

THE LABOUR GAZETTE

PREPARED AND EDITED AT THE OFFICES OF
THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR, WHITEHALL, LONDON, S.W.1.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

VOL. XXIX.—No. 4.]

APRIL, 1921.

[PRICE SIXPENCE NET.

EMPLOYMENT, DISPUTES, WAGES, AND PRICES IN MARCH.

EMPLOYMENT.

EMPLOYMENT in March showed a further decline and there were large increases both in the numbers unemployed and in the numbers working short time. In a few industries, including brick, shale mining, building, and agriculture, full employment was generally maintained, but most of the other industries were seriously depressed.

The percentage unemployed among members of Trade Unions (mainly of skilled workpeople) from which returns are received rose from 8.5 at the end of February to 10.0 at the end of March, and the percentage unemployed among the 12,000,000 workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Act rose from 9.5 at the end of February to 11.3 at 24th March.

In addition to those unemployed, 382,000 males and 456,000 females were registered as working systematic short time on 24th March, to such an extent as to entitle them to benefit under the Unemployment Insurance Act or the Out-of-Work Donation Scheme. At the end of February the corresponding numbers were 320,000 and 423,000.

The number of workpeople registered at the Employment Exchanges as unemployed at 24th March was approximately 1,414,000, of whom 936,000 were men, 365,000 were women, and the remainder were boys and girls. At the end of February the corresponding number was 1,218,000, of whom 802,000 were men and 310,000 were women. The number of vacancies notified by employers to the Exchanges and unfilled at the end of March was 41,000, of which 12,000 were for men and 25,000 for women. At the end of February the total was 42,000, of which 15,000 were for men and 24,000 for women. Further details, showing the state of employment in the principal industries, are given on pages 188-198.

TRADE DISPUTES.

The total number of trade disputes, involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as beginning in March, was 42. In addition, 63 disputes which began before March were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The total number of workpeople involved in all disputes in progress in March was about 31,000, as compared with 28,000 in the previous month, and 134,000 in March, 1920. The most important dispute in progress was that involving ship joiners, who have been on strike since 1st December last against a proposed reduction in wages.

The estimated aggregate duration of all disputes during the month was about 469,000 working days, as compared with 378,000 days in February, 1921, and 788,000 days in March, 1920. Detailed statistics, together with particulars of the principal disputes, are given on page 202.

The dispute in the coal mining industry, which commenced on 1st April, is dealt with in a special article on pages 174-176.

WAGES.

In the industries for which statistics are collected, changes in rates of wages reported to the Department as having been arranged to come into operation in March affected over 360,000 workpeople, of whom 350,000 sustained decreases, amounting to £60,000 in their weekly wages, and over 11,000 received increases, amounting to nearly £2,900 a week. The trades chiefly affected by the reductions in March were the textile trades. About 200,000 woollen and worsted operatives sustained a further decrease, under the operation of sliding scale agreements by which wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices and rents, making in the case of timeworkers a total decrease since the beginning of the year of 30 per cent. on basis rates or about 11 per cent. on the rates current at the end of 1920; decreases also occurred in the wages of workpeople in the hosiery, silk, carpet and asbestos trades. Other bodies of workpeople whose wages were reduced during March included iron ore miners in Cumberland and Furness, shale miners in Scotland, steel millmen in Scotland, iron puddlers and millmen in the North of England and Scotland, workpeople in the dyeing and dry cleaning trades, electricity supply workers in London, youths and boys in engineering works in the Birmingham and Wolverhampton district, lock, latch and key makers, and drop forgers in the Birmingham district, and stoneware workers in Scotland.

Under Orders made by the Agricultural Wages Board, the minimum rates of youths and boys and of female workers were increased in most districts in England and Wales. Orders made by the Minister of Labour, which took effect in March, under the Trade Boards Acts, fixed minimum rates for male bespoke tailors in rural areas in Ireland, and for workpeople in the hat, cap, and millinery trade in Ireland.

RETAIL PRICES.

At 1st April the average level of retail prices of all the commodities taken into account in the statistics prepared by the Ministry of Labour (including food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, and miscellaneous items) was 133 per cent. above that of July, 1914, as compared with 141 per cent. at 1st March. As was the case in the previous month, the decrease was mainly due to reductions in the prices of food, but clothing also continued to decline in price. For further particulars reference should be made to the article on page 184.

The statistics are designed to indicate the average increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the average pre-war standard of living of the working classes. Accordingly, in making the calculations, the changes in the prices of the various items included are combined in proportions corresponding with the relative importance of those items in pre-war working-class expenditure, no allowance being made for any changes in the standard of living.

NATIONAL STOPPAGE OF WORK IN COAL MINES.

IN THE LABOUR GAZETTE for March* there appeared an account of the negotiations up to the beginning of that month between the Miners' Federation of Great Britain and the Mining Association of Great Britain with regard to the question of the future regulation of wages in the industry. The position created by the decision of the Government that the control of the industry should be terminated on the 31st March was dealt with; and the attitude of both the Federation and the Mining Association towards this decision was to some extent defined.

It became apparent during March that no agreement as to the future regulation of wages could be immediately reached, and that, therefore, the miners and the owners would probably be obliged to submit separate schemes to the President of the Board of Trade, in place of the joint scheme, which they had agreed, in the terms of the national settlement terminating the strike last November, to prepare by the 31st March, 1921. The fundamental point of divergence between the owners and the men was the question whether wages should be regulated on a national or a district basis.

NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE OWNERS, THE MEN AND THE GOVERNMENT.

The course of the negotiations throughout March up to the stoppage which occurred on the 1st April may be summarised as follows:—

The Executive Committee of the Miners' Federation held a meeting on the 9th March preliminary to the assembling of the National Delegate Conference which had met previously on the 27th and 28th January and on the 22nd and 24th February. The meeting of the Executive reviewed the progress of the negotiations with the owners, but no agreed recommendation could be formulated for presentation to the Conference. A proposal that the owners should again be approached before the miners communicated their scheme to the Government was put forward, but it appears to have met with considerable opposition. This, however, was the policy adopted by the Delegate Conference when it met on the following day, the 10th March. The draft scheme for the future regulation of the industry which had been prepared by the Executive was then endorsed, but the Conference decided to accept an invitation that their representatives should again meet representatives of the Mining Association, and also that they should confer with the President of the Board of Trade. A further resolution protesting against the action of the Government in decontrolling the industry at such a critical stage was adopted.†

On the 11th March the Negotiating Committee of the Miners' Federation met representatives of the Mining Association and formally communicated to them the scheme which had been endorsed by the Delegate Conference. On the same day the President of the Board of Trade accorded interviews to representatives of both bodies. At this stage, therefore, negotiations between the owners and the miners, which appeared to have reached a deadlock at the meeting of the 25th February,‡ had been resumed. Definite proposals formulated by the Executive of the Miners' Federation and endorsed by the National Delegate Conference had been communicated to the President of the Board of Trade (at the interview on the 11th March) and to the Mining Association. These formed a basis for future discussion, and counter-proposals were already in process of formulation by the Association. Considerable hopes of an ultimate agreement were therefore entertained at this juncture.

A further joint meeting was held on the 17th March, when the proposals of the Mining Association were put before the Miners' Negotiating Committee. At the close of this meeting it was announced that the negotiations had "reached a point at which both sides considered it desirable to refer the issue back again to their respective main bodies." The proposals of the owners were accordingly very fully discussed at the resumed National Delegate Conference of the Federation on the 18th March, the following resolution being finally adopted:—

"That we recommend the conference to secure the opinion of their respective districts by conference decision as to whether or not they are prepared to temporarily abandon the policy of a national wages board and a national pool, and empower the national executive to proceed with the negotiations with a view to establishing a temporary agreement on a district basis for the period of the present abnormal state of trade and prices, and that the Executive Committee proceed to secure principles for the future guidance of districts for application in a more normal period of trade."

* See LABOUR GAZETTE, March, 1921, pp. 122 and 123.

† This meeting had also under consideration the resignation, owing to ill-health, of the President of the Miners' Federation—Mr. Smillie. This was accepted, and Mr. Herbert Smith, President of the Yorkshire Miners' Association, was appointed to take Mr. Smillie's place until the annual meeting of the Federation in the summer when a new President will be formally elected.

‡ See MARCH LABOUR GAZETTE, p. 122.

The Conference was thus adjourned until the 24th March, when it re-assembled to receive the replies of the several districts. These indicated that a very large majority were against the proposal to enter into any temporary agreement on a district basis. The Conference accordingly rejected the owners' scheme, and steps were immediately taken to inform the Government and the Mining Association of this decision.

In a letter to the Prime Minister accompanying a copy of the miners' scheme for the future regulation of wages in the industry, Mr. Frank Hodges stated the position as it then stood from the point of view of the Federation. On the following day the Central Council of the Mining Association approved the proposals of that body, which were then communicated in their turn to the Government.* The inability to reach an agreement was thus acknowledged, but all parties indicated their readiness to do anything that lay in their power to avert a stoppage. The President of the Board of Trade invited the Executive of the Miners' Federation to a further conference on the 30th March, in the hope that a basis for a settlement might be found. At this meeting the miners maintained their attitude that the Government should continue to subsidize the industry during the present depression of trade. In reply it was clearly intimated to them that the Government could on no account entertain proposals of this character, and the meeting proved abortive.

Notices terminating contracts of employment on the 31st March had already been issued, and a few days before that date the terms at which the men could be re-engaged in each district, were published at the various collieries. The Executive Committee of the Miners' Federation met on the 30th March, and it was resolved to send out the following instruction to the districts in regard to the owners' notices:—"That all notices must take effect regardless of occupation in every mine and plant in the Miners' Federation."

Practically the whole of the men ceased work in accordance with this instruction at the close of the last shift on the 31st March, refusing to resume on the new terms offered in each district by the owners. The district associations having in each case decided to abide by the result of the national negotiations, local negotiations on the new percentage rates did not take place, although in some districts meetings were held in order that the position generally, and the method of arriving at the terms offered, might be made clear to the miners. There was, however, some divergence on the question of withdrawing the pumpmen and enginemen who were covered by the official instruction of the Federation. These men were not withdrawn in all cases, and it became apparent that a considerable difference of opinion prevailed in the Federation upon this point. The official instruction, however, was not revised.

MEDIATION BY THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE TRIPLE ALLIANCE.

The question of the action by the other two constituents of the Triple Alliance in the event of a national stoppage of the miners was first discussed at a meeting of the three Executives—miners, railwaymen and transport workers—on the 31st March. No immediate decision with regard to sympathetic action was taken at this meeting, but a Special General Meeting of the National Union of Railwaymen was convened for the 6th April, and a Conference of the Executives of the unions affiliated to the National Transport Workers' Federation for the 5th April. Both bodies meanwhile kept in close touch with the Executive of the Miners' Federation, and a further meeting of the three Executives was arranged for the evening of the 6th April, when the decision of the railwaymen and transport workers could be discussed in full joint conference.

By the 6th April neither of the separate conferences of railwaymen and transport workers had concluded, but on the following day a decision in favour of supporting the miners was taken at both meetings. At this juncture an attempt to bring about a re-opening of negotiations between the owners and the miners, through the good offices of the Government, broke down. A report with regard to these negotiations was submitted by the miners to the railwaymen and transport workers, and at a further joint meeting on the 8th April it was agreed that a strike of railwaymen and transport workers should take place on the night of the 12th April, unless negotiations between the Miners' Federation, the mine owners and the Government were re-opened before that date. It was also arranged that a deputation representing the National Union of Railwaymen and the National Transport Workers' Federation should meet the Prime Minister on the following day in order to communicate to him the policy of the Alliance.

The deputation discussed separately with the Prime Minister and with the Executive of the Miners' Federation the possibility of re-opening negotiations, and it was finally agreed that the Government should summon a conference of the representatives of the Miners' Federation and the coal owners to meet at the Board of Trade on

* The final proposals of the miners and owners are given on pp. 176 and 176.

the 11th April to discuss all questions in dispute between the parties; also that the Miners' Federation should, immediately, issue a notice to the branches of the Federation urging their members to abstain from all action which would interfere with the measures necessary for securing the safety of the mines, or would necessitate the use of force by the Government. The Triple Alliance decided to remain in permanent joint session during the negotiations; in order, if necessary, to give effect to their previous decision that strike notices should take effect as from midnight of the 12th April.

The principal obstacle to the earlier negotiations which broke down on the 7th April, namely, the condition laid down by the Government that the first subject to be discussed should be the return of the safety men to the mines, was overcome by the agreement procured by the deputation that the proposed Conference between the two parties should be unconditional, in the sense demanded by the Miners' Federation, while the latter should take official steps to secure that no interference with measures to safeguard the pits would occur.

The further difficulty which Mr. Herbert Smith had put forward at the meeting between the Prime Minister and the Executive on the 7th April, namely, that the differences between the owners and the Federation were fundamental, and that no useful purpose would be served by negotiating, on the understanding that the miners' two demands, for a wage settlement on national lines and the provision of a national profits, were totally unacceptable, was partially met by the adumbration by the Prime Minister of proposals which would form a basis for renewed negotiations. His suggestion was conveyed to the miners' officials by the deputation, and it was ultimately agreed to negotiate afresh on this basis.

NEGOTIATIONS RESUMED.

A resumption of negotiations took place, therefore, on the 11th April, when the Prime Minister and members of the Cabinet met the Executive of the Miners' Federation and the Central Council of the Mining Association at the offices of the Board of Trade. The Prime Minister then proposed that both parties to the dispute should submit a full statement of their case to a full conference composed of the persons present at this preliminary meeting, and that subsequently these statements should be discussed by a smaller and less unwieldy body composed of 6 representatives of the Mining Association, 6 representatives of the Miners' Federation, and one or more representatives of the Government if their participation was desired by the other two bodies. The Prime Minister further stated that it was the declared policy of the Government to refuse any demand for a subsidy for the coalmining industry from the general taxes of the country, and that the matter under discussion was therefore the problem of what the industry could bear.

At a later meeting on the same day Mr. Evan Williams presented the case for the owners, and Mr. Frank Hodges the case for the miners. These separate proposals did not differ in any essential points from the schemes which both parties had submitted to the President of the Board of Trade before the stoppage occurred, and which are dealt with below (pages 175 and 176). Mr. Williams and Mr. Hodges each examined the proposals of the other side and explained fully their objections to them. The conference then adjourned until the following day, to allow for separate discussion of the position.

The full conference resumed on the afternoon of the 12th April, when certain proposals which the Government had submitted in the morning to the Executive of the Miners' Federation were discussed.

THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSALS.

The statement outlining the Government's views began by expressing the opinion of the Government that while the miners' demands for a national settlement of wages might be practicable, their demand for a national pool of profits was impracticable. The statement continued:—

"That a pooling arrangement whereby the miners and the mineowners in every mining area should be compelled to contribute to a common pool for the equalisation of wages in the industry . . . is not feasible without the resumption of complete and permanent control by the State of the mining industry."

In place of this it was accordingly suggested that the proposal for a standard wage should be adopted, the principle on which it should be fixed for each district to be determined nationally, the amount to be settled for each district to be the subject of discussion at the present conference, and that the method of adjustment of wages in each district in excess of the standard should also be determined nationally, any complaint as to the adjustment in any particular district to be referred to a national committee on which there should be representatives of the coal owners and miners in equal numbers.

It was further proposed that the question of the relation of the owners' standard profit to the miners' standard

wage and the division of the surplus profits should also be immediately examined by the conference with a view to determining what percentage the profits of the coal owners ought to bear to the wages paid in the industry.

With regard to assistance from the Government to meet the difficulties created by the abnormal depression of trade, the Prime Minister stated that—

"If and when an arrangement has been arrived at between the coalowners and the miners as to the rate of wages to be paid in the industry, fixed upon an economic basis, the Government will be willing to give assistance, either by loan or otherwise, during a short period, in order to mitigate the rapid reduction in wages in the districts most severely affected."

These proposals were fully discussed. The miners' officials intimated their inability to accept them or to abandon their former position, and the conference thereupon ended. The decision of the miners to refuse the Government's offer was formally conveyed to the Prime Minister in a letter from Mr. Frank Hodges written after a report of the negotiations with the Government had been made by the miners' executive to the other members of the Triple Alliance.

The railwaymen and transport workers met the miners' executive again on the 13th April, and after a brief discussion it was agreed to communicate to the Prime Minister the decision of the two former bodies to strike on the night of the 15th April in support of the miners.

THE PROPOSALS OF THE MINERS' FEDERATION.

The final proposals of the miners for the future regulation of wages in the industry which were submitted to the President of the Board of Trade on the 11th March are as follows:—

DRAFT OF AGREEMENT proposed to be entered into between the Mining Association of Great Britain for the one part, and the Miners' Federation of Great Britain for the other part, hereinafter referred to as the parties.

Preamble.—It is hereby agreed, in conformity with the terms of the Government agreement with the parties, dated 3rd November, 1920, Clause 1B thereof* that the regulation of wages and profits in the coal industry of Great Britain shall be determined for the duration of the agreement upon the basis set forth below.

For the purpose of securing the most effective means for the distribution of profits and wages in the industry, there shall be established a National Board to be known hereafter as the National Coal Board, and all powers and duties of the several district Conciliation Boards now in existence relating to the fixing of the general district rates of wages shall hereafter be exercised by the National Coal Board.

The National Coal Board shall consist of representatives of the owners and workmen, 26 of whom shall be representatives of the owners and 26 shall be representatives of the workmen, the manner of their election to be determined by the parties to this agreement.

The National Coal Board shall determine all questions of wages and profits affecting the coal mining industry as a whole—national regulation and distribution of wages.

A NEW STANDARD WAGE.

In lieu of the standard basis or minimum wage of each workman prevailing at the respective collieries prior to the date of the signing of this agreement, a new standard wage for each workman shall be established by incorporating therein the whole of the existing district percentages, provided the alteration in such standard basis or minimum wage shall not in itself cause a change in wages.

The new standard thus created shall be known as the 1921 standard wage, which standard wage shall operate as a minimum wage during the lifetime of this agreement.

In the case of those workmen for whom the advance in wages of 20 per cent., known as the 12th March, 1920, advance in wages, did not yield an advance of 2s. extra per shift in the case of adults, 1s. per shift for persons of 16 up to 18 years of age, and 9d. per shift for persons under 16 years of age upon the gross earnings, exclusive of the war-wage and Sankey-wage, a percentage shall be incorporated which will result in 2s., 1s., and 9d. respectively being incorporated in the new standard before-mentioned.

Wages known as the war-wage and Sankey-wage, and any other flat rate advances in addition to the 1921 standard, and which were in existence on or before the 31st March, 1921, shall be combined into one flat rate to be added to the 1921 standard until such combined flat rate is advanced or reduced in accordance with the terms of this agreement.

LOST TIME AND PAYMENT.

That portion of the war-wage payable for time lost through circumstances at the colliery over which the workmen have no control shall not be incorporated in the new combined flat rate, but shall be continued as heretofore in accordance with the rules governing the payment as set forth in the war-wage agreement of 17th September,

* See LABOUR GAZETTE, November 1920, p. 59.

1917, and any subsequent orders and decisions issued by the Coal Controller or the Mines Department.

Where the customary number of war-wage or Sankey-wage payments are in excess of the actual number of shifts worked by the workmen such additional war-wage or Sankey-wage payments shall be included in the combined flat rate payment hereafter to be paid in addition to the 1921 standard.

The 1921 standard wage shall be reckoned as the principal element of the cost of production, and to be payable before any profit is allocated to the coalowners, additional wages in excess of the standard wage to be payable in accordance with the principles set forth in this agreement.

Any advance in wages above the 1921 standard, or reduction in wages to the standard made in accordance with the terms of this agreement, shall be in the form of additions to or deductions from the combined flat rate in excess of the standard as flat rate advances or flat rate reductions, respectively.

NATIONAL REGULATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF PROFITS.

The colliery owners shall receive in the aggregate as profits one-tenth of the amount paid as wages.

When wages are at or on the standard the owners shall receive as a minimum profit one-tenth of the aggregate wages paid at the aforesaid standard.

Where, however, the quarterly certificate of the joint auditors shows that the balance available for distribution as profits, after costs have been met, as set forth in the first schedule to this agreement, does not provide a sufficient sum to ensure a payment of one-tenth of the aggregate wages standard as profits, the owners agree to forego their minimum profit until subsequent ascertainment show available balances sufficient to enable them to be paid any arrears of profit due from previous quarters.

The workmen undertake to make no application for wage advances above the standard as long as arrears of owners' minimum profit remain unpaid.

The amount payable in wages in excess of the standard shall be that proportion of the income above costs which, with 10 per cent. added thereto, equals such income, such 10 per cent. to be payable to the owners as profits in addition to the minimum profits.

The owners agree to maintain in production by the means of a national profits fund all the existing collieries and all collieries hereafter to be developed until such times as the National Coal Board decide to the contrary.

THE PROPOSALS OF THE MINING ASSOCIATION.

The report of the coalowners on the situation, which was submitted to the President of the Board of Trade on the 25th March, contained a statement of the general principles as to a wages and profits basis upon which they are agreed. These differ in no fundamental respect from the statement made by Mr. Evan Williams to a meeting of the Mining Association on the 2nd March, which was summarised in the LABOUR GAZETTE for that month.* The owners propose to take as the standard wage below which wages should not automatically fall, and at which the owners should be entitled to a profit, the district base rates "plus" the percentage additions prevailing in July, 1914. All additions which have since been made to the base rates prevailing in July, 1914, shall be maintained, and the percentages which have been added to pieceworkers' rates consequent upon the reduction in hours from eight to seven shall continue. It is further suggested that the owners' aggregate standard profits in each district shall be taken as 17 per cent. of the aggregate amount of wages payable as outlined above; and that any surplus remaining of the proceeds of the sale of coal at the pit head after such wages and profits and all other costs have been taken into account shall be divisible as to 80 per cent. to the workmen and 20 per cent. to the owners, the workmen's share being expressed as a percentage upon the standard rate of the district. To meet the present abnormal situation, the owners state that they are prepared to accept a temporary departure from the strict application of their scheme, to the extent of waiving their share of the surplus in favour of the workmen, on condition that ascertainment are made at monthly periods to determine the wages payable during such time as the above concession on the part of the owners continues to operate; and that, if, during any period of ascertainment, the owners' standard profit is not realised, the amount of the deficiency shall be carried forward as a prior charge against any surplus available for the payment of wages in excess of the basis as already established.

The report states in conclusion that:—

"The Miners' Federation having decided to withhold its co-operation in arranging district settlements, the owners have no alternative but to ascertain in their districts upon the return of prices, wages and other costs obtained for each district for the month of February† (adjusted to allow for any changes known to have subsequently taken place)

* Pages 122 and 123.

† See the article on "Coal Output, etc., etc., in February," p. 177.

the wages that can be paid in each district for the month of April, such wages to be expressed in terms of the existing base rates with percentages thereon, no part of the wage to be expressed as a flat rate, and the war-wage now paid for idle days to cease."

"It has to be borne in mind that whereas under the owners' proposals the wages of the men will be assured during any period for which wages are fixed there is no corresponding assurance of profits being payable to the owners during the same period. The owners accept the whole risk of any fall in values or any increase in costs that may take place. They may have to pay the wages agreed upon not only without profit, but at a loss, and in the present economic situation it appears to be certain that as from 1st April they will be paying in wages in each district at least an amount equal to the available revenue of the district after other costs have been met."

"The owners will seek the co-operation which they hope will not be withheld of the miners' representatives in each district in applying the provisions of the above scheme to the determination of the wages payable for the month of April, but in any case in order to provide for continuity of work, the pits will be open on and after 1st April, on terms worked out in accordance with the scheme."

POINTS OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE MINERS' FEDERATION AND THE MINING ASSOCIATION.

The principles upon which agreement was reached during the negotiations between the owners and the men may be stated as follows:—It was accepted by both sides that wages must be regulated by the ability of the industry to pay them, and that there should be during the period of any agreement a standard wage for the worker, below which there should be no reduction by the automatic operation of any scheme, and that this should be the first charge upon the industry. It was also accepted that against this standard wage there must be a recognised standard profit which should be a charge against the cost of production before the workers are entitled to any advance on standard wages; that after both standard wages and standard profits and other costs of production have been provided, any surplus profits should be divided in definitely agreed proportions between worker and owner, and that joint audits of the owners' books by accountants representing each side should be made to ascertain the data necessary to apply these to the periodical determination of wages.

THE STATE OF EMERGENCY.

PROCLAMATION OF EMERGENCY: 31st MARCH, 1921.

UNDER the Emergency Powers Act, 1920,* a "proclamation of emergency" was made on the 31st March declaring a "state of emergency" to exist in view of the then immediate threat of cessation of work in coal mines. Section 1 of that Act provides that such a proclamation may be made if "any action has been taken or is immediately threatened, by any person or body of persons, of such nature or on so extensive a scale, as to be calculated" . . . "to deprive the community or any substantial portion of the community of the essentials of life." The section envisages that the community may be so deprived of the essentials of life by an action "interfering with the supply and distribution of food, water, fuel or light, or with the means of locomotion."

THE EMERGENCY REGULATIONS, 1921.

The second section of the Emergency Powers Act provides that when such a "proclamation of emergency" has been made, regulations may be made by Order in Council for securing the essentials of life to the community. These regulations may confer such powers, or impose such duties, on a Secretary of State or Government Department, as may be deemed necessary for the preservation of the peace, for securing and regulating the supply of food, water, fuel, light and other necessities, for maintaining the means of transit or locomotion, and for any other purposes essential to the public safety and the life of the community.

Accordingly, the Emergency Regulations, 1921, were made by Order in Council on the 1st April. The regulations, among other things, give power to the appropriate Ministries or Departments to take possession of collieries, buildings, machinery, stores, stocks of coal and of rolling stock for the transport of coal; to take possession of land, buildings or works, for the supply of gas, electricity or water, or for the purposes of transport; to regulate the supply, distribution and prices of coal, and the supply of gas, water and electricity; to regulate and prohibit the sale of motor spirit; to assume possession of food, materials or stores; to commandeer vehicles and horses; to take control

* An account of the provisions of this Act appeared in the LABOUR GAZETTE, November, 1920, at page 597.

of tramways and light railways; to close ports or harbours, and requisition ships; to prohibit the sale of firearms and munitions; to prohibit public meetings and to exercise powers of arrest and search.

The Regulations are, for the most part, a selection of those Defence of the Realm Regulations on which the action of the Government during the railway strike of 1919 was based. They have been made as comprehensive as possible because it was thought desirable to have them ready for immediate application should the development of the dispute make it necessary to use them.

PARLIAMENTARY SUPERVISION AND CONTROL.

The Emergency Powers Act provides for Parliamentary supervision and control of the emergency procedure, both as regards the general "state of emergency" and the particular regulations made under a "proclamation of emergency." Upon the making of a Proclamation under Section 1 of the Act, the occasion for it must be communicated to Parliament, and should Parliament be in recess, provision is made for its re-assembly within five days. The Regulations made under Section 2 must be laid before Parliament as soon as possible, and may not continue in force after the expiration of seven days from their being so made, unless a Resolution be passed by both Houses providing for their continuance.

A Proclamation was therefore made on the 1st April summoning both Houses of Parliament to meet on the 4th,* and on their meeting a Royal Message was received by both Houses with regard to the Proclamation of Emergency. On the following day both Houses considered the Royal Message and discussed Resolutions approving and continuing the Regulations in the following terms:—

"That the Regulations made by His Majesty in Council under the Emergency Powers Act, 1920, by Order dated 1st April, 1921, shall continue in force subject, however, to the provisions of Section (2), subsection (4) of the said Act."

This Resolution was passed by the House of Lords on the 5th April and by the House of Commons on the following day, but with the proviso that three omissions in the Regulations should be made. The House of Lords on the 7th adopted a further Resolution concurring with these omissions, and the Regulations, except for the three passages to be omitted, thereby received the necessary Parliamentary approval.

Up to the 9th April the principal Government Department to make use of the authority conferred upon it was the Board of Trade, which issued directions mainly with regard to the movement of coal.

FURTHER EMERGENCY MEASURES.

On the 8th April the Government determined that further emergency measures were necessary in view of the then state of public affairs, in particular the threatened dislocation of the life of the community occasioned by stoppage of work in coal mines, and its threatened extension to the railway and transport services of the country. It was, therefore, determined that a Proclamation should issue calling up the Reserves of the Army, Navy and Air Force, and that, in addition to the enrolment of special constables, a Defence Force should be enlisted, in order to support the police in providing adequate protection to the volunteers who were maintaining the mines in condition and who might come forward to carry on the minimum of transport work required to maintain the most essential national and municipal services. The Territorial Force would not be embodied or asked to serve, but members of it and ex-Service men generally would be asked to enlist in the Defence Force.

COAL OUTPUT, PRICES, WAGES, ETC. IN FEBRUARY.

A RETURN† issued by the Mines Department gives various statistics relating to the state of the coal-mining industry in February, 1921.

The total tonnage raised in February was 17,126,000 tons, of which 1,957,580 tons were required for mine consumption and for miners' coal, leaving a net disposable balance of 15,168,420 tons. The average net cost of production of this coal was 38s. 9½d., and the average selling price was 32s. 9½d., so that there was an average loss of 5s. 11½d. on every ton disposed of commercially. In two districts (Yorkshire and Derby, Nottingham and Leicester) there were small credits, of 3½d. and of 1½d. per ton, respectively; but in all other districts there were deficits, ranging from 4s. 0½d. per ton in Durham to 18s. 1½d. per ton in South Wales and Monmouth.

The average cost of production (which, as stated above, was 38s. 9½d. per ton) was made up as follows:—

	Per Ton.	
	s.	d.
Wages	29	3½
Stores and timber	6	1
Other costs (management, salaries, insurances, repairs, office, selling, and general expenses, etc.)	2	10½
Royalties		8
Total costs	38	11½
Less proceeds of miners' coal		2½
Net costs	38	9½

No allowance is made in this calculation for depreciation; for interest on debentures and other loans; for capital adjustments under the Finance Acts; or for the profits to which the owners are entitled under the Coal Mines (Emergency) Act, 1920.

The number of workpeople employed in and about the coal mines in February was 1,218,798; and the tonnage raised per person employed was 14 tons 1 cwt., the figures varying from 10 tons 3 cwt. in South Wales and Monmouth to 17 tons 15 cwt. in Derby, Nottingham and Leicester. The average earnings per person employed were £18 4s. 8d. for the month; the figures varying, according to district, from £16 6s. 3d. in Northumberland, to £20 17s. in Scotland. In seven "districts," or groups of counties, out of the ten into which the country is divided for the purposes of these statistics, the average earnings were over £17 10s., but under £19.

It should be noted that these figures are exclusive of Ireland in all cases.

The following Table gives the corresponding figures for January, 1921, and for certain periods in 1920, taken from earlier issues in the same series (*):—

	Three months ended June, 1920.	Three months ended December, 1920.	January, 1921.	February, 1921.
Total output of disposable coal (1,000 tons).	17,410†	14,624†	17,127	15,168
Average net cost of production (per ton).	32 7	39 9½	40 3	38 9½
Average proceeds of coal sold commercially (per ton)	36 7½	39 3½	34 6½	32 9½
Balance:—				
Credit	3 0½	—	5 8½	5 11½
Debit	—	6½	—	—
Number of Workpeople employed.	1,178,614	1,206,215	1,234,486	1,218,798
Average tonnage raised, per person employed (tons).	18 4½†	13 7½†	15 7½	14 0½
Average earnings per person employed.	£ s. d. 18 16 7†	£ s. d. 17 19 4†	£ s. d. 22 1 9	£ s. d. 13 4 8

UNEMPLOYMENT: REMEDIAL MEASURES.

EMPLOYMENT OF EX-SERVICE MEN IN THE BUILDING TRADES.

CONSIDERABLE progress has been made towards the solution of this problem. Following on the refusal of the National Federation of Building Trades Employers to accept the Government's scheme for the augmentation of labour in the building trades, which was outlined in the January LABOUR GAZETTE,† an alternative scheme was formulated by the Government and submitted to the Executive Council of the National Federation of Building Trades Employers on the 22nd February.

This scheme was explained by the Minister of Labour in the House on the 23rd March. The object of the scheme is to relieve unemployment among ex-Service men by providing training for them in the crafts of the Building Industry which require augmentation, particularly in view of the need for housing, and thus affording ex-Service men a career in an industry where there is an opening for their services. The scheme is intended to apply mainly to young ex-Service men who have been for some time out of employment and have no regular occupation to which they can turn, and in addition ex-Service men now employed in the Industry as builders' labourers will be given an opportunity of learning a craft. For the present it is intended to concentrate on bricklaying, plastering and slating, as these are the three building trades in which the labour shortage is most acute. The National Federation of Building Trades Employers and the corresponding Scottish Federations have accepted general responsibility to the Government for the

* June quarter, 1920: Cmd. 940. December quarter, 1920: Cmd. 1182. January, 1921: Cmd. 1183. All at ld. net.

† Aggregate figures for three months are given in the original returns quoted; but for convenience of comparison these have been divided by three.

‡ Page 8.

"So far as the war was paid for by personal economies the burden was borne at the time, but as for the rest, it is a burden of the present and the future. Our National Debt is in essence only the symptom of that burden and not the actual burden itself."

"There is a tendency for engineering to fluctuate more violently than industries producing articles of immediate consumption. . . . During the present crisis cancellation and suspension of orders have taken place, and are still taking place to a very serious extent, and in consequence the slump in employment has been more rapid and more serious than in any previous occasion."

The pamphlet deals in detail with such topics as the following in relation to engineering trades:—Foreign Exchanges; "The Consumers' Strike"; the Slump in Wholesale Prices; the Coal Strike, 1920; Financial Stringency; Capital; Credit; the Influence of Taxation; the Effect of the Moulders' Strike, 1919-20; the Cost of Production in the Coal and Engineering Industries; the Cost of Engineering Production; Foreign Competition; and the Productivity of Labour.

The statement also contains an appendix giving instances of foreign competition in various trades and tabulated details showing the amounts of war advances granted and the dates of operation.

JOINT INDUSTRIAL COUNCILS AND INTERIM INDUSTRIAL RECONSTRUCTION COMMITTEES.

REPORTS OF MEETINGS.

DURING the 4 weeks ending 27th March, 1921, meetings were reported of 28 Joint Industrial Councils, 6 District Councils, 2 Interim Industrial Reconstruction Committees and 15 various Sub-committees. The Reconstruction Committee for the Glove-Manufacturing Industry first met as a Joint Industrial Council on March 21st. A constitution for a Joint Industrial Council in the Paper Making Industry has been approved by the respective associations.

CONFERENCE OF INDUSTRIAL COUNCILS, &c.

A further conference of Joint Industrial Councils and Interim Industrial Reconstruction Committees was held at the Ministry of Labour on March 18th, when, after discussion, it was resolved to proceed to form an association on the lines outlined by the Provisional Committee, (1) for the purpose of taking joint action when it is desired to make representations to the government, (2) for the exchange of ideas and the discussion of matters of common interest. The officers and a convening committee were thereupon elected. With reference to the recommendation passed at the conference held on January 15th, 1920,* with regard to making wages awards or agreements, or arrangements as to working hours and conditions, made by Joint Industrial Councils, binding upon the whole of any industry, the Provisional Committee reported that, of the 21 Councils and Committees who had decided to join the Association, 16 had signified that they were favourable to this proposal and 2 that they were opposed to it. After further discussion the following resolution was passed:—

"That this Conference of Industrial Councils and Reconstruction Committees is strongly of the opinion that legislation should at once be commenced by the Government to give the necessary power to the Ministry of Labour to make binding upon the whole of any industry, any wages awards or agreements, or arrangements as to working hours and conditions made by Joint Industrial Councils and Interim Industrial Reconstruction Committees, if so requested by the Council or Committee concerned."

A resolution of the Interim Industrial Reconstruction Committee for the Paper Making Industry regarding the purchase by H.M. Stationery Office of stationery of British manufacture and a resolution from the Pottery Council on the subject of Merchandise Marks were received. It was decided that copies of these resolutions should be forwarded to all Joint Industrial Councils and Interim Industrial Reconstruction Committees asking for their opinion and for any available data and information on these subjects and that the convening Committee should take any action considered necessary and approach the Government departments concerned.

At the afternoon session a draft voluntary scheme for supplementary unemployment benefit submitted by a committee of employers was discussed and was referred to a sub-committee for consideration and further action, the opinion being expressed that the ideas of Councils on the subject should be sought.

Mr. C. S. Myers, C.B.E., M.D., D.Sc., F.R.S., gave a lecture on "Industrial Fatigue," which was followed by a general discussion; a resolution was passed requesting H.M. Treasury not to curtail the grant to the Industrial Fatigue Research Board.

WAGES REDUCTIONS.

Since January 1st, 1921, proposals for wages reductions have been agreed on by or through Joint Industrial Councils and Interim Industrial Reconstruction Committees in nine cases, in four of which the reductions have taken place in accordance with pre-existent sliding scales based on the

* This previous conference was dealt with in the LABOUR GAZETTE for January, 1921, at page 8.

cost of living. Proposals are under consideration by five other Councils and Committees. The Joint Industrial Council for the Hosiery Industry (England and Wales) has provisionally agreed upon a new sliding scale of wages the general basis of which is a reduction by 1d. of the present bonus of 1s. 3d. on every 1s. for every 10 point decrease in the cost of living. The agreement is subject to ratification by the constituent bodies.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

The Match Manufacturing Council have now received from their Sub-Committee a complete scheme of unemployment insurance for the industry. The general basis of the scheme is the provision of a fund by yearly allocation of a certain proportion of the total wages bill until the fund reaches a specified total. Benefits are provided for as from the first day of unemployment, and will be payable for periods varying in accordance with length of service, deductions being made in respect of amounts payable by the State, and in respect of benefits generally obtainable from a Trade Union. The scheme is to be administered by a Committee of the Council.

The Management and Costs Committee of the Building Council is revising its proposals as to benefits payable by a supplementary scheme of unemployment insurance in accordance with further information regarding the contributions necessary to double the benefits now payable under the Acts. The Committee is of opinion that the ultimate cost of a supplementary scheme may be substantially reduced by the adoption of measures for regularising the demand for labour throughout the industry.

EDUCATION, &c.

The Education Committee of the Council for Heating and Domestic Engineering is proceeding with the preparation of an apprenticeship scheme, and the Electrical Contracting Council has appointed representatives to an advisory committee of the City and Guilds Institute in connection with the syllabus for technical examinations. A report on the attendances at the first aid classes in Hanley, held in conjunction with the Pottery Council, has been received by the Research Committee, and was considered very satisfactory. It is hoped to establish similar classes in all parts of the district. The Joint Industrial Council for Glove Manufacturing has invited the Industrial Fatigue Research Board to conduct an enquiry in its industry.

WAGES IN THE RAILWAY SERVICE.

THE rates of wages of railwaymen in the conciliation grades are at present made up of certain standard rates agreed upon in March, 1920, to operate from 1st January, 1920, which represented the average pre-war weekly rate of pay of the men in any grade or group of grades plus 3s. a week,* together with further increases ranging from 2s. to 7s. 6d. a week (2s. to 8s. 6d. in the case of signalmen) granted in June, 1920, the whole being subject to variations under a sliding scale, whereby there is a reduction or increase of 1s. per week for every fall or rise of a full five points in the 'cost of living,' as shown in the figures published by the Ministry of Labour.

Adjustments in the earnings of railwaymen in accordance with this sliding scale are considered at quarterly meetings of the Central Wages Board. This Central Wages Board consists of 5 railway managers and 5 representatives of the trade unions, namely, 3 from the National Union of Railwaymen, and 2 from the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen. The function of the Board is to deal, in the first place, with questions of wages and conditions of service of railwaymen during the period of control, apart from the negotiations for permanent standard rates of wages and the related matters of permanent grading and classification, etc.

The Central Wages Board met on the 22nd March, 1921, to determine the amount of the cost of living bonus payable to the conciliation grades for the three months from 1st April, 1921. This meeting is important in two respects: firstly, for the first time since the institution of the sliding scale the relevant LABOUR GAZETTE index number showed a decrease, and secondly, there was a difference of opinion between the two sides of the Board with regard to the interpretation of the provisions of the agreement with regard to the sliding scale.

The previous quarterly meeting of the Central Wages Board had been held on the 30th December, 1920, when the relevant LABOUR GAZETTE index number was 169, and an increase in the cost of living bonus of 1s., making a total bonus of 8s., had then been agreed upon as from 1st January last.

At the meeting of the 22nd March the trade union representatives argued that the bonus fixed at the previous quarterly meeting had really been determined by the figure 165,† and that figure therefore should be taken as the basis for ascertaining the effect of the fall of the index number of 141. The difference between the two figures was 24; and, on the basis of "a rise or fall of 1s. for every full 5 points increase or decrease" in the index number, they contended that the proper reduction in the cost of living bonus was 4s., that is, from 8s. to 4s.

* In the case of signalmen the 3s. was added to the pre-war rates of the various boxes.

† On the ground presumably that they had not gained anything through the extra four points.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS, 1901-1920.

THE TWO DAY-SHIFT SYSTEM FOR WOMEN AND YOUNG PERSONS.

Section 2 of the *Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children Act, 1920*, which is construed as one with the *Factory and Workshop Acts, 1901-1911*, now governs the employment of women and young persons on the two day-shift system. The following is a summary of the notices which have been published from the 6th March up to the 8th April of 16 further Orders made by the Home Secretary.

Women.—Orders authorising the employment of women on two-day shifts have been made in the case of the following firms:—Messrs. Edward Collins and Sons, Ltd., Glasgow (for women engaged in making size only); Messrs. John Greenwood and Sons, Ltd., Manchester (women engaged in mending and making sacks only); Messrs. J. A. Jordan and Sons, Ltd., Bilston (women engaged in raising furnace doors for fusers, enamelling, only); Messrs. Barclay and Perkins, Ltd., Southwark, S.E.1. (beer bottling department only); Messrs. W. and T. Avery, Ltd., Smethwick (automatic machine department only); Messrs. The British Aluminium Co., Ltd., Warrington (women engaged in the making of aluminium sheets and tubes only); Messrs. C. Hammerton and Co., Ltd., Stockwell, S.W.9. (despatch department only); Messrs. Maquire, Paterson and Palmer, Ltd., Dublin (women engaged in connection with the manufacture of matches at the Hammond Lane Works, Dublin, only)*; Messrs. Pilkington Bros., Ltd., St. Helens (women engaged in cloth washing at Cowley Hill Works, the cell grinding department at Ravenhead works, and the drawn glass department at Grove Street, only); Messrs. The St. Anne's Board Mill Co., Ltd., Bristol (women engaged on paper slitting machines and calendars only); Messrs. Tubbs, Lewis and Co., Ltd., Gloucestershire (women engaged at New Mills, Wootton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire, only); Messrs. James Calder and Co., Ltd., B'ness, N.B. (women engaged in connection with making yeast only); Messrs. Maquire, Paterson and Palmer, Ltd., Leeds (women engaged in connection with the manufacture of matches only)*; Messrs. Flemington Coal Co., Ltd., Cambuslang (women engaged in connection with the making of bricks only); Messrs. The Venesta Co., Ltd., Millwall, E.14 (tin foil lacquering department only)*.

Male Young Persons.—Orders permitting the employment of male young persons have been made in the case of the following firms: Messrs. W. and T. Avery, Ltd., Smethwick (for male young persons engaged in the automatic machine department only)†; Messrs. Maquire, Paterson and Palmer, Ltd., Dublin (male young persons engaged in connection with the manufacture of matches at the Hammond Lane Works, Dublin, only)†; Messrs. The St. Anne's Board Mill Co., Ltd., Bristol (male young persons engaged on the paper slitting machines and calendars only); Messrs. Frodingham Iron and Steel Co., Ltd., Scunthorpe, Lincs. (constructional department only); Messrs. Maquire, Paterson and Palmer, Ltd., Leeds (male young persons engaged in the manufacture of matches only)†; Messrs. The Venesta Co., Ltd., Millwall, E.14 (tin foil lacquering department only)†.

The above Orders are subject in most cases to the conditions that no worker shall be employed on the afternoon shift in consecutive weeks, and that suitable cloak-room and mess-room accommodation be provided.

SAFETY REGULATIONS FOR AERATED WATER MANUFACTURE.

The Home Secretary has prepared draft Regulations which he proposes to make in pursuance of the powers conferred on him by Section 79 of the *Factory and Workshop Act, 1901*, for the manufacture of aerated water and processes incidental thereto, in substitution for the Special Rules which have been established since 1898. Sections 79 to 86 of this Act give power to make Regulations of general application to all premises in which any dangerous work requiring to be controlled is carried on, in place of the old system of Special Rules which had to be established separately in each individual works. The Special Rules for bottling of aerated waters are one of the few codes of Special Rules now remaining, and in accordance with recent procedure it is thought desirable to convert them into general Regulations applying to the whole trade.

It is proposed to take this opportunity of bringing the requirements of the Special Rules up to date; they were drafted in 1897, and are in certain respects obsolete. The draft Regulations require the provision of protective clothing and first-aid arrangements, following generally the standardised requirements which have been included in recent Regulations and Welfare Orders, and have already been adopted in a number of the works affected.

The notice by the Home Secretary of his intention to make these Regulations is dated the 1st April, 1921, and any objection with respect to the draft Regulations by or on behalf of any persons affected thereby, must be sent to the Secretary of State within 30 days from that date.

* This order also applies to young persons of both sexes.
† This order also applies to women and female young persons.

The representatives of the railway companies, on the other hand, argued that the cost of living index figures should carry exactly the same amount of bonus when descending as when ascending, and as on May 1st, 1920, an index number of 141 had carried an agreed bonus of 3s., they contended that the proper reduction in the cost of living bonus was 5s., that is, from 8s. to 3s. In effect the argument of the companies' side was that all adjustments of bonus should be calculated by going back to the starting point of the scale, the index number of 125 in December, 1919.

After discussion it was agreed that the bonus to be paid on and from the 1st April should be 4s. per week. A comprehensive scale was drawn up showing what adjustment in the cost of living bonus should be made to correspond with future variations in the LABOUR GAZETTE index numbers. The effect of this scale is that when the cost of living is falling, index numbers of 169 to 161, involve a bonus of 8s. a week, of 160 to 156 one of 7s., of 155 to 151, one of 6s., and so on. When the cost of living is rising index numbers of 141 to 149 involve a bonus of 4s. a week, of 150 to 154, one of 5s., and so on. The result is, therefore, that the point of principle in dispute at this meeting has been settled, not only for the present, but for future occasions.

The above figures relate to the conciliation grades. Similar adjustments were, however, made in the cost of living bonus payable to engine drivers and motormen, firemen and assistant motormen and engine cleaners.

TRADE UNION CONFERENCES.

THE principal conferences of Trade Unions held in the month of March were those of the National Amalgamated Union of Shop Assistants, Warehousemen and Clerks, the National Union of Distributive and Allied Workers, the National Drug and Chemical Union, the National Union of Journalists, and the National Union of Teachers.

The three conferences of Trade Unions organising distributive workers all adopted resolutions in favour of the amalgamation into one union of all Trade Unions catering for such workers. In the case of the shop assistants' conference, the executive committee were also instructed to approach the Parliamentary Committee of the Trades Union Congress, with a view to calling together all those unions which will form the Distributive Section of the Congress* and to securing their amalgamation into one union. In addition, a new national minimum wage scale was adopted. Resolutions were also passed on the subject of the Shop Hours Acts and the Trade Boards Acts. The conference of the National Union of Distributive and Allied Workers (which is an amalgamation of the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative and Commercial Employees and Allied Workers with the National Union of Warehouse and General Workers) adopted resolutions, not only authorising the continuance of negotiations with a view to amalgamation with the National Drug and Chemical Union, but also in favour of the promotion of further amalgamation with other kindred trades. The annual conference of the National Drug and Chemical Union adopted a resolution authorising the continuance of negotiations for amalgamation with the National Union of Distributive and Allied Workers.

The conference of the National Union of Journalists considered, but rejected, a resolution that the union should cease to be affiliated to the Trades Union Congress, and adopted resolutions protesting against journalistic work being done by non-journalists, and in favour of action to secure a national standard for shorthand notes.

CENSUS OF POPULATION 1921.

AN account was given in the "LABOUR GAZETTE" for December, 1920, of the Census Act, 1920, and of the Census Order, 1920, which relates to the 1921 Census of Population. The Minister of Health has now made regulations dated 14th February, 1921, and entitled the *Census Regulations, 1921*, for the purpose of enabling the Census Order, 1920, to be carried into effect. These Regulations provide for the delimitation of enumeration districts, the appointment of enumerators and the delivery and collection of Census Returns, and also prescribe the forms of return to be used in connection with the Census.

An explanatory pamphlet has been issued by the Stationery Office† explaining the objects of the Census, the enquiries contained in the forms of return (i.e., the Census Schedules) and the reasons for asking them, and describing the procedure to be followed in filling up the Schedules.

The questions relating to occupation or industry are perhaps the most difficult of the questions for the public to answer. Nine pages of instructions are therefore given in the pamphlet to assist the public to give replies which will be of real value for Census purposes, and in order to avoid replies which might not be sufficiently definite to be of any value.

The "Census day," originally fixed by the Census Order, 1920, for the 24th April, 1921, has been postponed in view of the national state of emergency.

* See LABOUR GAZETTE, September, 1920, page 480.

† "The Coming Census," price 6d. net.

BEVELLING OF GLASS.

Section 7 of the *Police, Factories, etc. (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1916*, which is to be construed as one with the *Factory and Workshop Acts, 1901-1911*, empowers the Home Secretary to require special provision to be made in groups of factories or workshops for securing the welfare of the workers employed therein in relation to certain specified matters. In pursuance of this Section, the Home Secretary has made an Order, dated the 3rd March, 1921, for securing the welfare of workers employed in factories or parts of factories in which the beveling of glass and processes incidental thereto are carried on. The Order will come into force on the 1st May, 1921, and is in the same terms as the draft Order which was issued in September last year.

TRANSFER OF POWERS TO MINISTER OF HEALTH.

The *Ministry of Health Act, 1919* (Section 3 (2) (c)) provides that His Majesty may, by Order in Council, transfer to the Minister of Health any of the powers and duties in England and Wales of any Government Department which appear to relate to matters affecting, or incidental to, the health of the people. In accordance with this Section it is proposed to transfer to the Minister of Health the powers and duties of the Secretary of State under the *Factory and Workshop Act, 1901*, in so far as they relate to the supervision and enforcement of the provisions of the following sections of that Act:—

Section 61: prohibition of employment of women after child-birth;

Sections 97 to 100: various provisions relating to bakehouses;

Section 109: provisions relating to the making of wearing apparel where there is scarlet fever or small-pox;

Section 110: prohibition of home working in places where there is an infectious disease.

MUNITIONS OF WAR ACT, 1917.

CONTRACTS OF EMPLOYMENT ON MUNITION WORK.

Section 3 of the *Munitions of War Act, 1917*, provided that a contract of service between an employer and a workman employed on or in connection with munitions of war should, with certain exceptions, notwithstanding any agreement to the contrary, not be terminable by either party except by a week's notice or on payment of a sum equal to an average week's wages under the contract. Any sum payable in lieu of notice under this section by an employer or workman was made recoverable before a Munitions Tribunal.

An Order in Council, dated the 24th March, 1921, has now been made under Section 6 of the *Ministry of Munitions Act, 1915*, and under Section 1 of the *Ministries of Munitions and Shipping Cessation Act, 1921*. The purpose of this Order is to fix the 1st April, 1921, as the date on which the office of Minister of Munitions and the Ministry of Munitions cease to exist.

Inter alia, the Order has the effect of rendering the above provisions of Section 3 of the *Munitions of War Act, 1917*, inoperative.

RUSSIAN TRADE AGREEMENT.

A Trade Agreement* between His Britannic Majesty's Government and the Government of the Russian Socialist Federal Soviet Republic was signed in London on the 16th March last, by Sir Robert Horne, President of the Board of Trade, and M. L. Krassin, leader of the Russian Trade Delegation. The following is an account of the main provisions of the Agreement.

The Agreement consists of a preamble and 14 articles, and appended thereto is "a declaration of recognition of claims," also signed by Sir Robert Horne and M. Krassin, in which both parties declare "that all claims of either party or of its nationals against the other party in respect of property or rights, or in respect of obligations incurred by the existing or former Governments of either country shall be equitably dealt with" in a formal general Peace Treaty. In the meantime, the Russian Government "declares that it recognises in principle that it is liable to pay compensation to private persons who have supplied goods or services to Russia for which they have not been paid," and the British Government make a corresponding declaration.

The Agreement is stated to be subject to each party refraining from "hostile action or undertakings against the other, and from conducting outside its own borders any official propaganda, direct or indirect, against the institutions of the British Empire or Russian Soviet Republic respectively."

Under the terms of the Agreement, both parties undertake "not to impose or maintain any form of blockade against each other, and to remove forthwith all obstacles hitherto placed in the way of the resumption of trade" between the two countries "in any commodities which may be legally exported from, or imported into, their respective territories to or from any other foreign country, and not to

* The Agreement has been published as a Command Paper (Cmd. 127, price 1d.).

exercise any discrimination against such trade as compared with that carried on with any other foreign country, or to place any impediments in the way of banking, credit and financial operations for the purpose of such trade." The Agreement also provides for the free entry into each country of such persons as are necessary to enable the Agreement to be carried out, "provided that either party may restrict the admittance of any such persons into any specified areas, and may refuse admittance to or sojourn in its territories to any individual who is *persona non grata* to itself, or who does not comply with this Agreement or with the conditions precedent thereto." "Official agents" may also be appointed by either country to reside and exercise their functions in the territories of the other, and such agents shall be immune from arrest and search, and be at liberty to communicate freely with their own Government and with other official representatives of their Government in other countries by post, by telegraph and wireless telegraphy in cypher, and to receive and despatch couriers with sealed bags which shall be exempt from examination.

Either party may refuse to admit any individual as an official agent who is *persona non grata* to itself or may require the other party to withdraw him on grounds of public interest or security. Persons admitted into the territories of either party under these conditions shall enjoy all protection, rights and facilities which are necessary to enable them to carry on trade, but subject always to any legislation generally applicable in the respective countries. The Agreement provides for the revival of the exchange of private postal and telegraphic correspondence between both countries, as well as the despatch and acceptance of wireless messages and parcels by post in accordance with the rules and regulations which were in existence up to 1914.

The British Government undertake not to initiate any steps with a view to attach or take possession of any gold, funds, securities or commodities not being identifiable as its property, which may be exported from Russia in payment for imports or as securities for such payment, or of any movable or immovable property which may be acquired by the Russian Government within the United Kingdom. They will also not take steps to obtain any special legislation not applicable to other countries against the importation into the United Kingdom of precious metals from Russia and will not requisition such metals.

The Russian Government undertake to make no claim to dispose in any way of the funds or other property of the late Imperial and Provisional Russian Governments in the United Kingdom and the British Government gives a corresponding undertaking as regards British Government funds and property in Russia. Both parties agree to protect and not to transfer to any claimants pending the conclusion of a general Peace Treaty any of such funds or property under their control.

It is provided that merchandise, the produce or manufacture of one country imported into the other in pursuance of the Agreement shall not be subject therein to compulsory requisition by the Government or any local authority.

The Agreement came into force immediately upon signature, and will continue in force unless and until replaced by a formal general Peace Treaty between the two countries, so long as the conditions laid down in the Articles and in the preamble are observed by both sides. Either party may give notice at any time after the expiration of 12 months from the date on which the Agreement comes into force, to terminate the provisions of the Articles, and on the expiration of six months from the date of such notice those Articles will terminate accordingly. If, however, as the result of any action of the Courts of the United Kingdom dealing with the attachment or arrest of any gold, funds, securities or property, consigned to the United Kingdom by the Russian Government, or its representatives, judgment is delivered by the Court under which such gold, funds, etc., are held to be validly attached on account of obligations incurred by the Russian Soviet Government or by any previous Russian Government before the date of the Agreement, the Russian Soviet Government have the right to terminate the Agreement forthwith. It is also provided that in the event of the infringement by either country, at any time, of any provisions of the Agreement or of the conditions referred to in the preamble, the other country shall immediately be free from the obligations of the Agreement, but before taking any action inconsistent with the Agreement, the aggrieved party shall give the other party a reasonable opportunity of furnishing an explanation or remedying the default.

RISE IN COST OF LIVING IN HUNGARY.*

From index numbers published in the organ of the Magyar Confederation of Trade Unions it would appear that the expenditure of a Hungarian family consisting of two adults and three children on food at the end of January, 1921, was 57 times greater than on 31st July, 1914. The total family expenditure, including also the cost of heating and lighting, clothing, rent and other items, was 47 times

* The *Daily Intelligence*, 31st March, 1921. The International Labour Office, Geneva.

as great as in July, 1914. The increase in the expenditure on rent amounted to 67 per cent. only. The above computation is based on the assumption that the standard of living was identical at both periods.

THE COST OF LIVING AND THE BASIC WAGE IN AUSTRALIA: REPORT OF A ROYAL COMMISSION.

As long ago as 1906, Mr. Justice O'Connor, President of the Australian Commonwealth Arbitration Court, decided in a lawsuit that wages must have reference to existing standards of social conditions. In the following year Mr. Justice Higgins in another case laid down as a "living wage" the sum of 7s. per day, and stated that "he could not think of any other standard appropriate than the normal needs of the average employee regarded as a human being, living in a civilised community." The wage so defined came to be known later as the "basic wage" and was calculated to be sufficient to defray the following weekly expenditure: rent, 7s.; food and groceries,* 25s. 5d.; clothing, etc., 9s. 7d.

Since 1912, the Commonwealth Statistician has made inquiries to ascertain the fluctuations in the cost of rent, food and groceries (but not of clothing or miscellaneous items). These inquiries were not designed for the purpose of fixing the basic wage or any wage, but have been utilised by the Commonwealth Arbitration Court as the only means readily available for the purpose of making variations in the basic wage corresponding with the changes in the cost of living. It was assumed that the cost of clothing and miscellaneous items fluctuated in the same way and to the same extent as the cost of food, rent and groceries.

From time to time during the war period, the need for reconsideration of the whole question was urged in view of the increase in the cost of living.

In October, 1919, on the eve of the General Election, the Commonwealth Prime Minister announced his intention of instituting an inquiry. "The real wage of the worker decreases with an increase in the cost of living. Once it is admitted that it is in the interests of the community that such a wage should be paid as would enable a man to marry and bring up children in decent, wholesome conditions—and that point has been settled long ago—it seems obvious that we must devise better machinery for ensuring the payment of such a wage than at present exists. The Government is therefore appointing a Royal Commission to inquire into the cost of living in relation to the minimum or basic wage."

The Commission, which was appointed in the following December, included amongst its members three representatives of employers and three of employees. Mr. A. P. Piddington, K.C., Chief Commissioner of the Inter-State Commission, was elected chairman by the other members and was appointed by the Government.

The Report of the Commission was issued in November, 1920.

In regard to the first points investigated, viz.: "the actual cost of living according to reasonable standards of comfort, including all matters comprised in the ordinary expenditure of a household, for a man with a wife and three children under fourteen years of age," and the corresponding cost in 1914, the Commission present the following figures:—

Town.	"Present Time."†		1914.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Melbourne	5	16 6	3	7 9
Sydney	5	17 0½	3	12 5½
Brisbane	5	6 2½	3	4 11
Adelaide	5	16 14	3	11 5
Perth	5	13 11	3	13 11
Hobart	5	16 11½	3	6 1

In regard to the method whereby the "basic wage" may be automatically adjusted to the rise and fall of the purchasing power of the sovereign, the Commissioners formulate three proposals:—

"(1) It should be the duty of a Bureau of Labour Statistics, staffed from the existing members of the Commonwealth Public Service, to estimate, etc., from quarter to quarter the actual cost of the several services and items set forth in the Report as to rent, food, clothing and miscellaneous.

"(2) The Bureau should declare that actual cost upon an average of prices of the preceding four quarters of the year.

"(3) This declaration should be reported to the Commonwealth Arbitration Court with a view to its being made the Basic Wage by the Court in such manner as Parliament may prescribe."

* The term "groceries," as used in the Report, covers laundry and kitchen requisites, but not foods.

† The Minority Report draws attention to the want of definiteness in this term. "It is by no means clear whether this meant at the time at which the Commission was appointed in December, 1919, or the time at which it presented its Report in November, 1920."

In the Minority Report the dissentient members urge that the amount found to be the "cost of living" should not necessarily be adopted as the "basic wage." Furthermore, they object to any conclusion being drawn from a comparison of the findings as to the cost of living in 1914 with the present cost, which would imply that the basic wage in that year was too low. As to the first of these two points they say:—

"The actual amount of the cost of living . . . may be of some statistical value. But the suggestion that the rate of wages depends solely on the amount which the worker is paying for rent, clothing, food and miscellaneous items is of doubtful economic value. A basic wage, as it appears to us, is not really a reward for work done, but an allowance for the suggested requisites of living to be paid by the employer to the employee. If the cost of living goes up because of the decreased production by wage-earners, it seems unreasonable that the community should have to pay to the wage-earner, by way of a basic wage, an amount which the latter has not earned. . . . Throughout the whole of the Inquiry before the Commission it was never suggested on behalf of the Federated Unions that if the basic wage was increased, any increase in production could be relied on."

The Report was presented to Parliament on 23rd November last by the Commonwealth Prime Minister. Putting off any final declaration on the whole document, he said, "I reject, because of its impossibility, any proposal to pay £5 16s. a week to all persons in this country, whether they have children or not." The Government recognised that the public service must be increased, and although it was not prepared to say off-hand what was a fair basic wage, it would give immediate consideration to the question.

The House of Representatives passed a resolution asking the Government "forthwith to arrange for such a basic wage to be paid to employees in the public service as would be equitable and just alike to employees and the general public and within the practical capabilities of the Commonwealth to defray, such basic wage to be paid as from 1st November, 1920."

Subsequently regulations were made providing for a basic wage of £4 a week to the married employees of the Commonwealth public service and a maximum allowance of £13 per annum to each married employee in respect of each dependent child. This allowance is to diminish as the rate of salary increases, in accordance with a sliding scale, and is to cease at a salary of £500 per year. Allowances not exceeding £12 a year are provided for youths, unmarried men, and women.

SETTLEMENT OF LABOUR DISPUTES IN NORWAY: COMPULSORY ARBITRATION ACT ALLOWED TO LAPSE.

On 9th June, 1916, an Act was passed by the Norwegian Parliament which had for its object the securing of industrial peace during the period of the war, by means of compulsory arbitration. This Act was of a provisional nature, and was subsequently renewed from year to year, the last period coming to an end on 1st April, 1921. In its issue for 18th March, *Arbeidsgiveren*, the journal of a Norwegian employers' association, announced that the Government had decided not to renew the Act, which consequently lapses.

Under this measure the King was empowered to decree that an industrial dispute was a public danger, and must be settled by arbitration. He might also prohibit a strike or lock-out due to the dispute. An Arbitration Court was to be set up, composed of a chairman and four other members, two of the latter representing the employers and two the workpeople. The parties to a dispute might appear before the Court either personally or by a deputy having full power of attorney. The proceedings were to be public, as a rule, but in some cases the Court might sit *in camera*, and in regard to trade secrets the strictest discretion was required. The Court was empowered to compel the attendance of witnesses and of experts, to demand the production of documents, and to investigate, either by personal inspection or through experts, practical matters related to a dispute. Even if one or both parties failed to make an appearance, the Court might procure evidence and issue an award.

The awards of the Court (which were not to be valid for more than three years unless both parties agreed on a longer period) were to be determined by a majority of the members, and were not subject to appeal. They were to operate in the same way as Collective Agreements.

Persons, not being parties to a dispute, might appeal to the Supreme Court against a summons to give evidence, to produce documents, or to serve as experts.

Penalties were provided for causing or continuing a lock-out or a strike pending the award of the Court. Organisations might be required to pay fines, unless the guilty member or officer of such body had acted in contravention of the rules or of adopted resolutions of the organisation.

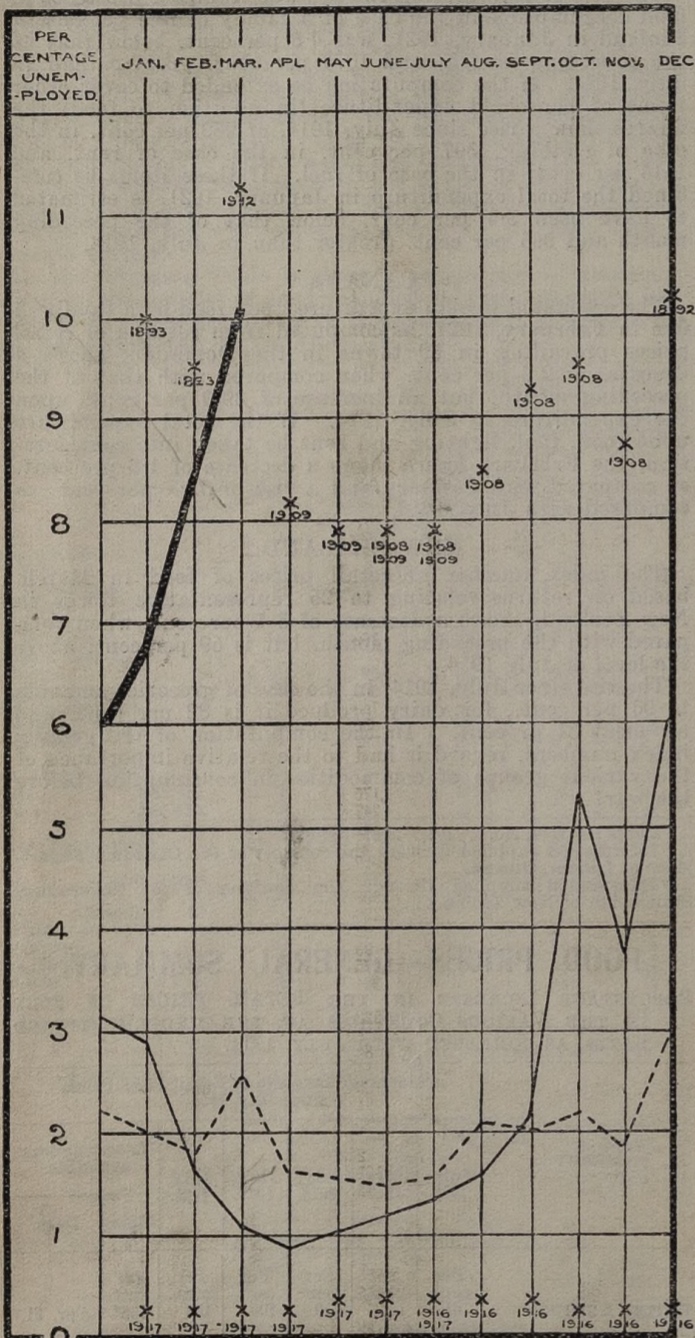
EMPLOYMENT IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

EMPLOYMENT CHART.*

SHOWING PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED OF MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS.

Thick Curve = 1921. Thin Curve = 1920. Dotted Curve = Mean of 1911-20.

The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages of unemployed, in the months named, during the years 1891-1920.



EMPLOYMENT SUMMARY FOR MARCH.

EMPLOYMENT in March showed a marked decline. There were large increases both in the numbers of workpeople totally unemployed, and in the numbers working short time, and in nearly all the principal industries employment was slack or bad.

The percentage unemployed at the end of the month among members of trade unions (mainly of skilled workpeople) from which Returns are received was 10.0, as compared with 8.5 at the end of February. In industries (employing about 12,000,000 workpeople) covered by the Unemployment Insurance Act the percentage unemployed at 24th March was 11.3, as compared with 9.5 at 25th February, 8.2 at 28th January, and 5.8 at 31st December. In addition, 839,000 systematic short-time workers were claiming benefit at Employment Exchanges at the end of March; at the end of February the corresponding figure was

* The Chart is based on Returns furnished by various Trade Unions which pay unemployed benefit to their members. Persons on strike (e.g., coal miners in October, 1920) or locked out, sick, or superannuated, are excluded from the figures. Detailed figures are given on page 188

744,000. The number of workpeople on the Live Register of the Employment Exchanges at 24th March was approximately 1,414,000, of whom men numbered 936,000 and women 365,000, the remainder being boys and girls. The corresponding total for 25th February was 1,218,000, of whom 802,000 were men and 310,000 were women. Some unemployed persons in occupations not covered by the Unemployment Insurance Act do not register at the Employment Exchanges, and these figures, therefore, do not fully indicate the total numbers unemployed. The total number of vacancies notified to the Employment Exchanges, and unfilled at 24th March, was 41,000, of which 12,000 were for men and 25,000 for women; the corresponding number at 25th February was 42,000, of which 15,000 were for men and 24,000 for women.

Employment at coal mines was slack on the whole. The number of workpeople employed at the mines covered by the Returns was 2.6 per cent. less than in February and about the same as a year ago. The average number of days worked per week at the mines was 4.71, showing a decrease of over a day as compared with March, 1920.

At shale mines employment continued good; in iron mines it showed a further decline, and was bad; at lead and zinc mines it continued slack, and at tin mines it was very bad. Employment at quarries was fair on the whole, except at those producing limestone for blast furnaces, where it was slack.

Employment in the pig-iron industry showed a further decline, and was very bad. At iron and steel works it also showed a decline, and was bad generally; the number of workpeople employed by firms making returns for the week ended 19th March showed a decrease of over 30 per cent. as compared with March, 1920. In the tinplate and steel sheet trades employment continued very bad, and unemployment and short time were general; the number of mills reported to be in operation at the end of the month was only 136, as compared with 496 in March, 1920. In the engineering and shipbuilding trades employment continued to decline, and there was much unemployment, short time, and extended holiday stoppages. In the other metal trades employment also declined and was slack generally.

Employment in the cotton trade was very depressed; large numbers of workpeople were totally unemployed; organised short time continued in the spinning section, and the Easter holidays were extended in many firms. In the woollen and worsted trades employment also declined, and was bad.

Employment in the linen trade continued very bad; a number of mills were reported to be entirely closed down, and short time was general. In the hosiery trade employment continued bad; in the jute trade it was also bad, but showed some improvement towards the end of the month. In the lace trade employment continued bad, with much short time; in the silk trade it was slack. There was a further decline in the carpet trade. In most sections of the textile bleaching, printing, dyeing and finishing trades there was a slight improvement, but the bleaching section showed a further decline. With milliners in London employment was fair; with dressmakers and in the wholesale mantle, costume, blouse, &c., trades it showed an improvement. In the tailoring and shirt and collar trades employment was slack; in the corset and felt hat trade it was bad.

Employment in the leather trades continued bad, and short time was almost general. In the boot and shoe trades it was also bad, though there was a slight improvement on the whole. In paper manufacture employment was bad, except with hand-made paper workers; in the printing trades it was slack generally; with bookbinders it was bad.

In the building trades employment continued fairly good; with painters, however, it continued slack generally. Employment in the brick trade was good on the whole, and a shortage of labour was reported in some districts; in the cement trade there was a decline, and at the end of the month employment was reported as slack. In most branches of the woodworking group employment continued bad.

In the pottery trade employment showed a decline, but was generally fair; in the glass trades it was slack. In the sugar refining industry employment was reported as fair; in most of the other branches of the food preparation trades, however, it was only moderate.

Agricultural operations were helped by favourable weather; some local scarcity of skilled workers was reported, but the supply of casual labour was occasionally in excess of the demand.

With dock and riverside labourers employment showed a decline and was slack on the whole. With seamen it was quiet in the early part of March, and though later an improvement was reported, it again declined, and at the end of the month was very depressed. With fishermen employment generally was moderate.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED TRADES.

The number of persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, was about 12,000,000 on 24th March, 1921, and the number totally unemployed at that date was 1,355,206, or 11.3 per cent.; as compared with 9.5 per cent. at 25th February, 1921.

Payment of unemployment benefit or out-of-work donation is conditional on the "lodging" of an unemployed person's insurance book or donation policy.

The following Table shows, by trades, the number of persons whose unemployment books or out-of-work donation policies remained lodged on 24th March, 1921; (1) in respect of total unemployment, and (2) in respect of short time. The persons included under (2) are employed in establishments where, owing to the depression in trade, the number of working days has been reduced on a systematic basis, in such a manner as to entitle claimants to benefit under the Act or to out-of-work donation* :—

Table with columns: Industry, Full Time (Males, Females, Total), Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with 25th February, 1921, Short Time (Males, Females, Total), Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with 25th February, 1921. Rows include Building, Shipbuilding, Engineering Trades, etc., down to General Labourers.

* Persons working only one day short-time per week, or reduced hours each day or on certain days, are not eligible for benefit and are not included. † The decrease recorded this month is accounted for by the fact that while claiming out-of-work donation applicants were classified by occupation, on the transfer to unemployment benefit general labourers were classified, so far as possible, in accordance with the industry in which they are engaged.

TRADE UNION PERCENTAGES OF UNEMPLOYED.

TRADE UNIONS with a net membership of 1,528,001 reported 152,118 (or 10.0 per cent.) of their members as unemployed at the end of March, 1921, compared with 8.5 per cent. at the end of February, 1921, and 1.1 per cent. at the end of March, 1920. In addition, large numbers were on short time. In the following Table figures are given for various groups of Unions:-

Table with columns: Trade, Membership at end of March, 1921, Unemployed at end of March, 1921 (Number and Percentage), Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage Unemployed as compared with a Month ago, and Year ago.

SUMMARY OF EMPLOYERS' RETURNS.

(a) CERTAIN MINING AND METAL TRADES.

Table with columns: Trade, Workpeople included in the Returns for Mar., 1921, March, 1921 (Days Worked per week by Mines, Furnaces in Blast, Mills Working, Shifts Worked), Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago, and Year ago.

(b) OTHER TRADES.

Table with columns: Trade, Number of Workpeople, Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Week ended 19th Mar., 1921, and Year ago.

* Short time and broken time are not reflected in the figures. In the mining and textile industries a contraction in the demand for labour is generally met by short-time working. † Based mainly on returns relating to carpenters and plumbers. ‡ The returns for the tobacco trade are supplied by Unions whose members are mainly cigar makers. § Comparison of earnings is affected by changes in rates of wages.

DETAILED REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

[NOTE.—The numbers of workpeople given in the following Tables represent the numbers covered by the Returns received and not the total numbers employed in the various industries. The comparisons of numbers employed and wages paid at different dates relate to the same firms at each date.]

COAL MINING.

EMPLOYMENT during March was slack on the whole; it showed a slight decline on the previous month and was much worse than a year ago. Many collieries were reported to be closed and others were still working short time. Of the 610,547 workpeople included in the Returns 118,076 (or 19.3 per cent.) were employed at pits working 12* days during the fortnight ended to which the Returns relate, and a further 111,239 (or 18.2 per cent.) at pits working 11 days or more, but less than 12 days. The average number of days worked by the pits (4.71) showed a decrease of 0.8 on the previous month and of 1.01 in March, 1920.

Employment was reported to be good in the Warwickshire, Worcester and Salop and North Wales districts fairly good in Cumberland, fair in Yorkshire, and slack or bad elsewhere.

The following Table shows the number of workpeople employed and the average number of days worked per week at the collieries covered by the Returns:-

Table with columns: District, No. of Workpeople employed at Mines included in the Returns, Average No. of Days worked per week by the Mines, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago, and Year ago.

The output of coal in Great Britain in the four weeks ended 26th March, 1921, was previously returned to the Board of Trade at 16,435,200 tons. In the four weeks ended 26th February, 1921, it was 17,369,100 tons, and in the four weeks ended 27th March, 1920, it was 19,504,900 tons.

The exports of coal, coke and manufactured fuel during March, 1921, amounted to 2,110,425 tons, or 239,619 tons more than in February, 1921, but 3,720,899 tons less than in March, 1913.

IRON, SHALE AND OTHER MINING, AND QUARRYING.

EMPLOYMENT at iron mines was bad and showed a further decline during March. At shale mines, however, it still continued good. At lead and zinc mines it remained slack, while at tin mines it was again very bad. Employment at quarries producing limestone for blast furnaces was again slack; at other quarries, taken as a whole, it was fair, but, in the case of sandstone and whinstone quarries was not so good as in the previous month.

* The figures in this and the following article only show the number of days (allowance being made in all the calculations for short days) on which coal, iron ore, shale, or stone, etc., was got and drawn from the mines at open works included in the Returns. It is not necessarily implied that all the persons employed worked every day the mines or works were open.

MINING.

Iron.—Returns received relating to mines and open works at which 10,578 workpeople were employed in the fortnight ended 19th March showed a decrease of 13.5 per cent. in the numbers employed compared with the previous month, and a decrease of 38.2 per cent. compared with March, 1920. The average number of days worked per week by the mines was 4.32, compared with 4.27 in February, and 5.92 in March, 1920.*

The following Table shows the number of workpeople employed, and the average number of days worked per week by the mines covered by the returns received from employers:-

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

Shale.—Returns received from firms employing 4,115 workpeople in the fortnight ended 19th March show a decrease of 2.0 per cent. in the number employed compared with the previous month, but an increase of 5.9 per cent. compared with a year ago. The average number of days worked per week by the mines was 6.00 compared with the same figure in February, and 5.97 in March, 1920.*

Tin.—There was practically no change compared with the previous month in the state of employment at tin mines. Very little work was done, and at those mines which remained open employment was very slack.

Lead and Zinc.—At lead and zinc mines (including some which also produce barytes, fluorspar, etc.), employment continued slack, and in the case of mines in Lanarkshire was still affected by a strike.

QUARRYING.

The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished returns as to the number of workpeople employed and the number of days worked by the quarries in the fortnight ended 19th March:-

Table with columns: Districts, No. of Workpeople employed at Quarries included in the Returns, Average No. of Days worked per week by the Quarries, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago, and Year ago.

Limestone.—At quarries producing limestone for blast-furnaces employment continued slack, and there was again much irregular working. At quarries producing limestone for cement employment was good, while at other limestone quarries it was fair generally.

Sandstone.—At sandstone quarries there were considerable variations in the state of employment as between different districts, but, taken as a whole, employment was fair and not as good as in the previous month.

Granite (road materials, setts, etc.).—Employment at quarries producing road-making material was fairly good; where granite for sett-making was produced it was moderate, on the whole.

Slate.—Slate quarrymen were again well employed during March.

Basalt and Whinstone (road material).—At basalt quarries employment was generally good; at whinstone quarries, taken as a whole, it was fair, but not so good as in February.

* See note * at foot of second column on page 188

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT in this industry was very bad during March, and showed a further decline; it was much worse than a year ago. At the works covered by the Returns received, 111 furnaces were in blast at the end of the month, compared with 175 at the end of February and 260 in March, 1920.

Table with columns: District, Number of Furnaces included in the Returns in blast at end of, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in March on a Month ago, and Year ago.

The production of pig-iron in March, 1921, as returned by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, amounted to 385,500 tons, as compared with 463,600 tons in February and 699,000 tons in March, 1920.

The imports of iron ore in March, 1921, amounted to 257,324 tons, or 26,515 tons less than in February, 1921, and 438,033 tons less than in March, 1913.

The exports of pig-iron in March, 1921, amounted to 9,011 tons, or 5,004 tons less than in February, 1921, and 81,001 tons less than in March 1913.

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

EMPLOYMENT at iron and steel works continued bad generally, and showed a further decline. Many firms making Returns reported that certain departments, particularly puddling forges and rolling mills, were either closed entirely or were working short time.

According to Returns received from firms employing 83,022 workpeople, the volume of employment during the week ended 19th March, 1921 (as indicated by the number of workpeople employed at each works, multiplied by the number of shifts during which work was carried on), showed a decrease of 12.5 per cent. on the previous month and of 39.7 per cent. on a year ago. The average number of shifts* per man shown by the Returns was 4.93, as compared with 5.01 in February and 5.58 a year ago.

Table with columns: DEPARTMENTS, No. of Workpeople employed by firms making returns, Aggregate number of Shifts, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago, and Year ago.

Table with columns: DISTRICTS, No. of Workpeople employed by firms making returns, Aggregate number of Shifts, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago, and Year ago.

* The figures relate to the number of shifts during which the works were operated, allowance being made for the numbers of men employed. No account is taken of the time lost by individuals and it is not intended to imply that the full number of shifts was worked by all the men employed.

DENMARK.*

Unemployment in February.—According to returns supplied to the Danish Statistical Department by trade unions and by the Central Employment Exchange, out of a total of 303,593 workpeople covered by the returns 23·2 per cent. were unemployed on 25th February, as compared with 19·7 per cent. on 28th January and 9·6 per cent. at the end of February, 1920.

Table with 5 columns: Trades, Number of Workpeople included in Returns for 25th Feb., 1921, Percentage Unemployed, 28th Jan., 1921, 25th Feb., 1921, 27th Feb., 1920.

SWEDEN.†

Unemployment in January.—The percentage of members unemployed in Swedish Trade Unions at the end of January, 1921, was 20·2 per cent., as compared with 15·8 per cent. at the end of December, 1920, and 7·6 per cent. on 1st February, 1920.

Table with 5 columns: Unions, Membership reporting on 31st Jan., 1921, Percentage Unemployed, 31st Jan., 1921, 31st Dec., 1920, 1st Feb., 1920.

CANADA.‡

Unemployment in December.—Returns relating to unemployment in December were received by the Canadian Department of Labour from 1,573 labour organisations, having a total membership of 208,320. For all occupations reporting 13·42 per cent. of the members were unemployed at the end of December, as compared with 10·01 per cent. in November and 4·98 per cent. in December, 1919:—

Table with 5 columns: Group of Trades, Membership reporting on 30th Dec., 1920, Percentage Unemployed at end of Month, Dec., 1920, Nov., 1920, Dec., 1919.

* Statistiske Efterretninger, 14th March, 1921. Copenhagen. † Sociala Meddelanden No. 4, 1921. (Journal of the Swedish Department for Social Affairs) Stockholm. ‡ The Labour Gazette, February, 1921. The Canadian Department of Labour, Ottawa.

Employment at end of February.—A Return furnished by the Employment Service of Canada shows that during the week ending February 26th reports were received by the Canadian Department of Labour from 5,325 firms, with a total pay-roll of about 740,000 persons. The numbers employed showed a reduction of slightly over one-half of 1 per cent. as compared with the preceding week, and of about 12 per cent. as compared with the week ended January 17th, 1920. These figures do not include loss of time due to industrial disputes.

UNITED STATES.*

Employment in February.—The following tabular statements showing the volume of employment in representative establishments in thirteen manufacturing industries and in bituminous coalmining in the United States in February, 1921, as compared with (a) the preceding month, and (b) February, 1920, are compiled from reports received by the United States Bureau of Labour Statistics:—

(a) February, 1921, as compared with January, 1921.

Table with 7 columns: Industry, Number of Establishments reporting, Number of Workpeople, Earnings †, Jan., 1921, Feb., 1921, Increase (+) or Decrease (-), Jan., 1921, Feb., 1921, Increase (+) or Decrease (-).

The figures in the above Table show that there were increases in the number of persons employed in February in ten industries, and decreases in four. The greatest increase (42 per cent.) is shown in the woollen industry, while increases of 21·1 and 20·8 per cent. respectively appear in men's clothing and in hosiery and underwear. A decrease of 12·8 per cent. occurred in car building and repairing. Eight industries show an increase in the aggregate earnings and six a decrease. The greatest relative increase (34·6 and 31·4 per cent.) are in men's clothing and woollen respectively. The greatest decrease (14·4 per cent.) is reported in car building and repairing.

(b) February, 1921, as compared with February, 1920.

Table with 7 columns: Industry, Number of Establishments reporting, Number of Workpeople, Earnings †, Feb., 1920, Feb., 1921, Increase, Feb., 1920, Feb., 1921, Increase.

Comparing the figures with those for the corresponding month of 1920, every industry shows a decrease in February in the number of employed, the greatest appearing in hosiery and underwear (44·2 per cent.) and automobile manufacturing (41·3 per cent.). All fourteen industries show a decrease also in the aggregate earnings in February, 1921; in automobile manufacturing it amounted to 74·4 per cent., and in hosiery and underwear to 51·3 per cent.

* Information supplied through the courtesy of the Federal Commissioner of Labour Statistics, Washington. † The figures represent the aggregate wages bill for two weeks in the case of coal mining, the iron and steel, railway and tramway car building and repairing and silk industries, and for one week in other cases.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES.

STATISTICS from the Employment Exchanges during the four weeks ended 24th March showed that the number of workpeople on the Live Register increased from 1,218,218 on 25th February to 1,413,751 on 24th March—an average increase of nearly 49,000 per week. The increase was common to all departments, men accounting for 133,870; women for 54,874; and juveniles for 6,789. The average weekly number of applications from workpeople during the four weeks ended 24th March was 160,647 compared with a weekly average of 157,698 during the four weeks ended 25th February.

The following Table summarises the work of the Exchanges during the four weeks ended 24th March, 1921:—

Table with 5 columns: Week ended, Applications by Workpeople, Employers, Vacancies Filled, Applications outstanding at end of week, From Workpeople (Live Register), From Employers.

Of the total number of workpeople on the Live Register at 24th March, 936,293 were men, 57,478 were boys, 365,096 were women, and 54,884 were girls. Of the 40,837 vacancies unfilled, 12,231 were for men, 24,952 for women, and 3,654 for juveniles. The daily average number of vacancies notified and vacancies filled decreased by 10·8 per cent. and 10·0 per cent. respectively as compared with the preceding period.

Details of the figures given in the preceding paragraphs are not at present available, but the outstanding features of the work of the Employment Exchanges during the four weeks ended 4th March, 1921, are dealt with in the following notes:—

Applications from workpeople.—The daily average number of applications from workpeople (25,459) during the four weeks ended 4th March showed a slight decrease (1·3 per cent.) compared with the previous month. Of this daily average, men accounted for 16,390, women for 6,502, and juveniles for 2,567—an increase of 6·5 per cent. in the case of men, and decreases of 9·3 per cent. and 20·8 respectively in the case of women and juveniles. Compared with last month, the number of applications from men increased in the food, tobacco, drink and lodging trades (66·7 per cent.), textiles (40·3 per cent.), miscellaneous metal trades (23·6 per cent.), shipbuilding (13·3 per cent.), and engineering and ironfounding (7·5 per cent.); while a decrease of 26·1 per cent. occurred in the dress, including boot and shoe, trade, and there were slight decreases in construction of vehicles, commercial and clerical occupations, domestic service, and general labourers. In the case of the dress (including boot and shoe) trade, there was a decrease of 40·7 per cent. in the number of applications from women; decreases were also recorded in other important industries, with the exception of the textile trades.

Of the total applications from men, 18·4 per cent. were in engineering and ironfounding, 11·9 per cent. in building and construction of works, 11·8 per cent. in the transport trades, and 11·8 per cent. general labourers. 26·8 per cent. of the applications from women were in the textile trades, and 24·1 per cent. in domestic service.

Vacancies Notified.—The average daily number of vacancies notified by employers during the four weeks ended 4th March was 3,904, as compared with 3,779 during the previous four weeks. Of this daily average, 2,222 were for men, 1,215 for women, and 467 for juveniles—an increase of 8 per cent. in the case of men, and decreases of 1·1 per cent. and 5·1 per cent. respectively in the case of women and juveniles, compared with the previous month. There was an increase of 30·6 per cent. in the number of vacancies notified for men in building and construction of works, but a slight decrease in the case of engineering and ironfounding, commercial and clerical occupations, the transport trades, and general labourers. Almost half of the total vacancies notified for men were in building and construction of works (46·9 per cent.), while engineering and ironfounding accounted for 5 per cent., the transport trades for 3·9 per cent., and general labourers for 23·2 per cent.

The vacancies notified for women in the dress (including boot and shoe) trade increased by 74·6 per cent., but vacancies in all other important occupations decreased slightly. Of the total vacancies notified for women, 22,154, or 75·9 per cent., were in domestic service.

Vacancies Filled.—The average daily number of vacancies filled during the period ended 4th March was 3,167, as compared with 2,960 during the previous four weeks and 3,802 during the corresponding period a year ago. Compared with the previous month, the vacancies filled by men

increased by 13·4 per cent., while in the case of women and juveniles there were decreases of 0·3 per cent. and 8 per cent. respectively.

The proportion of vacancies filled to vacancies notified during the period was 81·1 per cent., as compared with 78·3 per cent. during the previous month. Of the total vacancies filled by men, 46·9 per cent. were in building and construction of works, while engineering and ironfounding accounted for 4·9 per cent., and general labourers for 25·4 per cent. In the women's department, domestic service accounted for 72·8 per cent. of the vacancies filled.

The number of men placed in building and construction of works again showed an increase (35·8 per cent.) compared with the previous month. In shipbuilding, agriculture, the dress trades, and general labourers there were also increases; while vacancies filled in engineering and ironfounding, and commercial and clerical occupations decreased by about 30 per cent. and 19 per cent. respectively. In the women's department, slight decreases in the number of vacancies filled in domestic service and commercial and clerical occupations were counterbalanced by increases in the dress, and food, tobacco, drink and lodgings trades; other occupations showing little change.

Juveniles.—With reference to juveniles, 30,497 applications were received from boys and 4,939 vacancies were notified for boys. Of the vacancies notified, 4,256 or 86·2 per cent. were filled. Of the total vacancies filled, 33·5 per cent. were in the transport trades, 12·1 per cent. in engineering and ironfounding and 10·5 per cent. in commercial and clerical occupations.

The number of applications received from girls was 31,126. The number of vacancies notified was 6,250, of which number 4,895 or 78·3 per cent. were filled. Of the total vacancies filled, domestic service accounted for 45 per cent., dress (including boots and shoes) for 11·7 per cent., and the transport trades for 8·7 per cent.

The proportion of vacancies filled to vacancies notified for boys among the more important trades was greatest in engineering and ironfounding (95·4 per cent.), building (90·7 per cent.), transport trades (86·9 per cent.), and commercial occupations (85·6 per cent.). In the case of girls, the following percentages of vacancies notified were filled in the principal occupations:—miscellaneous metal trades 92·9 per cent., dress (including boots and shoes) 88·1 per cent., commercial occupations 87·4 per cent. and transport trades 85·5 per cent.

Of the total vacancies (9,151) filled by juveniles, 1,373 or 15 per cent. were filled by applicants who obtained their first situation since leaving school.

Table with 5 columns: Group of Trades, Applications from workpeople, Live Register, Vacancies Notified, Vacancies Filled. Divided into Men and Women.

It should be noted that the number of workpeople on the Live Register of Employment Exchanges does not include persons on short time.

* Casual occupations (dock labourers and coal labourers) are excluded from this Table and from all other figures above except those in the first three paragraphs. The number of casual jobs found for workpeople in these occupations during the period of four weeks ended 4th March was 1,838.

TRADE DISPUTES.*||

Number, Magnitude and Duration.—The number of trade disputes, involving a stoppage of work, reported to the Department as beginning in March, was 42, as compared with 63 in the previous month, and 184 in March, 1920. In these new disputes about 12,000 workpeople were directly involved, and about 1,000 indirectly involved (i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, though not themselves parties to the disputes).

In addition to the numbers involved in new disputes, nearly 18,000 workpeople were involved, either directly or indirectly, in 63 disputes which began before March, and were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The total number of disputes in progress in March was thus 105, involving about 31,000 workpeople, as compared with 28,000 workpeople involved in 112 disputes in progress in February, and 134,000 workpeople involved in 242 disputes in progress in March, 1920.

The following Table classifies the disputes by groups of trades:—

Table with columns: Groups of Trades, Number of Disputes in progress in March (Started before 1st Mar., Started in Mar., Total), Number of Work-people involved in all Disputes in progress in Mar., and Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress in Mar.

Of the 469,000 working days lost in March by all disputes in progress, over 346,000 were lost by disputes which began before March and were still in progress at the beginning of that month, and nearly 123,000 by disputes which began in the month.

PRINCIPAL TRADE DISPUTES IN PROGRESS IN MARCH, 1921.

Table with columns: Occupations and Locality, Approximate Number of Work-people Involved (Directly, Indirectly), Date when Dispute (Began, 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.

† Considerable numbers of other workers are reported to have been rendered idle as a result of the strike of ship joiners, but the information at present available is insufficient to enable a trustworthy estimate of the total number to be made.

‡ In making up the totals for the several months of the year the figures have been amended in accordance with the most recent information.

§ 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.

|| For particulars of the dispute in the coal mining industry which began on 1st April, see special article on pp. 174-176.

** Estimated number of workpeople originally involved. A number of joiners, etc., have since obtained work in the building trades.

*** Date at which dispute began in Scotland at most of the English towns involved the dispute began on 14th March.

Causes.—Of the 42 new disputes, nine, directly involving about 2,500 workpeople, arose on demands for advances in wages; 22, directly involving 7,700 workpeople, against proposed reductions in wages; four, directly involving 1,000 workpeople, on questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons; and seven, directly involving 800 workpeople, on other questions.

Results.—During March settlements were effected in the case of 15 new disputes, directly involving about 2,200 workpeople, and 20 old disputes, directly involving about 2,000 workpeople. Of these disputes, five, directly involving 700 workpeople, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 14, directly involving 1,800 workpeople, in favour of the employers; and 16, directly involving 1,700 workpeople, were compromised. In the case of 5 disputes, directly involving 7,000 workpeople, work was resumed pending negotiations.

DISPUTES IN FIRST THREE MONTHS OF 1920 AND 1921.†

Table with columns: Groups of Trades, Jan. to Mar., 1920 (No. of Disputes, Number of Work-people involved in all Disputes in progress, Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress), and Jan. to Mar., 1921 (No. of Disputes, Number of Work-people involved in all Disputes in progress, Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress).

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.

[Based on Returns from Employers and Workpeople.]

Rates of Wages.

In the industries covered by the Department's statistics (see Note in next column) the changes in rates of wages arranged to come into operation in March affected over 360,000 workpeople, of whom 350,000 sustained decreases amounting to £60,000 weekly, and over 11,000 received increases amounting to nearly £2,900 a week. The groups of trades in which the workpeople affected by these changes were employed are as shown below:—

Table with columns: Groups of Trades, Approximate Number of Work-people affected by (Increases, Decreases), and Amount of Changes in Weekly Wages (£, £).

In the mining group there were substantial reductions in the wages of shale miners in Scotland and of iron miners in Cumberland and the Furness district. Shale miners sustained two decreases during March, the first amounting to 2s. per shift for workers 18 years of age and over and 1s. or 9d. per shift for those under 18, and the second to 4s. per shift for workers 16 years of age and over and 2s. per shift for those under 16.

In the metal group the principal reductions in wages occurred mainly in the iron and steel trades. Iron puddlers and millmen sustained decreases equivalent to 25 per cent. on basis rates in the North of England and to 22½ per cent. in the West of Scotland. Steel millmen, etc., in the latter district sustained a decrease of 10 per cent. on standard rates. In South Wales the percentage war bonuses previously granted to Siemens steel workers were cancelled, and a sliding scale method of determining wages adopted, dependent on the price of steel tin-bars, which resulted in a decrease in the wages of the majority of the workpeople concerned.

The large number of workpeople affected by decreases in the textile group is mainly due to further reductions in the wages of about 200,000 woollen and worsted operatives in Yorkshire and Lancashire, and in Wales, under the operation of sliding scales by which wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices and rents. The decrease in March for time workers in these trades, was 10 per cent. on basis rates, bringing the total reduction in wages since the beginning of the year up to 30 per cent. on basis rates, equivalent to approximately 11 per cent. on the wages current at the end of 1920; pieceworkers sustained corresponding decreases. The bonus paid to hosiery workers in the Midlands was reduced from 1s. 3d. on each shilling earned to 1s. 2d.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MARCH, 1921.

[NOTE.—The following Table relates mainly to changes which came into operation in March, with effect either from that month or from earlier dates. Certain earlier changes, however, of which particulars were received during March, are also included. The weekly rates quoted are in respect of a full ordinary working week and do not take into account the effect of short time working.]

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, and Particulars of change.

There were decreases of 10 per cent. on the basis rates of carpet workers generally, and of silk workers at Brighouse, whilst silk workers at Leek and Macclesfield sustained decreases varying from 1s. to 2s. per week. In the asbestos industry there were reductions of ¾d. per hour in the wages of men and of ½d. per hour in those of women.

In other trades the principal reductions during March affected workpeople in the dyeing and dry cleaning trade, whose wages were reduced, under sliding scale arrangements, by amounts varying from 1s. to 2s. per week, workpeople in electricity supply undertakings in London, who sustained a decrease of 10 per cent. on basis rates under similar arrangements, and stoneware workers in Scotland, whose wages were decreased by 2d. per hour for men and 1d. per hour for other workers under an arbitrator's award. Carters employed principally on "tip-cart" and clearance work in the London district received an increase of 4s. per week.

The minimum rates for the majority of youths and boys employed in agriculture in England and Wales were increased, under the Corn Production Act, 1917, by amounts varying from 1s. to 3s. per week, and the minimum rates of female workers were similarly increased by 1d. per hour for women 18 years of age and over, and ½d. per hour for girls under 18 in all counties except Yorkshire and Somerset.

Of the changes taking effect in March, 5, affecting nearly 8,000 workpeople, were arranged by arbitration; 40, affecting 325,000 workpeople, took effect under sliding scales; and the remaining 28 changes, affecting over 30,000 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople, or their representatives, or took effect as the result of orders under the Trade Boards Acts. In only 7 cases, involving less than 1,000 workpeople, were the changes preceded by disputes causing stoppages of work.

Changes Taking Effect in January-March, 1921.

The following Table summarises the effect of changes in the above period so far as particulars are available:—

Table with columns: Groups of Trades, Number of Work-people affected by (Increases, Decreases), and Amount of Net Change per week (£, £).

Hours of Labour.

Only one change in recognised hours of labour was reported during March, details of which are given in the Table below.

[NOTE.—The statistics given above, both as regards wages and hours, are exclusive of changes affecting Government employees, domestic servants, seamen, agricultural labourers, shop assistants and clerks, for which classes the information available is not sufficient to provide a basis for statistics. Details of changes in current rates of agricultural labourers, clerks, etc., however, so far as reported to the Department, are included in the Table below.]

* The rates described are in accordance with the Working Rules as approved by the Midland Area Joint Council for the Building Trades on 12th January, 1921. According to the information received by the Department, the rates have not been adopted in all the areas covered by the Midland Area Scheme for the Building Trades. The towns which are reported to have adopted the rates are as follows:—Grade A.—Bilston, Birmingham, Coventry, Derby, Ilkeston, Leicester, Long Eaton, Nottingham, Nuneaton, Sutton Coldfield, Willenhall, and Wolverhampton. Grade B.—Darlaston, Grantham, Northampton, Rugby, Walsall, and Wednesbury. Grade C.—Wellingborough (it is reported that the scale for apprentices is not in operation in this town, and that the rates for other classes were in operation from an earlier date).

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MARCH, 1921—(continued).

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, and Particulars of change. Includes sections for BUILDING AND ALLIED TRADES, MINING AND QUARRYING, IRON AND STEEL SMELTING AND MANUFACTURE, and ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

* It is understood that this increase applied to the majority of the building trade operatives in the district.
† The decrease generally took effect from 17th or 18th March, but in the case of one firm the adjustment took effect from the first pay in April.
‡ The new rates were embodied in a memorandum issued by a Joint Sub-Committee appointed by the Birmingham and Wolverhampton District Association of the Engineering and National Employers' Federation and the trade unions, and were subsequently confirmed by both sides. It is reported that the Amalgamated Engineering Union and the National Union of Foundry Workers were not parties to the agreement. The new rates do not apply to youths, 18 years of age and over, advanced to work as stampers in the drop forging industry, nor to apprentices already serving.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MARCH, 1921—(continued).

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, and Particulars of change. Includes sections for OTHER METAL TRADES and TEXTILE TRADES.

* See p. 94 of the February LABOUR GAZETTE.
† It was agreed that any reductions already effected should be merged into this decrease, which is also to count as part of any later adjustments agreed to nationally, and that no further variation should be made in piecework prices except by negotiation between the Employers' Federation and the Trade Unions concerned.
‡ The above percentage is paid on the full basic rates up to 34s. 6d.; on higher rates it is subject to a maximum of 50s. per week for basic rates up to 43s. 1½d.; and on rates above 43s. 1½d. is paid on 80 per cent. of the basic rates.
§ Employed by members of the British Wool Federation.
¶ A slightly lower rate is paid to men who receive payment for holidays.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MARCH, 1921—(continued).

Table with 5 columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, and Particulars of change. Includes sections for Agriculture (continued), Paper, Printing and Allied Trades, and Chemical, Glass, Brick, Pottery, etc., Trades.

* The change was arranged in March, with retrospective payment from the date shown. † The rates specified are payable in respect of a week of 50 hours from 15th February to 30th November, and of 44½ hours from 1st December to 14th February.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MARCH, 1921—(continued).

Table with 5 columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, and Particulars of change. Includes sections for Food, Drink, and Tobacco Trades, Miscellaneous Trades and Occupations, Public Utility Services, and Electricity Supply Undertakings.

* The change was arranged in March, with retrospective payment from the date shown. † Shiftworkers receive 1d. per hour in addition to the above rates. ‡ The rates quoted took effect as a result of a Decision of the Industrial Court No. 832 (see p. 214) relating to the Electricity Supply Industry—East Coast Area.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MARCH, 1921—(continued).

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Includes sections for Public Utility Services, Local Authority Services, and Waterworks Undertakings.

CHANGE IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED DURING MARCH, 1921.

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Class of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Includes Merthyr Tydfil.

* The increase was granted, from 18 March for Corporation employees and from the end of March for contractors' employees... † See also under "Changes in Hours of Labour." ‡ The minimum rates described are in accordance with recommendations made by the Lancashire and Cheshire Counties District Joint Industrial Council...

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.

The total number of cases* of poisoning and of anthrax reported to the Home Office under the Factory and Workshop Act during March, 1921, was 27. Two deaths due to lead poisoning were reported during the month, one resulting from smelting of metals and one at paint and colour works.

Table showing cases of poisoning and anthrax. Includes categories like (a) Cases of Lead Poisoning, (b) Cases of Other Forms of Poisoning, and (c) Cases of Anthrax. Lists various occupations like Smelting of Metals, Plumbing and Soldering, etc.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.†

The number of workpeople other than seamen reported as killed in the course of their employment during March, 1921, was 187, as compared with 194 in the previous month and 302 a year ago.

Table showing fatal industrial accidents by trade. Includes Railway Service, Factories and Workshops, Mines, Quarries, and Textile industries.

* Cases include all attacks reported to the Home Office during the month and not previously reported, so far as is known, during the month, whether included (as cases) in previous returns or not. † Based on Home Office and Ministry of Transport Returns.

POOR-LAW RELIEF IN GREAT BRITAIN.

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

The number of persons relieved on one day in March, 1921, in the 31 selected areas named below, corresponded to a rate of 191 per 10,000 of population, showing an increase of 5 per 10,000 on the previous month, and of 59 per 10,000 on a year ago.

Compared with February, the total number relieved increased by 9,914 (or 30.0 per cent.). The number of indoor recipients of relief decreased by 832 (or 0.5 per cent.) while the number of outdoor recipients increased by 10,446 (or 4.9 per cent.).

Compared with March, 1920, the total number relieved increased by 106,173 (or 45.2 per cent.). The number of indoor recipients increased by 8,048 (or 7.4 per cent.), and the number of outdoor recipients increased by 98,125 (or 77.7 per cent.).

Table showing poor-law relief statistics for England & Wales and Scotland. Columns include Selected Urban Areas, Indoor, Outdoor, Total, Rate per 10,000, and Increase/Decrease in rate per 10,000.

* These urban areas include, in the case of England and Wales, more than one poor-law union, except in the Leicester, Birmingham and West Ham districts; and more than one parish in the case of Scotland, except in the Aberdeen district.

† Exclusive of Casuals; of Patients in the Fever and Small-pox Hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Board; of Lunatics in Asylums, Registered Hospitals and Licensed Houses; and of persons receiving outdoor medical relief only.

Jute Trade Board (Great Britain).

ORDER, DATED 24TH MARCH, 1921, CONFIRMING OVERTIME RATES FOR CERTAIN CLASSES OF MALE AND FEMALE WORKERS AND MADE EFFECTIVE AS FROM 4TH APRIL, 1921.

The Overtime Rates for those classes of Male or Female Workers employed on time work in the Municipal Burgh of Brechin, the Parish of Brechin, the Municipal Burgh of Forfar, the Parish of Forfar, the Burgh of Kirriemuir, the Parish of Kirriemuir, the Burgh of Blairgowrie, the Burgh of Carnoustie or the Parish of Logie Pert, are as follows:—

(i)—(a).—Where it is the established practice of the establishment to attend for nine hours per day on five days of the week and for three hours on Saturday, in respect of all hours worked in excess of nine hours on any day, except Saturdays, Sundays, and customary Public and Statutory Holidays, TIME-AND-A-HALF.

NOTE.—During the first quarter of an hour worked in excess of 8½ hours on any day other than Saturdays, Sundays and customary Public and Statutory Holidays, the Minimum Rate shall be the appropriate General Minimum Time-Rate otherwise applicable.

(b).—Where it is the established practice of the establishment to attend only on five days a week, in respect of all hours worked in excess of 9½ hours on any day except Saturdays, Sundays and customary Public and Statutory Holidays, TIME-AND-A-HALF.

NOTE.—During the first three-quarters of an hour worked in excess of 8½ hours on any day other than Saturdays, Sundays and customary Public and Statutory Holidays, the Minimum Rate shall be the appropriate General Minimum Time-Rate otherwise applicable.

(ii) For all time worked in excess of 4½ hours on Saturdays, TIME-AND-A-HALF.

(iii) For all time worked on Sundays and Customary Public and Statutory Holidays, DOUBLE TIME.

(iv) For all time worked in any week in excess of 48 hours by Male or Female Workers employed on TIME-WORK, TIME-AND-A-HALF, except where a higher rate is applicable.

(v) For the purpose of these Overtime Rates the Trade Board have declared the normal number of hours of work to be: in any week, 48; on any week-day other than Saturday, 8½; on Saturday, 4½.

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

ORDER, DATED 29TH MARCH, 1921, CONFIRMING MINIMUM RATES FOR CERTAIN CLASSES OF FEMALE WORKERS, AND MADE EFFECTIVE AS FROM 11TH APRIL, 1921.

I.—General Minimum Time-Rate.

Table showing General Minimum Time-Rate per hour for female workers of 18 years of age and over (other than learners).

II.—Piece-Work Basis Time-Rate.

For all female workers including homeworkers 0 9

Retail Bespoke Tailoring Trade Board (Ireland).

ORDER, DATED 3RD MARCH, 1921, CONFIRMING GENERAL MINIMUM TIME-RATES AND PIECE-WORK BASIS TIME-RATES AS VARIED AND FIXED FOR CERTAIN CLASSES OF MALE WORKERS, AND MADE EFFECTIVE AS FROM 28TH MARCH, 1921.

General Minimum Time-Rate and Piece-Work Basis Time-Rate.

For Male Workers who have completed four years' apprenticeship or learnership in the trade and who are employed in (a) areas administered by Rural District Councils or (b) areas, with a population not exceeding 2,000 as returned at the last Census, administered by Urban District Councils or other Local Authorities.

(i) To operate for a period of three months from the date on which the rates take effect.

Table showing General Minimum Time-Rate and Piece-Work Basis Time-Rate per hour.

(ii) To operate from the termination of a period of three months from the date on which the rates set out above take effect.

Table showing General Minimum Time-Rate and Piece-Work Basis Time-Rate per hour for Rope, Twine and Net Trade Board (Ireland).

ORDER, DATED 7TH FEBRUARY, 1921, CONFIRMING GENERAL MINIMUM TIME-RATES AS FIXED FOR FEMALE WORKERS OF 18 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER AS SET OUT BELOW AND MADE EFFECTIVE AS FROM THE 11TH FEBRUARY, 1921.

Table showing Operatives' time-rates (Per hour) for various roles like Braiders, Spreaders, Carders, etc.

PROPOSALS TO FIX OR VARY MINIMUM RATES.

Proposals to fix or vary minimum rates of wages have been issued by the following Trade Boards.

Objections to the proposals set out below may be lodged with the Trade Board issuing the notice within two months from the day following the date of the Notice of Proposal.

Boot and Shoe Repairing Trade Board (Great Britain).

THE BOARD HAVE ISSUED A NOTICE OF PROPOSAL DATED 24TH MARCH, 1921, TO VARY GENERAL MINIMUM TIME-RATES AND OVERTIME RATES FOR CERTAIN CLASSES OF MALE AND FEMALE WORKERS.

I.—Proposed General Minimum Time-Rates.

Table showing proposed general minimum time-rates per week of 48 hours for male workers and learners.

NOTE.—The General Minimum Time-Rates at present effective for Male Workers of 16 and under 21 years of age shall cease to apply to Male Workers other than Learners on and after the date on which the General Minimum Time-Rates now proposed become effective.

Table showing proposed general minimum time-rates per week of 48 hours for male workers of various ages.

(v) Female Surgical Boot-Makers ... 2 0

NOTE.—No variation is proposed in respect of the Minimum Rates at present effective for Female Workers employed in a productive department on Patching Machines.

II.—Proposed Overtime Rates.

For all male and female workers (other than workers employed on piece-work to which General Minimum Piece-Rates are applicable).

(i) For the first two hours of overtime on any day except Sundays and Customary Public and Statutory Holidays, TIME-AND-A-QUARTER.

(ii) For overtime after the first two hours on any day except Sundays and Customary Public and Statutory Holidays, TIME-AND-A-HALF.

(iii) For all time worked on Sundays and Customary Public and Statutory Holidays, DOUBLE-TIME.

For the purpose of these overtime rates the Trade Board propose to declare the normal number of hours of work to be: in any week, 48; on any week-day other than Saturday, Monday, Sunday or Customary Public and Statutory Holidays, 9; on Monday, 8.

Where it is the established practice in the trade to work (a) six days a week, overtime on Saturday shall not be payable until the number of hours worked exceeds 4; (b) only on five days a week, the overtime rates set out in paragraphs (i) and (ii) of this Section shall not be payable on any day except Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Customary Public and Statutory Holidays until the number of hours worked exceeds 9½ and 11½ respectively, and shall not be payable on Friday until the number of hours worked exceeds 10 and 12 respectively.

THE BOARD HAVE ALSO ISSUED A NOTICE OF PROPOSAL, DATED 24TH MARCH, 1921, TO VARY GENERAL MINIMUM PIECE-RATES AND OVERTIME RATES FOR MALE AND FEMALE WORKERS.

The Overtime Rates proposed for Male and Female Workers employed on Piece-Work to which General Minimum Piece-Rates are applicable are as follows:—

1. On any day other than Saturdays, Sundays and Customary Public and Statutory Holidays—

- (i) For the first two hours overtime, the appropriate General Minimum Piece-Rate plus 4½d. per hour. (ii) For overtime after the first two hours, the appropriate General Minimum Piece-Rate plus 9d. per hour.

Provided that where it is or may become the established practice of an employer to require attendance only on five days a week, the Overtime rates set out above shall not be payable on any day except Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Customary Public and Statutory Holidays until the number of hours worked exceeds 9½ and 11½ respectively, and shall not be payable on Friday until the number of hours worked exceeds 10 and 12 respectively.

2. On Saturday in respect of—

- (a) That class of worker who customarily attends on five days a week: (i) For the first two hours of overtime (that is to say, for the first two hours worked on Saturday) the appropriate General Minimum Piece-Rate plus 4½d. per hour. (ii) For overtime after the first two hours of overtime the appropriate General Minimum Piece-Rate plus 9d. per hour.

(b) That class of worker who customarily attends on six days a week: For the first two hours overtime worked after the first four hours of work on Saturday the appropriate General Minimum Piece-Rate plus 4½d. per hour; and for all subsequent overtime the appropriate General Minimum Piece-Rate plus 9d. per hour.

NOTE.—During the first four hours worked on Saturday the minimum rate applicable for this class of worker is the appropriate General Minimum Piece-Rate.

3. On Sundays and Customary Public and Statutory Holidays, for all time worked, the appropriate General Minimum Piece-Rate plus 1s. 6d. per hour.

In the application of the above Overtime Rates, any other day, not being Sunday, may be, by agreement in writing between an employer and a worker, substituted in place of Saturday as the weekly short day.

For the purpose of these overtime rates the Board propose to declare the normal number of hours of work to be: In any week, 48; on Monday, 8; on any day other than Monday, Saturday, Sunday, or Customary Public and Statutory Holidays, 9.

Dressmaking and Women's Light Clothing Trade Board (England and Wales).

THE BOARD HAVE ISSUED A NOTICE OF PROPOSAL DATED 22ND MARCH, 1921 (THE MINISTER HAVING GIVEN HIS CONSENT), TO VARY MINIMUM RATES FOR CERTAIN CLASSES OF FEMALE WORKERS IN THE RETAIL BESPOKE DRESS-MAKING TRADE.

I.—Proposed General Minimum Time-Rates and Piece-Work Basis Time-Rates

Table showing proposed general minimum time-rates and piece-work basis time-rates for female workers and learners.

(ii) Learners:—

Table showing proposed general minimum time-rates for learners commencing at different ages and periods of employment.

The General Minimum Time-Rates for Learners under 14 years of age shall be 6s. per week of 48 hours, or 1½d. per hour, and from the age of 14 years they shall be entitled to the amounts shown in Column I. above as if they had commenced at 14.

II.—Proposed Overtime Rates.

The overtime rates are to be calculated on the Minimum Rates set out above in the manner as set out in the Minister's Order dated 18th May, 1920 (S.R.O. 1920, No. 812).

III.—The Board propose to vary the minimum rates for Female Workers (other than Female Workers employed in the Retail Bespoke Dressmaking Trade) by an alteration of definition and conditions of learnership as set out in the notice.

Ostrich and Fancy Feather and Artificial Flower Trade Board (Great Britain).

THE BOARD HAVE ISSUED A NOTICE OF PROPOSAL, DATED 31ST MARCH, 1921, TO FIX GENERAL MINIMUM TIME-RATES, PIECE-WORK BASIS TIME-RATES AND OVERTIME RATES FOR MALE AND FEMALE WORKERS.

I.—Proposed General Minimum Time-Rates.

(a) Male Workers (excepting workers employed as Dyers in the Feather Trade):—

Table showing proposed general minimum time-rates per hour for male workers of various ages.

and 100,000 Ministry of Labour Forms: J. Corah & Son, Loughborough. 4,481,020 Inland Revenue Forms: J. Truscott & Son, Ltd., London, E.C. 500,000 Form 101: J. J. Kelihier & Co., Ltd., London, S.E. 2,000 copies "Instructions for Ordnance Offices," 4,380 copies London Telephone Directory, and 20,000 Public Carriage Licences: G. & J. Kitcat, Ltd., London, E.C. 5,000 Rough Note Books, 1,000 Abstract Books P.1003, and 3,500 Books Form 813: Drake, Driver & Leaver, Ltd., London, E.C. 100 Rexine Gusset Cases: T. J. Weeks & Sons, Ltd., London, N.E. 133 Army Record Books and 608 Metro. Assessment Books: Clements, Newling & Co., Ltd., London, E.C. 75,000 Registry Jackets: J. F. Warren, London, N. Binding 1,000 copies Russo-Japanese War, Vol. 3, and 5,335 copies London Telephone Directory: J. Adams, London, E.C. 10,000 Indexed Memo. Books: Tee & Whiten & J. Mead, Ltd., London, S.E. 100,000 copies Tax Form Q.4.: Morrison & Gibb, Ltd., Edinburgh. 383,850 Inland Revenue Forms: Norman, Hopper & Co., Ltd., London, E. 400,000 Post Office Books No. 74: Crypt House Press, Gloucester. 112,425 Inland Revenue Forms: Metcalfe & Cooper, Ltd., London, E.C.—Sealing Wax: Hyde & Co., London, E.C.; Cooper, Dennison & Walkden, Ltd., London, S.E.—Sponges: M. L. Lawson & Co., London, E.C.—Stencils: Ellams Duplicator Co., Bushey.—Tags: M. Cunningham & Co., Prestwick; Spickett & Downs, London, E.—Tracing Linen: Winterbottom Book Cloth Co., Ltd., Manchester.—Wallets: The Manchester Envelope Co., Manchester.—Web Straps: Dubock, Jones & Co., Coventry.

H.M. OFFICE OF WORKS.

Building Works, etc.: Acton Ministry of Pensions—Painting: Charles Groom & Sons, Ltd., London, W. Plastering: C. Peppiatt, London, W. Plumbing: John Knight & Son, London, S.W. Bedford Houses—Plastering: Eady Bros., Kettering. Birtley Houses—Plastering: Peter Harle, Sunderland. Slating: Richard Fletcher, Ltd., Blackburn. Brighton—Demolition: Henry J. Greenham, London, S.W. Bristol Head Post Office—Painting: Wm. Cowlin & Son, Bristol. British Museum—Plastering: G. H. Bending & Sons, London, S.W. Civil Service Commission—Plastering: Veronese, London, S.W. Hove—Erection of Houses: James Bodle, Ltd., Eastbourne. Kew Insurance Office—Chimney Shaft: Chimneys, Ltd., London, S.W. Steelwork: Measures Bros. (1911), Ltd., London, S.E. Kingswood (Chester) Sanatorium—Erection: F. Butterworth, Manchester. Bricklayer's, etc., Works: T. Campion & Sons, Manchester. Plumbing: R. H. Booth, Manchester. Manchester Instructional Factory—Painting: M. Greenwood & Son (Burnley), Ltd., Burnley. Southampton—Various Painting Works: Routledge & Ross, Southampton. Wishaw Inland Revenue Office—Alterations, etc.: D. & W. Nimmo, Wishaw. Wolverhampton—Hutting, etc.: Henry Gough & Son, Wolverhampton.—Engineering Services: Eccles Telephone Exchange—Heating Apparatus: Thomas Blackburn & Sons, Ltd., Preston. Hertford House—Electric Lift: Wm. Wadsworth & Sons, Ltd., Bolton. Houses of Parliament—Main and Submain Boards: The British Thomson Houston Co., Ltd., London, E.C. Kew Insurance Office—Electric Wiring: The Alpha Manufacturing Co., London, S.W. Fire Services: O. C. Summers, London, N. Heating, etc.: The Thames Bank (Blackfriars) Iron Co., Ltd., London, S.E. Leeds—Removal and Re-erection of Electric Lift: Marryat & Scott, Ltd., London, E.C. National Physical Laboratory—Cables, etc.: The Pirelli-General Cable Works, Ltd., London, E.C. Royal Courts of Justice—Refrigerating Plant: The Lightfoot Refrigeration Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—Fittings and Furniture, etc.: Card Index Cabinets: Thomas Bradford & Co., Salford; Harris Lebus, London, E.C. Joinery for Housing Schemes—Bedford: B. & M. Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Bedford; Gray, Percy & Co., Bedford. Birtley: Forster, Brotherton & Co., Ltd., Stockton-on-Tees; S. Nusenbaum & Sons, Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne. Deptford: Harris Lebus, London, E.C.; W. G. Tarrant, Ltd., Byfleet. Yiewsley: W. H. T. Kelland & Sons, Ltd., London, N. Racks: Colin Macandrew, Ltd., Edinburgh.—Miscellaneous: Cartage, etc., Regents Park: Capon & Sons, Ltd., London, N. Chimney Sweeping: W. Lambert, London, N.W.; Phillips & Lewis, London, S.W. Fire and Sand Pails: Eveson Bros., Ltd., Wollescote. Linoleum: The Linoleum Manufacturing Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; The New Shepley Linoleum Co., Ltd., Hooley Hill; The Tayside Floorcloth Co., Ltd., Newburgh. Paper Trays: John W. Thompson, Sheffield. Soda Crystals: J. Manger & Son, Ltd., London, E. Window Cleaning: Walford & Co., London, E.C.; The Woolwich & District Window Cleaning Co., London, S.E. Wood Block Flooring—Clacton Post Office: Hollis Bros. & Co., Ltd., Hull.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH.

Bricks: Sussex Brick & Estate Co., Ltd., Horsham.—Sanitary Ware: Adamsey, Ltd., Scotswood-on-Tyne; Farnley Iron Co., Ltd., Farnley, nr. Leeds; Doulton & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; William & Harriman, Newcastle-on-Tyne; Johnson Fireclay Co., Ltd., Stoke-on-Trent; Langley Barony, Langley-on-Tyne; The Leeds Fireclay Co., Ltd., Worsley, Leeds; North Bitchburn Coal Co., Ltd., Darlington; Oates & Green, Ltd., Halifax; W. R. Pickup & Co.,

Ltd., Horwich, Lancs.; J. Slater, Ltd., Stoke-on-Trent; Stanley Bros., Ltd., Nuneaton; Stourbridge Glazed Brick Co., Ltd., Dudley; Twyford, Ltd., Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent; Jas. Woodward, Ltd., Swadlincote, Burton-on-Trent; T. Wragg & Sons, Ltd., Swadlincote, Burton-on-Trent; Geo. Skey & Co., Ltd., Wilncote Works, Collieries, nr. Tamworth.

H.M. PRISON COMMISSION.

Bacon: J. F. Percival, Ltd., London, S.E.—Belts, Pouches and Leggings, Materials for: C. C. Walker, Ltd., Walsall.—Boards, Covers, Stock, etc. (Brushmaking): J. Griffin, London, S.E.; Pryke & Palmer, London, E.C.; Verinder & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Brushmaking Materials:** James Clark, Stratford, E.; A. W. Lyne & Co., London, S.E.; Samuel Toye & Co., London, E.C.—**Building Materials:** Pryke & Palmer, London, E.C.; Farmiloe, Ltd., London, S.W.; Baxendale & Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Cheese and Margarine:** J. F. Percival, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Cotton Materials:** M. C. Thomson & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Milns, Cartwright, Reynolds & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; D. Gurteen & Sons, Haverhill.—**Drugs and Sundries:** Burgoyne, Burbidges & Co., East Ham, E.—**Earthenware:** Mintons, Ltd., Stoke-on-Trent.—**Erection of Quarters:** T. Preston, London, N.—**Fish:** Direct Fish Supplies, Ltd., Grimsby.—**Gas Mantles:** Plaissetty Manufacturing Co., Leyton, E.—**Grindery:** Pocock Bros., London, S.E.; H. Campbell & Co., Ltd., Belfast; W. Barbour & Sons, Ltd., Hilden, Lisburn, Ireland; Wilkins & Denton, Ltd., London, E.C.; Pryke & Palmer, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Haberdashery, Trimmings, etc.:** S. Thomas & Sons, Ltd., Redditch; Buttons, Ltd., Birmingham; Milns, Cartwright, Reynolds & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Carr Bros., Ltd., Leicester; J. Grove & Sons, Ltd., Halesowen; Smith & Wright, Ltd., Birmingham; Newey Bros., Ltd., Birmingham; John Bond (London), Ltd., London, N.; A. Shrimpton & Sons, Redditch; T. Whittles, Ltd., Leek; W. Barbour & Sons, Ltd., Hilden, Lisburn, Ireland; G. Lee & Sons, Wakefield; Patons & Baldwin, Ltd., Leicester; J. F. Percival, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Hemp, Jute and Linen Materials:** Milns, Cartwright, Reynolds & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; S. A. Jones & Co., London, E.C.; W. Lumsden & Son, Frenchie, Fife; W. Ritchie & Son, London, E.C.—**Leather:** Wilkins & Denton, London, E.C.; Pocock Bros., London, S.E.; J. Tullis & Son, Bridgeton, Glasgow; S. E. Norris & Co., London, E.—**Mailbag Sundries:** Milns, Cartwright, Reynolds & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; C. C. Walker, Ltd., Walsall; North, Taylor & Son, Walsall; Pryke & Palmer, London, E.C.; The Victoria Rubber Co., Ltd., Edinburgh.—**Meat:** Alfred A. Fisher, London, S.W.—**Oatmeal, Barley and Salt:** G. T. Cox & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.; J. F. Percival, Ltd., London, S.E.; Hindhaughs, Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne.—**Oilman's Stores:** J. F. Percival, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Soap, Hard (Yellow and Carbolic):** Price's Patent Candle Co., London, S.W.—**Tools:** Pryke & Palmer, London, E.C.; Bodill, Parker & Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Uniform Boots:** Adams Bros., Rounds, Wellingborough.—**Uniform, Male Officers (Making up):** Milns, Cartwright, Reynolds & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Vegetables:** W. T. Jay, Ltd., London, W.C.—**Weaving, Cotton, Jute, Linen Materials:** Andrew & Bramall, Ltd., Ancoats, Manchester.—**Weaving Gear:** Jones, Textilaties, Ltd., Manchester.—**Weaving Woollen Materials:** Baxter & Thrippleton, Ltd., Kirkstall, Leeds.—**Woollen Materials:** Baxter & Thrippleton, Ltd., Kirkstall, Leeds.

ORDNANCE SURVEY.

90 lbs. Copperplate Paper and 50 lbs. ditto: Spalding & Hodge, London, W.C.—89 lbs. Rag Litho Paper and 55 lbs. ditto: A. Cowan & Sons, London, E.C.—108 lbs. Litho Paper and 75 lbs. ditto: W. Joynson & Son, St. Mary Cray, Kent.

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS, DUBLIN.

Belfast: Plumbing and Gasfitting Works and Supplies and Electrical Works and Supplies: A. Stevenson, Belfast. Cottages for ex-Service Men—Ballinasloe No. 1 Rural District: Louis B. Ward, Ballinasloe. Balrothery and Rathdown No. 2 Rural Districts: Collen Bros., Ltd., Dublin.—**Dublin:** Clockwinding: Frengley Bros., Ltd., Dublin. Electrical Works and Supplies: Handley & Robinson, Ltd., Dublin. Supply of 50 Presses: Bailey, Son & Gibson, Ltd., Dublin.

BOARD OF CONTROL.

Fish: R. Pearson, Grimsby; Medina Fish Co., Ltd., Grimsby.—**Meat:** B. Covell, London, N.W.; Curnick & Co., London, W.

NOTICE.

The price of the "LABOUR GAZETTE" is 6d. Annual subscription (post free), 8s. 6d.

The Publishers (to whom should be addressed all communications concerning subscriptions and sales) are H.M. Stationery Office, Imperial House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2, and branches (see Cover).