey Aviation Co., Ltd., Hayes, Middlesex.—**Aircscrew Cases:** Aircscrew Co., Ltd., Weybridge.—**Ammeters:** Park Royal Engineering Co., Ltd., London, N.W.—**Aviation Fuel:** Asiatic Petroleum Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Bombs:** Hadfields, Ltd., Sheffield; Hobbies, Ltd., Dereham; Vickers-Armstrongs, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Bomb Gear:** B.S.A. Guns, Ltd., Birmingham; Hawker Engineering Co., Ltd., Kingston-on-Thames.—**Brackets, Flare:** British Anzani Engineering Co., Ltd., Kingston-on-Thames.

Buildings and Works Services: Artificers' Work (Mount Batten): J. F. Stanbury, Plymouth. Artificers' Work (Norton Barracks, Worcester): J. E. Harper & Son, Ltd., Birmingham. Builders' Work to Shed (Gosport) and External Services (Hendon): J. Laing & Son, Ltd., London, N.W. Extension to Shed (Aldergrove): H. & J. Martin, Ltd., Belfast. Petrol Installation (Peterborough): Simmons & Hawker, London, E.C. Spinning Tower (Farnborough): Power Plant Co., Ltd., West Drayton, Middlesex.—**Engines, Aircraft and Spares:** Armstrong Siddeley Motors, Ltd., Coventry.—**Engines, Aircraft, Conversion:** Rolls Royce, Ltd., Derby.—**Engines, Aircraft, Jigs and Tools:** De Havilland Aircraft Co., Ltd., London, N.W.—**Engines, Aircraft, Magnets:** North & Son, Ltd., Watford.—**Engines, Aircraft, Spares:** Armstrong Siddeley Motors, Ltd., Coventry; Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Bristol; D. Napier & Son, Ltd., London, W.—**Engines, Aircraft, Spares and Tests:** Rolls Royce, Ltd., Derby.—**Engines, Aircraft, Superchargers:** Armstrong Siddeley Motors, Ltd., Coventry.—**Engines, Aircraft, Tests:** Ricardo & Co., Engineers (1927), Ltd., London, S.W.—**Engines, Marine:** J. I. Thornycroft & Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Film Developing Apparatus:** G. A. Harvey & Co. (London), Ltd., London, S.E.—**Lathes:** Denhams Engineering Co., Ltd., Halifax.—**Lubricating Oil:** Barrett, Tagant & Gots, Ltd., London, S.W.; Sternal, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Magnets:** Simms Motor Units, Ltd., London, W.—**Morris Ambulances, Morris 6-wheeler Chassis, Morris Spares:** Morris Commercial Cars, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Morris Saloon Cars:** Morris Motors, Ltd., Cowley, Oxford.—**Mountings, Aluminium:** Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Pumps:** Zwicky, Ltd., Slough.—**Pumps and Spares:** Vickers (Aviation), Ltd., Weybridge.—**Radiators, Aircraft, and Cases:** John Marston, Ltd., Wolverhampton; Serek Radiators, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Rags, Linen:** W. C. Jones, Ltd., Manchester.—**Suits, Combination:** Johnson & Sons, Ltd., Great Yarmouth.—**Thermometers, Oil Temperature:** Negretti & Zambra, London, E.C.—**Trojan Spares and Vehicles:** Trojan, Ltd., Croydton.—**Tyres and Shields, Aero:** Palmer Tyre, Ltd., London, W.C.—**Voltmeters:** Everett Edgumbe & Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Wheels and Tyres, Aircraft:** Dunlop Rubber Co., Ltd., Birmingham.

CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

Amoa Agent: Amoa Chemical Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Bandages:** Southall Brothers & Barclay, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Boilers:** Carron Co., Falkirk; Cochran & Co., Annan, Ltd., Annan.—**Cable:** British Insulated Cables, Ltd., London, W.C.—**Cement:** Cement Marketing Co., Ltd., London, S.W.; Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd., Stockton-on-Tees.—**Chassis:** Albion Motors, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Chupplies:** R. Coggins & Sons, Ltd., Raunds.—**Coal:** Cory Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Maris Export & Trading Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Cranes:** Clyde Crane & Engineering Co., Ltd., Mossend; Herbert Morris, Ltd., Loughborough.—**Hydrants:** Guest & Chimes, Ltd., Rotherham.—**Iron Bends:** John Spencer, Ltd., Wednesbury.—**Lith:** Vernon & Co., Ltd., Preston.—**Lorries:** Morris Commercial Cars, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Lymph:** Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine, Marazion.—**Maxwell Fabric:** Richard Hill & Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Oil Engines:** Ruston & Hornsby, Ltd., Lincoln.—**Paper:** Albert E. Reed & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Rice Mill:** Lewis C. Grant, Kirkcaldy.—**Road Tar:** Lancashire Tar Distillers, Ltd., Manchester.—**Safety Fuse:** Nobel Explosives Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Sanitary Fittings:** W. Macfarlane & Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Serge:** Co-operative Wholesale Society, Ltd., Buckfastleigh.—**Spindles for Buoys:** Brown Lenox & Co., Ltd., Pontypridd.—**Steel Fastenings:** C. Richards & Sons, Ltd., Darlaston.—**Steelwork:** Cleveland Bridge & Engineering Co., Ltd., Darlington; Horsley Bridge & Engineering Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Telephone Repeaters:** General Electric Co., Ltd., Coventry.—**Tiles:** Minton Hollins & Co., Ltd., London, W.—**Transporter:** Paterson Hughes Engineering Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Tubes:** Howell & Co., Ltd., Sheffield.—**Water Meters:** Manchester Water Meter Co., Manchester.—**Wire:** R. Johnson & Nephew, Manchester.

H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE.

Paper: Alders Paper Mill Co., Ltd., Tamworth; Caldwells Paper Mill Co., Ltd., Inverkeithing; Golden Valley Paper Mills, Ltd., Bitton; Imperial Paper Mills, Ltd., Gravesend; Samuel Jones & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; London Paper Mills Co., Ltd., Dartford; Ryburndale Paper Mill Co., Ltd., Ripponden.—**Printing, Ruling, Binding, etc.:** Group 340 (1931). Bookwork and Jobwork Printing: Group 344 (1931). Emergency Printing—Bookwork: Group 346 (1931). Bookwork Printing: Group 347 (1931). Printing Post Office Guide: Group 620 (1931). Emergency Printing—Jobwork: H.M. Stationery Office Press, London, S.W. Group 628 (1931). Jobwork Printing: Group 631 (1931). Jobwork Printing: Group 632 (1931). Jobwork Printing: Group 633 (1931). Jobwork Printing: John Corah & Son, Ltd., Loughborough. Group 634 (1931)—Northern Area. Jobwork Printing: T. Shackleton & Co., Manchester. 28,675 copies of each of 27 Plates for Manual of Seamanship, Volume I, 1931: David Allen Printing Co. (London), Ltd., London, S.W.

POST OFFICE.

Apparatus, Protective: Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Apparatus, Telephonic:** Automatic Telephone Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Liverpool; Ericsson Telephones, Ltd., Beeston, Notts; General Electric Co., Ltd., Telephone Works, Coventry; B. W. Johnson, Nailsworth; Phoenix Telephone & Electric Works, Ltd., London, N.W.; Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Standard Telephones & Cables, Ltd., London, N.W.; Telephone Manufacturing Co. (1929), Ltd., London, S.E.—**Arms, Wood:** British Australian Timber Co., Ltd., London, E.; Calders, Ltd., London, S.E.; Millars' Timber & Trading Co., Purfleet; Neil Small & Sons, Ayr.—**Beeswax:**

Wilkins, Campbell & Co., Ltd., West Drayton.—**Boxes, Cardboard:** Thames Board Mills, Ltd., Purfleet.—**Cable:** British Insulated Cables, Ltd., Prescott; Connollys (Blackley), Ltd., Manchester; Enfield Cable Works, Ltd., Brimsdown; Hackbridge Cable Co., Ltd., Hackbridge; W. T. Henley's Telegraph Works Co., Ltd., London, E.; Standard Telephones & Cables, Ltd., London, E.—**Cable, Reconditioning:** Telegraph Construction & Maintenance Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Canvas:** James Mellwraith & Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Cells, Leclanche:** Atlas Carbon & Battery Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Ever Ready Co. (Great Britain), Ltd., London, N.; Fuller Accumulator Co. (1926), Ltd., Chadwell Heath; General Electric Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Cells, Secondary:** Chloride Electrical Storage Co., Ltd., Manchester; Edison Swan Electric Co., Ltd., Ponders End; Hart Accumulator Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Chassis:** Maudslay Motor Co., Ltd., Coventry.—**Cloths, Mutton:** I. & J. Hyman, Ltd., London, N.—**Coils, Loading:** Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Condensers:** Condenser & Electric Co., Romford.—**Cords, Telephone:** London Electric Wire Co. & Smiths, Ltd., London, E.; L.P.S. Electrical Co., London, N.W.—**Jacks, Pole:** Chas. Willetts, Junr., Ltd., Cradley Heath.—**Lamps, Side:** P. & H., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Lorries:** Morris Commercial Cars, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Milliamperemeters:** Ernest Turner, High Wycombe.—**Motor Cycles and Combinations:** B.S.A. Cycles, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Panels, Charging:** Power Equipment Co., Ltd., London, N.W.—**Plugs, Wall:** General Electric Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Poles, Telegraph, Steel:** British Mannesmann Tube Co., Ltd., Swansea.—**Teleprinters:** Creed & Co., Ltd., Croydton.—**Tools, Instrument:** Wynn, Timmins & Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Troughing, Wood:** Calders, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Wire, Switchboard:** British Insulated Cables, Ltd., Helsby; W. T. Henley's Telegraph Works Co., Ltd., London, E.

Conduits, Laying: Greenford-Perivale (Ealing, W.); Croydton, etc.; Tandem-Kensington; Tottenham-Waltham Cross; Richmond, etc.; Hodge Brothers (Contractors), Ltd., Birmingham. Radstock (Somerset); Littlewick Green and Theale (Berks); Oakley (Bedfordshire); Ilfracombe: C.D.L. Construction Co., Ltd., Egham. Broadwell, Four Oaks, Great Barr, etc. (Birmingham Area): James F. Hodge, Birmingham. Birmingham, Midland-Aston Cross-Birchfields-Great Barr: Martin & Element, Ltd., Smethwick. Camberwell, etc.; Wanstead-Valentine Junction; Ilford, etc.; Stepney, Hackney, Poplar and Bethnal Green; Amherst Exchange Area-Hackney Wick, E.; Wembley-Byron Junction: O. C. Summers, London, N. London-St. Margarets (Section I): Greig & Matthews, London, E.C. Beith (Ayrshire): R. & C. Murray, Glasgow. West Ham, etc.: W. & C. French, Ltd., Buckhurst Hill. Bradford (Berks); Newick (Sussex): Wm. Dobson (Edinburgh), Ltd., Edinburgh. Burnham and Fulmer (Bucks): Bristol-Yeovil (Sections I to VI): Whittaker Ellis, Ltd., London, S.W. Nairn and Nairn-Aberdeen-Inverness: Crawford & Co., Dalkeith. Leicester-Anstey Junction: W. P. & P. G. Hayes, Ltd., Warrington. Loughton St. Mary's: Wm. Pollitt & Co., Ltd., Bolton.—**Cooling Plant, Removal:** G.P.O. (West) London, E.C.: Sturtevant Engineering Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Telephone Exchange Equipment:** "Daily News" (London, E.C.): The Relay Automatic Telephone Co., Ltd., London, S.W. Acocks Green (Birmingham Automatic Area); Elmbridge (Surrey): Ericsson Telephones, Ltd., London, W.C. Sloane (London, S.W.); Welbeck (London, W.); Temple Bar (London, W.C.); Fulham (London, S.W.); Bermondsey (London, S.E.): Standard Telephones & Cables, Ltd., London, W.C. Kensington (London Automatic Area): The General Electric Co., Ltd., Coventry. Ashted (Surrey): Automatic Telephone Manufacturing Co., Ltd., London, W.C. Gerrard (Whitehall Second Unit): Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Ventilating Filters, Converting:** Monument, Temple Bar and Holborn Automatic Telephone Exchanges: The Visco Engineering Co., Ltd., London, S.W.

H.M. OFFICE OF WORKS.

Building Works: Acomb, York, Telephone Exchange—Asphalter; General Asphalte Co., Ltd., London, W.C.; Joiner: Hare & Ransome, York; Painter: G. Radford, York; Plumber: Thos. Fotheringham, York; Slater: J. Hardgrave, York. Addiscombe, Telephone Exchange—Asphalter: General Asphalte Co., Ltd., London, W.C.; Stonework: Kingston Masonry Co., Ltd., Kingston-on-Thames.—Adel, Leeds, Telephone Exchange—Plasterer: Cowling & Hobson, Leeds. Anderston, Glasgow, C., P.O.—Alterations: Joseph Stevenson, Glasgow. Aston Cross, Telephone Exchange, etc.—Floors: Caxton Floors, Ltd., London, S.W.; Founder: Marshall, Sons & Co., Birmingham; Granolithic Work: Stuart's Granolithic Co., Ltd., London, W.C.; Painter: W. Juggins & Co., Birmingham; Plasterer: Essanbee Plaster Co., Ltd., Bromsgrove; Slater: Broadbent & Stephens, Leicester; Stonework: Geo. Butler & Co., Birmingham. Batley, Employment Exchange—Roof: Concrete, Ltd., Leeds. Belfast, Parliament Buildings—Rubber Flooring: Korkoid Decorative Floors, Glasgow. Birmingham, Four Oaks, Telephone Exchange—Asphalter: Asphalte & Cement Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Steelwork: Jesse Tildesley, Ltd., Darlaston; Stonework: D. French & Co., Birmingham. Bishop Auckland, Co. Durham, P.O.—Painter: T. Bellerby & Son, Bishop Auckland; Plumber: Spoor, Ltd., Bishop Auckland. Bognor Regis, P.O.—Garages, etc.: A. R. Dairy (Contractors), Ltd., Middleton. Camberwell, S.E., Employment Exchange—Floors: Granite Paving Co., London, S.W. Castle Bromwich, Birmingham, Telephone Exchange—Erection: E. G. Brown & Sons, Birmingham. Churston, Devon, Telephone Exchange—Erection: Willcocks & Barnes, Paignton. Cranwell, R.A.F. College—Steel Casements: Doodson & Bain, Ltd., Manchester. Crouch End, N., P.O.—Reconstruction: Marchant, Hirst & Co., London, N.W. Cupar, Wireless Station—Excavator, etc.: David Naim & Son, Ladybank;

Painter: W. F. Ross, Dundee; Plasterer: Philip W. Hutton, St. Andrews; Plumber, etc.: Robert Bett, Cupar. Edgware Rd., W., Star Street P.O.—Erection: Commercial Structures, Ltd., London, E.C.; Asphalter: General Asphalte Co., Ltd., London, W.C.; Plasterer: King & Co., London, W.C.; Plumber: J. C. Spooner & Son, London, E.C.; Roofing: Permanite, Ltd., London, E.; Steelwork: A. D. Dawnay & Sons, Ltd., London, S.W.; Steps, etc.: Malcolm McLeod & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Stonework: S. Bysouth & Sons, Enfield. Enfield, Middlesex, P.O.—Pavior, etc.: Carter & Co. (London), Ltd., London, S.E. Exeter, Head P.O.—Alterations: Ham & Passmore, Exeter. Failsworth, Telephone Exchange—Plumber, etc.: R. Chadwick & Son, Oldham; Stonemason: Alexander Mackay, Oldham. Falkirk, Employment Exchange—Carpenter, etc.: Houston & Young, Ltd., Barrhead; Glazier: John Ure & Son, Falkirk; Painter: G. Law, Glasgow; Plumber, etc.: Hugh Twaddle & Son, Ltd., Glasgow; Steelwork: Lambhill Ironworks, Ltd., Glasgow. Halesowen, Telephone Exchange—Mason: Wragg Bros., Birmingham; Plumber: David F. Wiseman & Sons, Birmingham; Roof: Diespeker & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Steelwork: Edward Wood & Co., Ltd., Manchester. Hendon, N.W., "Colindale," Telephone Exchange—Glazier: Shopfitting Glass Co., London, E. Horsforth, Telephone Exchange—Roofing: Tunstalls Seyssel & Limmer Rock Asphalte Co., Ltd., Leeds. Jarrow, P.O.—Glazier: C. W. Wilson & Sons, Ltd., Sunderland; Painter: J. S. Grabham, Sunderland; Plasterer: D. & J. Crombie & Co., Sunderland; Plumber: Aitken & Austen, Sunderland. Kenton, Middlesex, "Wordsworth" Telephone Exchange—Plasterer: Jeffries & Grant, London, N.W. Kew Gardens, Director's Offices—Alterations: Bradbury & Co., London, N.W. Kew Gardens, Herbarium—Painter: A. Higginbotham & Sons, Bradford; Tiler: Carter & Co. (London), Ltd., S.E. Malton, Yorkshire, Head P.O.—Painter: J. Redpath, Malton. Marlborough Lines, Aldershot, Hants., P.O.—Steelwork: Measures Bros. (1911), Ltd., London, S.E. Middleton, Manchester, Telephone Exchange—Asphalter: Ragusa Asphalte Paving Co., Ltd., London, W.; Mason: E. Butterworth & Sons, Radcliffe; Plasterer, etc.: F. & J. Pilling Bros., Manchester; Plumber: W. H. Dale, Manchester; Slabs: Diespeker & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Steelwork: Edward Wood & Co., Ltd., Manchester; Steps, etc.: Concrete Unit Co., Ltd., Manchester; Tiler: Manchester Slate Co., Ltd., Manchester. Mount Pleasant, E.C., G.P.O. Letter Office—Superstructure: J. Gerrard & Sons, Ltd., Manchester. National Portrait Gallery, W.C.—Steel Casements: Crittall Manufacturing Co., Ltd., London, W.C. Natural History Museum, S.W.—W.I. work: E. C. Blackmore, London, S.W. Pinhoe, Telephone Exchange—Erection: W. Sanders & Son, South Molton. Preston, Lancs., County Court—Decorator: W. H. Huck, Preston. Sowerby Bridge, Employment Exchange—Glazier: Helliwell & Co., Ltd., Brighouse. Stechford, Birmingham, Telephone Exchange—Plumber: David F. Wiseman & Sons, Birmingham; Roofing: Diespeker & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Steelwork: Edward Wood & Co., Ltd., Manchester. Sunderland, Head P.O.—Glazier: C. W. Wilson & Sons, Ltd., Sunderland; Painter, etc.: Frank & Burdon, Sunderland. Swinton, P.O., etc.—Erection: Fearnley & Sons, Ltd., Salford. Teddington, National Physical Laboratory—Acoustics Building: Wilson Lovatt & Sons, Ltd., Wolverhampton; Plasterer: S. Lay & Co., London, W. Thornton Heath, Telephone Exchange—Erection: Truett & Steel, Ltd., Thornton Heath. Warstock, Telephone Exchange—Erection: Parsons & Morrin, Ltd., Birmingham. Wembley, "Arnold" Telephone Exchange—Asphalter: Ragusa Asphalte Paving Co., Ltd., London, W.; Fencing: A. Cockarill, Richmond, Surrey; Mason: Geo. F. Simmons, Hounslow; Steelwork: Edward Wood & Co., Ltd., Manchester. Willesden, N.W., Sorting Office—Asphalter: General Asphalte Co., Ltd., London, W.C.; Steps, etc.: Girlings Ferro Concrete Co., Ltd., Leeds. York, P.O. District Manager's Office—Mason: G. Armi-

tage & Sons, Ltd., Robin Hood; Painter: Dodsworths (York), Ltd., York; Plasterer: Wm. Watson, Leeds; Plumber, etc.: F. V. Oulds & Co., York; Slater: Dawber, Townsley & Co., Ltd., Hull. **Maintenance Works:** Bognor: F. W. Hill, Bognor. Bolton, Lancs.: E. & S. Street, Ltd., Bolton. Bournemouth: Walter Hoare & Sons, Bournemouth. Bradford: J. H. Pitchers & Son, Bradford. Brentwood: F. W. Jarvis, Brentwood. Hull: A. E. Jones (Hull), Ltd., Hull. Lewes: H. Constable & Co., Lewes. Newport, Mon.: W. Edwards, Newport. Nottingham: W. Crane, Ltd., Nottingham. Orpington: Glassup & Co., Orpington. Plymouth: Pearn Bros., Ltd., Plymouth. Portsmouth: Samuel Salter (Portsmouth), Ltd., Portsmouth. Reading: W. A. Murley, Reading. Sheffield: T. Wilkinson & Sons (Builders), Ltd., Sheffield. Southampton: A. E. Jukes & Son, Ltd., Southampton. Winchester: W. T. Fennell & Co., Winchester.—**Engineering Services:** Cardiff—Maintenance Work: J. B. Saunders (1923), Ltd., Cardiff. Chelsea, S.W., "Kensington" Telephone Exchange—Heating: National Heating Co. (1928), Ltd., London, S.E. Foreign Office, S.W.—Lift: J. Bennie, Ltd., Glasgow. Shrewsbury, Sorting Office—Heating: A. Grindrod & Co., Sheffield.—**Painting:** W. Chappell & Co., Ltd., London, W.; Decra, Ltd., London, W.; J. Youngs & Son, Ltd., Norwich.—**Miscellaneous:** Furniture and Fittings: Devon Joinery Co., London, N.; Fielding & Bottomley, Halifax; T. F. Firth & Sons, Ltd., Brighouse; Leicester Cabinet Co., Leicester; Midland Joinery Co., Ltd., Burton-on-Trent; Nettlefold & Sons, Ltd., London, N.W.; W. A. Rathbone, Liverpool; F. Troy & Co., Ltd., London, N.W.; A. Younger, Ltd., London, E.—**Window Cleaning:** City Window Cleaning Co. (London), Ltd., London, E.C.

METROPOLITAN POLICE.

Oilskin Clothing Contract, 1931-33: Abbott, Anderson & Abbott, Ltd., Harpenden.—**Removal of Furniture Contract, 1931-32:** Parks of Portsmouth (Ltd.), London, S.W.

BOARD OF CONTROL, ENGLAND.

Fish: R. Pearson, Grimsby.

COMMISSIONERS OF CROWN LANDS.

Bingham Estate: General repairs and erection of new cowhouse: William A. Walker, Bingham.—**Regent's Park, London:** Cumberland Market Area, Housing Block N: A. Monk, London, N.

CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT.

Hire of a Motor Launch: Clyde Marine Motoring Company, Greenock.

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The MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE is published by H.M. Stationery Office on or about the 18th of each month, price 6d. net. The annual subscription is 7s. post free.

All communications concerning subscriptions and sales should be addressed to H.M. Stationery Office at one of the addresses shown on the cover.

PRINTED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE BY EYRE AND SPOTTISWOODE LIMITED, HIS MAJESTY'S PRINTERS, EAST HARDING STREET, LONDON, E.C.4.