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

EMPLOYMENT.

THE decline in employment, which began in July, continued in August. Among workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the percentage unemployed was 11·5 at 27th August, compared with 11·3 at 23rd July and with 11·0 at 25th June; at the end of August, 1922, the corresponding percentage was 12·8. The total number of workpeople registered at the Employment Exchanges as unemployed at 27th August in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was approximately 1,266,000, of whom 943,000 were men and 237,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls. At 30th July the total was 1,235,000, of whom 936,000 were men and 223,000 were women. The percentage unemployed among members of Trade Unions from which returns are received was 11·4 at the end of August, compared with 11·1 at the end of July.

The industries showing most decline included the pig-iron, tinplate, shipbuilding, wool textile, hosiery, textile bleaching, dyeing, &c., furniture, and pottery trades, and some sections of the clothing trades. On the other hand, there was an improvement in the building trades in some districts. Employment was still good in the tinplate and steel sheet trades, fairly good in coal mining and in the coachbuilding, brick-making and carpet trades, and fair in the building, tailoring, paper, and printing trades; but in most of the other principal industries it was slack.

WAGES.

In the industries for which statistics are collected by the Department the changes in rates of wages reported as having taken effect in August resulted in an aggregate increase of nearly £24,000 in the weekly full-time wages of nearly 250,000 workpeople, and in a reduction of about £14,000 in the wages of over 180,000 workpeople.

The increases occurred mainly in the iron and steel trades, as the result of recent increases in selling prices. There were increases generally amounting to about 3½ per cent. on current rates in the rates of wages of steel smelters and steel millmen in various districts in England and Scotland, and about 5 per cent. in those of steel sheet millmen and of iron puddlers, and millmen in the Midlands. In other industries the principal groups of workpeople affected by increases in wages included tinplate workers in South Wales and Monmouthshire, whose current rates were increased by nearly 3½ per cent., and hosiery workers in the Midlands, whose bonus was increased by 1d. on each shilling earned.

There was a decrease of 1s. per week in the wages of tramway workers, under arrangements by which wages are adjusted from time to time in accordance with changes in cost of living. Similar arrangements resulted in reductions also in the wages of furniture trade operatives in London and Manchester, and of workpeople employed in the non-trading services of

local authorities in London. Other large bodies of workpeople whose wages were reduced included men employed in flour mills and iron ore miners in Cumberland. Under the Trade Boards Acts there were reductions in the minimum rates of women and girls employed in the stamped or pressed metal wares trade, and of workpeople employed in the made-up textile trades and the hair, bass and fibre trades.

Since the beginning of 1923 the changes in rates of wages reported to the Department have resulted in a net reduction of over £500,000 in the wages of over 3,200,000 workpeople, and a net increase of over £290,000 in the wages of nearly 1,200,000 workpeople. In the corresponding period of 1922 there was a net reduction of over £3,600,000 in the wages of 7,500,000 workpeople, and a net increase of nearly £3,500 in the wages of 18,000 workpeople.

COST OF LIVING.

At 1st September 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, light and miscellaneous items) was approximately 73 per cent. above that of July, 1914, as compared with 71 per cent. at 1st August. For food alone the corresponding percentage was 68 at 1st September, compared with 65 a month earlier. The rise in the index-number was mainly due to increases in the prices of eggs, bacon, butter, and cheese; there was practically no change in the figures for items other than food.

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

For further particulars and details of the results for 1st September reference should be made to the article on page 326.

TRADE DISPUTES.

The number of trade disputes involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as beginning in August, was 45. In addition, 28 disputes which began before August were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The total number of workpeople involved in all disputes in August (including those workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes) was approximately 68,000, as compared with 95,000 in the previous month and 31,000 in August, 1922. The estimated aggregate duration of all disputes during August was about 1,200,000 working days, as compared with 1,665,000 days in July, 1923, and 312,000 days in August, 1922.

The principal dispute in progress was that involving members of the United Society of Boilermakers and Iron and Steel Shipbuilders in federated shipyards, which continued throughout August and is still unsettled.

GOVERNMENT MEASURES TO RELIEVE UNEMPLOYMENT.

THE following is an account of the principal measures which have been taken by the Government during the continuance of the present trade depression to relieve unemployment, to provide alternative employment, and to encourage the development and restoration of foreign trade and of enterprises likely to give employment to workpeople in this country.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

An Unemployment Insurance Act of general scope came into operation on the 8th November, 1920. The Act applied compulsory insurance against unemployment to nearly 12,000,000 persons, as compared with about 4,000,000 previously. Subsequent amending Acts modified the conditions as regards rates of benefit, extended the periods of benefit and increased the contributions. As from November, 1921, the Unemployed Workers' Dependents' (Temporary Provision) Act, 1921, made temporary provision for grants in respect of wives, dependent husbands, and children, and imposed a special levy to provide for these grants. The Unemployment Insurance Act, 1922, amalgamated the dependants' grants with unemployment benefit, and the special levy with the unemployment insurance contributions, and extended until June, 1923, the special periods during which benefit might be drawn. The Acts gave authority to borrow money from the Treasury up to £30,000,000. By the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1923, which came into operation on the 12th April, 1923, the special periods for the payment of benefit have been extended to October, 1923. Special provision has also been made by this Act for the following benefit year, ending in October, 1924.

The payments of unemployment benefit (including benefit in respect of dependants) during the two and a half years from the 8th November, 1920, have been at the rate of about 50 million pounds a year. The moneys required for this purpose have been provided by contributions from employers, employed persons and the State, plus the balance in the old fund on the 8th November, 1920, amounting to some £22,000,000, and loans from the Treasury amounting on the 30th June, 1923, to £15,600,000.

EMERGENCY WORKS AND OTHER MEASURES.

One of the first acts of the present Government, in November, 1922, was to appoint a Cabinet Unemployment Committee, in succession to that appointed to advise the previous Administration.

The new Committee decided to continue the various measures which had been taken from the autumn of 1920 onwards to remedy the evils of unemployment. At least 300,000 men have had employment on these schemes at various times, and at the present time over 150,000 are directly employed on such schemes. This estimate takes no account of the increased demand for labour in "auxiliary" occupations (i.e., in providing tools, materials and equipment generally) which cannot be expressed numerically. So, too, the effect of the Export Credits Scheme (referred to below) cannot be reduced to the terms of so many man-hours' work provided.

Trade Stimulation Schemes.

Trade Facilities Acts.—By the Trade Facilities Act, 1921, the Treasury were empowered to guarantee, up to a total of £25,000,000, the payment of interest and principal of loans raised by any public authority or other body of persons for the purpose of carrying out capital undertakings calculated to promote employment in Great Britain and Ireland. The Trade Facilities and Loans Guarantee Act, 1922, sanctioned the increase of the aggregate capital amount of loans which might be guaranteed from £25,000,000 to £50,000,000. The guarantees actually given or sanctioned up to the 13th September, 1923, amounted to a total of £29,469,645.

The **Export Credits Scheme** provides for the granting of credits and the undertaking of insurances for the purpose of re-establishing overseas trade. The guarantee may be as great as 100 per cent. of the cost, with recourse against the exporter for 57½ per cent. only. Credits may be sanctioned up to £26,000,000, and a large proportion of that amount has at one time or another been involved. The credits are, of course, in constant circulation, the completion of one scheme releasing the credit involved for the guaranteeing of another scheme; and on the 10th September the amount of credit actually in use was £11,249,394, leaving an available balance of £14,750,606.

Relief Works.

Ministry of Transport.—Grants up to 50 per cent. of the total cost are made to Local Authorities in respect of approved works for the construction and improvement of roads, in addition to the normal programme of maintenance and repair work.

From the autumn of 1920 to the end of the winter of 1921-22, grants had been sanctioned through the Road Fund in respect of schemes costing in all some £12,000,000.

A sum of £5,500,000 from the Road Fund was also set aside by the late Government for assisting further works of this nature during the winter of 1922-23. Of this sum £1,500,000 was provisionally intended for the Liverpool-Manchester road. The present Government have sanctioned the provision of a further £3,000,000 for entirely new schemes, and also £1,400,000 for extensions of earlier schemes, making a total of £4,400,000.

The total cost of the schemes to which contributions have been offered through the Road Fund during the past three winters is approximately £27,000,000. During the present

financial year it is estimated that the total expenditure on the schemes now in progress will reach £7,500,000, representing approximately a full year's work for 27,000 men.

Two **Light Railway** schemes, costing £325,000, were approved during the winter of 1921-22, towards which the Ministry of Transport undertook to provide half the cost. One of these light railways is not yet completed, and a considerable number of men are still being employed on it.

Unemployment Grants Committee.—Grants to Local Authorities, on the basis of 60 per cent. of the wages bill of works normally defrayed out of revenue, were sanctioned during the winter of 1920-1921 in respect of schemes costing over £10,000,000.

An extension of this scheme was authorised during November, 1922, when the Committee were authorised to make grants to a total of something between £500,000 and £750,000. The Committee have authorised the expenditure so far of nearly £550,000. It is proposed to add £100,000 to the balance remaining, and as a result work to the estimated value of £1,000,000 will be initiated during the coming winter.

Grants to Local Authorities have also been approved on the following bases, in respect of works of public utility financed by way of loan:—

For revenue-producing schemes, grants equal to 50 per cent. of the interest on loans raised for not less than 10 years, grants being paid for 5 years.

For non-revenue-producing schemes, grants equal to 65 per cent. of the interest and sinking fund charges for half the terms of the loans, subject to a maximum of 15 years.

The Government first sanctioned £12,000,000 worth of work to be financed on these bases, and an additional £18,000,000 worth was subsequently approved, making in all £30,000,000. Schemes for practically the whole of this amount have been sanctioned by the Committee.

For the winter of 1923-24, the Government propose to afford further financial assistance to schemes promoted by Local Authorities on the bases last described, and also to increase the grants in respect of work undertaken in connection with, or as part of, revenue-producing undertakings when the competent department is able to say that the works will not themselves directly produce revenue or are not likely to produce revenue for a considerable number of years. Additional financial assistance will also be forthcoming for the purpose of securing the acceleration of revenue-producing works in which a substantial part of the expenditure will take the form of orders for material giving employment in an industry seriously affected, though not necessarily in the area in which the work is to be carried out. Grants in respect of such revenue-producing undertakings will be equal to 50 per cent. of the interest on loans raised for a period of not less than ten years, and will be payable for a period of 15 years or for the period of the loan, whichever is the less.

These extensions will, it is hoped, not only assist Local Authorities to provide employment in their own areas, but will help in the provision of employment in the more depressed industrial centres. Particularly it is hoped that schemes will be promoted which will result in employment being available for skilled workmen in their normal occupations, and thus meet, in part, the objection frequently raised that ordinary relief works do not provide any appreciable volume of employment for skilled workpeople.

A further scheme with a view to stimulating the activities of private corporations and companies in undertaking development work of public utility has recently been announced. In approved cases State assistance will be available up to a maximum of 50 per cent. of the interest on capital raised for development works for a period during which the capital expenditure is not earning revenue.

Full particulars of grants to be made by the Unemployment Grants Committee, and the conditions imposed, can be obtained on application to the Secretary, 23, Buckingham Gate, London, S.W. 1.

Agricultural and kindred schemes.—The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries have assisted Drainage Authorities during the winters 1921-1922 and 1922-1923 with land drainage schemes, primarily intended to provide employment for unemployed agricultural workers. The whole of the approved cost in these cases was advanced, and a proportion refunded by the Authorities on the completion of the scheme. Works for the supply or improvements in the supply of water to farms were also assisted; but instead of advancing the whole cost and recovering a proportion from the owners, grants were made to cover part only of the cost.

During the winters of 1921-22 and 1922-23 schemes costing £670,000 have been approved, of which about £177,750 will be repaid. Similar schemes under the Scottish Board of Agriculture have been approved, amounting approximately to £100,000.

The Forestry Commission have assisted works of afforestation during the winters 1921-22 and 1922-23 to the extent of about £200,000 by way of free grants of a fixed sum, amounting approximately to 60 per cent. of the labour bill.

It is proposed during the coming winter to make provision for assisting land drainage and improvement schemes and water supply schemes in England and Wales on the same bases as heretofore. The Forestry Commissioners also propose an increase of their normal programme of planting and preparation, and additional work in Crown woods, on the same lines as last winter. The exact extent of the financial provision in these cases is still under consideration.

Acceleration of Government Contracts.

A considerable amount of work has been accelerated during the past three winters on contracts for Government Departments, with a view to providing employment.

During the coming winter, the Post Office are proposing to lay additional trunk telephone cables at a cost of over £500,000. The Post Office London railway will also be pressed forward at a cost of £500,000, and will secure employment for something like 900 unskilled men for twelve months.

The War Office, the Admiralty, the Air Ministry and the Scottish Office are all considering plans for acceleration. The Admiralty's proposals, to the extent of approximately £500,000, will be nearly all expended in areas where unemployment is particularly severe.

Summary.

The total programme as outlined above will, it is hoped, provide direct employment for at least 200,000 men during the coming winter and for at least a further 100,000 men indirectly.

THE TRADES UNION CONGRESS.

THE Fifty-Fifth Annual Trades Union Congress was held at Plymouth on the 3rd September and the five following days. The President was Mr. J. B. Williams, Chairman of the General Council.

The number of delegates appointed to attend the Congress, as shown in the Statistical Statement compiled by the General Council, was 702; the number of organisations paying affiliation fees to the Congress (including a few organisations, with a membership of about 60,000, who paid such fees but did not appoint delegates) was 167, with a membership of approximately 4,569,000. In the following Table these figures are analysed by groups of unions (the classification adopted being that used by this Department for its annual statistics of membership of trade unions), and corresponding figures are given for 1922. The figures for 1923 are provisional and subject to slight correction; those for 1922 have been revised since their publication in the September, 1922, issue of this GAZETTE.

Group of Organisations	1922.			1923.		
	Number of Organisations	Number of Delegates	Number of Members	Number of Organisations	Number of Delegates	Number of Members
Agriculture	1	8	70,000	1	4	30,000
Mining and Quarrying ..	7	162	839,902	7	175	784,617
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding ..	42	103	847,274	42	96	706,231
Textile	26*	112	544,502	26*	90	417,958
Clothing	10	29	170,512	10	32	164,817
Woodworking and Furnishing	8	9	89,298	7	11	73,443
Paper, Printing, etc. ..	12	36	168,477	13	37	158,806
Building, Decorating, etc.	11	45	396,641	10	28	335,685
Railway Service	3	24	464,794	3	28	447,374
Other Transport	9	59	407,570	8	67	405,650
Commerce and Finance ..	7	23	195,000	7	24	168,650
Public Administration ..	9	21	152,692	10	26	183,264
Miscellaneous	19	25	110,376	18	24	89,512
General Labour †	7	67	675,010	5	60	402,261
Total	171	723	6,128,648	167	702	4,569,268

The total membership represented at the Congress showed a reduction of 759,000 (or 14·8 per cent.) as compared with 1922. This reduction was due mainly to losses in individual membership, and only to a minor extent to the non-representation in 1923 of unions included in the 1922 figures. More than one-half of the total decrease was accounted for by the General Labour group and the Metal, Engineering, etc., group; and there was a proportionately large decrease in the Agriculture group. The large decrease in the Textile group was partly due to the non-representation at the 1923 Congress of an important organisation which sent delegates in 1922. The only group showing an increase was Public Administration, and in this case the increase was due rather to new affiliations than to increases in the membership of organisations represented at both Congresses.

The subject of unemployment was raised on a resolution expressing deep dissatisfaction with the Government's plans for dealing with unemployment, and calling upon them to formulate adequate and effective measures both to alleviate the grave physical and mental consequences to the unemployed population, and to remedy the serious social distress, and urging the use of State funds to relieve the financial burden of heavily rated districts. The resolution was carried unopposed.

Another resolution expressed "emphatic disapproval" of the recommendations of the Cave Committee on Trade Boards, and called on the Labour Party to resist to the utmost legislation intended to carry these recommendations into effect.

Working hours and other conditions of labour received con-

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

† Including general unions of enginemen, etc.

‡ See the May, 1922, issue of this GAZETTE, page 200.

siderable attention at the Congress. A resolution was passed instructing the General Council to promote a Bill giving effect to the legal establishment of an eight-hour day and a 48-hour week. After some opposition, a resolution declaring that the time had arrived to demand a six-hour working day was also passed by a majority of 2,000,000 votes. It was decided to propose amendments to the Shops Act limiting the hours of distributive employees (wholesale and retail) to a 48-hour week, and in other respects bettering the working conditions. Resolutions were also carried urging the prohibition of night work in bakeries, and suggesting amendments to the Factory Act with a view to improving conditions in trades (tailoring, etc.) carried on in private houses.

The provision of adequate grants to local authorities for housing schemes, to meet the urgent needs of working-class families, was pressed in a resolution, which also demanded continued legal protection against excessive rents.

A resolution opposing the principle of unemployment by industries was debated, and an amendment adopted by a large majority proposing that the General Council should be instructed to examine the question and report to the next Congress.

A considerable part of the earlier sessions of the Congress was taken up with discussions on domestic affairs, notably the "Back to the Unions" campaign, the amalgamation of trade unions, the relations between competing unions in the same industry, the organisation of foremen and supervisors, and the organisation of women workers. The resolution discussed at last year's Congress* regarding joint defence for the preservation of trade union standards by giving greater powers to the General Council was again proposed, and, after discussion, rejected on a card vote by a majority of over 1,600,000.

A recommendation from a sub-committee in support of the principle of giving legal force to voluntary agreements of Joint Industrial Councils, which was left by the General Council to a free vote of the Congress, was defeated by a decisive majority.

The question of workers' education was discussed in the course of the discussion on the report of the General Council, some delegates wishing that such education should be definitely adapted to fit the students to take their part in the class struggle. No vote was taken on this question.

As a result of a delegation from the General Council to the directors of the Co-operative Wholesale Society a telegram was received during the Congress that the Society agreed to refer all labour disputes to arbitration, in accordance with the finding of the joint committee of trade unionists and co-operators.

A considerable amount of time was devoted to a discussion of the position of the "Daily Herald" newspaper. Finally, a resolution was passed to the effect that, if the amount of £12,500 is raised before the end of September, the General Council is instructed to continue the publication of the paper at least until the end of the present year, and that in the meantime a committee of enquiry is to be set up to examine and report upon any economies that could reasonably be effected.

Among many other topics in regard to which resolutions were passed during the Congress the following may be mentioned:—Old age pensions, pensions for mothers, pensions for the blind, co-partnership, railway fares, the nationalisation of railways, the civil and political freedom of civil servants, the report of the Anderson Committee,† the French occupation of the Ruhr, and the disagreement between Italy and Greece.

An amendment to the Standing Orders was carried by a large majority to the effect that the Secretary of the General Council should give his whole time to his duties; this involved his being ineligible for Parliament. Subsequently Mr. F. Bramley was elected to the post, in succession to Mr. C. W. Bowerman, M.P., who retires under the age limit. The General Council for the ensuing year remains as before.

WOMEN'S TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT.

THE Central Committee on Women's Training and Employment have issued a Report‡ upon their work up to 31st December, 1922.

The Committee were originally appointed at the outbreak of war to administer the Queen's Work for Women Fund, a fund raised by public subscription to relieve distress amongst women arising from the war. The Queen's Work for Women Fund became part of the National Relief Fund, and the work of the Central Committee was carried on in collaboration with that body and with the Government Committee on the Prevention and Relief of Distress. At the outset the activities of the Committee were mainly concentrated upon the direct prevention and relief of unemployment; but during 1915 the increased demand for women's labour greatly reduced industrial distress, and as a result of the decreased claims upon their funds the Committee had still a balance to their credit at the end of the war.

In 1920, to alleviate the distress amongst women caused by the transition from war to peace conditions, the Minister of Labour re-appointed the Committee, with the following terms of reference:—"To consider, devise, and carry out special schemes of work and training for women unemployed, or women whose earning capacities and opportunities have been injuriously affected as a result of conditions arising out of

* See the September, 1922, issue of this GAZETTE, page 362.

† See pages 321-322 of this GAZETTE.

‡ Second Interim Report of the Central Committee on Women's Training and Employment. H.M. Stationery Office, 1923. Price 6d. net. (For first interim report, see Cd. 7848, H.M. Stationery Office, 1915. Price 4d.)

the war," and on 8th April, 1921, an addition was made to the terms of reference to enable the Committee to undertake the provision of equipment to candidates trained by the Committee who were unable to set up in trade owing to the lack of necessary appliances; and the provision of equipment for women who did not require assistance from the Committee to enable them to train, but who, without equipment, were unable to obtain employment.

Under the new terms of reference the Committee employed their funds, augmented by grants from the National Relief Fund and the Ministry of Labour, mainly for training women for suitable occupations under various schemes, as follows:—

Scholarship Scheme.—Under this scheme grants were made to selected candidates to enable them to receive training in non-industrial occupations, such as teaching, massage, nursery nursing, midwifery, cookery, etc., assistance being given in the form of scholarship grants to cover the cost of fees at recognised training schools, and, where necessary, maintenance during training. On the 1st January, 1923, 2,511 women had completed training under this scheme, of whom 1,567 were known to have obtained posts in the occupation for which they were trained, while 1,353 were in training or awaiting training.

Home Crafts Scheme.—This scheme has provided training (with maintenance) in domestic subjects for over 10,000 unemployed women undertaking to enter resident domestic service. During the period May, 1921, to 31st December, 1922, 214 courses were provided.

Domestic Outfits Scheme.—Under this scheme 2,538 outfits of clothing were given to women who were qualified for and willing to enter domestic service without further training, but were unable to accept suitable employment owing to the lack of an adequate outfit, at an average cost of £3 12s. 3d.

Homemakers Scheme.—This scheme has provided training (with maintenance) in domestic subjects for 1,560 unemployed women, who were awaiting the opportunity to return to their own trades. It thus differs from the Home Crafts scheme described above, which is intended to train women for resident domestic service. The curriculum was designed with a view to assisting women with the domestic work of their own homes, and the syllabus was modified in various respects from that laid down for the Homecraft Centres.

Present Position.

The Committee decided, early in 1922, in view of the prospect of their funds coming to an end, and of the industrial distress still being acute, to concentrate upon the Homecrafts and Homemakers' courses; and the 1st March, 1922, was appointed as the final date for the receipt of applications for training under the Scholarships scheme. With the aid of a further grant from the Ministry of Labour in 1922, the Committee were able to continue the Homecraft courses throughout the whole of that year, and they hope to maintain this branch of their work so long as unemployment among women remains abnormal.

OUTWORKERS AND UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

THE Report of the Committee appointed by Dr. Macnamara when Minister of Labour, "to consider and report whether the scope of the Unemployment Insurance Acts should be extended to cover any classes of out-workers, not employed under a contract of service," has been issued.*

The Report refers to measures taken to provide for the inclusion of out-workers in the benefits of Part I. (Health Insurance) of the National Insurance Act; but it states that the problem is considerably more complex in the case of unemployment insurance. Further, the results obtained from the issue of circular letters to various Trade Boards, Joint Industrial Councils, and employers' and workpeople's organisations requesting their views as to the desirability and practicability of the proposal showed both by the tardiness and the nature of the replies received that the demand for the inclusion of out-workers was not clamant. The Report adds that this apparent apathy was no doubt partly due to the fact that out-workers are, to a considerable extent, unorganised.

The Committee point out that the cardinal difficulty is control, and unless this can be overcome no unemployment scheme worked on the principles of insurance is possible. They discuss the difficulties attending satisfactory proof of the fulfilment of the statutory conditions for the receipt of benefit, and particularly the evidence of unemployment. They continue: "We have already pointed out that unless this initial difficulty can be overcome within the limits of the administrative machinery likely to be available, extension of the scope of the Unemployment Insurance Acts to out-workers not under a contract of service, however desirable from a social standpoint, cannot be countenanced. Any serious contemplation of such a step could be justified only on the grounds of the strongest evidence that there was pressing need for such action, and that acute hardship would be entailed were it not taken. In our view there is almost, if not quite, complete absence of any such evidence."

In their recommendations the Committee state that they do not regard the inclusion of out-workers in the present scheme of unemployment insurance as a practicable business proposition; such workers are not, in their opinion, an insurable risk. They assume that the class of out-workers whom Dr. Macnamara had in mind were those who in normal times are regularly employed

* Report of the Committee appointed to consider the position of out-workers in relation to Unemployment Insurance. H.M. Stationery Office, 1923. Price 6d. net.

for the whole of every day, just as "in-workers" are; but they add: "Even supposing a workable scheme for whole-time out-workers could be devised, the smallness of their numbers would in itself rule out all possibility of administration at a reasonable cost. The system of administration of the national unemployment insurance scheme is already sufficiently involved, and greatly to complicate it, by the introduction of a special scheme for a very small class of workpeople who would be controllable only at great cost, would in our opinion be unjustifiable in any event. We are of opinion that the scope of the Unemployment Insurance Acts should not be extended to cover any class of out-workers not employed under a contract of service, and we recommend accordingly."

PROFIT-SHARING AND CO-PARTNERSHIP IN 1922.

THE Report on Profit-sharing and Labour Co-Partnership in the United Kingdom*, prepared by the Ministry of Labour in 1919, gave an account of the progress of the Profit-sharing and Labour Co-Partnership movement up to that date, together with statistics showing the results of the operation of profit-sharing and co-partnership schemes up to and including the year 1918. In the issues of this GAZETTE for July, 1920, September, 1921, and October, 1922, supplementary statistics were given relating to the operation of schemes (other than schemes in Co-operative Societies) in 1919, 1920, and 1921 respectively. Enquiries have now been made as to the progress of this movement in 1922, and the information collected is summarised below. The figures relate only to schemes providing for the allotment to employees of a definite share of profits, determined on a pre-arranged basis.

For a period of about two years immediately following the war—a period of great industrial activity—there was a marked advance in the profit-sharing movement; but this advance received a severe check in the succeeding period of industrial depression. Thus in 1919, the number of schemes known to have been introduced was 48, and in 1920 a further 47 schemes were started; only 12 schemes, however, have been brought to the notice of the Department as coming into existence in 1921, and only six schemes in 1922. The schemes abandoned numbered 9 in 1919, 12 in 1920, 9 in 1921, and 4 in 1922.

SCHEMES IN OPERATION IN 1922.

According to the returns received in connection with the enquiries made this year, 220 firms, with 288,043 workpeople in their constant employment, were known to be practising profit-sharing or co-partnership at the end of 1922. Five of these firms had each two separate schemes in operation, so that the total number of schemes was 225. Five other schemes were in abeyance, though not abandoned, at the end of 1922; and in addition there were six schemes as to which no particulars could be obtained.

Of the 220 firms known to have been actively practising profit-sharing at the end of 1922, 34 (employing 36,963 workpeople) were gas companies, 30 (employing 59,866 workpeople) were in the engineering, shipbuilding and other metal trades, 25 (employing 41,431 workpeople) were textile manufacturing firms, and 35 (employing 30,235 workpeople) were merchants, warehousemen, retail traders, &c. The remaining firms were distributed among a variety of different trades.

Profit-sharing and co-partnership schemes appear to have achieved their largest measure of success when practised by gas companies. In other industries the number of abandoned schemes frequently equals or exceeds the number of schemes still in existence; and the proportion of businesses which have adopted schemes is usually too small to provide any sound indication as to the extent to which conditions in the industry favour profit-sharing arrangements. In the gas industry, however, a large proportion of the principal company-owned undertakings have adopted profit-sharing arrangements, and very few abandonments have been reported. The type of scheme which is almost invariably adopted in connection with this industry provides for a bonus on the employees' wages at a rate varying inversely with the price charged for gas.

Somewhat less than one-half of all the schemes in operation in 1922 provided for the payment to the employees of a proportion of the profits, either in cash, or in sums credited to a savings or deposit account from which amounts may be withdrawn at short notice. In a much smaller number of schemes (although this is the normal type of scheme in the gas industry), a proportion of the profits is partly or wholly retained for investment, on behalf of the employees, in the capital of the undertaking, or is set aside for provident purposes, superannuation, &c. A type of scheme which has become prominent in recent years consists in the issue of employees' shares, either free, or on specially favourable terms as to price or dividend; over forty such schemes are at present in operation. A further twenty schemes are based on arrangements for the payment of interest, at a rate varying with the profits, on money deposited with the firm by its employees.

BONUS PAID.

In the following Table particulars are given, as regards those schemes for which such information is available, of the bonuses paid or credited in 1922. For a considerable number of schemes the Department has been unable to obtain detailed particulars of this nature, owing in some cases to the firms' inability to

* Cmd. 544; price 1s. net.

furnish the required figures, and in others to the nature of the scheme itself, which makes it impossible to state the amount of the bonus and the proportion which it bears to earnings. There are also certain schemes of recent introduction in which the first bonus did not become payable in 1922. The particulars given in the Table, therefore, relate only to 173 out of the total of 225 schemes in operation at the end of 1922.

NOTE.—In a number of schemes included in these statistics the "bonus" consists of interest, at a rate varying with the profits, paid on sums deposited with the firm by its employees; and the amount of the bonus in such cases is therefore limited by the extent to which employees use the deposit fund. The figures italicised in this and in the succeeding Table show the result of excluding such schemes from the statistics.

Ratio of Bonus to Earnings.	Number of Schemes to which particulars relate.	Average Number of Employees in Constant Employment*	Number of Employees Participating † in 1922.	Amount of Bonus paid (or credited) in 1922.
Nil	71	54,426	26,007†	£ Nil.
	65	26,458	23,565†	Nil.
Under 2 per cent.	13	28,945	8,715	8,053
	9	5,084	4,925	5,745
2 & under 4 per cent.	17	28,715	24,622	133,837
4 " 6 "	17	12,463	11,210	72,058
6 " 8 "	13	6,372	5,530	50,451
8 " 10 "	5	2,000	1,202	32,451
10 " 12 "	8	4,335	3,380	50,777
12 " 16 "	3	1,180	114	3,763
16 " 20 "	4	1,233	703	29,256
20 per cent. or over	6	4,156	3,684	109,506
Ratio not stated	16	68,167	31,474	234,576
	9	33,495	26,289	230,143
TOTAL	173	212,002	116,441†	724,887
	154	195,451	105,024†	718,151

The following Table shows the results of these same schemes classified according to the industry or business in which the firms are engaged:—

Industry or Business.	Number of Schemes to which particulars relate.	Number of Employees participating in 1922. †	Average Amount of Bonus per head. §	Average Ratio of Bonus to Earnings. ||
Agriculture	7	307	£ s. d. 1 19 1	0.8
Engineering, Shipbuilding and other metal	20	13,089	2 18 0 1 1 7	1.2 0.7
Food and Drink (Manufacture)	13	7,865	1 10 10 17 16 3	1.0 14.6
Textile	10	5,271	4,484 20 13 4	16.7
Paper, Printing, Book-binding, Publishing, &c.	21	11,942	6 15 3 7 13 5	4.9 5.1
Chemical, Soap, Oil, Paint, &c.	15	5,360	6 1 2 10 8 6	4.2 2.7
Gas Supply	10	18,255	28,448 20 9 9	2.3
Insurance	30	28,730	4 4 10 3 15 3	2.4 13.0
Merchants, Warehousemen and Retail Traders	26	5,570	10 15 4	5.7
Other Businesses	28	14,002	5 13 6 7 4 7	5.0 5.0
TOTAL	173	116,441	6 4 6 6 16 9	3.8 4.1

In a number of schemes profit-sharing is restricted to certain classes of employees, or is available only to those who are able and willing to deposit savings with the firm; and in most schemes employees have to fulfil certain conditions, such as serving for a minimum period, in order to qualify for benefit. Thus it will be seen, from the foregoing Tables, that of the total number of workpeople employed by profit-sharing firms the proportion entitled to participate in any bonus distributed was rather more than one-half. Of those entitled to participate, nearly 80 per cent. received a bonus in 1922, the remainder, who received no bonus, being employed by firms whose profits did not admit of any distribution to employees under the schemes in that year.

The effects of depression in trade are again reflected in the statistics of bonuses paid in 1922. In the schemes included in the above Tables the average amount paid per head was £6 4s. 6d., as compared with £6 14s. 0d. in 1921, and with £9 18s. 6d. in 1920. Excluding the cases in which the ratio of bonus to earnings was not known, the bonuses paid in 1922 and in 1921 represented an average addition to ordinary earnings of 3.8 per cent. and of 3.5 per cent., respectively. In 1920 the bonuses

* Casual or seasonal workers are rarely eligible for profit-sharing, except in some gas companies' schemes, and then only under certain conditions. The aggregate maximum number of casual workers employed by the firms to which the Table relates was 2,316.

† This was the number entitled to participate if any bonus had been paid.

‡ Including those entitled to participate, in cases where the bonus was nil.

§ Calculated on the number of employees participating, including, where the bonus was nil, the number entitled to participate.

|| Taking into account the schemes in which the bonus was nil, but excluding (necessarily) those in which the ratio of bonus to earnings could not be stated.

averaged 6.4 per cent. on earnings. In calculating these averages allowance has been made for schemes which failed to pay a bonus, numbering 71 in 1922, as compared with 64 in 1921, and with 32 in 1920.

As was the case in 1921, a very high rate of bonus was paid in 1922 by firms engaged in food and drink manufacture—viz., 14.6 per cent., or nearly £18 per head. Among firms manufacturing chemicals, soap, oils, paints, etc., an average of over £10 per head was paid in 1922, compared with about £16 per head in 1921. One very large undertaking in this group, although able to state the total bonus paid to employees, is not able to express this as a percentage on earnings; as this firm pays relatively high bonuses, the average ratio of bonus to earnings for this group, as shown in the Table, therefore, is lower than would be the case if figures for this firm were included. On the other hand, owing to the impossibility of expressing, in the form of a percentage on earnings, the bonus paid by one large insurance company, the average ratio of bonus to earnings among insurance companies, as given in the Table, is too high.

Groups which paid a noticeably low rate of bonus in 1922 were engineering, shipbuilding and other metal firms (0.7 per cent.) and the agricultural group (0.8 per cent.). Only one scheme in agriculture is known to have paid a bonus. Gas companies showed some recovery from the low average rate of bonus which had been paid for several years past, though the average addition to earnings in 1922 was still only at the rate of 2.4 per cent.

NEW SCHEMES IN 1922.

In the following Table the main features of the six new schemes known to have been started in 1922 are briefly summarised:—

Industry.	Approximate number in constant employment.	Type of Scheme.
Confectionery manufacture	600	Bonus on employees' wages or salaries at same rate as dividend on the company's ordinary shares, conditional upon the dividend being at a rate of not less than 10 per cent. Bonus paid in weekly portions in cash.
Gas Works	295	Bonus on wages and salaries according to decreases in the price charged for gas, until the rate of bonus equals the rate of dividend on the company's new ordinary "B" stock; and thereafter rising and falling with such rate of dividend. Two-thirds of the bonus is retained for investment in the company's ordinary or preference stock and the remaining third accumulates at interest being withdrawable in special circumstances.
Gas Works	1,000	Whenever the price of gas falls below a certain "basic rate" one-sixth of the difference between the total realised by selling at the price actually charged and the total which would have been realised had the "basic rate" been charged is divided among the employees. One half of the bonus is paid to a stock account and the remaining half to a cash account.
Drapery and Furnishing	180	Provided the turnover and gross profit reach a certain figure, a fixed percentage of the net profits is distributed among employees in cash, being divided in proportion to wages, but with variations in respect of the recipients' efficiency, punctuality, etc.
Metal and Ore Merchants	90	A bonus, distributed in cash, is paid on the salaries or wages of the staff at the same rate as the dividend paid to shareholders.
Printing, Publishing, &c.	130	After payment of the fixed dividend on preference shares and of a cumulative dividend of 10 per cent. on ordinary shares, one half of the balance of the certified annual profits is allocated to employees. The amount thus allocated is divided among employees in proportion to wages, and is credited to savings bank accounts, where, unless withdrawn, it receives interest at 7 per cent. per annum.

SCHEMES ABANDONED IN 1922.

The four schemes abandoned in 1922 had been in operation for twenty, thirteen, ten and six years respectively. In the first of these cases—a firm of grocers, provision merchants, bakers, etc., with about 300 employees—the sharing of profits with employees (other than the manager and heads of departments) was discontinued owing, as stated by the firm, to strikes of the employees. In the second case—a gas company with about 300 workpeople—the business has ceased to exist as a separate concern, having amalgamated with another undertaking also practising profit-sharing. The third scheme was in a small printing business employing about eight workpeople, and was dropped after these employees had stopped work in connection with a trade dispute. In the fourth case, that of a firm of millers, corn merchants, etc., two schemes were in operation, and one of these has now been abandoned with a view to its replacement by a new scheme now under preparation. About 950 employees were covered by the abandoned scheme in this case.

COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEARS.

The following Table shows the total number of firms known to have been practising profit-sharing or co-partnership at the end of each of the past ten years and the total number of schemes in operation in connection with these firms, and also gives particulars, so far as available, of the average bonus paid. As explained above, it is not possible, in the case of a number of schemes, to obtain statistics of bonuses paid, and the figures

given in the last two columns, therefore, relate only to those schemes for which this information is available:—

Year.	No. of Firms.*	No. of Schemes.*	Bonuses Paid.	
			Amount per Head.†	Percentage addition to Earnings.†
1913	140	142	£ s. d.	Per Cent.
1914	151	155	5 6 0	5.9
1915	150	154	5 4 9	6.7
1916	142	147	3 18 0	5.5
1917	145	151	3 4 3	4.6
1918	149	154	3 15 2	5.3
1919	189	193	3 13 9	5.1
1920	222	228	5 0 7	4.9
1921	222	228	9 18 6	6.4
1922	226	231	6 14 0	3.5
			6 4 6	3.8

The total number of employees of the 140 firms practising profit-sharing at the end of 1913 was approximately 110,000. In 1922 the total number of employees of the 226 firms with profit-sharing schemes in operation was approximately 300,000.

Of a total of 467 schemes of profit-sharing that are known to have been adopted at any time in this country, slightly over one-half are still in operation. Although the majority of existing schemes are of comparatively recent origin a few have been in continuous operation for over 40 years and nearly one-half date from before the war.

The following Table shows the total numbers of schemes started in various periods, the numbers of such schemes no longer in existence, and the numbers still in operation at the end of 1922:—

Period in which started.	Total Schemes started.	Schemes abandoned by the end of 1922.	Schemes suspended at the end of 1922.	Schemes still in operation at end of 1922.‡
Up to 1880	35	29	—	6
1881-90	79	67	1	11
1891-1900	76	63	—	13
1901-05	25	18	—	7
19.6-10.	54	21	1	32
1911-15.	65	20	—	45
1916-18.	22	4	1	17
1919-22.	65	9	—	56
1921-22.	18	—	—	18
Total	467	231	5	231

SCOPE OF THE STAMPED OR PRESSED METAL-WARES TRADE BOARD AND THE BUTTON-MAKING TRADE BOARD: REPORT OF INQUIRY.

REPORTS, dated 26th July, 1923, have been made by Sir William Mackenzie, K.B.E., K.C., on the Public Inquiry held by him on 6th and 7th June, 1923, in London, and on 19th and 20th June, 1923, in Birmingham, with regard to the scope of the Stamped or Pressed Metal Wares Trade Board and the Button-Making Trade Board. The Inquiry was held on the direction of the Minister of Labour as the result of objections received by him to his Notices of Intention dated 23rd March, 1923, to vary the definition of the Stamped or Pressed Metal Wares Trade, and to make certain consequential variations in the definition of the Button-Making Trade for the purposes of the Trade Boards Acts. The principal Report deals with the Stamped or Pressed Metal Wares Trade Board. After briefly indicating the circumstances which led to the Inquiry, the Report records for the Minister's consideration certain objections to the proposed variation of definition which were lodged on general grounds. These are, briefly, that the present moment is inopportune for any amendment or extension of scope in view of the fact that further Trade Board legislation is pending, and that the Minister's powers under the new Act may be more limited than now, and the considerations to be taken into account in extending the scope of a Trade Board may be different. On behalf of the Trade Board it was urged that amendment was a pressing and urgent necessity and that it should be dealt with under the 1918 Act.

The Report outlines the history and growth of the Stamped or Pressed Metal Wares Trade and arrives at the conclusion that the trade "primarily consists of the general stamper and presser or piercer who makes stampings and pressings for the trade, that is, sells the product of his manufacture to the wholesaler or retailer or to the manufacturer of a composite article for the purpose of being assembled or worked into such composite article." A manufacturer stamping or pressing parts for his own use, where the operations of stamping or pressing are merely incidental to the main operations on the completed pro-

* The figures exclude a few schemes temporarily suspended, though not abandoned, but include schemes as to which no recent particulars have been received.

† The amount per head and the percentage addition to earnings are calculated on the basis of the numbers and earnings of those participating, including those entitled to participate in cases where, owing to insufficient profits, the bonus was nil.

‡ The figures as to schemes still in operation at the end of 1922 include 6 schemes as to which no recent particulars have been received.

duct and where this final product is only to a small extent stamped or pressed, is outside the Stamped or Pressed Metal Wares trade: for example, the manufacture of bedsteads for which the mounts are stamped or pressed, or of umbrella frames for which the fittings are stamped or pressed. If, however, a composite article is mainly composed of stamped or pressed parts, the manufacture of such an article is part of the Stamped or Pressed Metal Wares trade; and the manufacturer who, though stamping or pressing parts incidentally to the main operations on the completed product, also sells stamped or pressed parts or articles in the open market is, to the extent to which he sells such parts or articles, engaged in the Stamped or Pressed Metal Wares trade.

The Report then deals with specific claims for exclusion from the definition made either by (1) manufacturers who, while manufacturing articles wholly or mainly stamped or pressed, claim to be in a well-defined trade distinct from that of the general stamper or presser, or by (2) manufacturers who are mainly engaged in other processes of manufacture and whose output of stamped or pressed goods is small. Each such claim for exclusion is considered on its individual merits in the light of the conclusions already reached with regard to what constitutes the Stamped or Pressed Metal Wares trade as a whole, and recommendations are made accordingly; some general considerations which should be taken into account in considering claims for exclusion are also set out, e.g., in the case of manufacturers who claim to be in a distinct trade or branch of trade, rates of wages and conditions of service, nature of any wage-regulating machinery, organisation of employers and workers, effect of exclusion upon other employers and workers manufacturing the same class of article; in the case of manufacturers who claim to be mainly engaged on some other manufacture, the proportion of output of stamped or pressed articles; and in both classes of case the factor of competing jurisdiction, in one workshop, of a Trade Board and trade organisations.

The Report deals with the objection that the work covered by the Minister's Order does not constitute a trade at all but a conglomeration of trades, and concludes that in the light of the evidence given there is such a trade as the general Stamped or Pressed Metal Wares trade, although, like many other trades, it has numerous branches.

After dealing with various suggestions for minor and drafting amendments of the definition which was the subject of the Inquiry, the Report concludes by recommending the re-drafting of the proposed Definition along simpler lines and so as to incorporate the other recommendations arising from the Inquiry. Such modifications, together with a sympathetic administration of the Order, should, in the view of the Commissioner holding the Inquiry, go far towards removing the difficulties which have hitherto beset the operations of the Trade Board.

The Report on the Button-Making Trade Board enumerates the circumstances which led to the Inquiry and records the fact that the alterations in the definition of the trade are necessitated by and consequential upon the amendments made in the definition of the Stamped or Pressed Metal Wares Trade.

ANNUAL REPORT OF MINISTRY OF HEALTH.

The Ministry of Health have issued their fourth Annual Report, relating to the year ended on 31st March, 1923.*

ADMINISTRATION OF THE POOR LAW, ETC.

Persons in receipt of relief.—The average of the weekly number of persons in receipt of relief in England and Wales during the year under review was 1,499,937, compared with 1,244,726 during 1921-22.† The number at no time during the year fell below 1,300,000, a number which had never been attained before July, 1921. On the 1st April, 1922, the number of persons in receipt of relief was 1,475,187 (equivalent to 1 in 26 of a total population of 37,885,000), and this number increased continuously to 1,668,348 on the 29th April. Throughout this period unemployed insurance benefit, both "covenanted" and "uncovenanted," was paid; and the increase was presumably due largely to the disputes in the engineering and shipbuilding trades which had begun in March. A slight decrease to 1,603,308 on the 13th May followed the end of the dispute in the shipbuilding trade on the 8th May. About the 11th May the first "gap" of five weeks in the payment of "uncovenanted" benefit began; and the dispute in the engineering trade extended on the 3rd May to other trade unions. A further continuous increase in the numbers in receipt of relief began on the 13th May, which terminated with the beginning of the second period of "uncovenanted benefit" in the record figure of 1,837,980 (equivalent to 1 in 21 of the total population) on the 17th June. On the 1st July the number of persons in receipt of relief had exceeded 1,600,000 for eleven successive weeks. The engineering dispute ended gradually during the period between the 6th and 21st June, and by the 24th June the number of persons in receipt of relief had decreased by 68,593. This improvement was maintained throughout July and August. The period of the "gap" during these and the two following months was by the Unemployment Insurance (No. 2) Act, 1922, reduced from five weeks to one week only. The bottom of the curve (1,416,193) was reached on the 2nd September; and an increase began which, interrupted only by a decrease from 1,459,295 to

* Cmd. 1944. H.M. Stationery Office. Price 4s. net.

† These figures exclude (a) lunatics in county and borough asylums, registered hospitals and licensed houses; (b) casuals; and (c) persons in receipt of domiciliary medical relief only. The numbers of these persons were approximately 111,000.

1,448,331 between the 23rd September and the 7th October, brought the total figure to 1,518,034 on the 4th November. Thence a decrease, continuous except for a seasonal rise at Christmas, led to the figure of 1,345,634 at the end of March.

Returns obtained as to the average weekly number of persons in receipt of domiciliary relief in the months of June, September, December, and March, show that the proportions which belonged to families whose heads were insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts were 61.5 per cent., 52.7 per cent., 49.5 per cent., and 46.7 per cent. respectively; and the Report adds that "there is in these returns some prima-facie evidence of the effect of the incidence of unemployment benefit upon Poor Law statistics, and a demonstration that the burden of the ratepayer would have been substantially heavier but for the existence of the insurance scheme."

The figures relating to out-door relief during the year are analysed on a new basis, which it is stated must be accepted with caution owing to uncertainty whether the returns have been rendered with exact uniformity. Subject to this reservation, the Report states that the number of unemployed insured persons (and their dependants) receiving relief varied during the year from 1,090,525 (in June, 1922) to 636,048 (in March, 1923), the mean figure for the year being 798,708. A second class, for whom separate numbers are now available, is that for uninsured persons who are ordinarily employed. The number of such persons receiving relief is not large, the total at the end of the year being only 66,314, slightly more than the number (65,281) at the beginning of the year. The third class, covering all other persons in receipt of outdoor relief, is a more substantial one, and increased, except for a slight break in July, from the beginning to the end of the year, the numbers being in April, 1922, 395,165, and in March, 1923, 453,380. The Report states that it must be assumed that these figures include persons who would, in less trying times, have been assisted by relatives, and these persons, until their relatives have an opportunity of re-establishing their position, will remain as a permanent charge on the Poor Rate.

Very wide variations were shown in the proportion borne by the number of persons relieved to the population of the several Unions, the highest ratio being 1 in 5, which was reached at least once in the course of the year by Poplar, Sheffield, Bootle (Cumberland), Middlesbrough, Crickhowell and Guisborough. Other areas which reached a high proportion (from 1 in 6 to 1 in 10 inclusive) during the year were:—Bermundsey, Greenwich, Limehouse, West Ham; Newcastle-upon-Tyne, South Shields, Stockton, Hartlepool, Durham, Auckland; Birmingham, Coventry, West Bromwich, Walsall, Stourbridge; Barrow-in-Furness, Bedwellty, Clutton, Dartford, Derby, Ecclesall Bierlow (Sheffield), Lincoln, Neath, Redruth, West Derby (Liverpool).

The amount raised by rates to meet expenses of Poor Law Authorities in the year 1922-23 is estimated to be £38,100,000, as compared with £12,078,000 in the year before the war, and with approximately £36,250,000 in the year 1921-22. As in the previous year, Boards of Guardians borrowed considerable sums under the provisions of the Local Authorities (Financial Provisions) Act, 1921, and legislation extending certain of these provisions to loans borrowed in the course of the year 1923-24 has been enacted. The maximum number of Unions at any one time during the year in possession of authority to borrow under the Act was 104. The highest total sum authorised to be borrowed at any time during the year was £3,032,076, as compared with £5,819,258 in 1921-22. At the end of the year the number of Unions dropped to 54, and the total sum to £5,714,000. The total amount actually borrowed at any time during the year was very considerably below the total sum authorised, and probably not more than half the Unions holding sanctions utilised them to the full at any one time.

UNEMPLOYMENT.

Out of about £24,000,000 which Local Authorities were authorised to borrow for expenditure on public works during the year, over £8,400,000 was for works certified to have been undertaken with a view to the provision of employment; and grants were made by the Unemployment Grants Committee in aid of schemes of local authorities in England and Wales of the estimated total cost of £14,794,808.*

By the Expiring Laws Act, 1922, the operation of the Unemployed Workmen Act, 1905, has been indefinitely extended. The principal activity of bodies acting under the Act has been the use of farm colonies for the reception, maintenance and training of able-bodied men in receipt of Poor Law relief. Nineteen Metropolitan Unions have taken advantage of the Hollesley Bay colony, belonging to the Central (Unemployed) Body for London, and large numbers of men have been sent to the colony for varying periods. In August, 1922, the number of men in training reached 348. There was a seasonal decrease to 180 on the 1st January, but by the 31st March, 1923, the number had again risen to 351.

OLD AGE PENSIONS.

The total number of pensions payable in Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the 30th March, 1923, was 936,953, of which 351,146 were payable to men and 605,807 to women; the total included 12,355 pensions awarded under the Blind Persons Act, 1920. Of the total number of pensions payable, 872,912, or 93.2 per cent., were at the maximum rate of 10s. a week. As compared with the 31st March, 1922, the number of pensioners in England shows an increase of 4.4 per cent., in Wales an increase of 4.8 per cent., and in Great Britain and Northern Ireland an increase of 4.2 per cent.

* See also the August issue of this GAZETTE, page 277, and the article on page 316 of this issue.

HOUSING.

On the 31st March, 1923, the assisted scheme authorised by the Housing Act of 1919, which the Government decided in 1921 to limit to 176,000 houses, was almost complete. Less than 17,000 houses remained to be erected under it by Local Authorities and Public Utility Societies; tenders had been approved for over 13,000 of these, and 9,435 had been started. Since the original scheme came into operation over 159,000 houses have been completed by Local Authorities and Public Utility Societies under it. The total capital cost of assisted housing schemes will be about £190,000,000, or about £1,080 per house. The amount which Parliament will be asked to vote as a grant in aid of the deficit on housing schemes during 1923-24 is £3,710,000, nearly £1,000,000 less than in the preceding year.

Loans to local authorities amounting to £100,361 were sanctioned under the Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts, 1899 and 1919, to assist the purchase by occupiers of houses not exceeding £800 in value. The loans sanctioned under these Acts since the Act of 1899 was passed amount to £356,127, the loans being sanctioned to 62 Local Authorities.

OTHER SUBJECTS.

Among the other subjects dealt with in the Report are:—Public Health (infectious diseases, maternity and child welfare, welfare of the blind, inspection and supervision of food, general health questions, sanitary administration, town planning); Local Government and Local Finance; National Health Insurance. There is a special section dealing with the Welsh Board of Health. Various statistical and other appendices are added to the Report.

PAY, ETC., OF STATE SERVANTS: REPORT OF COMMITTEE.

The Committee appointed* in March last "to enquire into the 'present standard of remuneration and other conditions of employment of the various classes of State servants employed in the Civil Service and in the three Fighting Services, and to 'make recommendations thereon,'" have issued their Report.†

In discussing the factors governing rates of pay in these Services the Committee express the view that "there is only one principle in which all the factors of responsibility, cost of living, marriage, children, social position, etc., are included—"the employer should pay what is necessary to recruit and retain an efficient staff." They also lay down two general considerations in regard to the pay of State servants: (i) that the State should hold the scales even between its own servants and those through whose enterprise its servants are paid; and (ii) that employees of the Crown should have a real ground for complaint if their pay were related to wages in industry only in the time of low wages. "If they do not get pay relative to the boom, they must be spared the full severity of the slump. The State as a model employer offers security, a pension, a dignified service, and a moderate wage, in exchange for the excitement and possibilities of private employment."

The Report contains a series of graphs showing the course of wages between the years 1919 and 1923 in a number of industries which are subject to world competition (cotton, coal mining, iron and steel, mercantile marine and agriculture), and in certain "sheltered" trades, i.e., trades not exposed to world competition (bricklayers, dock labourers, gas stokers, and labourers employed in the non-trading services of local authorities). The Committee find that in the "competitive" trades the level of wages at the present time shows a reduction ranging from about 10 per cent. to 40 per cent. on the amounts paid in 1919; while in the "sheltered" trades the reduction is only from 5 to 15 per cent.

As regards the *Fighting Services* the Committee refer with approval to a scheme which was laid before them by the Army Council for a reduction in the pay of the non-commissioned officers and men of the Army. They consider that the pay of naval ratings is now too high, and should be reduced parallel with reductions in the pay of the rank and file of the Army. They also suggest certain reductions in the pay of junior officers in the Army and in the Navy, but not in that of the higher ranks of officers. Substantial reductions might also, in their opinion, be made in the rates of pay of junior officers and of men in the Air Force.

As regards the *Civil Service*, they point to the great increase in the total cost, owing to the increase in duties since 1914. The increase in cost per head, on the other hand, is less than that in the Army or in the Navy.

The Committee have divided Civil Servants into eight large groups, as follows:—

	Cost in 1923 expressed as percentage of cost in 1914.	
	Total cost. (1914 = 100).	Cost per head. (1914 = 100).
Mainly salaried staff:—		
Administrative	206	139
Professional, scientific and technical	243	179
Inspectorate	215	193
Executive and clerical	402	170
Mainly wages staff:—		
Writing assistants and typing	728	197
Manipulative (mainly Post Office)	208	220
Messengers, charwomen, etc.	300	203
Industrial	199	176

* See MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE for April, 1923, page 153.

† Report of Committee on Pay, etc., of State Servants. H.M. Stationery Office Price 6d. net.

paid for administration expenses; the remaining £505,504 was distributed as follows:—

	No. of Schemes.	Total Allocated. £
Recreation grounds, playing fields, swimming pools, etc.	125	311,175
Institutes, clubs, libraries, etc. (including small grants for purchases of books) . . .	99	78,665
Pit-head baths and drying-rooms, slipper baths, wash-houses, etc.	4	29,500
Hospitals (structural additions, equipment, or endowment for existing public institutions)	16	12,190
Convalescent home	1	50,000
District nursing services	4	8,000
Ambulance services	4	2,170
Mining education (lectures, scholarships, structural additions to existing public buildings, etc.)	*5	*12,604
Colliery bands, pit-head shelters	3	1,200
	261	505,504

The Committee have laid it down that allocations will normally be made for purposes of capital expenditure only, as opposed to casual outlay in aid of recurrent maintenance expenses; also that allocations must be for the provision of new welfare facilities, and not for the relief of already existing schemes; this involves, as a corollary, that the fund shall not be used in relief of existing charges which fall either upon local rates or upon the national exchequer. Thirdly, safeguards must normally be provided, usually in the form of a trust deed.

Allocations from the "general" fund (i.e., the one-fifth not earmarked for separate districts) for research purposes are normally administered, through the Secretary for Mines, by the Safety in Mines Research Board, and are accompanied by similar conditions and safeguards.

MINERS' BLINDNESS (NYSTAGMUS.)

The Committee appointed by the Medical Research Council to enquire into the causation and means of prevention of miners' nystagmus have issued a second Report.† Since the date of the first Report‡ the Home Office and the Secretary for Mines especially invited the attention of the committee to the great increase that was taking place in claims for compensation, and in the first section of the present Report the incapacity that results from the disease is treated in detail, with special reference to its relation to the Workmen's Compensation Act.

The results of the Committee's investigations are summarised in the Report as follows:—

A large proportion of underground miners exhibit signs which, if complained of, might establish a claim for compensation.

Consideration of the records for compensation claims in other countries as well as in this country, and of the factors which have been at work influencing these claims, leads to the conclusion that there is no sound evidence of increase in the clinical entity, miners' nystagmus.

The standard of incapacity in this country is governed by the nomenclature of the disease in the schedule of the Workmen's Compensation Act. This standard differs from, and is decidedly less stringent than, that adopted on the Continent.

The nomenclature which determines the standard of incapacity has an important influence upon the duration of incapacity. Hence we find that the duration of incapacity is unreasonably extended in this country as compared with the Continent.

The standard of physical signs which is in vogue in this country for deciding whether any case should be certified as suffering from miners' nystagmus too readily admits psychoneurotic cases to whom harm and not benefit accrues from compensation. A stricter standard based on physical signs should be adopted.

Impartial assessment of the amount of incapacity found in cases in receipt of compensation points to a need for periodic reassessment.

The Committee have therefore reached the following conclusions:—

The official figures show an apparent increase in the disease. The cases, however, fall into two groups:—(i) Severe cases of the type recognised as incapacitating in France and Belgium. This group has not increased in these countries in recent years, and appears even to have diminished as the safety lamps have improved. (ii) Cases in which the psychological element largely predominates, owing to the wide interpretation placed upon the definition of the disease in the schedule of the Workmen's Compensation Act. This group is the one which has increased the reported cases.

The decision as to whether any given case belongs to Group 1 or Group 2 is purely a medical question, and should

* These are additional to any grants that may be made from the "general fund in aid of mining education or research."
† Second Report of the Miners' Nystagmus Committee. H.M. Stationery Office, 1923. Price 9d. net. Miners' nystagmus is an occupational disease peculiar to miners, the chief symptom and physical sign of which is a rotatory oscillation of the eyeballs.
‡ See the May, 1922, issue of this GAZETTE, page 204.

be left to medical men who have had special experience of the disease.

Most cases of miners' nystagmus are only partially incapacitated; they benefit physically and psychologically by work. Some require work above ground; others are fit for suitable work below ground. All men in this group should receive every encouragement to start work as soon as possible.

A few exceptional cases with short mining experience should never return to work below ground; these men should in their own interests be drafted out of the industry immediately.

The second section of the Report deals with the relative importance of errors of refraction in the incidence of the disease.

DUNDEE JUTE WORKERS' DISPUTE.

THE dispute in the jute industry in Dundee, which had been in progress since February, terminated on 29th August.

As has been reported in previous issues of this GAZETTE,* the dispute arose out of a difference between a firm and their workpeople respecting the number of spinners to be employed at certain spinning frames; and the initial stoppage of work occurred on 23rd February, involving about 1,800 workpeople employed by the firm in question. Subsequently the stoppage extended to other works belonging to the company of which the firm originally affected was a branch, and by 13th March about 11,000 workpeople were involved in the dispute. This led to a general lock-out on 23rd March, affecting nearly all the jute spinning and weaving factories in Dundee, the total number of workpeople involved in the dispute being about 29,000. On 18th April the lock-out was raised, pending examination of the facts by a Joint Committee and conferences, and the whole of the workpeople resumed work, except about 300, the proposed change in whose working conditions had been the cause of the original strike.

Attempts to secure a settlement having failed, the general lock-out of about 29,000 workpeople was re-imposed on 1st June, but all the works were re-opened on 8th June, except those in which the dispute originated, at which about 1,500 workpeople continued to be involved. These works were re-opened on 9th July, and there was some resumption of work during July and August until, on 29th August, the strike was declared at an end, and work was generally resumed on the following day. By the terms of the settlement the assistance of a number of orra spinners is to be given in certain of the spinning flats.

HOURS OF LABOUR IN THE BUILDING INDUSTRY.

IN recent issues of this GAZETTE† reference has been made to negotiations and settlements in regard to wages, hours and other conditions in the building industry. On the question of hours the Award of the Arbitrator, Sir Hugh Fraser, was issued on 20th August. The Award provides that the existing rule whereby 41½ hours per week are worked during December and January shall be rescinded, and that the working time of 44 hours per week shall proceed throughout the year, except during the period of summer-time as determined by statute, when the working time shall be extended to 46½ hours per week. Provision is also made that in December and January the interval of one hour for dinner may be reduced to half an hour on works where artificial light cannot be reasonably supplied, so that work may terminate at 4.30 p.m. If, however, on any such work the majority of the operatives request that the interval of one hour for dinner may still be maintained and the weekly hours consequently reduced to 41½, the employer shall be at liberty to arrange accordingly. Nothing in the Award is to prevent employers and operatives in any town or area from maintaining, by mutual consent, the 44-hour week throughout the year. The Award became operative on 17th September, 1923.

MIGRATION OF POOR PERSONS AT THE COST OF THE POOR RATES.

A CIRCULAR‡ has been issued to Boards of Guardians by the Ministry of Health setting out the conditions upon which money raised from the poor rates may, with the consent of the Minister of Health, be expended on the migration of (1) any orphan or deserted child under 16 chargeable to the Union who has consented thereto before Justices in Petty Sessions, and (2) any other poor persons residing in the Union, whether in receipt of relief or not.

The Empire Settlement Act, 1922, provides for the establishment of schemes under which His Majesty's Government and the Government of the Dominion concerned may co-operate in the promotion of migration from the United Kingdom to the Dominions, and the Circular states that it is obviously desirable that the migration of persons at the cost of the poor rates should be brought into co-ordination with those schemes. Up to the present time the only suitable schemes brought into operation are for assisted passages for adults (with or without families)

* See MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTES for April, p. 123, May, p. 159, and June, p. 199.
† April 1923, page 122; June, 1923, page 198, and August, 1923, page 260.
‡ Empire Settlement Act, 1922; Ministry of Health Circular No. 409 to Boards of Guardians, 23rd July, 1923. H.M. Stationery Office. Price 1d. net.

to Australia, and for children and certain juveniles to Canada; and details of these schemes are embodied in the Circular, with special reference to the cost of assistance in each case to the Guardians.

It is pointed out that the Minister of Health and the Oversea Settlement Department are agreed that the settlement of juveniles and children, under proper supervision, is the most beneficial and successful form of migration. It is felt that more general action could with advantage be taken in this direction, and the Minister wishes to commend the subject to the special consideration of every Board of Guardians. At the same time, it is regarded as most important, with a view to preventing increased inequality of sex distribution, to endeavour as far as possible to ensure that the girls who proceed overseas should not be fewer in number than the boys.

Appended to the Circular are two memoranda, the first dealing with the procedure to be followed by Boards of Guardians in cases where they consider migration to be desirable, and the second giving details (supplied by the Superintendent of Immigration for Canada) of the system which has been in operation since 1883 for the settlement in Canada of Poor Law and other suitable children from the United Kingdom.

UNITED STATES COAL COMMISSION: SECOND REPORT.*

THE second Report of the United States Coal Commission† was issued on 8th July, and is concerned with the anthracite branch of the coal industry. The first Report, which dealt with the bituminous branch, was noticed in the MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE for April, 1923, page 127. The final Report will contain recommendations for both branches.

The chief recommendations made by the Commission to Congress are stated to be as follows:—

(1) Congress shall give the President authority in the event of a cessation of operations in the industry to declare an emergency, take charge of mines, fix wages and the compensation to be paid to the owner, subject to review by the courts, and distribute the product as he deems wise and just.

(2) The Commission is opposed to Government ownership of coal mines, but considers that coal is as much a public utility as gas or any other service or commodity that has been brought under public regulation. In the operation of coal mines as in the operation of railroads, telephones, water companies or banks, the public interest must be respected and served.

(3) But there is not yet sufficient basis in knowledge or experience to determine what form of regulation will ultimately be most advantageous. It may be that the principle of individual or corporate responsibility should be maintained as most likely to insure economical and efficient management of the industry, and that the public interest may be adequately safeguarded by the creation of a Governmental authority with power to require financial and operating reports, to prescribe uniform methods of cost accounting and to determine the conditions on which coal may be shifted in interstate commerce.

(4) The Commission is convinced that publicity as to costs, prices and profits is necessary to protect the interests of the public.

(5) As freight charges alone take from 16 to 30 cents of each dollar paid by the anthracite consumer, the Commission urges the Interstate Commerce Commission to re-examine the reasonableness of freight rates.

(6) Re-adjustment of the royalties paid to owners of leased coal lands.

The Survey, commenting on these recommendations, considers that the first is neither new nor very important, and that the President probably already has power to seize the mines in a national emergency.

The opinion that the time has come for coal mining to be recognised as a public utility is also criticised as not being new. It was suggested by the Anthracite Strike Commission in 1902-03. Also the Commission appears to have ignored recent judicial decisions which would effectively prevent the recognition of coal mining as a public utility. Attention is drawn especially to the decision of the United States Supreme Court on the Kansas Court of Industrial Relations in which it is expressly stated that "it has never been supposed since the adoption of the Constitution that the business of the butcher or the baker, the tailor, the woodchopper, the mining operator or the miner, was clothed with such public interest that the price of his product or his wages could be fixed by State regulations." Labour journals also emphasise the ignoring by the Commission of recent judicial decisions.

The same is held to apply to the recommendation that a Governmental authority should determine the conditions on which coal may be shipped in interstate commerce. Congress on a previous occasion authorised the Federal Trade Commission to attempt this and voted funds for the purpose. But the Courts laid it down that the "mere act of production is not commerce"; and so that the production of coal, like the production of steel, is not so related to interstate commerce as to justify its regulation by the Federal Government.

* Survey, 1st August; Literary Digest, 21st July, and American Federationist, August, 1923.
† The appointment of this Commission was reported in the MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE, December, 1922, page 478.

A second set of recommendations, more concrete and explicit, is addressed not to Congress but to the coal owners and miners who were attempting to conclude a new agreement to take the place of the one which expired at the end of August. These aim at strengthening the conciliation machinery and making it possible for differences to be settled within the industry itself without outside interference.

The Commission "awaits with interest whether the new agreement shall show a co-operative spirit, a clear idea of partnership on the part of all concerned in it, and a proper conception of the rights of the American people."

The Report also includes elaborate data on wages, cost of living prices, cost of production, etc.

"PEACEFUL PICKETING" ILLEGAL ON U.S. RAILWAYS.*

DURING the strike of railway shopmen in the United States last year [See MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE, July, 1922, page 289, and October, 1922, page 404] a temporary Federal injunction was issued on 5th October restraining the striking railway shopmen from interfering in any way with the operation of the railways. The reasons stated for its issue were the acts of violence committed by the strikers, which in some cases had resulted in loss of life and considerable damage to property. The injunction made the officials of the Union concerned liable to arrest and imprisonment in the event of further illegal action on the part of the strikers. Theoretically the strike is still in force, as no general settlement was reached; practically it is over, and the vast majority of the men have either returned to their former work or been re-engaged.

The temporary injunction was made permanent by the Federal District Court of Chicago on 12th July last. It not only prohibits all interference with the operation of the railways, but renders peaceful picketing illegal and ties up the funds of the Unions in so far as their use for strike purposes is concerned. It prohibits Union officials from publishing any statements in connection with the strike and from holding meetings or processions. The injunction is made applicable to the leading officials of the various Unions concerned, who are mentioned by name.

TRADE BOARDS IN NORWAY: EXTENSION OF ACT.†

THE Norwegian provisional Act on Industrial Outwork, of which a full account was given in the LABOUR GAZETTE for July, 1918, page 265, was extended by an Act of 6th July, for a further period of five years, till 30th June, 1923. The amendments introduced in the new Act are unimportant. The general supervision of the carrying out of the Act is to be in the hands of the Board of Health, while previously it was largely in the hands of the Outwork Board, and both these Boards, as well as the Wages Board, are in future to have access to wage lists and workers' wage books, and may take copies of lists of workers and wage lists.

REDUCTION OF WAGES IN SWEDEN BETWEEN 1920 AND 1922.‡

A REPORT on Collective Agreements in 1922, issued by the Swedish Department of Social Affairs, gives certain particulars of the percentage reductions in the "peak" wage-rates of 1920 which had been effected by the end of 1922. (For a general summary of this Report see the MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE for May, 1923, page 163). The following Table shows the reductions effected in individual industries:—

Industry.	Percentage reduction in wages in 1922 as compared with 1920.	Industry.	Percentage reduction in wages in 1922 as compared with 1920.
Ore Mines: (Central Sweden) ..	40	Baking	25
(Northern Sweden) ..	25	Sugar Manufacture ..	47-50
Coal Mines	43	Breweries (Stockholm) ..	35
Building Materials ..	45-50	Slaughterhouses	20
Small Glass Manufacture	45	Boot and Shoemaking ..	35
Bottle Glass Manufacture	39	Rubber Goods Manufacture ..	45
Saw Milling	43	Artificial Manures	39
Woodwork and Cabinet Making	30	Match Manufacture	34
Wood Pulp Manufacture ..	48	Building Trades:—	
Papermaking	52-54	Bricklayers and Carpenters	43½
Bookbinding	35	Plumbers	36
Printing	30	Unskilled Labourers ..	45½
Flour milling	40	Commercial and Shop Assistants, &c. (Stockholm)	33½
Electric Fitting	33	Dock Labour	38
Telegraph Linesmen ..	33-40	Seamen	44-50
Textile Mills	40	Agriculture	40-45
Clothing	30		
Tanning	33		

* Despatch from H.M. Embassy at Washington, dated 20th July.
† Norsk Lovtidende, 9th July, 1923.
‡ Sociala Meddelanden, No. 5, 1923, and a despatch from H.M. Commercial Secretary at Stockholm dated 1st June, 1923.
§ The reduction in the case of piece workers was about 40 per cent.

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

Summary: Average Increases since July, 1914.

All Items included ... 73%
Food only ... 68%

FOOD.

At 1st September the average increase in the cost of the pre-war working-class dietary, as shown by the statistics compiled by the Ministry of Labour, was 68 per cent. above the level of July, 1914, as compared with 65 per cent. at 1st August.

In the following Table is given a comparison of retail prices of these articles of food in July, 1914, at 1st August, 1923, and at 1st September, 1923 :-

Table with columns: Article, Average Price (per lb. unless otherwise indicated - to the nearest d.), Average Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) at 1st Sept., 1923, as compared with July, 1914, 1st Aug., 1923, 1st Sept., 1923. Includes items like Beef, Mutton, Bacon, Flour, Bread, Tea, Sugar, Milk, Butter, Cheese, Margarine, Eggs, Potatoes.

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

Table with columns: Article, Average Percentage Increase at 1st Sept., 1923, as compared with July, 1914. Sub-columns: Large Towns (Populations over 50,000), Small Towns and Villages, General Average, Corresponding figure for 1st August, 1923. Includes items like Beef, Mutton, Bacon, Fish, Flour, Bread, Tea, Sugar, Milk, Butter, Cheese, Margarine, Eggs, Potatoes.

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

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

RENT, CLOTHING, FUEL AND LIGHT.

As regards rents, inquiries which have been made into the changes which have taken effect under the Increase of Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Act indicate that the average increase in rents of working-class dwellings between July, 1914, and 1st September, 1923, was approximately 47 per cent.

As regards clothing, owing to the wide range of quotations, both now and before the war, to changes in qualities, and in stocks held by retailers, and to variations in the extent to which different articles and qualities have been affected by price changes, it is impossible to make an exact calculation of the increase in prices; but information as to the movements of prices of men's suits and overcoats, underclothing and hosiery...

In the fuel and light group the retail prices of coal at 1st September showed little change on those of a month earlier and averaged approximately 85 per cent. above those of July, 1914. The prices of gas and lamp oil remained at about 60 per cent., and those of candles at about 35 per cent., above the pre-war level.

ALL ITEMS.

If the average increases in the cost of all the foregoing items are combined in accordance with their relative importance in pre-war working-class family expenditure, allowance being also made for the increase in the prices of soap, soda, domestic ironmongery, brushware and pottery, tobacco, fares and newspapers...

The result of this calculation (in which the same quantities and, as far as possible, the same qualities of each item are taken in 1923 as in 1914) is to show the average increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the pre-war standard of living of working-class families (i.e., the standard actually prevailing in working-class families before the war, irrespective of whether such standard was adequate or not).

SUMMARY TABLE: 1915 TO 1923.

The following Table shows the average percentage increase as compared with July, 1914, for all items included in the statistics, at the beginning of each month since January, 1915 - Average Percentage Increase since July, 1914 - All Items. (Food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, &c.)

Summary Table showing average percentage increase from 1915 to 1923 for months from January to December. Columns include Year and Percentage Increase.

NOTE.

A brief Statement of the method of compiling these statistics was given on page 236 of the July issue of this GAZETTE. A more detailed account was given in the issue of February, 1922.

* If the amount of increased taxation on commodities is deducted, the average increase at 1st September, 1923, is about 5 per cent. less.

EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

The decline in employment, which began in July, continued in August. The industries principally affected included the pig-iron, tinplate, shipbuilding, wool textile, hosiery, textile bleaching, dyeing, etc., furniture and pottery trades.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.*

Among 1,149,588 members of Trade Unions from which returns were received the percentage unemployed was 11.4 at the end of August, compared with 11.1 at the end of July, and with 14.4 at the end of August, 1922. Among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts, numbering approximately 11,750,000, and working in practically every industry except agriculture and private domestic service, the percentage unemployed at 27th August was 11.5, compared with 11.3 at 23rd July and 12.3 at the end of August, 1922.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

Mining and Quarrying.—At coal mines employment continued fairly good on the whole. The total number of wage earners on the colliery books at 25th August was 1,165,787, an increase of 0.2 per cent. as compared with July, 1923, and of 6.4 per cent. as compared with August, 1922.

At iron mines employment showed little general change as compared with the previous month; in the Cleveland district it continued bad. At the mines covered by the returns received there was an increase of 0.8 per cent. in the number employed, as compared with July, and an increase of 47.8 per cent. over the numbers employed in August, 1922.

Manufacture of Pig Iron, Iron and Steel and Tinplate.—Employment in the pig iron industry showed a further decline during August and was slack. Of a total of 487 furnaces, the number in blast at the end of August was 196, as compared with 206 at the end of July, and 126 at the end of August, 1922.

Engineering, Shipbuilding and other Metal Trades.—In the engineering trade employment continued bad. At many works the normal holidays were extended. The textile machinery and marine engineering sections were still very depressed, and there was a further seasonal decline in the motor section.

Textile Trades.—Employment continued depressed in all sections of the cotton industry, except in the branch engaged in spinning Egyptian cotton, which was still well employed.

* The figures relate to Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

cases annual holidays were extended, and production was also greatly curtailed by short time and other means. In the woollen and worsted trades employment continued bad, and in the worsted trade a further decline was reported.

In the silk trade it was moderate in the Eastern Counties; in the Macclesfield, Leek and Congleton district it continued slack. In the lace trade employment continued bad on the whole, with much short time.

Clothing Trades.—In the tailoring trade employment declined, but was fair on the whole; at Bristol, Nottingham, Liverpool and Glasgow it was slack. In the dressmaking and women's light clothing trades employment declined and, on the whole, was only fair.

Building, Woodworking, etc.—Employment in the building trades showed a further improvement in some districts, and was fair on the whole. It was generally good with bricklayers and masons, fairly good with carpenters and joiners, and fair with plasterers.

In the furnishing trades employment showed a further decline and was only moderate to fair. It also declined with coach-builders, but was still fairly good. With millsawyers and wood-cutting machinists employment was bad, except in London, Birmingham and the Eastern Counties.

Paper Manufacture, Printing and Bookbinding.—Employment in the paper trade was fair, but not so good, on the whole, as in the previous month. With letterpress printers it continued fair generally, and with readers, electrotypers and stereotypers in London it was good.

Pottery and Glass.—In the pottery trade employment continued slack, and a decline from the previous month was reported; in the sanitary earthenware and tile sections, however, employment was good.

Agriculture and Fishery.—In agriculture the supply of labour was generally sufficient, and casual labour for haymaking and the corn harvest was readily obtainable in practically all districts.

Dock Labour and Seamen.—Employment among dock labourers was moderate, on the whole.

With seamen employment continued moderate, and showed a slight improvement on the previous month, but at the majority of ports large numbers of men failed to obtain engagements.

The following Table shows the percentages unemployed (a) among members of those Trade Unions from which returns are obtained and (b) among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland month by month since August, 1922 :-

Table showing percentages unemployed among Trade Unions making Returns and Insured Workpeople from August 1922 to August 1923.

Further details and statistics as to the state of employment in a number of the principal industries are given on pages 329 to 333.

TRADE UNION PERCENTAGES of UNEMPLOYED

TRADE UNIONS with a net membership of 1,149,583 reported 131,486 (or 11.4 per cent.) of their members as unemployed at the end of August, 1923, compared with 11.1 per cent. at the end of July, 1923, and 14.4 per cent. at the end of August, 1922.

Table with 6 columns: Trade, Membership of Unions reporting at end of Aug., 1923, Unemployed at end of Aug., 1923, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage Unemployed as compared with a Month ago, Year ago.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED TRADES.

The percentage unemployed among workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Act in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was 11.5 per cent. (males 12.3 per cent., females 9.4 per cent.) at 27th August, as compared with 11.3 per cent. (males 12.2 per cent., females 8.8 per cent.) at 23rd July. A Table showing the numbers unemployed in the principal industries appears on page 335.

SUMMARY OF EMPLOYERS' RETURNS.

INFORMATION as to the state of employment in certain industries in August, derived from returns furnished by employers and employers' associations, is summarised below. Further details are given on pages 329 to 333.

(a) CERTAIN MINING AND METAL TRADES.

Table with 6 columns: Trade, Workpeople included in the Returns for August, 1923, August, 1923, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago, Year ago, Days Worked per week by Mines, Days, Days.

Table with 6 columns: Trade, Furnaces in Blast, Number, Number, Mills Working, Shifts Worked (one week), Per cent., Per cent.

(b) OTHER TRADES.

Table with 8 columns: Trade, Number of Workpeople Employed, Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople, Week ended 25th Aug., 1923, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago, Week ended 25th Aug., 1923, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago, £, Per cent., Per cent.

* 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. Persons on strike or locked-out are also excluded. † The percentage is based on returns relating to woodworkers and plumbers, and as regards woodworkers, who constitute the bulk of the membership, the returns relate to the end of July. ‡ In addition to those totally unemployed, a large number of the members of the unions reporting were "paid off part of each week, or alternate weeks or fortnights" or on "temporary stoppage benefit." § The returns for the tobacco trade are supplied by unions whose members are mainly cigar makers. ¶ These figures include a due proportion of claimants to benefit in respect of systematic short time. †† Comparison of earnings is affected by reductions in rates of wages.

EMPLOYMENT CHART.

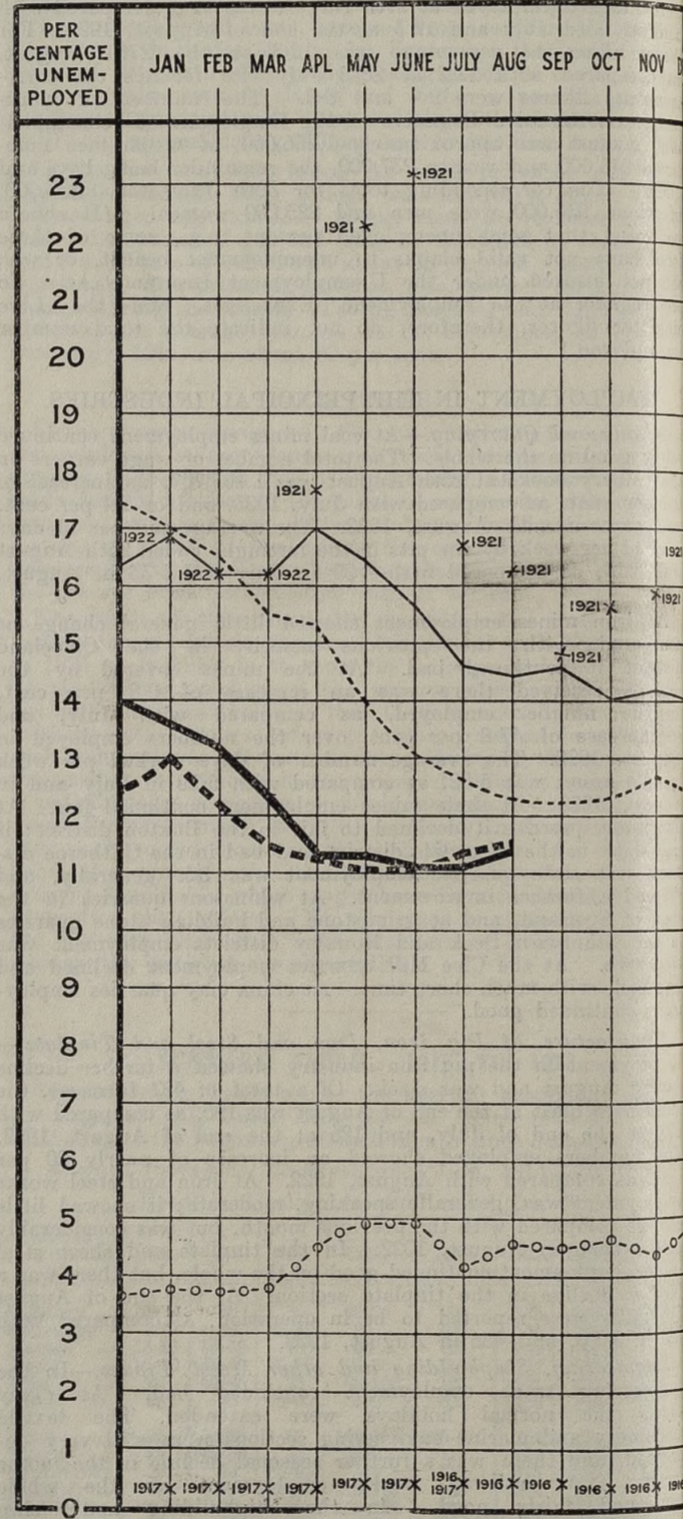
(1) PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT THE END OF EACH MONTH AMONG MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS:—

Thick Curve ————— = 1923. Thin Curve ————— = 1922. Chain Curve - - - - - = Mean of 1913-22.

× The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages of Trade Union members unemployed, in the months named, during the years 1893-1922.

(2) PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AMONG WORKPEOPLE INSURED AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT UNDER THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT.—

Thick Dotted Curve - - - - - 1923. Thin Dotted Curve - - - - - 1922.



(NOTE.)

The figures relate to Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The Trade Union returns are furnished by various Trade Unions which pay unemployment benefit to their members. Persons on strike or locked out, sick or superannuated, are excluded from the figures. Detailed figures are given in the previous column. The figures for insured workpeople include a due proportion of claimants to benefit in respect of short-time working. Detailed figures for July and August, 1923, are given on page 335.

DETAILED REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN SOME OF THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

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

COAL MINING.

EMPLOYMENT during August remained fairly good. In Scotland there was a slight improvement in the numbers employed, while the average time worked showed a marked increase compared with the average for July, due to the latter having been affected by holidays. In England and Wales, taken as a whole, there was little change. In North Wales and in parts of the Midlands improvements were reported. Employment declined, however, in Northumberland and Durham, where more time was lost on account of want of trade and transport difficulties, but in the case of Durham this was counterbalanced by a decrease in the time lost on account of holidays. The increase in the average time lost at pits in South Yorkshire was almost entirely due to holidays. In the remaining districts, except Cumberland and Westmorland, where employment was again affected by a dispute, the chief factors responsible for loss of time were want of trade, and, to a smaller extent, transport difficulties. Compared with a year ago, employment both in England and Wales and in Scotland showed an improvement in the numbers employed, but a slight decline in the average time worked.

The following Table shows, for the principal coal-mining districts, the total number of wage-earners on the colliery books, and the average number of days worked per week* during the fortnight ended 25th August, 1923, as indicated by the returns obtained by the Mines Department. Small numbers of workpeople employed at coal mines in raising or handling minerals other than coal are included in the totals:—

Table with 10 columns: Districts, Total Number of Wage Earners on Colliery Books at 25th August, 1923, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago, Year ago, Average Number of Days worked per Week by the Mines, Days, Days.

Among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts, the number registered as unemployed was 44,306 at 27th August, 1923, compared with 37,706 at 23rd July, 1923.

The average weekly number of coal-winding days lost by all pits in the fortnight ended 25th August was 0.62 of a day, of which 0.51 of a day was due to want of trade and transport difficulties, the corresponding figures for the fortnight ended 28th July being 0.83 of a day and 0.45 of a day respectively. For the fortnight ended 26th August, 1922, the average weekly number of coal-winding days lost was 0.44 of a day, of which 0.33 of a day was due to want of trade and transport difficulties. The non-winding time in each of these three periods averaged about one-quarter of a day per week.

The output of coal in Great Britain for the four weeks ended 25th August, 1923, was returned to the Mines Department at 19,107,800 tons, compared with 20,060,400 in the four weeks ended 28th July, 1923, and with 19,051,200 tons in the four weeks ended 26th August, 1922.

The exports of coal, including coal shipped for the use of steamers engaged in the foreign trade, and the coal equivalent of coke and manufactured fuel, amounted in August to 8,758,217 tons, or 1,774 tons less than in July.

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

IRON AND SHALE MINING.

IRON MINING.

ALTHOUGH a slight increase was shown in the number of workpeople employed, chiefly in the Cumberland and Lancashire district, there was no appreciable improvement in employment during August. In the Cleveland district it was still bad. Comparison with a year ago, however, shows very considerable improvement.

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

Table with 10 columns: Districts, Number of Workpeople employed at Mines included in the Returns, Average No. of Days worked per week by the Mines, Fort-night ended 25th Aug., 1923, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago, Year ago, Fort-night ended 25th Aug., 1922, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago, Year ago, Days, Days, Days.

SHALE MINING.

Employment continued fair. At mines employing 4,319 workpeople in the fortnight ended 25th August practically no change was shown in the total number employed, as compared with the previous month, but there was a decrease of 0.9 per cent. as compared with August, 1922. The average number of days* worked per week by the mines was 5.94 in August, 1923, 5.89 in July, 1923, and 5.93 in August, 1922.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during August showed a further decline, and was slack. It was much better, however, than a year ago.

The total number of furnaces in blast at the end of August, as shown by returns collected by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, was 196, compared with 206 at the end of July and 126 at the end of August, 1922.

Returns received by the Federation from 83 firms, employing 20,379 workpeople at the end of August, showed a decrease of 6.7 per cent. compared with the number employed at the end of July, but an increase of 19.5 per cent. compared with August, 1922.

The following Table shows the total number of furnaces in blast at the end of August, 1923, July, 1923, and August, 1922, according to returns collected by the Federation:—

Table with 8 columns: District, Total Number of Furnaces, Number of Furnaces in Blast at end of August, 1923, July, 1923, August, 1922, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in August, on a Month ago, Year ago.

The production of pig iron in August amounted to 599,800 tons, as compared with 655,100 tons in July and 411,700 tons in August, 1922.

* See * footnote in previous column.

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

EMPLOYMENT in iron and steel works during August was generally speaking moderate and was considerably better than a year ago.

According to returns received from firms employing 69,389 workpeople, the volume of employment during the week ended 25th August (as indicated by the number of workpeople employed at each works, combined with the number of shifts during which work was carried on in each case) was equal to that of the previous month, and showed an increase of 23.1 per cent., as compared with a year ago.

Table with 11 columns: DEPARTMENTS, No. of Workpeople employed by firms making returns, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a year ago, Aggregate number of Shifts, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a year ago. Rows include Open Hearth Melting Furnaces, Bessemer Converters, etc.

The production of steel ingots and castings in August, as returned to the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, amounted to 582,700 tons, compared with 624,300 tons in July, and with 520,800 tons in August, 1922.

TINPLATE AND STEEL SHEET TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in these trades continued good, on the whole, during August, but showed a further decline in the tinplate section.

Among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts, the number registered as unemployed was 1,681 at 27th August, 1923, compared with 1,066 at 23rd July, 1923.

Table with 7 columns: Works, Number of Works Open, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a month ago, Number of Mills in Operation, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a month ago. Rows include Tinplate, Steel Sheet, and TOTAL.

* The figures relate to the number of shifts during which the work was in operation, allowance being made for the numbers of men employed. No account is taken of the time lost by individuals owing to absenteeism, &c., and it is not implied that the number of shifts shown was actually worked by all the men employed.

The exports of tinned and galvanised plates and sheets in August, 1923, amounted to 83,585 tons, or 3,065 tons more than in July, 1923, but 636 tons less than in August, 1922.

ENGINEERING.

EMPLOYMENT in this industry remained bad during August. At many works the normal holiday periods were extended. The textile machinery and marine engineering sections were still very depressed, and the seasonal decline in the motor section continued.

The following Table shows the number of workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts who were unemployed at 27th August, 1923. For an explanation of the method of compiling the figures, see page 335.

Table with 11 columns: Divisions, Number of Insured Contributors Unemployed 27th August, 1923, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with 23rd July, 1923. Rows include London, South Eastern, Midlands, etc.

On the North-East Coast employment continued very bad no general improvement being reported. Large numbers of men were unemployed or on short time, especially in the marine engineering section, which showed a further decline in consequence of the shipbuilding dispute.

At Nottingham conditions were still quiet, and showed little general change; in Lincolnshire a decline was reported at some centres. At Derby the railway works remained busy and in the motor section employment was fairly good, but in general engineering it was bad.

At Norwich and Chelmsford employment remained fair, and there was some improvement at Ipswich, but at other centres in the Eastern Counties conditions were still slack.

In Scotland conditions remained very unfavourable, and in the marine engineering section employment was worse than in the previous month, partly owing to the continuance of the dispute in the shipbuilding industry.

SHIPBUILDING.

EMPLOYMENT in the shipbuilding and ship-repairing industries continued very bad during August. There was some improvement on repair work, but on new work employment showed a decline.

of the Shipbuilding Employers' Federation continued throughout the month, and the number of other workpeople rendered idle by the dispute further increased (see p. 336), some yards being entirely closed and others almost at a standstill.

In districts not involved in the dispute employment on repair work was moderate on the whole. On the Mersey it remained fair. At the Bristol Channel ports it continued to improve, but was still unsatisfactory.

The following Table shows the number of workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts who were unemployed at 27th August, 1923. For an explanation of the method of compiling the figures see p. 335.

Table with 3 columns: Divisions, Total number of insured contributors unemployed 27th August, 1923, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with 23rd July, 1923. Rows include London, South Eastern, etc.

COTTON TRADE.

DURING August employment continued very depressed in all sections of the industry, except in that portion of the spinning section in which Egyptian cotton is used, which continued to be well employed.

Among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts the number registered as unemployed was 123,916 at 27th August, compared with 122,895 at 23rd July, 1923.

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

Table with 10 columns: DEPARTMENTS, Number of Workpeople, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a month ago, Total Wages paid to all Workpeople, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a month ago. Rows include Preparing, Spinning, Weaving, etc.

Returns from firms employing 8,893 workpeople in the Oldham district showed that, during the four weeks ended 25th August, nearly one-half of these workpeople were on full time, about a quarter were working half time, and the remainder were losing time in various other forms.

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

57 per cent. were on short time, to the extent of thirteen hours a week on the average.

In the Oldham, Ashton and Stockport districts employment in the spinning section continued very bad, although there was some improvement in Oldham and Ashton as compared with July; extended stoppages for the holidays took place.

In all the principal weaving districts, including Blackburn, Burnley, Preston and Darwen, employment continued very bad. There was much short time and unemployment, and some of those who were still working were engaged upon less than the normal number of looms.

The imports (less re-exports) of raw cotton (including cotton linters) were 46,470,900 lbs. in August, 1923, compared with 35,385,500 lbs. in the previous month and with 74,876,300 lbs. in August, 1922.

The exports of cotton yarn were 12,802,800 lbs. in August, 1923, compared with 9,514,400 lbs. in July, 1923, and 15,408,500 lbs. in August, 1922.

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

DURING August employment continued bad, and on the whole was worse than in July. It showed no improvement in the woollen trade, and a further decline in the worsted trade.

Among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts the number registered as unemployed was 30,506 on the 27th August, compared with 25,536 on the 23rd July, 1923.

WOOLLEN TRADE.

Employment continued bad. In the Huddersfield district one or two firms were busy at the end of the month, getting out orders before the holidays, but most of the works were on short time; in one part of the district, where the trade holidays fell in August, they were extended from the usual week to a fortnight.

In Scotland the position varied greatly from one firm to another; on the whole there was a further decline, and the output was much below the normal.

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

Table with 9 columns: Departments, Number of Workpeople, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a month ago, Total Wages paid to all Workpeople, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a month ago. Rows include Wool Sorting, Spinning, Weaving, etc.

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

Returns from firms employing 14,652 workpeople in the week ended August 25th showed that about 31 per cent. of these workpeople were on short time to the extent of about 12 hours a week on the average.

WORSTED TRADE.

Employment was bad, and showed a further decline in all the principal departments. Much short time was reported.

With wool sorters and combers employment was bad, worse than a month earlier, and much worse than in August of last year; practically all the mills were running short time. There was also a decline in the spinning and in the weaving department; spinners of the finest ("botany") wool, and workpeople engaged in weaving departments making fine cloths were particularly slack.

In the Bradford district there was more unemployment and slack time in August than in July. There was also a further marked decline in the Huddersfield district: the worsted trade (and especially the fine worsted trade) in this district was in a much worse position than the woollen trade. Short time was also general in the weaving department at Halifax.

Table showing Employment, Total Wages paid to all Workpeople, and Departmental details for the Worsted Trade. Includes columns for Week ended 25th Aug. 1923, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, and Year ago.

Returns from firms employing 25,882 workpeople in the week ended August 25th showed that about 33 per cent. of these workpeople were working short time to the extent of about 16 hours a week on the average.

The imports (less re-exports) of raw wool (sheep or lambs) were 13,182,100 lbs. in August, 1923, compared with 10,709,000 lbs. in July, 1923, and 70,167,700 lbs. in August, 1922.

The exports of woollen and worsted yarns were 4,004,800 lbs., compared with 3,796,200 lbs. in July, 1923, and 4,333,800 lbs. in August, 1922.

The exports of woollen and worsted tissues were 19,016,400 square yards, compared with 20,236,600 square yards in July, 1923, and 17,525,900 square yards in August, 1922.

The exports of blankets were 116,984 pairs, 88,443 pairs and 61,457 pairs in August, 1923, July, 1923, and August, 1922, respectively.

BOOT AND SHOE INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT showed little general change in August, and was very slack on the whole, with much short time. During the first few days of the month there was some increased activity in a few districts, resulting from orders due to the holiday season; but the ensuing holidays were very frequently extended to ten days or even longer.

Among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts the number registered as unemployed was 15,644 on the 27th August, as compared with 15,047 on the 23rd July, 1923.

Employment in London showed a further decline, and was much worse than last year. At Leicester employment was slack, and about the same as in July; extended holidays were common. At Hinckley a slight improvement was recorded. There was little change at Northampton; short time working was fairly general, and the holidays were extended in many cases. Employment was poor at Kettering and at Wellingborough; few of the factories at Kettering were on full time. In the Higham and Rushden and Irthlingborough districts the holidays were extended to ten days, or in some cases a fortnight. At Leeds there was a decline, and employment was bad on the whole, though some firms engaged in the heavy boot trade were well employed. At Norwich employment improved in some sections of the trade and declined in others; on the whole it was slack, with 50 per cent. of the workpeople losing from one-quarter to one-half time; the trade holidays were extended in many cases. Employment at Stafford remained slack. In the Bristol and Kingswood district it showed a further improvement, but most of the factories were still working only a little more than half time.

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

Employment at Arbroath was bad, and worse than in July; while at Glasgow and at Kilmarnock there was also a decline. There was no change at Ayr and at Edinburgh, but an improvement at Maybole.

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

Table showing Employment, Total Wages paid to all Workpeople, and Districtal details. Includes columns for Week ended 25th Aug. 1923, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, and Year ago.

Returns from firms employing 40,172 workpeople in the week ended 25th August, 1923, showed that about 43 per cent. of these workpeople worked short time in that week to the extent of thirteen hours each on an average.

The exports of boots and shoes in August, 1923, amounted to 99,411 dozen pairs, or 2,004 dozen pairs more than in July, 1923, and 24,461 dozen pairs more than in August, 1922.

BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION OF WORKS.

EMPLOYMENT in these trades, taken as a whole, was generally fair during August, and again showed an improvement in a number of districts, particularly in London. It was reported as very good in certain districts, including Harrogate, Huddersfield, Mansfield, Oxford, West Middlesex, North-West Surrey, Eastbourne, Bournemouth and Exeter, and a little overtime was worked at some centres; on the other hand, it was reported as bad or very slack in some districts, including Grimsby, Carlisle and Chatham, and slack or quiet at certain other centres, short time being worked in a few cases.

Employment showed some improvement, on the whole, with each of the skilled classes of operatives except painters, and in a number of districts a shortage of skilled labour, particularly bricklayers, was again reported. Employment was good in most districts with bricklayers and masons, fairly good with carpenters and joiners, and generally fair with plasterers; it declined a little with painters, but continued fair in most districts; with plumbers it was generally moderate, and it continued bad with builders' labourers and workpeople on construction of works.

The following Table shows the number of workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts who were unemployed at 27th August, 1923, and the increase or decrease in the numbers as compared with 23rd July. For an explanation of the method of compiling the figures, see page 335.

Table showing Number of Insured Contributors Unemployed at 27th August, 1923, broken down by Divisions and Construction of Works. Includes columns for Building, Construction of Works, Total, and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with 23rd July, 1923.

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

BRICK TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT in the brick trade during August continued fairly good on the whole; there was little change as compared with the previous month, but a considerable improvement on a year ago. It was reported as very good at Peterborough and Oxford, and as good generally in the East Midland and Eastern Counties, but as very slack at Brierley Hill.

Among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts, the number registered as unemployed in the brick, pipe, tile, etc., trades was 4,517 at 27th August, 1923, compared with 4,655 at 23rd July, 1923.

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

Table showing Employment, Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople, and Districtal details for the Brick Trade. Includes columns for Week ended 25th Aug. 1923, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, and Year ago.

Returns from firms employing 6,104 workpeople show that only about 3 per cent. of the workpeople were on short time, to the extent of 11 hours on the average, during the week ended 25th August.

POTTERY TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in the pottery trades continued slack generally during August, and a decline was reported as compared with the previous month. In the sanitary earthenware and tile sections of the trade, however, it was good. At Poole employment was reported as exceptionally good, at Derby and Worcester as fairly good, and at Bristol as fair.

Among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts the number registered as unemployed was 10,541 at 27th August, 1923, compared with 9,520 at 23rd July, 1923.

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

Table showing Employment, Total Wages paid to all Workpeople, and Branch/Districtal details for the Pottery Trades. Includes columns for Week ended 25th Aug. 1923, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, and Year ago.

Returns from employers relating to short time working showed that of 10,890 workpeople employed, 29 per cent. were working, on an average, about 14 hours less than full time in the week ended 25th August, 1923.

SEAMEN.

EMPLOYMENT with seamen during August was moderate on the whole. It showed a slight improvement as compared with the previous month, but at the majority of the ports large numbers of men still failed to obtain engagements.

On the Thames the demand for men was quiet during the first half of August, and brisk afterwards. Employment was very quiet on the Tyne and on the Wear. It was fair at Hull and at Southampton. The demand at Bristol and Avonmouth remained quiet. At Newport it declined, and was reported as quiet at the end of the month. It was fair at Cardiff early in August, but fell off subsequently. Employment at Swansea declined, and was moderate at the end of the month. In the foreign-going trade on the Mersey it was moderate.

On the Clyde there was a decline early in the month, but employment showed a considerable improvement afterwards. At the end of the month employment was very quiet at Leith and Belfast.

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

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

Table showing Number of Seamen* shipped in British registered foreign-going vessels at principal ports. Includes columns for Principal Ports, August 1923, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago, and Eight months ended August 1922.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

EMPLOYMENT among dock labourers during August was moderate on the whole.

London.—In London employment was affected by the strike during the first half of the month. The following Table shows the average daily number of dock labourers employed at the docks and at the principal wharves in each week of the month:—

Table showing Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London. Includes columns for Period, In Docks, At Wharves making Returns, and Total Docks and Principal Wharves.

Tilbury.—The mean daily number of dock labourers employed in August was 1,949, as compared with 943 in the previous month, and with 922 in August, 1922.

East Coast.—With coal trimmers on the Tyne and Wear and at Blyth employment continued good; with other classes of workers it was fair on the whole, and better than in July. At Middlesbrough a further decline occurred, but at Hartlepool employment continued good. At other East Coast ports it was fair generally.

Western and Southern Ports.—At Liverpool employment was fair, and somewhat better than in the previous month. The average weekly number of dock labourers registered at the Clearing Houses under the Liverpool Docks Scheme, as employed in the four weeks ended 27th August, was 15,049, compared with 14,783 in the five weeks ended 30th July, and with 13,928 in the corresponding period of last year.

At Manchester employment was fairly active on account of the arrears of work accumulated after the dispute.

At the South Wales ports employment was slack. At Swansea, however, it continued good. At Southampton employment was fairly good. At Plymouth it was slack, and at other South-Western ports it continued fair.

Scottish and Irish Ports.—At Glasgow employment was moderate. It was fair and better than in July at Dundee and Belfast.

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

† Including Avonmouth and Fortishead.

‡ Including Barry and Penarth.

§ These figures were affected by the strike of dock workers.

TRADE DISPUTES.*

Number, Magnitude and Duration.—The number of trade disputes involving a stoppage of work, reported to the Department as beginning in August in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was 45, as compared with 37 in the previous month and 32 in August, 1922. In these new disputes, approximately 6,000 workpeople were directly involved, and 2,300 indirectly involved (i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, though not themselves parties to the disputes). In addition, about 59,000 workpeople were involved, either directly or indirectly, in 28 disputes which began before August, and were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The number of new and old disputes was thus 73, involving approximately 68,000 workpeople, and resulting in a loss during August of about 1,200,000 working days. The dispute involving members of the United Society of Boilermakers and Iron and Steel Shipbuilders in federated shipyards, which began on 30th April, continued throughout August. The strike of dock workers which began in July and was still in progress in London at the beginning of August, was settled on 20th August. A settlement was also effected in the case of the protracted dispute in the Dundee jute industry.

The following Table analyses the disputes in progress in August by groups of industries:—

Groups of Industries.	Number of Disputes in progress in August.			Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress in August.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress in August.
	Started before 1st August.	Started in August.	Total.		
Building	5	5	10	1,000	16,000
Mining & Quarrying	2	7	9	8,000	80,000
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding	7	6	13	37,000	856,000
Textile	1	5	6	1,000	14,000
Transport	2	6	8	19,000	214,000
Other Trades	11	16	27	2,000	20,000
Total, August, 1923	28	45	73	68,000	1,200,000
Total, July, 1923	37	37	74	95,000	1,665,000
Total, August, 1922	35	32	67	31,000	312,000

Causes.—Of the 45 disputes beginning in August, 11, directly involving 1,500 workpeople, arose out of proposed reductions in

PRINCIPAL TRADE DISPUTES IN PROGRESS DURING AUGUST, 1923.

Occupations and Locality. §	Approximate Number of Workpeople Involved.		Date when Dispute		Cause or Object. §	Result. §
	Directly.	Indirectly. §	Began.	Ended.		
MINING AND QUARRYING:— Coal miners, etc.—Whitehaven (near).	2,423		1923. 15 May	1923. 6 Sept.	Dispute as to proposed change in method of working and alterations in rates of wages of heavers.	Work resumed pending arbitration.
Coal miners, etc.—Newcastle-on-Tyne (near)	1,300		11 June	10 Aug.	Refusal to work with certain men who had left the Miners' Association and joined the Deputies' Association.	Some of the men in question rejoined the Miners' Association. Subsequently the miners decided to resume work so far as working places remained available.
Coal miners, etc.—Cardiff (near) .	2,000		2 Aug.	4 Aug.	Refusal to work with non-members of the South Wales Miners' Federation.	Non-members joined the Federation.
METAL, ENGINEERING, AND SHIPBUILDING:— Platers, riveters, caulkers, etc. (shipbuilding and repairing) and other workpeople—Federated Districts. ||	10,000¶	24,000¶	30 April	..	Lock-out to enforce acceptance of an Agreement governing overtime and night-shift working made between the Employers' Federation and the Federation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades.	No settlement reported.
Patternmakers (light castings manufacture) — Falkirk and other centres.	350		30 July	23 Aug.	Strike in Falkirk and Luton districts against proposed reduction in wages, followed by lock-out of members of the United Patternmakers' Association employed at other centres by firms affiliated to the National Light Castings Ironfounders' Federation.	Reduction in wages in Falkirk and Luton districts to take effect by two instalments.
TEXTILE TRADES:— Jute workers—Dundee.	900**		23 Feb.	29 Aug.	Dispute respecting the number of spinners to be employed on certain frames at one establishment.	(See page 324.)
TRANSPORT:— Dock labourers, lightermen, etc.—London††	18,000††		3 July	20 Aug.	Against reduction in minimum wage of 1s. per day, with corresponding reduction in piece-work rates, in accordance with terms of national agreement of September, 1922. (See page 239 of July GAZETTE and page 280 of August GAZETTE.)	Work resumed on terms of the national agreement.
Canal boatmen, carters, warehousemen, and other workpeople.—Birmingham, Midlands, London, Ellesmere Port, etc.	617	67	13 Aug.	..	Against proposed reduction in wages of canal boatmen.	No settlement reported.
OTHER TRADES:— Sawyers, wood-cutting machinists and labourers.—Belfast.	300		6 Aug.	11 Aug.	For advance in wages	Modified advance granted.

* Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople, and those which lasted less than one day, have, as usual, been omitted from the statistics, except where the aggregate duration (i.e. number of workpeople multiplied by number of working days, allowing for workpeople replaced by others, etc.) exceeded 100 days.
† In making up the totals for the several months of the year the figures have been amended in accordance with the most recent information. Workpeople involved in more than one dispute are counted more than once in the totals; the extent of such duplication is, however, very slight.
‡ Two disputes which together involved about 350,000 workpeople occurred in 1922 in the engineering and shipbuilding industries.
§ 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.
¶ The districts involved include the Clyde, East Scotland, North-East Coast, Hull, Southampton, Birkenhead, and Barrow.
** Estimated numbers involved by the end of August, exclusive of workpeople unemployed when the stoppage began.
*** Estimated number involved in August. For numbers involved at earlier dates see the article on page 324.
†† In July other ports were also involved (see GAZETTES for July and August).
‡‡ Estimated number.

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* the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation in August in Great Britain and Northern Ireland resulted in an aggregate increase of nearly £24,000 in the weekly full-time wages of nearly 250,000 workpeople, and in a reduction of £14,000 in the weekly wages of over 180,000 workpeople. The groups of industries principally affected are as follows:—

Group of Industries.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by		Amount of Changes in Weekly Wages.	
	Increases.	Decreases.	Increases.	Decreases.
Iron and Steel	147,000	350	£ 16,300	£ 35
Other Metal	31,000	13,750	2,100	1,050
Textile	56,000	250	3,900	10
Public Utility Services	96,000	—	6,000	—
Other	15,000	72,500	1,200	6,900
Total	249,000	182,850	23,900	13,995

In the iron and steel group, steel smelters and millmen in various districts in England and Scotland had their wages increased by 5 per cent. on standard rates (generally equivalent to an increase of about 3½ per cent. on current rates), and in consequence of this change there were also increases in the wages of a large number of subsidiary workers in iron and steel works. The current rates of iron puddlers and iron and steel millmen in the Midlands and of steel sheet millmen generally were increased by about 5 per cent., while there was an increase of 5 per cent. on the standard rates of Siemens steel workers in South and West Wales (equivalent to nearly 3½ per cent. on current rates in the case of the lower-paid men).

In the other metal group there was an increase of nearly 3½ per cent. on current rates in the wages of tinsplate workers in South Wales and Monmouthshire. There were decreases of varying amounts in the wages of certain classes of workpeople in the Thames ship repairing industry, and in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts for women and girls in the stamped or pressed metal wares trade.

The principal change in the textile group was an increase of 1d. on each shilling earned in the bonus of hosiery workers in the Midlands. There were also increases in the wages of hosiery bleachers, dyers, etc., amounting in the case of adult time-workers to ¼d. or ½d. per hour.

In the public utility services there was a decrease of 1s. per week in the wages of tramway workers in most of the principal towns in Great Britain. Workpeople employed in the non-trading departments of various local authorities in the London district had their bonuses reduced, and reductions in wages were also sustained by similar classes in Northumberland and Durham, and by employees of electricity supply undertakings in the North-Western Counties of England, and in Scotland.

In trades other than the above the principal reductions affected men employed in flour mills, iron ore miners in Cumberland, heavy chemical workers in Scotland, leather belt makers, and furniture trade operatives in London and at Manchester. Furniture trade operatives at High Wycombe received an increase in wages.

Under the Trade Boards Acts there were decreases (in addition to those mentioned above) in the minimum rates fixed for workpeople in the hair, bass and fibre and the made-up textile trades in Great Britain and for certain classes in the dress-making and women's light clothing trade in Scotland and the hat, cap and millinery trade in Northern Ireland.

Of the decreases taking effect in August, twenty-four, amounting to nearly £9,100 per week, took effect under cost of living sliding scales; thirteen, amounting to £6,700 per week, were arranged by joint standing bodies of employers and workpeople (including £6,350 under cost of living sliding scales, incorporated above); five, amounting to £2,700 per week, took effect under Trade Board Orders; two, amounting to £500 per week, took effect under sliding scales based on selling prices; six, amounting to £130 per week, were arranged by arbitration; and the remaining eighteen cases, amounting to £1,230 per week, were arranged by direct negotiation between the parties, or by individual action on the part of employers. Reductions preceded by disputes causing stoppages of work accounted for less than £120 per week. Of the increases in wages, fifty, amounting to £19,300 per week, took effect under sliding scales based on selling prices or the proceeds of the industry; eight, amounting to over £4,400 per week, took effect under cost of living sliding scales; and the remaining six were arranged by direct negotiation or by a joint standing body.

Summary of Changes in January—August, 1923.

The following Table shows the number of workpeople in Great Britain and Northern Ireland affected by changes in rates of wages reported to the Department during the eight completed months of 1923:—

Group of Industries.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by net		Net Amount of Change in Weekly Wages.	
	Increases.	Decreases.	Increases.	Decreases.
Building	2,900	464,000	£ 590	£ 74,900
Mining and Quarrying	923,000	16,000	257,300	2,500
Iron and Steel	145,000	5,000	32,000	1,000
Engineering and Shipbuilding	5,000	155,000	550	27,300
Other Metal	29,000	143,000	3,000	26,600
Textile	300	190,000	60	17,900
Clothing	1,000	541,000	30	85,800
Transport	2,750	730,000	275	120,700
Paper, Printing, &c.	—	163,000	—	19,000
Furniture and Woodworking	100	54,000	15	11,400
Chemical, Glass, Brick, Pottery, &c.	200	123,000	30	20,500
Food, Drink and Tobacco	100	239,000	10	32,600
Public Utility Services	1,850	299,000	200	48,000
Other	—	107,000	—	14,600
Total	1,116,200	3,229,000	294,050	502,800

In the corresponding eight months of 1922 there was a net reduction of over £3,600,000 in the weekly wages of 7,500,000 workpeople, and a net increase of nearly £3,500 in the wages of 18,000 workpeople.

Hours of Labour.

No important changes were reported in August.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING AUGUST, 1923.

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics).
Building	Gravesend, Northfleet and District	23 Aug.	Building trade operatives ..	Increase of 1d. per hour for craftsmen (1s. 4½d. to 1s. 5½d.) and ½d. per hour for labourers (1s. 0½d. to 1s. 1½d.).
	Aberystwyth	1 Aug.	Building trade operatives ..	Decrease of ½d. per hour. Rates after change: craftsmen, 1s. 4d.; labourers, 1s.
	Aberdeen	21 Aug.	Plumbers	Decrease of 1d. per hour (1s. 8d. to 1s. 7d.).
	Dundee and District	16 July	Plumbers	Decrease of 1d. per hour (1s. 8d. to 1s. 7d.). (See Decision No. 837 on p. 349.)
Building	Douglas and District (Isle of Man)	1st pay day in Aug.	Bricklayers, masons, carpenters and joiners, plumbers, plasterers and painters	Decrease of ½d. per hour (1s. 4d. to 1s. 3½d.).
	MINING AND QUARRYING.			
Coal Mining	Radstock	30 Aug.	Workpeople employed in or about coal mines, other than those workpeople whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries	Increase of 0.64 per cent. on standard base rates of 1918, making wages 36.52 per cent. above the standard of 1918.

* The particulars of numbers affected and amount of change in weekly wages exclude changes affecting Government employees, police, agricultural labourers, domestic servants, shop assistants and clerks, for which classes the information available is not sufficient to provide a basis for statistics. Where information is available, however, details of general changes in the current rates of wages of agricultural labourers, shop assistants and clerks, are included in the list of principal changes reported. The statistics relate to full-time rates of wages, and do not take into account the effect of short time working.
† In addition to the numbers quoted, wages stand at the same level as at the beginning of the year in the case of 120,000 workpeople (mainly in the iron and steel and textile trades) whose wages have been both increased and reduced during the year.
‡ The change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING AUGUST, 1923—(continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
MINING AND QUARRYING—(continued).				
Coke and By-products Manufacture	West Yorkshire ...	1 Aug.	Cokemen and by-product workers	Increase* of 10.25 per cent. on standard base rates, making wages 60.60 per cent. above the standard. Rates after change: coke fillers, 6s. 2d. per day; rammen and pipe fitters, 6s.; trammers, daubers, winchmen, coke screeners, scrubbers, 5s. 9d.; pug mill men and labourers, 5s. 4d., plus in each case 60.60 per cent.
	South Wales ...	1 Aug.	Cokemen and by-product workers	Increase of 2½ per cent. on standard base rates of 1916 and 1917, making wages 25 to 35 per cent. above the standard.†
Iron Mining	Cumberland ...	20 Aug.	Winding enginemen ... Other underground and surface workers	Decrease* of 4½d. per shift (9s. 9½d. to 9s. 5d.). Decrease* of 3d. per shift for men and of 1½d. per shift for boys under 16 years of age. Rates after change: underground 1st class or leading labourers, 6s. 10d. per shift; blacksmiths, 9s. 7d. per shift.
	North Lincolnshire	5 Aug.	Ironstone miners and quarrymen	Increase* of 7½ per cent. on standard rates of 1909, making wages 50½ per cent. above the standard, plus 1s. 1d. per shift.
Quarrying	West Cumberland	13 Aug.	Limestone quarrymen ...	Decrease* of 3d. per shift for blacksmiths and joiners, of 4½d. per shift for other men, and of 2½d. per shift for boys under 16 years. Rates after change: day borers (1st class), 8s. 9½d.; day labourers, 8s. 1½d.; ruddmen, 7s. 7½d. per shift.
	South-West of England†	1st pay in June	Roadstone quarryworkers ...	Decrease* of 4d. per hour. Minimum rate after change for labourers, 11d. per hour.
IRON AND STEEL MANUFACTURE.				
Pig Iron Manufacture	North Lincolnshire	5 Aug.	Blastfurnacemen ...	Increase* of 7½ per cent. on standard rates of 1909, making wages 50½ per cent. above the standard. Minimum rate after change for labourers, 5s. 8d. per shift, plus 50½ per cent., plus 1s. 1d. per shift.
			Engineers, electricians, apprentices, improvers, etc., employed on maintenance work at ironstone mines, at blast-furnaces, and in steel works	Increase* of 4 per cent. on standard rates, making wages 35½ per cent. above the standard plus a tonnage bonus. Rates after change: patternmakers, 44s.; boiler-smiths, 43s.; fitters, turners, smiths, electricians and armature winders, 42s.; machinemen (millers, borers, planers, etc.), 30s. to 38s.; strikers (after one year's service), 32s. 6d.; plus, in each case, 35½ per cent., plus a tonnage bonus.
Iron and Steel Manufacture	England and West of Scotland‡	5 Aug.	Men employed in steel smelting shops:— Melters, pitmen, slagmen, lademen, furnace helpers, etc., and gas producermen and charge wheelers	Increase* under sliding scale, of 5 per cent. on the standard of 1905, making wages 38½ per cent. (basic process) and 13½ per cent. (acid process) above the standard.
			Semi-skilled workers and labourers:— Men on 8-hour shifts§ ... Men whose wages are based on a 47-hour week¶	Increase* of 5 per cent. on standard rates of 1921, making wages 39½ per cent. above the standard. Increase* of ½ of the total amount of advance in wages given between August, 1914, and 30 April, 1921, making the total decrease in such advance since 1 May, 1921, about 80 per cent.
Iron and Steel Manufacture	England and West of Scotland	5 Aug.	Roll turners ...	Increase* of ½ of the total amount of advance in wages given between August, 1914, and 30 April, 1921, making the total decrease in such advance since 1 May, 1921, about 80 per cent.
	England and Wales Certain districts in England**	5 Aug.	Steel sheet millmen ...	Increase* of 3 per cent. on standard rates, making wages 70 per cent. above the standard of 1891.
Iron and Steel Manufacture	North of England	5 Aug.	Bricklayers employed at blast-furnaces and in iron and steel works	Increase* of 5 per cent. on basis rate, making wages 11.375d. per hour, plus 38½ per cent., plus a tonnage bonus.
			Semi-skilled workers, labourers, etc., in puddling forges and rolling mills:— Men on 8-hour shifts§ ... Men whose wages are based on a 47-hour week¶	Increase* of 5 per cent. on standard rates, making wages 33½ per cent. above the standard. Increase* of ½ of the total amount of advance in wages given between August, 1914, and 30 April, 1921, making the total decrease in such advance since 1 May, 1921, about 80 per cent.
Iron and Steel Manufacture	Tees-side (certain works)	5 Aug.	Engineers, electricians, strikers, motor attendants, arc lamp trimmers, boiler-makers, patternmakers, employed at blast-furnaces and in iron and steel works	Increase* of ½ of the total amount of advance in wages given between August, 1914, and 30 April, 1921, making the total decrease in such advance since 1 May, 1921, about 80 per cent.
			Bricklayers' labourers at blast-furnaces and in iron and steel works	Increase* of 0.40d. per hour (9.85d. to 10.25d.).
Iron and Steel Manufacture	Workington ...	5 Aug.	Men employed on direct production in steel rolling mills	Increase* of 5 per cent. on standard rates, making wages 38½ per cent. above the standard.
	Barrow-in-Furness	6 Aug.	Steel millmen, engineers' labourers and general labourers	Increase* of 5 per cent. on standard rates, making wages 38½ per cent. above the standard.
Iron and Steel Manufacture	Shotton ...	5 Aug.	Engineers employed at steel works	Increase* of 5 per cent. on standard rate, making rate 42s. per week, plus 38½ per cent., plus a tonnage bonus.
			Wire and hoop millmen ...	Increase* of 7½ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 57½ per cent. above the standard.
Iron and Steel Manufacture	Shotton ...	5 Aug.	Steel melters, gas producermen, steel rolling mill workers, etc., and semi-skilled and unskilled workmen	Increase* of 5 per cent. on standard rates, making wages 28½ per cent. above the standard, plus an additional 20 per cent. to those with a base rate of not more than 30s. per week, an additional 6d. per shift to those with a base rate of 30s. 1d. to 40s. per week, and an additional 4d. per shift to those with a base rate of 40s. 1d. to 50s. per week.

* This change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with selling prices.
 † The above increase was given under the terms of an agreement by which it was decided that two reductions totalling 17½ per cent. which were made in December, 1921, and May, 1922, should be partially restored to the extent of 5 per cent. on 1st February, 5 per cent. on 1st May, and 2½ per cent. on 1st August, 1923.
 ‡ Including Berkshire, Cornwall, Devonshire, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Oxfordshire, Somerset, and Wiltshire.
 § This change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices.
 ¶ The change applied to firms who are members of the Iron and Steel Trades Employers' Association, those in England being situated principally in the North-East Coast district, Cumberland, Lancashire, South and West Yorkshire, Lincolnshire and the Midlands.
 †† The men on 8-hour shifts referred to are those who do not receive allowance hours and/or extra payment for night shift during the normal week. The men whose wages are based on a 47-hour week are mainly men in engineering shops or working with craftsmen who receive the allowance or extra payment mentioned.
 ** The change took effect under an arrangement made by the Iron and Steel Trades Employers' Association, the Cleveland Ironmasters' Association, the West Coast Ironmasters' Association, and the Lincolnshire Ironmasters' Association with the Amalgamated Union of Building Trade Workers.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING AUGUST, 1923—(continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
IRON AND STEEL MANUFACTURE—(continued).				
Iron and Steel Manufacture (contd.)	Scunthorpe ...	5 Aug.	Steel millmen, wagon builders and repairers, engineers' labourers and general labourers, etc. Bricklayers' and joiners' labourers	Increase* of 5 per cent. on standard rates, making wages 38½ per cent. above the standard. Increase* of 0.48d. per hour (9.86d. to 10.34d.).
	Midlands (including parts of South Yorkshire and North Lancashire)	6 Aug.	Iron puddlers and iron and steel millmen Non-scale workers (chiefly labourers, etc.)	Increase* of 7½ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 57½ per cent. above the standard. War bonus increased* by 1s. 6d. per week for men, 9d. per week for youths 18 to 21 years of age, and 4½d. per week for boys under 18.
Iron and Steel Manufacture (contd.)	South and West Wales	30 July	Locomotive drivers and shunters in Siemens steel works	Increase to a uniform basis rate of 8s. per shift for locomotive drivers and to 7s. for shunters.
		5 Aug.	Workpeople (excluding maintenance men) engaged in Siemens steel manufacture	Increase* of 5 per cent. on standard rates, making wages 23½ per cent. to those with a base rate of not more than 30s. per week, an additional 6d. per shift to those with a base rate of 30s. 1d. to 40s. per week, and an additional 4d. per shift to those with a base rate of 40s. 1d. to 50s. per week, and an additional 3d. per shift for boys under 18 years of age.
Iron and Steel Manufacture (contd.)	West of Scotland...	6 Aug.	Lower paid labourers in Siemens steel works	Basic rate increased from 7.35d. per hour to 7.66d. per hour plus the percentage and other additions mentioned above).
		5 Aug.	Men employed in steel rolling mills:— Millmen, gas producermen, enginemen, crane-men, firemen, etc. Semi-skilled workers and labourers	Increase* of 5 per cent. on standard rates, making wages 38½ per cent. above the standard. Increase* of ½ of the total amount of advance in wages given between August, 1914, and 30th April, 1921, making a total decrease in such advance since 1st May, 1921, about 80 per cent. Decrease of 4d. per hour (1s. 9d. to 1s. 8½d.).† Increase* of 0.36d. per hour (9.15d. to 9.49d.).
Engineering, etc.	Gravesend, Maidstone, Northfleet and Rochester†	1st pay after 18 Aug.	Bricklayers in steel works ... Bricklayers' labourers in steel works	Increase* of 5 per cent. on standard rates, making wages 38½ per cent. above the standard.
	London District § Burton-on-Trent ...	1st pay after 18 Aug. 1 July	Skilled millwrights ... Skilled moulders ... Ironmoulders and pattern-makers	Basis rate fixed at 4d. per hour above the basis rate for employment as a millwright, and at 1d. per hour above the rate for fitters and turners after serving continuously for six months as a millwright. Rate adopted for a 47-hour week of 1s. 1d. per hour, plus a war bonus of 10s. per week. See footnote below.
Ship Repairing	Thames District ...	1 Aug.	Shipwrights, blacksmiths, joiners, painters, sheet metal workers, french polishers, electricians' assistants, rivet heaters under 18 years, galley-men and tilers	Decrease of 1s. per week. Rates after change: shipwrights and blacksmiths, 65s. 6d.; painters, joiners and sheet metal workers, 65s.; french polishers, 64s. 6d.; electricians' assistants, 50s.; rivet heaters under 18 years, 27s. 9d.; galley-men and tilers, 58s. 6d.
			Riggers ...	Decrease of 2½d. per day (except Saturday). Rate after change: Saturday, 7s. 9d.; other weekdays, 11s. 2d.
Ship Repairing	Thames District ...	1 Aug.	Hammermen ... Platers, riveters, burners, welders and holders-up	Decrease of 1s. 2d. per week (54s. 6d. to 53s. 4d.). Decrease of 1s. per week for platers, riveters, burners and welders, and of 10d. per week for holders-up. Rates after change: platers, 82s. 10d.†; riveters, 75s. 7d.†; burners, 89s. 6d.; welders, 94s.; holders-up, 69s. 1d.†
			OTHER METAL TRADES.	
Tinplate Manufacture	South Wales and Monmouthshire	5 Aug.	Workpeople employed in tinplate manufacture (except maintenance craftsmen)	Increase* of 3½ per cent. on weekly base earnings, making, with the special temporary allowance of 7½ per cent. previously paid (which is to be continued), 11½ per cent. on weekly base earnings (which include 25 per cent. special bonus consolidated in 1920).
			Galvanising Iron and Steel Sheets	Increase* of 8 per cent. on standard rates, making wages 70 per cent. above the standard.
Cable Making	England and Wales (certain firms)** North District of England†† Scotland††	6 Aug.	Workpeople employed in galvanising departments (excluding process of annealing)	Decreases varying according to Zone of from 1s. 9d. to 2s. per week for plumber-jointers and jointers, and of 1s. 6d. or 1s. 5d. per week for jointers' mates. Decreases varying according to Zone of from 1s. 8.2d. to 1s. 11.12d. per week for plumber-jointers and jointers, and of from 1s. 3.22d. to 1s. 4.91d. per week for jointers' mates.
			1 Aug.	Plumber-jointers, jointers and jointers' mates employed in the electrical cable making industry	Decreases in the general minimum time rates and piecework basis time rates, fixed under Trade Boards Acts, as follows (see also p. 311 of August GAZETTE):— Decrease in time rates of 4d. per hour for those 15 years and over, and of 4d. per hour for those under 15 years; also a decrease of 4d. per hour (10½d. to 10d.) in the piecework basis time rate. Rates after change for timeworkers 18 years and over: 8d. during first 12 months' employment and 9d. afterwards. Decrease in time rates of 4d. per hour for those 15 years and over, and of 4d. per hour for those under 15 years; also a decrease of 4d. per hour (9½d. to 9d.) in the piecework basis time rate. Rates after change for timeworkers 18 years and over: 7d. during first 12 months' employment and 8d. afterwards.
Stamped or Pressed Metal Ware Manufacture	Great Britain ...	13 Aug.	Female workers employed in the stamped or pressed metal wares trade:— Polishers or drop stampers	Decrease in time rates of 4d. per hour for those 15 years and over, and of 4d. per hour for those under 15 years; also decreases in piecework basis time rates of 4d. per hour for those 15 years and over, and of 4d. per hour for those under 15 years. Rates after change for those 18 years and over: timework, 6½d.; piecework, 7½d.
			Hand brush japanners, or handbrush lacquerers who are capable of finishing all classes of work, blow-pipe braziers or solderers using ordinary hand iron or blow-pipe with bar strip or wire solder All other female workers not included above	Increase* of 2s. per week in the rates of wages of moulders and patternmakers at Burton-on-Trent as from 1st July. The Department has since been informed that the increase applied only to iron moulders and patternmakers, and not to brass moulders. † The rates for platers, riveters and holders-up include a speed allowance of 20 per cent. on basis rates. * Members of the Galvanising Conciliation Board. †† These changes took effect under arrangements made by the Joint Industrial Council for the Electrical Cable-Making Industry.

* This change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with selling prices.
 † See note on p. 296 of August GAZETTE.
 ‡ This change was arranged between the London and District Association of Engineering Employers and the Amalgamated Engineering Union.
 § The adoption of the above rate was the result of an agreement made by the London and District Association of Engineering Employers and the National Union of Foundry Workers, the Brassworkers and Metal Mechanics, the Amalgamated Society of Brassworkers and the London United Brass and General Metal Foundry, and applied to the area within a 12-mile radius of Charing Cross and such parts of the following towns as lie outside that area, viz.: Bexley Heath, Crayford, Dartford, Erith, Havre, Romford, Thames Ditton and Waltham.
 ¶ In the August issue of this GAZETTE particulars were given of an increase of 2s. per week in the rates of wages of moulders and patternmakers at Burton-on-Trent as from 1st July. The Department has since been informed that the increase applied only to iron moulders and patternmakers, and not to brass moulders.
 † The rates for platers, riveters and holders-up include a speed allowance of 20 per cent. on basis rates.
 * Members of the Galvanising Conciliation Board.
 †† These changes took effect under arrangements made by the Joint Industrial Council for the Electrical Cable-Making Industry.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING AUGUST, 1923—(continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
TEXTILE TRADES.				
Cotton Industry	Lancashire, Cheshire, Derbyshire, and West Riding of Yorkshire	Week ending 4 Aug.	Weavers employed in the cotton industry:— Cloths made with two kinds of twist	Addition to standard prices of 5 per cent. for weaving cloth with two kinds of twist (twist way and weft way), tinted or otherwise, both same counts; if woven on two beams the addition to be 10 per cent., to include payment for second beam. (This arrangement does not apply to selvages made in a similar manner).
		Week ending 2 June	Pickfinding	Addition to standard prices varying according to weft from 5 per cent. to 10 per cent. for pickfinding in plain cloths and from 5 per cent. to 12½ per cent. for pickfinding in two-and-two twill cloths.
Hosiery Manufacture	Various districts in Midland Counties*	Week beginning 20 Aug.	All classes of workpeople employed in the manufacture of hosiery (except dyers, trimmers, finishers, etc.)	Bonus of 7d. in the 1s. on earnings increased† to 8d. in the shilling.
Silk Dyeing and Finishing	Macclesfield ...	Pay day in week ending 18 Aug.	Male workers employed in the silk dyeing and finishing trades	Decreases‡ of 6d. per week for those 14 to 18½ years of age, of 9d. for those 19 to 20½ years, of 1s. for those 21 to 22 years, and of 1s. 3d. for those 22½ years of age. Rates after change: 15s. 6d. at 14 years, increasing to 49s. 6d. at 22½ years.
Calico Printing	Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Pay preceding 1st pay day in Sept.	Machine calico printers ...	Supplementary "cost of living" wage increased from 59.5 per cent. to 60.35 per cent. on basis wages, the flat-rate bonus of 10s. per week for journeymen and 9s. per week for apprentices remaining unchanged.
			Timeworkers	Increase‡ of ½d. per hour for dyers, scourers and trimmers, ½d. per hour for menders and for male and female auxiliary workers 18 years and over, and proportionate increases for auxiliary workers under 18; Rates after change: dyers and scourers, 1s. 3d.; trimmers, 1s. 6d.; auxiliary workers (Leicester, Loughborough and Hinckley): men 18 to 21, 10d., 21 and over, 1s. 2d.; women 18 and over, 9d.; qualified menders, 1d.
Hosiery Bleaching, Dyeing, and Finishing	Leicester, Loughborough, Nottingham, Derby and Hinckley	24 Aug.	Pieceworkers:— Trimmers (other than web trimmers and jersey trimmers)	Bonus of 50 per cent. on list prices, previously paid, increased† to 60 per cent.
			Web trimmers and jersey trimmers Dyers, scourers, menders, and other pieceworkers	Bonus of 32½ per cent. on list prices, previously paid, increased† to 40 per cent. Increase‡ of 1s. in £.
CLOTHING TRADES.				
Dressmaking and Women's Light Clothing Trade	Scotland	6 Aug.	Female learners employed in the retail branch (during 2nd, 3rd and 4th year of employment)	Decrease in the minimum time rates fixed, under the Trade Boards Acts, of ½d. or 3d. per hour. (See also p. 311 of August GAZETTE.)
			Workpeople (other than learners) employed in the hat, cap and millinery trade:— Male workers	Decreases in the minimum rates fixed, under the Trade Boards Acts, of the following amounts for the classes named respectively. (See also p. 350):— Decrease of ½d. to 1½d. per hour in time rates and 1½d. per hour in the piecework basis time rate (1s. 3½d. to 1s. 2d.). Minimum time rates after change: under 15 years, 2½d., increasing to 6½d. at 18 and to 1s. 0½d. at 22 and over.
Hat, Cap, and Millinery	Northern Ireland	20 Aug.	Female workers employed in the retail branch:— 22 years and over, with not less than 3 years' experience after learnership Workers (excluding homeworkers) under 22 years or having attained the age of 22 years have not had three years' experience after learnership Homeworkers	Decreases of 1½d. per hour in Class A§ areas, and of 1½d. per hour in Class B§ areas. Minimum time rates after change: Class A, 8½d.; Class B, 7½d. Decrease of 1d. per hour for Class A§ and 1½d. per hour for Class B§. Minimum time rates after change: Class A§, 7½d.; Class B, 6½d.
			Female workers employed in branches other than the retail branch: Tailors:— "Log" workers Timeworkers Pieceworkers (other than "log" workers)	Decrease of 1d. or 2d. per hour. Minimum time rates after change: Class A§, 7½d.; Class B§, 6½d. Decrease of 1d. per hour. Minimum time rates after change: knife cutters and blockers, 10d.; other workers (including homeworkers), 7d. Decrease of 5 per cent. in percentage payable on pre-war rates, leaving wages 100 per cent. above pre-war rates. Decrease of 2d. per hour (1s. 5d. to 1s. 3d.). Decrease of 2d. per hour in the piecework basis time rate (1s. 6½d. to 1s. 4½d.).
Tailoring	Bradford	Week ending 24 Mar. 1st pay day in July	Timeworkers	Decrease of 5 per cent. in percentage payable on pre-war rates, leaving wages 100 per cent. above pre-war rates.
			Pieceworkers (other than "log" workers)	Decrease of 2d. per hour (1s. 5d. to 1s. 3d.). Decrease of 2d. per hour in the piecework basis time rate (1s. 6½d. to 1s. 4½d.).
FURNITURE AND WOODWORKING TRADES.				
Furniture Manufacture	London	1 Aug.	Timeworkers:— Cabinet makers, wood-carvers, chairmakers, gluers, crampers-up, wood-cutting machinists and upholsterers French polishers (men), japaners and chair shapers French polishers (women) ... Operatives employed in the carpet and blind section Packers and porters (wholesale trade)	Decrease‡ of ½d. per hour. Rates after change: spindle and four-cutter hands, 1s. 9½d.; other classes, 1s. 8½d. Decrease‡ of ½d. per hour (1s. 8½d. to 1s. 8d.). Decrease‡ of ½d. per hour (1s. 1d. to 1s. 0½d.). Decrease‡ of ½d. per hour (1s. 8d. to 1s. 7½d.). Decrease‡ of ½d. per hour for those paid hourly rates, and 1s. 10d. per week for those paid weekly. Rates after change: packers, 1s. 4½d. per hour or 60s. 3d. per week; porters, 1s. 3d. per hour or 54s. 5d. per week.
			Learners, improvers and apprentices	Decrease‡ of 2-38 per cent. for those who have previously received advances pro rata to those granted from time to time to journeymen.
			Pieceworkers:— Upholsterers	Decrease‡ in total of agreed percentage payable on basic rate from 75 to 70-83, except for those employed by certain firms (see p. 315 of the June, 1921, issue of this GAZETTE), for whom the percentages payable are 10 per cent. plus 10 per cent. plus 70-83 per cent. (calculated cumulatively). Decrease‡ of 2-38 per cent. on existing rates.
			Operatives employed in the white enamelled (deal) section	Decrease‡ of 2-38 per cent. on existing rates.

* Viz.: Leicester, Loughborough, Nottingham, Mansfield, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Ilkeston, Derby, Hinckley, and Coventry districts.
† The change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices.
‡ It is understood that the increase did not apply to auxiliary workers at Nottingham.
§ Class A.—Workers employed within the areas of the County Boroughs of the Cities of Belfast and Londonderry. Class B.—Workers employed in other areas.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING AUGUST, 1923—(continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
FURNITURE AND WOODWORKING TRADES—(continued).				
Furniture Manufacture (cont.)	Manchester, Salford, Altrincham, Bolton and Stockport	1 Aug.	Furniture trade operatives ...	Decrease* of 1d. per hour for male workers and 1d. per hour for female workers, with proportionate decreases for apprentices and improvers. Rates after change: cabinet makers, chairmakers, carvers, machinists (after 4 years on machines), upholsterers, polishers, and mattress makers, 1s. 7d.; labourers, 1s. 2d.; glass workers—bevelers, silverers, and cutters, 1s. 7d.; brilliant cutters, 1s. 8d.; fitters, 1s. 5d.; packers, 1s. 4d.; upholsterers and female polishers, 11d.
	North-East Lancashire and Todmorden	1 Aug.	Cabinet makers, carvers, chair makers, upholsterers, polishers and machinists ...	Decrease* of ½d. per hour for journeymen (1s. 8d. to 1s. 7½d.), and of proportionate amounts for apprentices and improvers.
	Oltham	26 May 1 Aug.	Cabinet makers Upholsterers and french polishers	Decrease of 1d. per hour (1s. 8d. to 1s. 7d.). Decrease of 1d. per hour (1s. 8d. to 1s. 7d.).
	Wigan	1 Aug.	Cabinet makers, upholsterers, and french polishers	Decrease of 1d. per hour (1s. 8d. to 1s. 7d.).
	Birmingham and West Bromwich	Pay day in week ending 10 Aug.	Carpet and blind fitters ...	Decrease* of ½d. per hour (1s. 5d. to 1s. 4½d.).
			Journemen	Increase* of ½d. per hour. Rates after change: those engaged on skilled processes, 1s. 6d.; Windsor, cane, and cheap rush bottom chairmakers, packers, markers-out and benders, 1s. 5½d.
	High Wycombe ...	Pay day in week ending 25 Aug.	Labourers Apprentices	Increase* of ½d. per hour (1s. 1½d. to 1s. 2d.). Increase* of from 3d. to 10d. per week. Rates after change: 1st six months, 10s. 6d., increasing to 16s. 6d. during 4th six months and to 32s. during 6th six months. Decrease of 1d. per hour (1s. 8d. to 1s. 7d.).
Mill Sawing	Manchester, Salford and District, and Ashton-under-Lyne	26 May 23 July	Woodcutting machinists and sawyers	Decrease of ½d. per hour. Rates after change: timber yard labourers, slingers, and power driven crane drivers, 1s. 1½d.
	Sheffield and Rotherham	Week ending 1 Sept.†	Machinists, sawyers, etc. ...	Increase* of ½d. per hour. Rates after change: planing and moulding machinists, 1s. 5½d.; band and circular sawyers, 1s. 5d.; horizontal sawyers, 1s. 4½d.; deal frame sawyers, 1s. 4d.
	Scotland	Pay day in week ending 11 Aug.	Woodcutting machinists ...	Decrease of ½d. per hour for journeymen. Minimum rate after change for journeymen, 1s. 3½d.
Packing Case Making	Scotland (except Aberdeen)	Pay day in week ending 11 Aug.	Packing case makers and wood-cutting machinists employed in packing case shops	Decrease of ½d. per hour for journeymen and of ½d. per hour for apprentices. Rates after change: packing case makers: Glasgow, 1s. 3½d.; Edinburgh, Leith, Dunfermline, and Dundee, 1s. 2½d.; woodcutting machinists (all districts), 1s. 3½d.
	Glasgow	1st pay day in Aug.	Picture frame makers ...	Decrease of ½d. per hour (1s. 7½d. to 1s. 7d.).
CHEMICAL, GLASS, BRICK, POTTERY, ETC., TRADES.				
Chemical Manufacture	Scotland§	6 Aug.‡	Workpeople employed in the manufacture of heavy chemicals	Decrease of 2s. per week for timeworkers and 2s. 6d. per week for shiftworkers.
	London	1 Aug.	Plumbers employed in chemical works	Decrease of 1d. per hour (1s. 10½d. to 1s. 9½d.).
Brick, Tile, and Cement Manufacture	Bridgwater	2 Aug.	Dayworkers Pieceworkers	Increase of 1s. per week (39s. to 39s.). Rates adjusted so as to yield at least 25 per cent. above daywork rates.
			Male workers (including motor lorry drivers, carriers and horse carmen where previously included with mill employees):— 21 years and over	Decrease* of 1s. per week. Rates after change: first roller-men—Grade I: Class A mills, 67s.; Class AA, 64s. 6d.; Class B, 62s.; Class BB, 58s. 6d.; Class C, 55s.; Grade II: Class A, 65s.; Class AA, 62s. 6d.; Class B, 60s.; Class BB, 56s. 6d.; Class C, 53s.; Grade III: Class BB, 54s. 6d.; Class C, 51s.; general labourers (all grades): Class A, 51s.; Class AA, 48s. 6d.; Class B, 46s.; Class BB, 42s. 6d.; Class C, 39s.
Flour Milling	Great Britain**	1st pay day in Aug.	Under 21 years of age ... Workpeople employed in the bread baking and confectionery trade by members of the London Master Bakers' Protection Society	Decreases* varying from 6d. to 1s. per week. Decreases* of 2s. 6d. per week for adult male bakers and confectioners, 2s. per week for allied workers, 9d. per week for juveniles and 5d. per day for jobbers. Minimum rates after change for adult male workers: forehands, 65s. 6d., 69s. 6d. or 73s. 6d.; singlehands, 61s. 6d.; secondhands and doughmakers, 59s. 6d., 63s. 6d. or 65s. 6d.; ovenmen, machine minders, stokers, etc., 60s. 6d.; tablehands, 57s. 6d.
	London (Metropolitan Police Area)	25 Aug.	Workpeople employed in the bread baking and confectionery trades by certain members of the Incorporated Society of Principal Wholesale and Retail Bakers	Increase* of 2s. 6d. per week for adult male bakers and confectioners, 2s. for allied workers, 1s. 3d. for adult female workers, 9d. for juniors, and 5d. per day for jobbers. Minimum rates after change: adult male workers: forehands, 65s. 6d., 69s. 6d., or 73s. 6d.; singlehands, 61s. 6d.; secondhands and doughmakers, 59s. 6d., 63s. 6d., or 65s. 6d.; ovenmen, machine minders, stokers, &c., 60s. 6d.; tablehands, 57s. 6d.; adult female workers, forewomen 43s. 9d., others 39s.
Baking and Confectionery	Birmingham and Midland District††	Pay day in week ending 1 Sept.	Workpeople employed in the bread baking and confectionery trade	Increase* of 2s. 4d. per week for adult workers and proportionate increases for juniors. Minimum rates after change for adults: foremen, 65s. 8d. or 68s. 8d.; doughmakers, singlehands and secondhands, 62s. 8d.; platers, 60s. 8d.; tablehands, 58s. 8d.

* The change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices.
† Including Accrington, Blackburn, Blackpool, Burnley, Chorley, Clitheroe, Colne, Darwen, Haslingden, Padiham and Preston.
‡ The increase was to be paid in respect of the full pay preceding the pay-day in the week ending 1st September.
§ The change took effect under an arrangement made by the Scottish Committee of Chemical Manufacturers. It is understood that in the case of some firms the reductions took effect from a later date.
¶ Excluding tradesmen whose wages are regulated by movements in their own trades.
** Plumbers employed in fertilizer works receive an additional 1d. per hour but are not paid for Bank holidays.
†† The change took effect under an arrangement arrived at by the National Joint Industrial Council for the Flour Milling Industry.
‡‡ Including Brierley Hill, Burt-on-Trent, Cannock, Coventry, Darlaston, Dudley, Leamington, Rugby, Smethwick, Walsall, Wednesbury, West Bromwich, Willenhall, and Wolverhampton.
‡‡‡ The rates quoted are for daywork; 1s. per night extra is added for each night worked, making 6s. per week extra on continuous night work.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING AUGUST, 1923—(continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
FOOD, DRINK AND TOBACCO TRADES—(continued).				
Baking and Confectionery (cont.)	Leicester ...	1st pay day after 20 Aug.	Adult workers ...	Increase* of 5s. per week. Rates after change: ordinary bakers—forehands, 68s.; singlehands and secondhands, 66s.; tablehands, 64s.; factories, 5s. per week more in each case.
	Dundee ...	1st pay day in Aug.	Youths and deliverers under 21 years of age Bakers and confectioners ...	Increase* of 1s. 9d., 2s. 3d., and 2s. 7d. per week for those 18, 19, and 20 respectively. Decrease of 2s. per week. Minimum rate after change, 72s.
MISCELLANEOUS TRADES.				
Leather Belt Manufacture	Great Britain ...	1st pay day in Aug.	Timeworkers ...	Decrease* of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: skilled—London, 1s. 3½d.; Provinces, 1s. 3¼d.; semi-skilled—London, 1s. 0½d.; Provinces, 11½d.
	Lancashire and Cheshire ...	1st pay day in Aug.	Pieceworkers and cutters on day work Saddlers, harness makers, and horse collar makers (retail trade)	Percentage payable on base rates embodied in agreement of November, 1922, reduced* from 74 to 69. Decrease of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: saddlers and harness makers, 1s. 5d.; collar makers, 1s. 6d.
Basket Making	Various Districts in England†	4 June	Basket makers employed on Government work	Bonus of 5½ per cent. on revised London price list of 1919 previously paid reduced to 45 per cent. Time rate after change for repair work, 1s. per hour plus 45 per cent.
	Lancashire and Cheshire‡	20 Aug.	Skip and basket makers... Agricultural basket makers ...	Increase* of 5 per cent. on Lancashire price list, making wages 95 per cent. and 85 per cent. above the list for timeworkers and pieceworkers respectively. Rate after change for timeworkers, 8d. per hour plus 95 per cent. Bonus of 100 per cent. on pre-war price list previously paid increased* to 105 per cent.
Warehousing	Liverpool ...	3 Aug.	Permanent warehousemen (cotton, rubber, etc.)	Decrease of 5s. per week. Minimum rate after change, 55s.
India Rubber Manufacture	Lancashire ...	1st full pay day in July	Workpeople employed in india rubber manufacture	Decrease* of 1d. per hour for men and 1d. per hour for women and young persons. Minimum rate after change for men, 38s.
Boiler and Pipe Covering	London ...	1st full pay after 22 Aug.	Boiler and pipe coverers ...	Decrease of 1d. per hour for qualified men 21 years and over (1s. 5d. to 1s. 4½d.).
Artificial Limb Making	Birmingham ...	10 Aug.	Artificial limb makers ...	Decrease* of 1d. per hour. Rate after change for skilled men, 1s. 9d.
Hair, Bases, and Fibre	Great Britain ...	6 Aug.	Workpeople employed in the hair, bass, and fibre trade:— Horse hair sorters, hacklers, drawers or bunchers, power loom weavers, winders, damask seating hand loom weavers, curlers, spinners, hair dyers, cloth starchers, and carpet weavers with not less than three years' experience Fibre drafters, dressers or dyers, bass sorters, dyers, cutters, roughers, mixers, or finishers with not less than three years' experience	Decreases in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of the following amounts for the classes named respectively (See also p. 311 of August GAZETTE):— Decreases in time rates of 1d. or 1½d. per hour for male workers and 1d. or 1½d. per hour for female workers; and decrease of 1d. and 1½d. per hour in the piecework basis time rate for male and female workers respectively. Minimum time rates after change: male workers, 7½d. at 17 years, increasing to 1s. 2½d. at 21 and over; female workers, 5½d. at 17 and under 17½ years, increasing to 7½d. at 18 and over. Decreases in time rates of 1d. or 1½d. per hour for male workers, and 1d. or 1½d. per hour for female workers; and decrease of 1d. and 1½d. in the piecework basis time rates for male and female workers respectively. Minimum time rates after change: male workers, 7d. at 17, increasing to 1s. 1½d. at 21 and over; female workers, 5½d. at 17 and under 17½, increasing to 7d. at 18 and over. General minimum time rates, piecework basis time rates and overtime rates previously fixed cancelled.
			Male and female workers employed in the weaving of hair machine belting, and in all preparatory, finishing, warehousing, or packing operations incidental to, or appertaining to, such weaving All other workers 16 years of age and over (except those employed on hand loom weaving other than damask seating hand loom weaving) Workpeople employed in the made-up textile trade:— Foremen and forewomen, awl and needle stitchers (leather and canvas), cutters, letter writers (other than stencilers), machinists (sewing), mixers, palm and needle hands, ropers of tents and coal sacks, splicers of ropes over 1½ ins. in circumference All other workers (except learners)	Decrease in time rates of 1d. to 1½d. per hour for male workers, and 1d. or 1½d. per hour for female workers. Minimum rates after change: male workers, 4½d. at 16 and under 16½, increasing to 11½d. at 21 years and over; female workers, 4½d. at 16 and under 16½, increasing to 6½d. at 18 and over. Decreases in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of the following amounts for the classes named respectively (See also p. 350):— Decrease of 1d. and 1½d. per hour for male and female workers respectively. Minimum time rates after change: men, 21 years and over, 1s. 1d.; women, 18 and over, 6½d. Decreases in time rates of 1d. to 1½d. per hour for male workers and 1d. or 1½d. per hour for female workers, and in the piecework basis time rates of 1d. and 1½d. per hour for male and female workers respectively. Minimum time rates after change: male workers, 21 and over, 10½d.; female workers, 18 and over, 6½d. Decreases of 1d. or 1½d. per hour in minimum time rates.
PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES.				
Gas	Birmingham, Smethwick and Walsall	18 to 23 July	Gas fitters (fully qualified) employed in Corporation Gas Undertakings	Increase of 1d. per hour (1s. 5d. to 1s. 5½d.).
Electricity Supply	North Western Area§	1 Aug.	All classes of adult male workers	Decrease of 2½ per cent. on the total wages paid at 31 January, 1923 (making a total decrease of 10 per cent. since that date). Scheduled minimum hourly rates after change: indoor and outdoor labourers respectively, Zone A, 13-14d., 13-66d.; Zone B, 12-51d., 13-08d.; Zone C, 12-23d., 12-81d.; fitters—Zone A, 17-86d.; Zone B, 17-10d.; Zone C, 16-34d.

* The change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices.
 † Including Lancashire, Cheshire, Yorkshire, London, Birmingham, Leicester and Nottingham.
 ‡ Including Ashton-under-Lyne, Blackburn, Bolton, Heywood, Knutsford, Leigh, Liverpool, Manchester, Northwich, Oldham, Preston, Rochdale, Stockport and Warrington.
 § The undertakings affected are those which follow the wages agreements of the North Western Area Joint Industrial Council for the Electricity Supply Industry

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING AUGUST, 1923—(continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES—(continued).				
Electricity Supply (contd.)	Scotland* ...	1 Aug.	Adult male workers (excluding electrical fitters, wiremen and engineers)	Decrease of 2½ per cent. on total wages at 1 January, 1923. Scheduled minimum hourly rates after change for general labourers: Group A, 11-96d.; Group B, 11-68d.; Group C, 11-12d. per hour.* New schedule of rates of wages adopted, including the following:—Fitters' assistants, 1s. 2d. per hour; greasers, cleaners, and general helpers, 1s.; stokers, 1s. 4d.; leading stokers 1s. 4½d. Decrease of 1d. per hour. Decrease of 1s. per week for workpeople 18 years of age and over, and of 6d. per week for those under 18 years.†
	Londonderry... Great Britain‡	22 June 1st full pay in July	Workpeople employed by Electricity Undertaking Motormen, conductors, etc. ...	Decrease of 3d. per week. Rates after change: 14 to 15 years, 13s. 6d.; 15 to 16 years, 15s. 6d.; 16 to 17 years, 17s. 6d.; 17 to 18 years, 22s.; 18 to 19 years, 27s. 6d. per week.‡ Decrease of 1s. 3d. per week. Rates after change: motormen, 51s.; conductors, 49s. per week. Decrease of 1s. per week. Rates after change: drivers and conductors, 55s. to 58s.; cleaners, 53s. to 54s. per week. Decrease of 1s. per week. Rates after change for motormen and conductors—minimum, 52s.; maximum, 64s. per week.
Tramways	Lancaster ...	9 Aug.	Youths under 19 years of age, employed as parcels, messenger, point and trolley boys	Decrease of 3d. per hour. Scheduled minimum hourly rates after change:—Grade A areas: road repairers and carters, 1s. 2½d.; road sweepers and general labourers, 1s. 0½d.; paviors' and flaggers' labourers, concretors and men laying tramways, 1s. 3½d.; sewer cleaners and drainers, 1s. 2½d. and 1s. 3½d.; men tarring and asphaltting roads, 1s. 2½d.; dustmen, day scavengers and gardeners, 1s. 1½d.; Grade B areas, 1d. per hour less; and Grade C areas, 2½d. per hour less than Grade A area rates.‡
	Dundee ... Belfast ...	2 Aug. 8 Aug.	Motormen, conductors, etc. ...	Decrease of 1s. 3d. per week. Rates after change: motormen, 51s.; conductors, 49s. per week. Decrease of 1s. per week. Rates after change: drivers and conductors, 55s. to 58s.; cleaners, 53s. to 54s. per week. Decrease of 1s. per week. Rates after change for motormen and conductors—minimum, 52s.; maximum, 64s. per week.
Non-trading Departments of Local Authorities	Northumberland and Durham||	1st pay day in Aug.	Able-bodied male manual workers	Decrease of 1d. per hour. Scheduled minimum hourly rates after change:—Grade A areas: road repairers and carters, 1s. 2½d.; road sweepers and general labourers, 1s. 0½d.; paviors' and flaggers' labourers, concretors and men laying tramways, 1s. 3½d.; sewer cleaners and drainers, 1s. 2½d. and 1s. 3½d.; men tarring and asphaltting roads, 1s. 2½d.; dustmen, day scavengers and gardeners, 1s. 1½d.; Grade B areas, 1d. per hour less; and Grade C areas, 2½d. per hour less than Grade A area rates.‡
	York ...	2 Aug.	Manual workers ...	Decrease of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: labourers, day carters and refuse collectors, 1s. 1½d.; day scavengers, 1s. 1½d.; night scavengers and carters, 1s. 2½d.; wagon and road roller drivers, 1s. 3d.; paviors, 1s. 6½d. per hour.
London (certain Authorities)¶	London (certain other Authorities)**	1st pay in Aug.	Manual workers ...	Decrease of 1½th of "cost of living" bonus as revised in July, 1922. Scheduled minimum rates after change include: general labourers, 60s. 4d. or 60s. 5d.; scavengers, 57s. 1d.; female bath and lavatory attendants, 45s. 1d. per week.¶
	Acton, Edmonton, Hanwell, Ilford, Tottenham, Middlessex C.O.	1 Aug.	Manual workers ...	Decrease of 1½ths of the original bonus, as agreed in June, 1920, making a total reduction of 1½ths. Scheduled minimum rates after change include: general labourers, 56s. 8d. or 56s. 9d.; scavengers, 54s.; female bath and lavatory attendants, 41s. 11d. per week.**
East Ham ...	1 Aug.	Manual workers ...	Decrease of 1½ths of the original bonus on minimum rates. Rates after change for road labourers: Acton, 55s. 7d.; Edmonton, 53s. 6d.; Hanwell, 46s. 6d.; Ilford, 55s.; Tottenham, 1s. 3d. per hour; Middlessex C.C., 41s. 1d. to 49s. 11d.	
Carnarvonshire ...	Aug.	Roadmen employed by County Council	Decrease in bonus varying from 4s. per week for those in receipt of a basis wage of 51s. 4d. to 1s. 6d. for those with a basis rate of 31s. Rates after change: road scavengers, 58s. 6d.; refuse collectors, 59s. 6d. per week. Decrease of 5s. per week (50s. to 45s.).††	

CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED DURING AUGUST, 1923.

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
Local Authority Services	Carnarvonshire ...	25 Aug.	Roadmen employed by County Council	Working hours increased from 47 to 48 per week.‡‡

* The undertakings affected by the reduction are those which follow the wages agreements of the Scottish Joint Industrial Council for the Electricity Supply Industry and include the following, which are shown in their respective groups:—Group A: Cambuslang Electric Supply, Clyde Valley Electric Power Co., Falkirk, Paisley, Edinburgh and Wishaw; Group C: Alloa, Kirkcaldy, Kilmarnock, Stirling and Perth.
 † The change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices.
 ‡ This decrease took effect under the sliding scale of the National Joint Council for the Tramways Industry. The decrease was put into operation by the majority of the principal undertakings, but it is reported that it has not taken effect in the case of the following:—Camborne and Redruth, Colchester, Dundee, Glasgow, Great Yarmouth, Lancaster, Llandudno and Colwyn Bay, Musselburgh, Perth, Sunderland (Corporation and Sunderland and District Electric Tramways, Ltd.), Southend-on-Sea, Scarborough, West Ham, and York; while at East Ham the full reduction did not apply to all classes, and at Cheltenham the reduction took effect from 6th September. Particulars of the changes which applied at Lancaster and Dundee are given above.
 § In the case of Liverpool the reduction for youths under 18 years employed as parcels, etc., boys was 6d. per week.
 ¶ The Authorities affected are those which follow the wages agreements of the Provincial Joint Industrial Council for Northumberland and Durham for Local Authorities (Non-Trading Services) and include:—Grade A: Darlington, Middlesbrough, Newcastle, Blaydon (from 20th September) Blyth, Chester-le-Street, Consett, Earsdon, Felling, Leadgate, Longbenton, Newbiggin-by-the-Sea, Newburn-on-Tyne, Prudhoe, Ryton, Seaton Delaval, Stanley, Durham C.C. and R.D.C.s of Durham, Easington, South Shields; Grade B: Brandon and Byshottles, Shildon, Tanfield, and R.D.C.s of Auckland, Sedgfield, Weardale; Grade C: Amble and Benfieldside. The rates actually paid by some of the Authorities differ from the scheduled minima quoted above.
 ¶ Viz.—London County Council, Batterssea, Camberwell, Chelsea, Deptford (operated reduction from 14th September), Fulham, Greenwich, Hackney, Islington, St. Marylebone, St. Pancras, Shoreditch, Southwark. In the case of Chelsea, the decrease of 1½ applied to one-half the bonus paid previous to November, 1922. The rates actually paid by some of the authorities differ from the scheduled minima quoted above.
 ** Viz.—Finsbury, Hammersmith, Hampstead, Kensington, Lambeth, Lewisham, Stoke Newington, Wandsworth, Westminster. The rates actually paid by some of the authorities differ from the scheduled minima quoted above.
 †† See also under "Changes in Hours of Labour."
 ‡‡ See also under "Changes in Rates of Wages."

CHANGES TAKING EFFECT IN SEPTEMBER, 1923.

The following groups of workpeople are affected by changes already reported as having been arranged to take effect in September:—Increases in Wages.—Coal miners in Northumberland, Durham, South Wales and Monmouthshire, and in the Forest of Dean; silversmiths, jewellery workers, etc., at Birmingham; and workpeople employed in the boot and shoe repairing, paper box, and brush and broom trades (under Trade Board Orders). Decreases in Wages.—Coal miners in Yorkshire and the East Midlands, and in Scotland; iron ore miners and blastfurnace workers in Cumberland; men employed in the Thames ship-repairing industry; bolt and nut makers in Lancashire; road transport workers and coal porters in London; cement workers; and men employed in the gas industry. Change in Hours.—Building trade operatives (see page 324 of this issue). Further particulars will be given in the October issue of this GAZETTE.

BUILDING PLANS APPROVED.

RETURNS have been received from 135 Local Authorities in Great Britain giving the estimated cost of buildings for which plans were passed in August, 1923.

In the 135 localities to which the figures relate, plans were passed in August for buildings of an estimated cost of nearly £2,300,000, compared with an average of about £3,650,000 in the preceding seven months.

The 135 localities to which the figures relate, plans were passed in August for buildings of an estimated cost of nearly £2,300,000, compared with an average of about £3,650,000 in the preceding seven months.

Table with 6 columns: District and Aggregate Population, Dwelling Houses, Factories and Workshops, Shops, Offices, Warehouses, Churches, Schools and Public Buildings, Other Buildings, and Addition and Alterations. Data for August 1923.

Table showing Building Plans Approved from January to August 1923, categorized by region: England and Wales (Northern, Yorkshire, Lancashire, North and West Midlands, South-Midland, Outer London, South-Eastern, South-Western, Wales and Monmouthshire), and Scotland. Includes total figures.

ASSISTED PASSAGES UNDER THE EMPIRE SETTLEMENT ACT, 1922.

THE number of assisted passages granted during August, 1923, in connection with agreed schemes under the Empire Settlement Act (see March, 1923, GAZETTE, page 84), and the total number of such passages granted from the inception of these schemes, together with the numbers of departures during the same periods, are shown in the following Table:-

Table with 4 columns: Assisted Passages Granted, Total Assisted Passages Granted, Departures in August, and Total Departures. Data for Assisted Passage Schemes and Minor Schemes.

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

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

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.*

THE total number of cases† of poisoning and of anthrax in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, reported under the Factory and Workshop Act during August, 1923, was thirty-three.

(a) CASES OF LEAD POISONING. Among Operatives engaged in:-

Table listing occupations affected by Lead Poisoning: Smelting of Metals, Plumbing and Soldering, Printing, File Cutting and Hardening, etc.

(b) CASES OF OTHER FORMS OF POISONING. Among Operatives engaged in:-

Table listing occupations affected by other forms of poisoning: Mercury Poisoning, Phosphorus Poisoning, Arsenic Poisoning, etc.

(c) CASES OF ANTHRAX--

Table listing occupations affected by anthrax: Wool, Handling of Horsehair, etc.

HOUSE PAINTING AND PLUMBING

Summary table for House Painting and Plumbing cases.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.‡

THE number of workpeople, other than seamen, reported as killed in the course of their employment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland during August, 1923, was 191, as compared with 230 in the previous month, and with 165 a year ago.

The distribution of such fatal accidents among the various trades is as follows:-

Table showing fatal industrial accidents by sector: Railway Service (Brakesmen and Goods, Engine Drivers, etc.), Factories and Workshops (Boiler Making, etc.), Mines (Underground, Surface), Quarries, and other categories.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS (continued):

Table listing accidents in factories and workshops by trade: Tanning, Printing, Paper, etc.

* Based on Returns from the Home Office and from the Ministry of Labour for Northern Ireland.

† Cases include all attacks reported to the Home Office during the month and not previously reported, so far as is known, during the preceding 12 months.

‡ Of the 6 persons affected in the Pottery industry 1 was a female.

§ Based on Returns from the Home Office, the Mines Department, the Ministry of Transport and the Ministry of Labour for Northern Ireland.

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 August, 1923, in the 31 selected areas named below corresponded to a rate of 519 per 10,000 of population, showing a decrease of 27 per 10,000 on the previous month, and a decrease of 46 per 10,000 on a year ago.

As compared with July, 1923, the total number relieved showed a decrease of 46,779 (or 4.9 per cent.). The number of indoor recipients of relief decreased by 263 (or 0.2 per cent.), while the number of outdoor recipients was less by 46,516 (or 5.6 per cent.).

As compared with August, 1922, the total number relieved decreased by 80,775 (or 8.2 per cent.). The number of indoor recipients increased by 1,162 (or 1.0 per cent.), but the number of outdoor recipients decreased by 81,937 (or 9.5 per cent.).

Nine districts showed increases, and every other district showed decreases. The most marked changes were increases in the Paisley and Greenock district (534 per 10,000), and in the East district of the metropolis (225 per 10,000), and decreases in the Coatbridge and Airdrie district (701 per 10,000), in the Stockton and Tees district (481 per 10,000), and in the Sheffield district (440 per 10,000).

Number of persons in receipt of poor law relief on one day* in August, 1923.

Table with 4 columns: Selected Urban Areas, Indoor, Outdoor, Total. Includes data for England & Wales, West Ham, and Other Districts.

SCOTLAND. I

Table with 4 columns: Glasgow District, Paisley & Greenock Dist., Edinburgh & Leith Dist., Dundee and Dunfermline, Aberdeen, Coatbridge and Airdrie.

SCOTLAND. II

Summary table for Scotland: Total for the above Scottish Districts, Total for above 31 Districts in August, 1923.

* The figures for England and Wales relate to 25th August, and those for Scotland to 18th August.

† 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 Boards; of inmates in Asylums, Registered Hospitals and Licensed Houses; and of persons receiving out-door medical relief only. The figures for Scotland include destitute able-bodied unemployed in receipt of poor law relief.

COMPARATIVE REAL WAGES IN LONDON AND CERTAIN CAPITAL CITIES ABROAD IN JULY, 1923.

[N.B.—The method by which the index-numbers in the following table have been computed was explained in an article in the MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE for July, 1923, pages 236-238. The numbers relate to purchasing-power in terms of food alone, and, for the reasons given in the article referred to, they can only be accepted as affording a very rough indication of the differences that existed, on or about the date at the head of the table, between the real wage levels (in terms of food), in the various capitals, of the selected categories of typical urban male labour. The numbers are comparable horizontally but not vertically.]

Index Numbers of Comparative Real Wages, 1st July, 1923. (London=100)

Large table with 11 columns for cities (London, Amsterdam, Berlin, Brussels, Christiania, Copenhagen, New York, Ottawa, Paris, Prague, Stockholm, Sydney, Vienna, Warsaw) and rows for various occupational categories like Building Trades, Engineering Trades, Furniture Trades, etc.

In the case of Paris the difference between the average index-numbers for 1st June and 1st July and the corresponding figure for 1st March does not necessarily reflect a corresponding relative improvement in real wages in that city, and may be explained by the fact that it has since been possible to obtain, through H.M. Commercial Counsellor at Paris, up-to-date figures as to the rates of wages current in that capital for all but two of the selected occupations, namely, cabinet making and machine composing.† The Paris prices for June were known and have been used. July prices were not available; but, the Paris cost-of-living index-number for July being the same as for March, the prices for March have, provisionally, been used.

As regards the Copenhagen index-number for April, the warning published last month must be repeated, namely, that the comparability of the figure with those for other cities is impaired by the fact (communicated by the Director of the State Statistical Office at Copenhagen) that the wages figures are (a) provisional and (b) based on average earnings. No later wages and price statistics have yet been obtained in respect of Copenhagen.

The omission from the table of figures for Berlin is still due to the special conditions prevailing in that city. The New York and Sydney columns will be completed as the requisite statistics of wages and prices become available.

The drop in the July index-figure for Warsaw is due to an average increase of prices of 62 per cent., accompanied by an average increase of wages of only 18 per cent.

The average index-numbers for 1st May are now added to the Table. The material on which these figures are based was available last month, but, owing to pressure of work, it was not possible to complete the calculations in time to permit of the figures being included in the Table published in August.

[Erratum.—The figure given as 120 in line 38, column 2, on page 281 of the August GAZETTE should have been 115.]

* Amended figures. † Provisional figures. ‡ The wage rates used in computing the Paris average index-number for † March were derived in a number of cases from the Annuaire Statistique for 1921.

RETAIL PRICES OVERSEAS.

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

I.—FOOD.

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

Table showing percentage increase in retail food prices for various countries from July 1914 to July 1923. Columns include Country, July 1919, July 1920, July 1921, July 1922, and 1923 (Rise and Date).

* Exceptions to this are: Belgium, in which comparison is with April, 1914; France (other towns), 3rd quarter of 1914; Germany, average, 1913-14; The Hague, January to July, 1914; Rome, Milan, January to June, 1914; Switzerland, June, 1914; Poland, January, 1914; Amsterdam, average, 1913; South Africa, average, 1914. † Figure for June. ‡ The increases shown are for families of the lowest income class; in Aug., the increase for all working-class families ranged from 374 to 378 per cent. § Fuel and lighting are also included in these figures. ¶ Figure for August. ¶¶ 67,048,400.

II.—ALL ITEMS.

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

Table showing percentage increase in the cost of food, house-rent, clothing, fuel and light, and other household requirements for various countries from July 1914 to July 1923. Columns include Country, Items on which computation is based, July 1919, July 1920, July 1921, July 1922, and 1923 (Rise and Date).

* A = Food; B = House-Rent; C = Clothing; D = Fuel and Light; E = Other or Miscellaneous. † Exceptions to this are: France, Spain, Australia and South Africa, in which comparison is with the average for 1914; Belgium, April, 1914; Rome, Milan, and New Zealand, January to June, 1914; Egypt, June, 1914; United States, 1913; Bulgaria, average, 1901-1910. ‡ Figure for 3rd Quarter. § Figure for June. ¶ Figure for May. ¶¶ 505,104,500.

EMPLOYMENT OVERSEAS.

[N.B.—The following paragraphs include an abstract of such official information as is available with regard to the state of employment abroad, in order to indicate, as far as possible, the fluctuations in employment in each country from period to period. The bases of the official statistics published in the various countries, are, however, not the same as those of the United Kingdom statistics, and therefore the figures quoted below cannot properly be used with those on pp. 327-328 to compare the actual level of employment in the United Kingdom with that in other countries. For further information on the subject of the bases of the unemployment statistics of the various countries see Report issued in 1922 by the International Labour Office under the title "Methods of Compiling Statistics of Unemployment." (Studies and Reports, Series C, No. 7.)]

FRANCE.*

Unemployment in August.—The total number of unemployed remaining on the "live register" at the Employment Exchanges in the week ended 1st September, 1923, was 9,964 (6,458 men and 3,506 women). In the preceding week the corresponding figure was 9,943, and in the last week of August, 1922, 9,638. The total number of vacancies remaining unfilled was 9,519 (4,898 for men and 4,621 for women), as against 10,219 in the preceding week, and 10,358 in August, 1922. During the week under review the exchanges succeeded in placing 28,084 persons (22,477 men and 5,607 women) in situations, and, in addition, found employment for 4,391 foreign immigrants.

According to the latest returns six departmental and thirty-seven municipal unemployment funds were in operation throughout France on 6th September, the number of persons in receipt of out-of-work benefit through their agency being 1,502 (1,350 men and 152 women). This shows a decrease of 72 when compared with the corresponding figure for the preceding week, and of 1,973 when compared with the figure for 8th September, 1922. It is to be noted that these figures do not fully represent the number of persons out of employment, since some localities are without unemployment funds, and where they do exist their record of unemployed persons is not complete.

GERMANY.†

Employment in July.—During July, as in previous months, in spite of isolated unfavourable symptoms, a further slight improvement in employment was generally reported. In the first half of August, however, the symptoms indicating the beginning of more unfavourable conditions in the labour market increased in number.

Unemployment among organised workers showed a further fall during July. Thirty-nine trade unions, with an aggregate of 5,474,000 members covered by the returns, had 190,078 of these, or 3.5 per cent. of the total, out of work at the end of the month, as compared with 4.1 per cent. in the preceding month, and 0.6 per cent. in July, 1922. The following Table gives particulars for the leading unions:—

Table showing membership reported at end of July 1923 and percentage unemployed at end of month for various unions in Germany. Columns include Unions, Membership reported at end of July, 1923, and Percentage Unemployed at end of month (July, 1923, June, 1923, July, 1922).

The above figures relate to persons totally unemployed. In addition, thirty-six unions, with an aggregate of 4,904,735 members, reported that 708,546, or 14.5 per cent. of the total, worked short time in July, as against 15.3 per cent. in June.

A further decline took place in the number of unemployed in receipt of assistance from public funds. On 1st August the total was 138,278, as against 184,859 on 1st July. This total increased, however, during the first part of August, 145,520 being in receipt of assistance on the 15th of the month.

* Bulletin du Marché du Travail, 7th September, 1923. Paris. † Reichs-Arbeitsblatt, 1st September, 1923. Berlin.

Returns from Employment Exchanges indicate that the more favourable conditions reported last month continued during July. The number of applications for employment decreased from 1,055,329 in June to 934,309 in July, while the vacancies reported rose from 510,238 to 519,512. On the average there were thus 212 applicants for each 100 situations for men, and 131 for each 100 for women. In June the corresponding figures were 245 (men) and 149 (women).

Sickness insurance statistics show an increase in the number of members under obligation to insure (and therefore assumed to be in work). Returns from 4,459 societies report a total of 10,912,672 members on 1st August, as against 10,833,812 on 1st July, an increase of 0.4 per cent.

AUSTRIA.

Unemployment in July.—According to the issue of Statistische Nachrichten (the journal of the Austrian Department of Statistics) for 25th August, the number of persons in receipt of unemployment benefit in the principal industrial districts was 87,349 at the end of July, as compared with 92,788 at the end of the preceding month, and 30,969 at the end of July, 1922. In Vienna alone (included in the foregoing totals) there were 55,858 unemployed in July, and 58,218 in June.

BELGIUM.*

Unemployment in June and July.—The most recent figures available relate to July, but are provisional in character. Returns received by the Belgian Ministry of Industry and Labour from 1,616 approved unemployment funds, with a total membership of 638,389, show that 13,457 of these were either wholly or partially unemployed at the end of that month. The aggregate days of unemployment in July numbered 195,574, or 1.05 per cent. of the aggregate possible working days; for June the corresponding percentage was 1.22, and for July, 1922, 2.97. Revised and final figures are given for June, in which month 1,649 funds, with an aggregate membership of 660,850, reported 5,605 (or 0.8 per cent.) wholly unemployed, and 11,653 partially so, on the last working day of the month. The percentage of members totally unemployed in May was 1.2 per cent., and in June, 1922, 2.7 per cent.

During July 12,656 applications for employment were received at Employment Exchanges, as compared with 13,234 in June. Vacancies notified by employers numbered 13,299 (12,341 in June). For every 100 situations registered as vacant there were thus ninety-five applications, as compared with 107 in June.

HOLLAND.

Unemployment in July.—H.M. Commercial Secretary at The Hague reports that, according to figures supplied by the State Department of Unemployment Insurance, in the week ended 28th July, out of 280,632 members of unemployment funds making returns, 28,635 (or 10.2 per cent.) were unemployed for six days in the week, and 8,173 (or 2.9 per cent.) were unemployed for less than six days. In the corresponding week of the preceding month (ended 30th June) the percentages were 8.7 and 2.3, and in the week ended 29th July, 1922, 7.4 and 2.1.

ITALY.

Unemployment in June.—According to a report received from H.M. Commercial Secretary at Rome, 216,287 persons were reported to be totally unemployed on 30th June, as compared with 243,928 at the end of May and 372,001 on 30th June, 1922. In addition, 39,288 were partially unemployed at the latest date, 57,715 on 31st May and 95,334 on 30th June, 1922. On 30th June, 1923, the number of totally unemployed persons in receipt of benefit was 61,547, as compared with 64,517 on 31st May and 123,767 on 30th June, 1922.

DENMARK.

Unemployment in August.—Returns supplied to the Danish Statistical Department by trade unions and by the Central Employment Exchange covered a total of 247,997 workpeople, of whom 7.6 per cent. were unemployed on 31st August, as compared with 7.4 per cent. on 27th July, and 11.1 per cent. at the end of August, 1922.

H.M. Commercial Secretary at Copenhagen states that in the week ended 31st August 20,648 persons were reported unemployed, as compared with 20,764 in the previous week and 32,400 in the corresponding week of last year.

SWITZERLAND.‡

Unemployment in July.—According to figures compiled by the Central Employment Department of Switzerland on the basis of returns from Employment Exchanges, the number of applicants for work remaining on the "live register" on 31st July was 22,722 (as compared with 25,583 at the end of the preceding month and 52,180 at the end of July, 1922). Of these 8,816 were employed on relief works, leaving 13,906 entirely without work. Among the applicants for employment were 3,331 normally engaged in the building trades, 2,655 in the metal, engineering and electrical trades, 2,302 in the textile trades, and 2,188 in the watch, clock and jewellery trades. In addition to the foregoing persons entirely without work 12,592 were reported as only partially employed, including 7,462 in the textile trades, 1,402 in the metal, etc., trades, and 1,511 in watchmaking, etc. The vacancies reported by employers remaining unfilled at the

* Revue du Travail, August, 1923. Brussels. † Statistiske Efterretninger, 12th September, 1923. Copenhagen. ‡ Der Schweizerische Arbeitsmarkt, 15th August, 1923. Berne.

end of July numbered 2,579, as against 2,366 at the end of June and 1,794 at the end of July, 1922.

During the month of July on an average 291 applications were made for each 100 vacancies for men and ninety for each 100 for women. In June the figures were 297 and 101 respectively.

SWEDEN.

Unemployment in June.*—Trade unions with a total membership of 131,587 reported 12,903, or 9.8 per cent., as unemployed on 30th June, 1923. The percentage unemployed at the end of the preceding month was 10.6, and on 30th June, 1922, 20.9.

The following Table gives corresponding particulars for the principal unions covered by the returns:—

Table showing membership reporting on 30th June 1923 and percentage unemployed for various unions in Sweden. Columns include Unions, Membership reporting on 30th June, 1923, and Percentage Unemployed (30th June, 1923, 31st May, 1923, 30th June, 1922).

Total Number Unemployed.—According to Ekonomisk Oversikt (the journal of the Swedish Board of Trade) for 1st September, the total number of persons out of work in Sweden at various dates in the present year is estimated by the Unemployment Commission to have been as follows:—49,200 (28th February), 43,400 (31st March), 35,200 (30th April), 24,100 (31st May), 20,700 (30th June), 19,000 (31st July).

CANADA.†

Employment in August.—For 1st August, 1923, returns were received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics at Ottawa from 5,862 firms, with an aggregate pay-roll of 823,605. On 1st July the same firms reported 818,535 employed. There was thus an increase of 5,070 at the later date. If the number 100 be assigned to the week ended 17th January, 1920, the index number of employment for 1st August is 100.2, as compared with 99.5 for the 1st July and 93.1 for 1st August, 1922. It is pointed out that the present is the first occasion since December, 1920, that the index number has exceeded 100.

Trade Union Unemployment at End of July.—At the end of July, 2.9 per cent. of membership of trade unions were reported to be unemployed, as compared with 3.4 per cent. on 30th June, and 4.1 per cent. on 31st July, 1922.

AUSTRALIA.‡

Unemployment in Second Quarter, 1923.—The percentage of members of trade unions unemployed in the second quarter was 7.1, as compared with 7.2 in the preceding quarter and 9.6 in the second quarter of 1922.

UNITED STATES.§

Employment in July.—The Federal Department of Labour presents figures relating to the volume of employment in July, 1923, from 6,739 representative establishments in 51 manufacturing districts, covering 2,353,258 workpeople. These establishments in June reported 2,396,012 persons employed, and the July figures consequently indicate a net decrease amounting to 1.8 per cent. This decrease in employment is the first shown since April, 1922, in this series of reports, and is largely due to seasonal causes, many establishments making a practice of closing temporarily soon after 1st July for inventory or repairs, while many workpeople take their holidays during July and August. The aggregate wages paid show a decrease of 4.7 per cent. in the same period. Twenty of the 51 industries show increases in employment in July, the greatest being 8.4 per cent. in the fertilizer industry, 5.2 per cent. in electric car building and repairing, 4.2 per cent. in baking, and 3.9 per cent. in women's clothing. Among the 29 industries showing a falling off in employment automobile tyres reports a decline of 10.3 per cent. in the numbers employed, stoves 8.3 per cent., cotton goods 7.8 per cent. and glass 7.1 per cent.

As regards comparison between the month under review and the corresponding month of last year, it is reported that 37 industries out of 43 furnishing information show for the most part increases in employment as between July, 1922, and July, 1923, steam railway car building and repairing and foundry and machine shop products both showing over 50 per cent.

* Societén Meddelanden, No. 8, 1923. Stockholm. † Information supplied through the courtesy of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics and the Canadian Labour Department, Ottawa. ‡ Information supplied through the courtesy of the Commonwealth High Commissioner in London. § Information supplied through the courtesy of the Federal Commissioner of Labour Statistics, Washington.

OFFICIAL NOTICES, Etc.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTS.

DECISIONS GIVEN BY THE UMPIRE.

VOLUMES containing the collected decisions of the Umpire appointed under Section 12 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, respecting disputed claims to benefit, are published by H.M. Stationery Office.

Cases after No. 2000 will not be published in volume form, but summaries of the decisions are printed in pamphlets issued at approximately fortnightly intervals. The pamphlets will be supplied post free, as and when issued, for an annual subscription of 7s. 6d., payable in advance. All applications should be made to H.M. Stationery Office, or at any of the addresses shown on the front cover of this GAZETTE.

The following are recent decisions of general interest:—

CASE No. 4976, SECTION 7 (1) (ii).—NOT UNEMPLOYED—MORNING AND EVENING WORK UNDER ONE CONTRACT—MORNING WORK DROPPED—EVENING WORK NOT AN ADDITIONAL OCCUPATION.

The applicant stated that he had been employed for nine years up to 25th March, 1923, at a picture theatre as general utility man and attendant. His hours of work as utility man were from 9 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. daily, and, as an attendant, from 6 p.m. to 10.30 p.m. each evening, at a total wage of 50s. per week, or 35s. for the morning and 15s. for the evening work. He could not have had the morning work without also doing the evening work. Owing to slackness of work he was given two weeks' notice to terminate his morning work on 25th March, but he retained his evening employment at a wage of 15s. per week. He contended that he was entitled to claim benefit as from the date his morning employment ceased, but his claim was disallowed under Section 7 (1) (ii).

Recommended by the Court of Referees, that the claim for benefit should be disallowed. The Court thought that the morning and evening employments were under the same contract, and that, therefore, the evening work was part of the applicant's main employment. They did not think Section 7 (2) (a) applied, but leave to appeal was given in order to obtain the Umpire's decision.

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

“I agree with the recommendation of the Court of Referees.

“The applicant had for many years been employed at a theatre as cleaner and general handyman in the mornings and as door-keeper in the evenings. The working hours were 4½ hours in the morning and 4½ in the evening, and he would not have had the morning work unless he had taken the evening work also. I think the morning and evening work must be regarded as together constituting his usual employment, and, therefore, that he has not ordinarily followed the occupation of door-keeper in addition to and outside the ordinary working hours of his usual employment.”

CASE No. 5117, SECTION 8 (1)—TRADE DISPUTE—EMPLOYERS' FEDERATION DECLARED GENERAL LOCK-OUT OWING TO DISPUTE AT WORKS OF ONE FIRM—DISPUTE EXTENDED.

The applicant, a weaver at the Midwynd Factory, Dundee, lost employment on 22nd March, 1923, in consequence of a lock-out. It appeared that in February, 1923, a dispute as to certain terms of employment arose between the employers at some mills, known as the Camperdown Works, and those of their employees who were members of the Dundee and District Union of Jute and Flax Workers. On 13th March, 1923, all employers who were members of the Employers' Federation, and including those owning the mill at which the applicant was employed, gave notice that their works would be closed as from 23rd March, and accordingly the applicant's employment ended on 22nd March. The applicant contended that there was no dispute at the premises at which she had been employed. Her fellow workers had no dispute with their employers, the whole question in dispute being confined to the Camperdown Works.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim for benefit should be disallowed. The Court were satisfied that the applicant was unemployed owing to a trade dispute. The applicant's Association appealed to the Umpire and an oral hearing of the case took place.

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

“In February last there was at the Camperdown Works in Dundee a trade dispute between the employers at those works and certain of their employees connected with the employment or non-employment or the terms of employment of those employees, and as a result thereof there was a stoppage of work at those works.

“On the 13th of March all employers belonging to the Association of Jute Spinners and Manufacturers, to which Association the applicant's employers belonged, gave notice that their works would be closed on the 23rd March, and would remain closed until further notice, and, in accordance with that notice, the Midwynd Factory (at which the applicant worked as a weaver) was closed, and she thereby lost employment.

“The applicant was a member of the Dundee and District Union of Jute and Flax Workers, with whom the employers at the Camperdown Works were in dispute; but the notices given

by the members of the Employers' Federation applied not only to the members of that Union, but to all their employees indifferently.

“At a hearing before me it was argued by Mr. Patrick Hastings, K.C., M.P., for the applicant, that there was no dispute at all at the Midwynd Factory. The dispute arose at the Camperdown Works, and the lock-out notice given at the Midwynd Factory, though an act done in furtherance of the dispute at the Camperdown Works, could not in itself be treated as showing that there was a dispute at the Midwynd Factory, which was closed pursuant to the general lock-out notice. Accordingly the stoppage of work at the Midwynd Factory was due to the lock-out notice which was given by reason of the dispute at the Camperdown Works and not to a dispute at the Midwynd Factory.

“The Attorney-General submitted on behalf of the Insurance Officer that the dispute was between the Employers' Federation and the Jute Workers' Union, and that it existed at all the factories belonging to members of the Federation at which members of the workers' union were employed, and that accordingly it must be inferred that there was a dispute between the employers and the employees at Midwynd Factory with regard to the terms of employment or the employment or non-employment of persons at the Camperdown Works. And he pointed out that if the interpretation of Section 8 (1), for which the applicant was contending was accepted, it would follow that a sympathetic strike by workmen, in furtherance of a dispute at one factory only, would not constitute a dispute at the other factories, and that the men on strike would be entitled to benefit, except in so far as they might be disqualified for voluntarily leaving without just cause, or for being not unable to obtain suitable employment.

“The Attorney-General also submitted that the case fell within the principles of numerous decisions by the Umpire, in which a general lock-out declared in support of masters or workers who are in dispute has been held to extend the dispute to factories or premises other than those in which the dispute originated.

“If the question had in this case been raised for the first time I should have had to decide for myself whether a stoppage of work brought about by a lock-out at a factory at which there was not otherwise a dispute, but which was declared in support of one of the parties to a trade dispute at another factory, is a stoppage of work which is due to a trade dispute at the factory from which the employees are so locked out, but the question has already been decided by the Umpire in a number of cases, and I do not feel at liberty (whatever my own opinion unaided by the wisdom of my predecessor might have been) to depart from those decisions. In several cases on the Act of 1911 the Umpire in similar circumstances decided that ‘the lock-out in itself constitutes a trade dispute’ or ‘extended the trade dispute’ to the premises at which the lock-out was declared. This principle he applied in Decisions 336 and 1753 (Benefit, 1911 Act), 2170, 2239, 3793 (O.W.D.) and 437 among others.

“The construction put upon the Act of 1911 by the Umpire was well known at the time of the passing of the Act of 1920, and I must assume that, when re-enacting in the Act of 1920 the trade dispute section of the Act of 1911, Parliament intended that the later Act should be construed in the same way that the earlier Act had been construed.

“I am bound, therefore, to hold that the applicant lost employment by reason of a stoppage of work which was due to a trade dispute at the factory at which she was employed.”

CASE No. 5125, SECTION 8 (1)—TRADE DISPUTE—LOCK-OUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH POLICY OF EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATION BECAUSE OF STRIKE ELSEWHERE—APPLICANT TOTALLY UNCONNECTED WITH STRIKERS.

The applicant, a carpet weaver, employed by a firm of jute and flax manufacturers and jute carpet manufacturers, lost employment on 22nd March, 1923, owing to the closing of the works at which he had been employed in consequence of a decision of the Employers' Association that all establishments of its members should be closed down because of a strike of certain spinners and weavers, members of the Jute and Flax Workers' Union, employed elsewhere (Case No. 5117, above).

The applicant contended that neither he nor his Union had any dispute with the employers. Carpet weavers were not governed by the same Boards and Councils as the members of the Union in dispute. The trade of carpet weaving was quite distinct from the jute trade. No jute spinning or weaving was done at the factory where he was employed and his work could have been carried on without difficulty, but the Employers' Association had ordered his firm to close down, although no member of the Jute and Flax Workers' Union was employed there.

Recommended by a majority of the Court of Referees that the claim for benefit should be disallowed, in view of the decisions on Cases Nos. 2170 (O.W.D.), 1753 (Benefit, 1911 Act) and 437 and 1063, on the ground that the employers had extended the area of the dispute by locking out the carpet weavers. The insured contributors' representative dissented on the ground that carpet weaving was a separate trade, and had no industrial connection with jute and flax weaving and spinning, and also that an agreement, which had been cited, between the applicant's Association and the employers, showed that the carpet weavers were not in dispute with the Employers' Association.

The applicant's Association declined to accept the Court's recommendation, and appealed to the Umpire.

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

“Following the principle of the decision on Case No. 5117, I must hold that the applicant lost employment by reason of a stoppage of work at the factory at which he was employed.

“Although the Union of which he was a member was not concerned in the trade dispute at the Camperdown Works, the employers by closing the factory on the 22nd March in support of the employers who were in dispute at Camperdown thereby constituted a dispute at the factory at which the applicant was employed. It is clear that the employers locked out their employees in accordance with a resolution of the Employers' Association calling on its members to close down all their works owing to the dispute at the Camperdown Works, in order to give support to the members of the Employers' Association in the dispute and not merely on account of a difficulty of carrying on owing to actual or expected shortage of materials or loss of market for their output.”

RECENT CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION CASES UNDER THE INDUSTRIAL COURTS ACT, 1919.

THE INDUSTRIAL COURT.

EDINBURGH FIRE BRIGADE—REDUCTION OF PAY FROM SCALES RECOMMENDED BY “MIDDLEBROOK” COMMITTEE.—Edinburgh Corporation v. National Union of Corporation Workers. The parties required a Decision of the Court as to whether in all the circumstances existing at the time, the reduction of 5 per cent. recently made in the wages of the Edinburgh Fire Brigade was justified, and, consequentially, whether wages should be restored to the previous level, as claimed by the workers. Decision.—In the circumstances the Court are not prepared to hold that the reduction referred to in the terms of reference was not justified. Issued 2nd August, 1923. (832.)

ISSUERS AND STORESMEN IN GENERAL STORES—SWINDON AND OTHER DEPOTS ON GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY—FIXING OF RATES—GRADING.—Great Western Railway v. Workers' Union and National Union of Railwaymen. Decision.—The Court decided that at Swindon 7s. per week of the war wage or bonus should be incorporated in the base rates of the issuers and storemen, leaving a present war wage or bonus of 16s. 6d. per week, and that the base rates at Swindon should be:—

Issuers, Grade I.	...	...	37s. per week.
“ “ II.	...	...	35s. “
“ “ III.	...	...	32s. “
Storemen, Grade I.	...	...	31s. “
“ “ II.	...	...	30s. “

The Court consider that in the other Stores Department depôts the different issuers and storemen should be graded and rated by the parties as far as may be, and having regard to their duties, in the manner shown above for Swindon. The Decision, both as regards Swindon and the other depôts, is to come into operation on 1st October, 1923, and in the event of a settlement not being reached by that date, it will be open to the management to fix a rate and/or grade for any employee, who will, if aggrieved, have a right of appeal to the Court. Any resultant alteration of pay exceeding 2s. per week shall take effect to the extent of 2s. per week as from 1st October, 1923, and at the rate of 2s. per week (or such part thereof as may remain) as from the first day of each succeeding calendar month. In the event of any national or general settlement being made in respect of rates for men in Stores Departments of Railway Companies, the rates prescribed in the Decision may come under review. Issued 2nd August, 1923. (833.)

WHEEL TURNERS, TENDER FITTERS.—Amalgamated Engineering Union v. London and North Eastern Railway (North Eastern Section). Decision.—It being agreed that the men concerned are fully skilled fitters and turners, the Court consider that they are entitled to be paid the fitters' and turners' rate. The Decision is to operate as from the beginning of the pay period next after 23rd March, 1923. Issued 3rd August, 1923. (834.)

JOINER AT BUCHLYVIE—CLASSIFICATION—JOINERS AT CARSTAIRS—MEAL ALLOWANCE—DECISION No. 728, SCHEDULE F, CONDITION 9.—Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers v. London and North Eastern Railway at Buchlyvie and London, Midland and Scottish Railway at Carstairs. Decision.—The joiner at Buchlyvie is paid in accordance with an agreement between the Scottish Railway Companies and the various Unions. The Court felt, however, that there are circumstances special to the case which might well be made the subject of further consideration by the Company. The case of the joiners at Carstairs is not one which comes within Condition 9, Schedule F, Decision No. 728, and the men are now therefore entitled to meal allowance thereunder. Issued 3rd August, 1923. (835.)

DRESSMAKERS AND MILLINERS—RATES OF PAY—EXCESS OVER TRADE BOARD MINIMUM RATES.—The Northern Co-operative Society, Ltd., v. The National Amalgamated Union of Shop Assistants, Warehousemen and Clerks. Decision.—That, as from

the first full pay week after the date of the Decision, the rates of pay of the workpeople shall be as follows:—

- (1) Learners, Trade Board rates, plus a bonus of 5 per cent.
- (2) Those with over four years' and not exceeding six years' experience, a minimum of 7½d. per hour, plus a bonus of 5 per cent.
- (3) Those with over six years' experience, a minimum of 8½d. per hour. These workers are not to receive any fixed bonus addition to the minimum of 8½d., but the Society should consider favourably the case of individuals who show exceptional ability.

The Decision is to remain in force unless and until there is an alteration of the Trade Board rates, in which case the matter would fall to be reconsidered. Issued 10th August, 1923. (836.)

PLUMBERS, DUNDEE—RATE OF WAGES.—The Dundee and District Master Plumbers' Association v. United Operative Plumbers' and Domestic Engineers' Association. The question before the Court was the rate payable as from 16th July, 1923. Decision.—The case is raised as a purely local issue, and no case was made out for a higher rate than that now prevailing in Glasgow and Edinburgh, viz.: 1s. 7d. per hour; on the question as to whether the plumbers' rate should be on a basis higher than that of other craftsmen in the Building Industry, the Court on this occasion offered no opinion, as such a matter should only be considered and decided in its wider aspects. Issued 10th August, 1923. (837.)

BOILER AND PIPE COVERERS—LONDON—CLAIM FOR REDUCTION IN WAGES—PAYMENT FOR HOLIDAYS.—The Master Boiler Coverers' Federation (1915), London Section, v. The National Amalgamated Union of Labour, London District. This case involved London employers and London workpeople only. Decision.—The Court decided that a case had been made out for a reduction of wages, but not to the full amount claimed, and further decided that the standard rate of wages of the men concerned should be reduced by ½d. per hour as from the beginning of the first full pay period following the date of the Decision, by a further ½d. per hour as from the beginning of the first full pay period in October, 1923, and by a further ½d. per hour as from the first full pay period in November, 1923, making the rate thereafter 1s. 3½d. per hour. On the question of the continuance during the present year of the paid holiday arrangement, the Trade Union representatives proposed for the consideration of the Court a grant of pay to such of the workers as could not now be given a holiday. Having regard to all the circumstances of the case, the Court are of opinion that the suggestion recently made by the employers of payment of wages for one-half of the holiday period which would otherwise have been due is a fair one, and should be acted upon. Issued 22nd August, 1923. (838.)

EMPLOYEES AT ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE AND STAFF COLLEGE, CAMBERLEY—INCREASE IN BASE RATES.—The Official and Trade Union Sides of the Miscellaneous Trades Joint Council for Government Industrial Establishments. Decision.—The Court were of opinion that a claim had been established for some increase in basic rates of pay, and they decided that, as from the beginning of the first full pay period following the date of the Decision, an advance of 1s. 3d. per week should be made in the basic rate of wages of the men concerned. Issued 22nd August, 1923. (839.)

NAVIES AND LABOURERS ON SEWERAGE CONTRACTS—RATES OF PAY.—Rural District Council of Llantrisant and Llantwit Vardre v. The “Altogether” Builders' Labourers' and Constructional Workers' Society. The question at issue was as to whether the workmen should be paid in accordance with the rates of payment applicable to a Grade I. or Grade II. Area. Decision.—Having regard to the nature and character of the neighbourhood where the works are being carried out, the Court came to the conclusion and so decided that Grade I. or Class I. is not the appropriate rate, and that the rate that should be paid is that which is paid for a Class II. Area. Issued 23rd August, 1923. (840.)

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

GASMEN AND CLEANERS: BLOCHAIRN WORKS.—Iron and Steel Trades Confederation v. Iron and Steel Trades Employers' Association (No. 1 Division). Difference: As to the manning in regard to gasmen and cleaners respectively of the producers fitted with mechanical feed and Chapman Agitator at the Blochairn Works of the Steel Company of Scotland, Limited. Board of Arbitration: Mr. W. H. Stoker, K.C. (Chairman), Mr. W. Simons (Employers' representative) and Mr. W. Dodgson (Workpeople's representative). Award: The manning of the producers should be one gasman and one cleaner to four producers. Issued 1st August, 1923. (I.R. 1223/2/1923.)

BOILERMEN, RATEAU DRIVERS, ETC.: BLAENAVON.—National Amalgamated Union of Enginemmen, Firemen, Mechanics, Motormen and Electrical Workers v. Blaenavon Company, Limited, Blaenavon. Difference: (a) Whether the boilermen (top and bottom landing), rateau drivers, electric generating engine drivers and sub-station attendants, while not paid in accordance with blast furnace conditions normally, should continue to receive the holiday payment of time-and-a-half for ten holidays in each year. (b) Or what payment for holidays should obtain.

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