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

EMPLOYMENT.

EMPLOYMENT showed little change, on the whole, during September. Among the 11,500,000 workpeople insured against unemployment under the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the percentage unemployed at 21st September, 1925, was 12·4, as compared with 12·5 at 24th August, 1925, and with 10·8 at 22nd September, 1924. Among the members of those trade unions from which returns were received, the percentage unemployed was 11·4 at the end of September, 1925, compared with 11·4 at the end of August, 1925, and with 8·6 at the end of September, 1924. The total number of persons registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland as unemployed at 28th September, 1925, was approximately 1,401,000, of whom 1,106,000 were men and 221,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls; at 31st August, 1925, it was 1,418,000, of whom 1,094,000 were men and 242,000 were women; and at 29th September, 1924, it was 1,243,000, of whom men numbered 936,000 and women 234,000.

As compared with a month ago, employment at the end of September showed an improvement in the wool textile, cotton, pottery, tinplate, and iron-mining industries, but a further slight decline in the pig-iron industry. The increase in unemployment as compared with a year ago was due mainly to the depression in the coal-mining industry.

WAGES.

The number of workpeople affected by the changes in rates of wages reported to the Department in September was smaller than in any month during the past 10 years. In the industries for which statistics are regularly compiled by the Department, the changes in rates of wages reported resulted in an aggregate increase of about £2,800 in the weekly full-time wages of 47,000 workpeople, and in an aggregate reduction of £2,400 in the weekly wages of 27,000 workpeople.

The principal groups of workpeople whose wages were increased were nearly 30,000 coal miners in West Yorkshire and the Radstock district, 4,000 iron puddlers and millmen in the North of England, and about 7,000 workpeople employed in the non-trading services of local authorities in the West Midlands. In the coal mining industry the wages of over 20,000 of the lower-paid men in West Yorkshire were raised by amounts varying from $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to nearly 5d. per shift, while in Radstock the percentage addition to basis rates was increased by an amount equivalent to nearly $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on current rates. Iron puddlers and millmen in the North of England received an increase of over $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on current rates. Employees of local authorities in the West Midlands had their wages increased by amounts varying from 10d. to 1s. $3\frac{1}{2}$ d. per week.

The principal reductions affected over 5,000 iron-ore miners in Cumberland and Furness, whose wages were reduced by amounts varying from $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 1d. per shift in Cumberland and from 3d. to $3\frac{1}{2}$ d. in Furness; and

over 6,000 iron puddlers and millmen (including sheet millmen) in the West of Scotland, who sustained decreases equivalent to about $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on current rates. There were also reductions in the wages of blastfurnace workers in Cumberland, and in those of asbestos workers. Under the Trade Boards Acts there were reductions in the rates for females in the bespoke dressmaking trade in Northern Ireland.

During the nine completed months of 1925, the changes reported to the Department, in the industries for which statistics are compiled, have resulted in net reductions amounting to over £152,000 in the weekly full-time wages of nearly 970,000 workpeople and in net increases of £76,000 in those of over 830,000 workpeople. In addition, the wages of 200,000 workpeople have been changed at various dates during the period, but now stand at the same level as at the beginning of the year. In the corresponding period of 1924 there were net increases of nearly £560,000 in the weekly full-time wages of over 2,660,000 workpeople, and net reductions of over £72,000 in those of 635,000 workpeople.

COST OF LIVING.

At 1st October the average level of retail prices of all the commodities taken into account in the statistics compiled by the Ministry of Labour (including food, rent, clothing, fuel, light and miscellaneous items) was approximately 76 per cent. above that of July, 1914; for food alone the percentage was 72. The general average level was thus slightly higher than a month ago (when the figures were 74 for all the items included, and 70 for food), but approximately the same as a year ago, when the increases were also 76 per cent. for all items and 72 per cent. for food.

The rise in prices as between 1st September and 1st October was mainly due to seasonal increases in the prices of eggs, milk and butter, which were partly counterbalanced by reductions in the prices of bread, flour, and potatoes.

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.

TRADE DISPUTES.

The number of trade disputes involving stoppages of work reported to the Department as beginning in September was 36. In addition, 33 disputes which began before September were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The number of workpeople involved in all disputes in September (including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes) was over 40,000, as compared with about 220,000 in the previous month, and the estimated aggregate duration of all disputes in September was between 400,000 and 500,000 working days, as compared with from 2,800,000 to 2,900,000 days in August, when a dispute was in progress involving about 165,000 workpeople in the wool textile industry.

RELATIVE LEVELS OF RATES OF WAGES AT AUGUST, 1914, AND SEPTEMBER, 1925.

In previous issues* of this GAZETTE particulars have been given, from time to time, of the comparative levels of rates of wages in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at August, 1914, and at subsequent dates. In the following article a comparison is made, so far as this is possible from the information in the possession of the Department, between the levels of rates of wages at August, 1914, and the end of September, 1925.

It should be observed that no comprehensive information has been collected by the Department as to the rates of wages actually paid by individual employers in the various industries in 1914 and at September, 1925, and the information available for the purposes of such a comparison is, in nearly all cases, limited to the standard or minimum rates of wages, fixed by collective Agreements signed by the Employers' Associations and Trade Unions concerned (or embodied in Arbitration Awards, Statutory Orders under the Trade Boards Acts, etc.), or, in some industries in which no such Agreements, Awards, or Orders have been made, to the minimum rates recognised by the Trade Unions concerned. In some cases in which the actual rates of wages at both dates are not embodied in signed Agreements, information which is available as to the amounts of general changes in the existing level of time or piece rates of wages, agreed upon from time to time by the employers' and workers' organisations, has been utilised. It is important, however, to realise that the rates of wages actually paid to individual workpeople, or to particular sections of workpeople, may, in a considerable proportion of cases, have been altered since 1914, independently of the general changes jointly agreed upon by Employers' Associations and Trade Unions, or fixed by Awards, Orders, etc.; and that alterations in machinery, in methods of manufacture, in industrial organisation, and in systems of remuneration of workpeople, may also, over a period of 11 years, have resulted in appreciable changes in the general level of wages in some industries. As no general investigation into the rates of wages actually paid by individual employers has been undertaken since the year 1906 (though such an inquiry is now in progress), the data essential to the accurate measurement of the changes in wages resulting from the operation of such factors are not available. Moreover, no information exists as to the changes which have occurred in rates of wages in industries, or sections of industries, in which neither standard nor minimum rates, nor the general amounts of increase or decrease in rates of wages, have been fixed by collective Agreements, Arbitration Awards, Statutory Orders, etc. The particulars given below, therefore, while based on a careful examination of such material as is available to the Department, should be considered in the light of these qualifications and should not be regarded as furnishing more than an approximate indication of the general levels of wage rates at the two dates; and caution should especially be observed in drawing from them conclusions, the validity of which may depend upon small margins of difference between one figure and another.

Building Trades.—At the end of September, 1925, the hourly rates of wages in the larger towns showed increases, compared with the pre-war rates, ranging mostly from 9½d. to 11½d. an hour in the case of skilled men and 7½d. to 9½d. an hour in the case of labourers. On the basis of the unweighted averages of the standard rates of wages of the principal classes of workmen, the average increases in hourly and weekly rates at the end of September, 1925, in towns with populations over 100,000, were as shown in the following Table. The weekly rates shown have been computed by multiplying the hourly rates of wages by the number of hours constituting a full ordinary week (averaging approximately 49½ in 1914 and 44½ at September, 1925), both the summer and winter hours being taken into account for this purpose.

Occupation.	Average (unweighted) of recognised Rates of Wages in large towns at		Average Percentage Increase over pre-war rates at 30th Sept., 1925.
	4th Aug., 1914.	30th Sept., 1925.	
HOURLY RATES.			
	s. d.	s. d.	Per cent.
Bricklayers	9-9	19-9	101
Masons†	9-8	20-0	104
Carpenters and Joiners ...	9-8	19-9	104
Plumbers	9-6	19-9	107
Plasterers	9-7	20-0	105
Painters	8-8	19-8	125
Labourers	6-6	15-1	129
WEEKLY RATES.			
	s. d.	s. d.	Per cent.
Bricklayers	40 7	73 6	81
Masons†	39 7	73 8	86
Carpenters and Joiners ...	39 11	73 5	84
Plumbers	39 8	73 7	85
Plasterers	40 0	73 10	85
Painters	36 3	73 0	101
Labourers	27 0	55 7	106

If the increases shown are combined in the proportions of the relative numbers of men employed in the different occupations,

* See the issues for May, 1919; April, 1920; February, 1921; March, 1922; October, 1922; April, 1923; October, 1923; and February, 1925.

† When different rates were paid to banker masons and fixers respectively the rates used are those for the former.

the resulting general average increase over pre-war rates was approximately 9½d. per hour (or about 118 per cent. at the end of September). The increase in weekly full-time wages, allowing for the effect of the reductions which have been made since 1914 in the weekly working hours, was approximately 32s., or about 96 per cent. It should be observed that the percentages given are general averages for all the large towns combined, and that there is much variation in the percentage increases in different towns.

Coal Mining.—The information available as to the changes in wages in the coal-mining industry is insufficient to enable a trustworthy estimate to be made of the average increase in rates of wages in this industry since 1914. The general district percentage additions to standard basis rates of wages in the principal coalfields at the beginning of August, 1914, and at the end of September, 1925,* were as shown below:—

District.	Date of Standard.	Percentage Additions† to the Standard Rates of the years specified at	
		4th August, 1914.	30th September, 1925.*
Northumberland... ..	1879	50	100-00
Durham	1879	57½	110-00
Yorkshire and E. Midlands ...	1911	10	46-67
Lancs., N. Staffs and Cheshire ...	1911	10	46-67
S. Staffs and Salop	1911	10	46-67
S. Wales and Monmouthshire ...	1915†	6½	42-22
Scotland	1888	75	133-33

These figures do not provide a full measure of the increases in wage rates, since special advances or allowances have been granted in addition, in many districts, to particular grades of men. In some cases the basis rates of wages (to which the percentages are added) have been varied; the lower-paid grades of men in many districts have received special "subsistence" allowances; men on afternoon and night shifts in South Wales, whose working week is generally one of five shifts, have been paid, since 1915, as for an extra shift each week; and piece rates of wages were increased, in the case of workpeople whose normal working hours were reduced, in 1919, in order to maintain earnings at the previous level. The percentage increase in rates of wages resulting from the combined effect of all these changes is not known precisely.

As regards earnings, however, statistics compiled by the Mines Department indicate that the average earnings per man-shift worked in June, 1914, and in July, 1925, the latest date for which information is available, were as shown in the following Table. The "subsistence" rates for lower-paid workers at July and September, 1925, are also given in the Table.

District.	Average Earnings per Shift.		Percentage Increase.	"Subsistence" Rates per shift for lower-paid adult workers at July, 1925.†
	June, 1914.	July, 1925.‡		
Northumberland	s. d. 6 2½	s. d. 9 2½	49	7 7½
Durham	6 2½	9 11½	61	7 6½
Yorks and E. Midlands ...	6 7½	10 10½	64	See Note †
Lancs., N. Staffs, and Cheshire	6 0½	10 0	66	See Note **
South Wales and Mon. ...	6 9	10 8½	59	8 0½
Scotland	6 9	10 3½	52	7 10½††
Other districts	5 6½	9 4	69	See Note †††
All districts	6 5½	10 5	61	...

It should be observed that the hours of labour were reduced in 1919 from 8 to 7 per shift for underground workers, and generally from 51 to 58 in 1914 to 46½ per week for surface workers. The percentage increases in hourly wages are thus greater than the percentage increases in earnings per man-shift shown above.

Other Mining and Quarrying.—For iron miners in Cleveland and limestone quarrymen in Durham, rates of wages at the end of September were about 30 to 50 per cent. over the pre-war rates. In Cumberland the bargain price for iron-ore miners in September, 1925, was about 30 to 35 per cent. above the pre-war level. Particulars as to the rise in wages in other districts are not available.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—In the engineering industry the general advance over pre-war rates for men on time work now amounts to 17s. a week, except in certain districts where the men are paid at hourly rates, in which it is 17s. 10½d. In the shipbuilding industry the general advance on time rates ranges from 14s. or 14s. 10½d. a week in the case of skilled men, to 15s. or 16s. a week

* As the details given below as to average earnings relate to July, it may be mentioned that the percentage additions to standard rates in the districts specified remained unchanged between July and September.

† As the standard basis rates to which the percentages apply vary in different districts, the percentages quoted should not be taken as indicating the relative level of wages in different districts.

‡ For the purpose of comparison the level of wages at August, 1914, when the percentage addition was computed in terms of the old standard of 1879, has been expressed in terms of the new standard of 1915 now in operation.

§ The latest date for which information is available.

|| The rates quoted remained unchanged between July and September.

¶ 6d. per shift in excess of earnings, subject to a maximum of 8s. 9d. (inclusive). In Warwickshire surface men are not to fall below a minimum of 8s. per shift and underground men 8s. 6d. per shift.

** 1s. 1½d. per shift in excess of earnings, subject to a maximum of 8s. 9d. (inclusive).

†† The rate is subject to the provision that the addition to earnings shall not exceed 1s. 1½d. per day, and applies to surface workers only.

‡‡ Cumberland, 7s. 5½d.; S. Staffs and Salop, 6s. 2d. (surface workers only); Bristol—Glos. side, additional 6½d. per shift, subject to maximum of 7s. 3½d. (underground), and 10d., with maximum of 6s. 9d. (surface).

in the case of lower-paid labourers. In some cases, however, further advances have been granted to particular classes of men, both in the engineering and in the shipbuilding industries.

The following Table shows the unweighted averages of the district time rates of wages of men in certain representative occupations in 16 of the principal engineering centres and 9 of the principal shipbuilding centres at 4th August, 1914, and at 30th September, 1925, with the corresponding percentage increase over pre-war rates.

Occupation.	Average (unweighted) of recognised Weekly Time Rates in the principal centres at		Average Percentage Increase over pre-war rates at 30th Sept., 1925.
	4th August, 1914.	30th September, 1925.	
	s. d.	s. d.	Per cent.
Engineering:—			
Fitters and Turners	38 11	56 6	45
Ironmoulders	41 8	60 0	44
Pattermakers	42 1	60 11	45
Labourers	22 10	40 2	76
Shipbuilding:—			
Shipwrights	41 4	55 7	35
Ship Joiners	40 0	57 9	44
Labourers	22 10	38 5	68

For semi-skilled classes the percentages range between those shown for skilled men and those for labourers.

The above figures relate to a full ordinary week (of 53 hours in some districts and 54 in others in 1914, and of 47 hours generally at September, 1925). The percentage increase in hourly rates thus ranges from about 65 per cent. for skilled workers to a little under 100 per cent. for labourers in the engineering trade, and from about 55 to 65 per cent. for skilled men to 90 per cent. for labourers in the shipbuilding trade.

In the case of pieceworkers the general advance over pre-war rates in the engineering industry amounts to 10 per cent. on basis piece rates, plus a flat rate advance of 10s. a week. In the shipbuilding industry the general advance is 10 per cent. on basis piece rates, plus a flat rate advance of 7s. a week; in addition, a portion of certain special advances, granted under the "Standard Ship Cycle" of awards and consequential extensions, is still paid to some classes of men. The information at the disposal of the Department is not sufficient to enable a reliable calculation to be made of the average percentage increase in the wages of pieceworkers in these industries.

Electrical Installation.—The average of the recognised time rates of wages of wiremen employed by electrical contractors in 12 of the largest towns at the end of September, 1925, was 75s. 10d. a week, compared with 39s. 4d. a week at August, 1914, showing an average increase of 93 per cent. As the normal weekly hours of labour were reduced from 53 or 54 to 47 in 1919, without any reduction in weekly wages, the increase in hourly rates since 1914 is greater, being about 114 per cent., on the average, in these towns.

Other Metal Trades.—In the heavy iron and steel trades (smelting, puddling, rolling, forging, etc.), in which wages fluctuate in correspondence with the selling price of the finished products, the increases over pre-war rates vary very widely, being, in some cases (e.g., with certain blastfurnace labourers) equivalent to nearly 70 per cent. over the pre-war weekly rates, while at the other extreme the rates for iron and steel workers in South Wales show increases of only about 20 per cent. on pre-war weekly wages. In the tinplate and steel sheet trade in South Wales the increase over pre-war rates amounts to about 34½ per cent. Among other metal-working industries the general increases over pre-war rates of wages at the end of September (for male timeworkers) were 17s. a week in the sheet-metal working trade, 17s. 6d. a week in the nut and bolt industry in the Midlands, 17s. 6d. a week for unskilled and semi-skilled men in the spring, tube and various other industries in the Midlands, and 21s. 6d. a week in the light castings industry; in all these industries the weekly hours of labour have been reduced since 1914.

Cotton Industry.—In August, 1914, piece rates of wages in this industry stood generally at 5 per cent. above the standard list prices. At the end of September, 1925, they were 95 per cent. above the standard. Part of this increase, however, was granted in 1919, concurrently with a reduction in weekly working hours from 55½ to 48, in order to maintain weekly wages at the same level as before. If proportionate allowance is made for this reduction in working hours, weekly full-time wages would appear to be generally about 61 per cent. above the pre-war level, the equivalent increase in hourly wages being about 86 per cent. If, however, the average hourly output of pieceworkers has increased as a result of the reduction in hours, the percentage increase in wages will be correspondingly higher. In addition, special increases or allowances have been granted to certain classes of operatives, the effect of which would be to augment the percentages quoted.

Wool Textile Industry.—The rates of wages of woollen and worsted operatives in Yorkshire are calculated by the addition of a "cost-of-living wage" to basic rates. At the end of September, 1925, the pre-war basic rates had been increased generally by 10 per cent., and to the basic rates so increased was added a "cost-of-living wage" of 7½ per cent. for timeworkers and 6½ per cent. for pieceworkers,* making total increases over pre-war rates of approximately 80 to 90 per cent. for a full working week. In addition special increases of varying amounts have been made in the rates of wages

* The full percentage is paid on basic rates up to 33s. a week; on basic rates up to 51s. It is paid on 33s., or at the equivalent of 80 per cent. of the time-workers' cost-of-living percentage, whichever is the greater; on basic rates over 51s., 20 per cent. of the time-workers' percentage is paid on the first 13s. above that amount, and 8 per cent. of that percentage on the remainder.

of particular sections of workpeople, which would tend to augment the percentages quoted. A general advance of over 15 per cent. on hourly and piece rates was also granted in March, 1919, concurrently with a reduction in weekly hours from 55½ to 48, in order to maintain weekly wages at the same level as before. The average percentage increase in hourly rates, therefore, is correspondingly greater than that in weekly rates quoted above.

Other Textile Industries.—In some other important sections of the textile trades the increases over pre-war rates at the end of September, 1925, were as follows:—

Bleaching, Printing, Dyeing and Finishing:—		Increases over Pre-war Rates.	
		s. d.	Per week.
Lancashire, Cheshire, Derbyshire and Scotland:			
Men		25	4*
Women		15	2*
Yorkshire:			Per cent.
Timeworkers	91	} Plus 2s. per week for men and 1s. 3d. for women.	
Pieceworkers	70		
Hosiery Manufacture (Midlands)			66½
Carpet Manufacture:—			
Timeworkers		70	
Pieceworkers		65	

Apart from these increases in weekly wages, the weekly working hours, which generally varied from 54 to 56, were reduced in 1919 to 48, the weekly rates of timeworkers remaining unchanged, and the rates for pieceworkers being enhanced so as to yield the same weekly earnings as before the change in hours.

Boot and Shoe Industry.—In the manufacture of boots and shoes the minimum time rate of wages for the principal classes of skilled workmen at the end of September, 1925, was 60s. a week. Before the war it was 30s. a week for the majority of the workers in most districts, though in a few districts it was 28s. or 29s. For men in the heel-building department and in the stock and shoe rooms, the minimum rate at September, 1925, was 57s. a week, compared with a rate of 27s. a week adopted in 1914, with effect from the beginning of 1915. For women of 20 years or over, employed in certain operations in the closing and heel-building departments and the stock and shoe rooms, the minimum rate is 36s. a week, compared with 17s. or 18s. adopted in 1914, with effect from January, 1915. The hours of labour have been reduced from 52½ per week in 1914 to 48 per week.

Railway Service.—For the principal grades of adult workmen in the traffic sections of the railway service, the rates of wages in operation at the end of September, 1925, showed increases ranging mostly from 28s. to 36s. a week above the pre-war averages for the corresponding grades. Owing to the wide variation in the pre-war rates of wages, the percentage increases varied considerably. For some of the porters on pre-war rates of about 18s. a week the increase was as much as 155 per cent.; on the other hand, for certain classes of higher-paid men, it amounted to less than 80 per cent. The hours of labour were reduced to 48 a week in 1919, without any reduction in weekly rates of wages, and the increases in hourly rates are, therefore, higher than the percentage increases in weekly rates.

Other Transport Services.—For dock labourers, the rates generally paid in September, 1925, were 11s. to 13s. 6d. a day of eight hours, compared with about 4s. 6d. to 6s. 8d. for a day averaging approximately ten hours in 1914. In the case of seamen, the standard rates in September were £9 a month for able seamen and £9 10s. for firemen, compared with £5 to £5 10s. and £5 10s. to £6 respectively, in August, 1914. In the road transport industry, the average of the weekly rates of wages for one-horse drivers in twelve of the principal towns was 53s. 2d. a week at the end of September, 1925, compared with 25s. 7d. in 1914. In the tramway services it is estimated that the average weekly rates of wages at September, 1925, in over 50 large towns, were 59s. 2d. for drivers and 54s. 9d. for conductors, compared with 30s. 6d. and 26s. 7d. respectively, at August, 1914. The daily and weekly hours of dock labourers, carters and tramway-men were reduced in 1919, without any reduction in weekly wages.

Other Industries.—In the following Table particulars are given of the rates of wages at 4th August, 1914, and at the end of September, 1925, of some of the principal classes of workpeople in the printing and bookbinding, furniture making, and baking trades in a number of large towns.

Trade and Occupation.	Average (unweighted) of recognised Weekly Time Rates of Wages in certain large towns† at		Average Percentage Increase over pre-war rates at 30th Sept., 1925.
	4th Aug., 1914.	30th Sept., 1925.	
	s. d.	s. d.	Per cent.
Printing and Bookbinding:—			
Hand Compositors on Book and Jobbing Work ...	35 8	73 9	107
Bookbinders and Machinists ...	33 11	73 4	117
Furniture Making:—			
Cabinet Makers	39 9	74 9	88
Upholsterers	38 9	74 8	93
French Polishers	37 1	74 6	101
Baking:—			
Table Hands	30 1	64 9	115

* These amounts are exclusive of increases in basic rates, varying for different classes of workpeople, granted in 1919.

† The averages are based on the rates current in 26 towns in the printing and bookbinding and baking trades, and in 17 towns in the furniture trade.

The hours of labour in a normal full week at September, 1925, were generally 48 in the printing and baking trades, and 44 to 47 in the furniture trade, compared with 50 or 51 in the printing trades, 48 to 60 for bakers, and 49½ to 54 in the furniture trade at August, 1914. The percentage increases in hourly rates are thus greater than those in weekly rates shown in the Table, averaging (in the towns to which the Table relates) about 118 per cent. for compositors, 128 per cent. for bookbinders, 111 per cent. for cabinet makers, 116 per cent. for upholsterers, 125 per cent. for french polishers, and 139 per cent. for table hands in the baking trade.

In the pottery industry, the general level of rates of wages is 50 to 61½ per cent. (in different sections) above the pre-war level, but increases in basic rates have been granted in addition to certain classes of workpeople. In 1919 the hours of labour were reduced from 52 to 47 per week, without any reduction in weekly rates of wages.

For unskilled labourers in the non-trading departments of Local Authorities in 28 towns, the average weekly rate of wages shows an increase of about 99 per cent. over that for August, 1914, from 26s. 9d. to 53s. 5d. In this case also the hours of labour have been reduced without any reduction in weekly rates of wages and the increase in hourly rates is about 122 per cent.

For unskilled labourers in gas works, the average of the rates of wages at the end of September, 1925, in over 40 large towns was 52s. 11d. a week, compared with 25s. 8d. a week at August, 1914, an increase of 107 per cent. As the hours of labour were reduced between the two dates without any reduction in weekly wages, the increase in hourly rates is greater, being about 134 per cent. The average rate for unskilled labourers in the electricity supply industry in over 50 large towns at September, 1925, was 54s. 10d. a week, compared with 26s. 6d. a week at August, 1914, showing an increase of 107 per cent. In this case also the hours of labour have been reduced and the increase in hourly rates amounted to 137 per cent.

Agriculture.—The rates of wages of ordinary agricultural labourers in England and Wales at September, 1925, ranged from 29s. to 37s. 6d. a week, including the value of certain allowances. In the same districts in 1914 the cash rates of wages (which were subject to the addition of certain allowances) ranged from 13s. to 21s. a week. It is estimated by the Ministry of Agriculture that the average of the rates of wages prevailing for ordinary labourers in England and Wales at September, 1925, represented an increase of about 74 per cent. over the average of the cash rates and allowances in 1914. The minimum rates fixed by Orders of the Agricultural Wages Board were given on p. 38 of the February issue of this GAZETTE. These rates, with a few exceptions noted in subsequent issues, are still in operation.

SUMMARY.

Both the amounts and the corresponding percentages of increase over pre-war rates show a wide diversity among different classes of workpeople. In some cases the increases in full-time weekly rates at the end of September, 1925, were equivalent to only about 20 per cent. on the pre-war rates. On the other hand, they were equivalent in some cases to over 100 per cent. on the pre-war rates. The information at the disposal of the Department is insufficient to enable the average percentage increase for all industries and occupations to be calculated exactly, but it is estimated that at the end of September, 1925, weekly full-time rates of wages of adult workpeople, in the industries for which information is available, averaged about 75 per cent. above the level of August, 1914, as compared with 170 to 180 per cent. at the end of December, 1920, when wages generally were at their highest level. As considerable reductions in normal weekly working hours were made in nearly all industries in 1919 and 1920, the percentage increase in hourly rates of wages, since 1914, is substantially greater; while it is not practicable on the basis of available information to make any precise calculation, it seems probable that at the end of September, 1925, the average level of hourly rates of wages was about 100 per cent. above that of August, 1914.

The average percentage increase in weekly full-time wages at the end of each quarter since 1920, as compared with the beginning of August, 1914, is estimated, on the basis of such information as is available, to have been approximately as shown below:—

Year.	Estimated Average Percentage Increase in Weekly Full-Time Wages at end of			
	March.	June.	September.	December.
1920 ...	130-135	150-155	160-165	170-180
1921 ...	160-170	145-155	130-135	110-115
1922 ...	100-105	85-90	75-80	70-75
1923 ...	70	65-70	70 (nearly)	65-70
1924 ...	70 (nearly)	70	70-75	70-75
1925 ...	75	75	75	...

It should be observed that the foregoing particulars relate to rates of wages for full-time working, and that no account is taken of the loss of actual earnings resulting from unemployment and short-time working, or of the effects of increased or reduced exertion on the earnings of workpeople paid at piece-rates of wages, as to which comprehensive statistics are not available.

INDUSTRIAL CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES IN 1924.

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

GENERAL SUMMARY.

The number of Industrial Co-operative societies in Great Britain (as described above) furnishing returns for 1924 was 1,534. The aggregate membership of these societies at the end of 1924 was 4,690,000. Their sales in the year amounted to £271,039,000,* and resulted in a net surplus (before deduction of interest on share capital) of £21,267,000. The total share, loan and reserve capital was £145,626,000. As compared with 1923, membership increased by 132,000, or 2.9 per cent.; while capital increased by £11,269,000, or 8.4 per cent. Of the latter increase, £6,294,000 was attributable to the retail societies, £114,000 to the productive and service societies, and the remainder largely to additional deposits received by the English and Scottish Wholesale Societies. The figure for sales represents an increase of more than £17,500,000, or about 7.0 per cent., and indicates a continued improvement in co-operative trading. Of the increase, retail societies were responsible for £10,300,000, and wholesale societies for £6,700,000. The improved trading resulted in a surplus for distribution larger by £3,681,000 than in the preceding year.

The total number of persons directly employed by these societies at the end of 1924 (excluding native labour employed by the English and Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society, Ltd.) was about 193,000, some 7,000 more than in the preceding year. The total amount paid in salaries and wages (£25,381,000) showed an increase of £1,175,000.

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

(a) Production.†

In 1924, 1,147 Industrial Co-operative societies of various types were engaged in production. The total number of persons employed in production by these societies was 80,154; the amount paid as wages during the year was £10,346,000; and the value of productions £67,671,000. The corresponding figures for 1923 were 1,155 societies; 75,613 employees; £9,441,000 wages; and £61,541,000 value of productions.

In the following Table the value of productions for each group of societies, together with the totals for all societies, is shown for the years 1914-1924:—

Year.	Value of Productions.						Grand Totals of all Societies.
	Associations of Consumers.				Associations of Workers.		
	Productive Departments of Distributive Societies.		Productive Societies.		Baking and other Consumers' Societies.		
	Retail Societies.	Wholesale Societies.	Corn Milling Societies.	Baking and other Consumers' Societies.			
1914 ...	15,705,339	12,790,390	1,035,044	1,291,950	1,778,664	32,601,387	
1915 ...	19,310,204	17,596,639	304,616	1,508,872	2,399,930	41,120,261	
1916 ...	22,855,734	22,120,357	241,894	1,764,125	2,592,210	49,574,320	
1917 ...	25,408,072	25,868,097	310,991	1,938,854	3,253,846	56,779,860	
1918 ...	23,883,206	24,900,938	264,653	1,871,021	3,687,060	54,606,878	
1919 ...	28,465,060	36,321,546	528,288	2,498,552	4,496,935	72,310,381	
1920 ...	38,376,634	48,072,892	354,301	3,183,998	5,403,814	95,391,640	
1921 ...	38,123,374	37,925,115	341,114	2,877,087	3,435,150	82,701,840	
1922 ...	29,980,520	27,619,866	239,080	2,298,138	2,671,545	62,808,965	
1923 ...	27,982,498	28,264,425	209,809	2,239,947	2,844,026	61,540,705	
1924 ...	29,661,169	32,242,225	211,634	2,576,183	2,979,988	67,671,199	

The decrease since 1914 in the productions of the corn milling societies has been due to the absorption of several of these societies by the English Wholesale Society.

Between 1914 and 1920 the total value of productions was nearly trebled, so that, even allowing for the increase in prices, a considerable expansion in production is indicated. The expansion was principally in the wholesale societies, where the value of productions had risen from £12,800,000 to more than £48,000,000, and the number of persons employed in production from over 20,000 to more than 35,000. In 1921, while the value of productions was maintained in the retail societies, there was a considerable reduction both in the wholesale and in the productive societies. In 1922 each group

* Including farm and dairy produce valued at £1,592,000, and wholesale as well as retail sales.

† Includes for the purpose of this article the manufacture or part manufacture of commodities, and the supply of services, such as laundering, hairdressing, etc.

‡ Up to and including the year 1920 the figures given relate to Great Britain and Ireland; subsequent figures are exclusive of societies registered in Ireland.

§ Revised figures include laundering.

showed a very substantial decrease, which in the aggregate amounted to nearly 20 millions sterling, or about 24 per cent. of the value in 1921. In 1923, the decrease was less than £1,300,000, and was almost wholly attributable to the retail societies. In 1924, the value of productions showed an increase on the preceding year, approximating to £6,000,000. The English Wholesale Society was responsible for about £4,000,000 of this increase, and the retail societies for most of the remaining £2,000,000.

The following Table analyses, by groups of industries or services, the number of persons employed, the amount of wages paid, and the value of productions:—

Groups of Industries or Services.	Associations of Consumers.			Associations of Workers.		
	No. of Em- ployees.	Wages.	Value of Pro- ductions.	No. of Em- ployees.	Wages.	Value of Pro- ductions.
Food and tobacco* ...	25,773	3,714,347	47,808,592	120	12,695	86,377
Clothing ...	20,198	2,184,650	5,723,029	4,818	487,454	1,734,863
Soap, candles, and starch ...	1,809	247,881	2,551,060	...	...	...
Textiles ...	3,405	334,566	1,702,891	714	85,961	513,795
Mining and quarrying... †	447	52,040	84,515	215	23,763	37,063
Building and woodworking	9,196	1,486,767	3,251,889	462	55,628	130,409
Papermaking, printing, etc.	2,856	378,928	1,166,509	1,013	152,648	317,985
Metal, engi- neering, etc.	1,680	254,419	833,418	404	52,041	106,547
Other produc- tions ...	1,248	148,656	958,715	240	23,718	49,957
Productive transport ‡	2,449	357,996	†	5	740	†
Laundry work	2,961	273,954	550,860	...	...	...
Hairdressing	63	7,290	29,248	7	950	1,792
Other services	65	7,347	30,485	6	1,109	1,200
Totals, 1924	72,150	9,448,841	64,691,211	8,004	896,707	2,979,988
Totals, 1923	67,867	8,558,917	58,744,787	8,034	903,505	2,844,026
Percentage increase (+) or decrease (-)	+ 6.3	+ 10.4	+ 10.1	- 0.4	- 0.8	+ 4.8

In 1924 the English and Scottish Wholesale Societies returned a surplus on production of £727,000, as against £536,000 on the preceding year. The 163 productive societies returned a surplus of £403,000, or 40 per cent. more than in 1923. For retail distributive societies the corresponding figure is not ascertainable.

Profit-Sharing with Employees.—Of the 1,147 societies engaged in industrial production, 82, employing 11,391 persons in productive departments, with wages amounting to £1,462,000, allotted a sum of £58,353 to these employees as a bonus on wages in 1924, this being equivalent to about 9½d. in the £, practically the same average rate as for 1923.

Associations of Workers: Share of Employees in Membership, Capital, and Management.—Seventy-one of the 98 Associations of Workers, with sales amounting to £3,184,000, or about 98 per cent. of the total sales of the associations at work, made returns showing the extent to which their employees shared in the membership, capital, and management of the associations. The returns showed that the total membership of these associations in 1924 was 27,767, of whom 4,843, or 17 per cent., consisted of employees; 17,792, or 64 per cent., of other individuals; and 5,132, or 19 per cent., of other societies. Of the 7,920 persons employed by the associations, 61 per cent. were members of the associations employing them.

Of the £1,447,000 share and loan capital, £265,000, or 18 per cent., belonged to employees; £601,000, or 42 per cent., to other individuals (including loans from non-members and bank overdrafts), and £581,000, or 40 per cent., to other societies. The number of committeemen of the associations was 641, of whom 307, or 48 per cent., were employees of the associations, 222, or 35 per cent., were other individual members, and 112, or 17 per cent., were representatives of other (shareholding) societies.

(b) Distribution.

At the end of 1924, 1,368 retail and three wholesale societies were engaged in distribution, including the Joint Tea, etc., Department of the English and Scottish Wholesale Societies, which was registered as a separate society at the beginning of the year. These societies had an aggregate membership of 4,645,000; a total share, loan, and reserve capital of £141,630,000; sales amounting to £264,674,000, and a surplus (before deducting interest on share capital) of £20,864,000. The total number of persons employed in distribution (including those in the buying departments of the wholesale societies and those engaged in distributive transport) was 112,415, and their wages for the year were £15,035,000. The corresponding figures for 1923 were:—membership 4,513,000; capital, £130,475,000; sales, £247,590,000; surplus, £17,299,000; employees, 109,693; and wages, £14,767,000.

In the following Table the sales for each of the years 1914-1924 are shown separately for the retail and for the wholesale societies:—

* Includes farm and dairy produce valued at £1,592,000, in respect of which there were 2,880 employees, with wages of £290,000. In previous articles, attention has been drawn to the fact that the productive figures for the English and Scottish Wholesale Societies' Joint Tea, etc., Department also have been included. As, however, this joint venture is now separately registered, it will no longer be necessary to draw special attention to the inclusion of these figures.

† In previous years transport employees and wages have been allocated to the relative departments, but for 1924 only approximate figures for productive departments in total are available.

‡ The value of productive transport is necessarily included in the "Value of Productions" of the various Departments.

Year.	Retail Societies.		Wholesale Societies.	
	Number.	Sales.	Sales of English Society.	Sales of Scottish Society.
1914 ...	1,385	87,979,898	34,910,813	9,425,384
1915 ...	1,374	103,073,321	43,101,747	11,363,076
1916 ...	1,364	121,853,932	52,230,074	14,499,037
1917 ...	1,339	142,158,236	57,710,132	17,083,275
1918 ...	1,342	155,332,902	65,167,960	19,216,763
1919 ...	1,356	199,139,177	89,349,318	24,773,381
1920 ...	1,491	245,406,124	105,439,628	29,559,314
1921 ...	1,455	218,321,770	80,884,661	22,041,158
1922 ...	1,392	168,799,221	65,904,812	17,009,251
1923 ...	1,377	164,122,688	66,205,566	17,261,828
1924 ...	1,368	174,473,315	72,888,064	17,312,194

Profit-Sharing with Employees.—Of the total of 1,368 retail societies in 1924, 71, employing 10,067 persons and paying wages amounting to £1,297,000 in their distributive departments, allotted out of the surplus a total of £42,122 to their employees as a bonus, this being equivalent to about 7½d. in the £, as compared with an average of 6½d. in the £ for 1923. In addition, in 1924, two productive societies, employing 142 persons in their distributive departments, with wages amounting to £28,000, allotted £677 to the employees in these departments as a bonus, equivalent to about 5½d. in the £.

Dividends on Purchases.—In 1924 the retail societies distributed an average dividend of approximately 1s. 6½d. in the £ on purchases, an increase on the corresponding figure of 1s. 4½d. in the £ for the preceding year. The Scottish Wholesale Society declared a dividend of 4d. in the £ for each half-year, as against 3d. in the £ for each half of 1923. The English Wholesale Society declared a dividend of 2d. in the £ for each half year, as in the second half of 1923; no dividend was paid in the first half of that year.

EMPLOYMENT OF EX-SERVICE MEN.

KING'S NATIONAL ROLL.

(1) The latest returns show that there are approximately 28,000 firms on the King's National Roll. The number of disabled ex-service men employed by these firms is approximately 360,000.

(2) The number of Royal Warrant Holders now on the Roll is 634.

(3) The following statement gives particulars of enrolment of Local Authorities in Great Britain:—

Local Authorities.	On the Roll.	Not on the Roll.		Total.
		According to present information employ only a small staff.	Not included in Cols. (2) and (3).	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
England:				
London:				
County Council ...	1	...	...	1
Corporation of the City of London	1	...	...	1
Metropolitan Boroughs ...	28	...	...	28
Boards of Guardians ...	23	...	2	25
Totals ...	53	...	2	55
Provinces:				
County Councils ...	47	...	3	50
County Boroughs ...	79	...	...	79
Town Councils ...	181	27	17	225
Urban District Councils ...	432	214	73	719
Rural District Councils ...	180	148	251	579
Boards of Guardians ...	174	155	225	554
Totals ...	1,093	544	569	2,206
Wales:				
County Councils ...	6	...	6	12
County Boroughs ...	3	...	...	3
Town Councils ...	20	6	1	27
Urban District Councils ...	29	29	3	61
Rural District Councils ...	14	34	19	67
Boards of Guardians ...	12	19	16	47
Totals ...	84	88	45	217
Scotland:				
County Councils ...	14	15	4	33
County District Committees ...	42	22	35	99
Town Councils ...	78	93	31	202
Parish Councils ...	14	930	16	960
Education Authorities ...	8	...	29	37
Totals ...	156	1,060	115	1,331
GRAND TOTALS ...	1,386	1,692	731	3,809

The number of non-enrolled Local Authorities given in column (4) above shows a decrease of 109 since April last.

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING.

At 29th September, 1925, the number of men in training was 3,766, and the number awaiting training 740. Since 1st August, 1919 94,590 men have terminated training.

* Up to and including the year 1920 the figures given relate to Great Britain and Ireland; subsequent figures are exclusive of societies registered in Ireland.

† The Metropolitan Asylums Board is also on the Roll.

PROCEEDINGS OF JOINT INDUSTRIAL COUNCILS AND INTERIM INDUSTRIAL RECONSTRUCTION COMMITTEES.

ASSOCIATION OF JOINT INDUSTRIAL COUNCILS.

At the sixth meeting of the Association of Joint Industrial Councils and Interim Industrial Reconstruction Committees, held on the 22nd September, consideration was given to the following matters:—

Finance.—The accounts for the past year and estimates for the ensuing year were adopted, and certain steps decided upon in an endeavour to make the Association more representative of contributing Councils and Committees, the annual income at present not being commensurate with the expenses involved.

Industrial Councils Bill.—A report was submitted of the activities of Committees since the last meeting in connection with the Industrial Councils Bill, the support of the principle by the Trades Union Congress at its recent Conference also being announced, which was much appreciated. It was felt by the Delegates that the decision of the Congress would remove the difficulties of many of the Councils, which had hitherto been unable to record a resolution in favour of the Bill owing to the previous attitude of the Congress, and were now enabled to do so.

It was decided to invite the Trades Union Congress General Council to co-operate with the Association with a view to effecting such alterations to the Bill, if considered necessary, as would make it acceptable and satisfactory to both Organisations.

Committee on Industry and Trade.—It was decided to accept an invitation of the Committee on Industry and Trade to give evidence before them, dealing broadly with the Industrial Council Movement and indicating such lessons as the Association felt might be drawn from the experience gained, such evidence to be mainly confined to the Industrial Councils Bill. A comprehensive Memorandum, drafted by the Secretary, was approved; and Mr. Owen Parker, Mr. G. Harrison, Mr. T. B. Johnston, with the Secretary, were appointed as witnesses to attend before the Committee.

Prevention and Settlement of Disputes.—It being the desire of the Association that some concrete and practical suggestion might be evolved in connection with the prevention and settlement of disputes which might with confidence be recommended to all Councils and Committees for inclusion in their respective Constitutions, data as to what is done in this direction by a number of Councils had been obtained and circulated. It was decided to refer the subject to the Convening Committee, with instructions to take what action they considered desirable in conjunction with developments which may arise in connection with the Industrial Councils Bill.

Merchandise Marks Bill.—It was resolved strongly to urge upon H.M. Government the necessity for expediting the passage through Parliament of the Merchandise Marks Bill, and the inclusion therein of Regulations to the effect that all goods imported into this country must bear a plain and indelible indication that such goods are not of British origin.

Fair Wages Resolution.—It was decided to communicate to the Minister of Labour that, in the opinion of the Association, Government Departments when fixing district rates under the Fair Wages Resolution, should take into consideration the rates adopted and recommended by the Joint Industrial Council in the industry concerned, and urging that the respective Departments be instructed to this effect; also to urge that steps be taken towards remodelling the Fair Wages Resolution to permit of this being done.

JOINT INDUSTRIAL COUNCILS.

Among the subjects dealt with by the National Council of the Pottery Industry in October were the following:—

Provision of Protective Clothing for Young Persons.—It was decided to request the British Pottery Manufacturers' Federation again to consider a recommendation that protective clothing be provided for "batters-out" and "mould runners," the responsibility for the proper care of clothing so provided to be placed upon the person employing the attendant.

Pottery Regulations.—Recommendations bearing on the Lead and Dust Regulations which had been drawn up by the Research Committee in an endeavour to ensure their better observance, were adopted for circulation in leaflet form to employers, managers and foremen, and for display by posters in conspicuous places for the benefit of workers in the industry. The recommendations contain many timely suggestions which, if carried out, should lead to a betterment of the health conditions of the operatives, and secure, in a large measure, immunity from some of the risks which are to be met with in the industry.

Removal and Prevention of Dust.—A further Report was submitted of the efforts of the Research Committee towards improving the working conditions of the operatives by eliminating the dust problem in potters' shops through the medium of suction cleaners, and intimation was given of a test to be made of a steam vacuum cleaner which was claimed by the makers to be very efficacious and could be installed at a very moderate price.

Lead Poisoning.—Extracts from the Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories and Workshops for the year 1924 were considered, particularly in relation to the statistics dealing with lead poisoning, and additional information was furnished by Mr. E. A. R. Werner of the number of cases reported and the number of deaths to the 1st September during the year 1925. From these figures it appeared that the number of cases reported was apparently stationary as compared with the past four or five years, but that the number

of deaths had increased. Sir Thomas Legge, H.M. Chief Medical Inspector, supplemented the information supplied by figures giving the average age of fatal cases (males only) during the past 25 years, which showed that the average age of fatal cases had been considerably extended.

First-Aid Classes.—Reference was made to the first-aid classes established by the Stoke-on-Trent Education Authority, of which operatives were recommended to take advantage.

Section 29 of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, requires that a first-aid box or cupboard shall be provided and maintained in every factory so as to be readily accessible; and, where more than 150 are employed, an additional box or cupboard for every additional 150 persons, each first-aid box or cupboard to be placed under the charge of a responsible person.

Statistics.—Arising out of the Recommendations of the honorary members contained in their wages Report, the Manufacturers' Federation intimated that, in addition to the statistics already supplied to the National Council, it was proposed to obtain and furnish statistics as to the percentage of wages on turnover, and agreed that definite information with regard to the wages paid to attendants should be made available. In the opinion of the Federation the value of certain other information which it had been suggested should be obtained would not repay the considerable amount of trouble which would be involved in obtaining it and keeping it up to date; but similar information obtained for the purposes of the 1924 Inquiry could again be furnished whenever it is agreed to be necessary and desirable.

Interesting information was laid before the Council with regard to unemployment in the industry in North Staffordshire, the percentage on the 5th October being 5.39 totally unemployed and 10.52 short-time, a total of 15.91; also to the placings of juveniles in various pottery occupations through the agency of the Choice of Employment Committee.

Organisation.—Authority was given for the printing of a sufficient number of posters advocating membership of the Trade Unions in the industry for circulation to manufacturers and others concerned; and the secretary of the British Pottery Manufacturers' Federation was requested to urge members of the Federation to display such posters in prominent positions in their respective works.

Address.—At the conclusion of the meeting an address on "alkaline slip casting" was given by Mr. W. Emery. There was a large attendance, particularly of managers and foremen; and a good discussion took place, during which much valuable information was elicited. The lecturer promised at some future time to continue the subject.

At a meeting of the Joint Industrial Council for the Match Manufacturing Industry, one of the Trade Union representatives having called attention to the fact that foreign matches are supplied by some Co-operative Societies, the Hon. Secretary was requested to write to the Committees of these Societies calling attention to the fact that the match industry in this country is at present working short time, and asking them to consider buying British-made matches only for their future requirements.

Attention was also called to the increasing importations of foreign matches, the total of which for the first eight months of the current year was 5,795,266 trade gross, as compared with 4,920,953 gross for the same period of last year.

After a long discussion on the subject of Trade Union membership the following resolution was carried unanimously:—

"That this Council desires to draw the attention of all employed in the industry to the fact that employees who are not members of their Trade Unions are not represented on this Council, and are not, therefore, entitled to share in benefits arranged by the Council, such as holiday pay, May Day pay, additional workmen's compensation, and supplementary unemployment benefit."

It was reported that the supplementary voluntary unemployment fund for the industry now amounted to £19,000.

At a meeting of the Joint Industrial Council for the Glove Making Industry, it was reported that an approved list of glove descriptions agreed between the Council and certain trade organisations had been circulated to the members of various associations concerned. Consideration was given to cases of mis-description of gloves by retail firms. The figures of imports of leather gloves into the United Kingdom were discussed. Questions relating to the payment of wages to girl learners on probation and to youths between 17 and 20 years of age, not apprentices, were referred to the Council's Vigilance Committee for report.

COAL INDUSTRY SUBVENTION.

The Mines Department announces that the following amounts have been paid up to 30th September, 1925, in respect of the month of August as a subvention to the coal mining industry, in accordance with the arrangements described on page 307 of the September issue of this GAZETTE.

	£		£
Scotland	293,541	South Staffs and Salop	16,550
Northumberland ...	111,907	Cumberland	24,306
Durham	268,404	Bristol	1,893
South Wales and		Forest of Dean	11,277
Monmouthshire ...	321,915	Somerset	1,972
Eastern Division* ...	271,889	Kent	1,900
Lancs, North Staffs			
and Cheshire	168,630		
North Wales	23,494	TOTAL	1,517,678

* Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Cannock Chase and Warwickshire.

UNEMPLOYED PERSONS RECEIVING POOR LAW RELIEF.

A STATEMENT* has been issued by the Ministry of Health showing the number of persons in receipt of Poor Law relief in England and Wales in the quarter ending in June, 1925 (excluding lunatics in county and borough asylums, persons in receipt of domiciliary medical relief only, and casuals), and giving some particulars as to the number of "unemployed" persons in receipt of relief. Of an average of 890,000 such persons in receipt of domiciliary relief in June, 1925, 391,000 (comprising 97,000 men, 94,000 women, and 200,000 children) were persons ordinarily engaged in some regular occupation, or wives and dependent children of such persons.

The following Table gives comparative figures for England and Wales for the months of June, 1925, and June, 1924:—

Classes of Persons in receipt of Domiciliary Relief.	England and Wales.			
	Average Numbers.		Average Numbers per 10,000 of the Estimated Population.	
	June, 1925.	June, 1924.	June, 1925.	June, 1924.
1. Persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts (whether in receipt of unemployment benefit or not), and the wives and dependent children of those persons ...	355,000	422,000	92	110
2. Persons ordinarily engaged in some regular occupation, but not so insured, and the wives and dependent children of those persons	36,000	42,000	9	11
Totals of 1 and 2	391,000	464,000	101	121
3. All other persons in receipt of domiciliary relief	499,000	467,000	129	121
4. Total number of persons in receipt of domiciliary relief	890,000	931,000	230	242

Statistics relating to the numbers of persons receiving Poor Law relief in certain districts in September are given on page 368 of this GAZETTE.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION IN FIRST HALF OF 1925.

PARTICULARS of the passenger movement from and to the United Kingdom in 1924, based on a series of articles in the *Board of Trade Journal*, appeared in the issues of this GAZETTE for April (pp. 119-120) and for September (pp. 311-312). The *Board of Trade Journal* for the 24th September contains statistics, in continuation of those mentioned above, of the passenger movement from and into the United Kingdom during the first half of the current year.

The number of persons of British nationality who left the United Kingdom as passengers for countries outside Europe, and not within the Mediterranean sea, exceeded the number who arrived as passengers from those countries by 27,626. This figure compares with 17,412 and 65,053 in the corresponding periods of 1924 and 1923, respectively.

The number of British subjects who were recorded as leaving permanent residence in the United Kingdom to take up permanent residence in non-European countries ("emigrants") was 72,413, as compared with 74,329 in the first six months of 1924. There was a decrease of 17,715 in the number of emigrants to British North America, the figures having fallen from 40,061 in the first half of 1924 to 22,346 in the first half of 1925. There was an increase of 1,242 in the number of emigrants to New Zealand, and little change in the number emigrating to other parts of the British Empire.

The number of emigrants of British nationality to the United States was 15,969, as against 1,368 in the first half of 1924. The exceptionally small number of emigrants during the first six months of 1924 was due to the fact that the official quota of British immigrants to be admitted into the United States during the twelve months ended 30th June, 1924 (the American fiscal year), had already been completed in the autumn of 1923. During the next succeeding fiscal year, on the other hand, the quota of British immigrants was compulsorily spread over the entire year, visas being given for not more than 10 per cent. in each month. Hence the numbers of British emigrants who were recorded as having left the United Kingdom for the United States were nearly uniform throughout the fiscal year 1924-1925, the figures for the four quarters being 7,314, 8,633, 8,070, and 7,899, respectively.

The number of "immigrants" of British nationality (i.e., British subjects who were recorded as leaving permanent residence in non-European countries to take up permanent residence in the United Kingdom) was 30,106 in the first six months of 1925, as compared with 31,965 in the corresponding period of 1924. There was an increase from British North America, but a decrease from nearly all other countries.

* H.M. Stationery Office; price 3d. net.

DIRECTORY OF EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATIONS, TRADE UNIONS, JOINT ORGANISATIONS, Etc., 1925.

A NEW edition of the Directory of Employers' Associations, Trade Unions, Joint Organisations, etc., corrected up to September, 1925, has been compiled by the Ministry of Labour, and is now on sale.

This Directory contains particulars of approximately 2,400 Employers' Associations dealing with labour matters, 1,250 Trade Unions and Federations, 500 Trades Councils, and 400 Joint Standing Conciliation and Arbitration Boards, with the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of their secretaries. The Employers' Associations, Trade Unions, and Conciliation and Arbitration Boards are classified and arranged in industrial groupings; and the Directory accordingly provides, in a convenient form, information as to the organisations concerned with particular industries or groups of industries.

Particulars are also given of the Joint Industrial Councils and Interim Industrial Reconstruction Committees set up in many industries to carry into effect the proposals of the Whitley Report, of the Trade Boards established under the Trade Boards Acts, and of the Agricultural Wages Board and Committees appointed under the Agricultural Wages (Regulation) Act.

This Directory, which is the only comprehensive work of its kind, should be of special value to secretaries of Employers' Associations and of Trade Unions, to employers, and to all others who are concerned with questions of organisation among employers and workpeople.

Copies may be purchased (price 3s. net) from H.M. Stationery Office, Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2, and branches (see the front page of the cover of this GAZETTE), or ordered through any bookseller.

SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF LABOUR STATISTICIANS.

A REPORT* has been published by the International Labour Office giving an account of the proceedings at the Second International Conference of Labour Statisticians, which took place in Geneva from 20th to 25th April, 1925, under the auspices of the International Labour Organisation. The object of the Conference was to lay down generally agreed principles on methods of compiling labour statistics, in the hope that, when any changes in national statistics are made, countries will move in the direction of some agreed international standard, and that, by this means, international comparisons will be facilitated.

The agenda of the first Conference,† which was held from 29th October to 3rd November, 1923, was limited to three items:—the classification of industries and occupations, statistics of industrial accidents, and statistics of wages; and the agenda of the second Conference was drawn up in the light of suggestions made by the first. One subject had been definitely suggested by the first Conference when discussing statistics of wages, namely, statistics of changes in the cost of living, in order that the deliberations of the Conference on wages might be completed by consideration of changes in the purchasing power of money. At the first Conference also a resolution was adopted, on the motion of the British Government representative, that an inquiry into the international comparison of real wages which had been started by the British Ministry of Labour should be transferred to the International Labour Office. This enquiry was duly undertaken and developed by the International Labour Office, and it was thought that a discussion of the methods adopted would form a most suitable subject for discussion among labour statisticians of different countries. The third object to be included as an outcome of the discussions at the previous Conference was that of the classification of industries. The difficulty and complexity of this subject had precluded any definite decisions, and the International Labour Office was requested to prepare a provisional list of manufacturing industries as a preliminary to any discussion of the principles of classification. The list was prepared by the International Labour Office, and the discussion of this list was placed on the agenda. The fourth item was that of statistics of unemployment. This was a new subject as far as the Conference of Labour Statisticians was concerned, although the Governing Body had in 1920 appointed a Technical Committee to consider the best methods of compiling statistics of unemployment. The replies received from the different Governments‡ on the proposals of this Committee had shown the necessity for further international discussion on the subject.

The agenda thus consisted of four items:—
Statistics of the Cost of Living;
International Comparison of Real Wages;
Classification of Industries;
Statistics of Unemployment.

On each of these subjects a report had been prepared by the International Labour Office, and circulated in advance to the Governments, and two of these, viz., "Methods of Compiling Cost-

* *The Second International Conference of Labour Statisticians*. International Labour Office, Geneva. Price 1s. 3d.

† An account of the proceedings at the first Conference was given in the December, 1923, issue of this GAZETTE (p. 437).

‡ See *Methods of Statistics of Unemployment*. Studies and Reports. Series C, No. 7, Geneva, 1922.

of Living Index Numbers," and "Methods of Statistics of Unemployment", have been published separately.*

Following are the Resolutions adopted by the Conference:—

I. COST-OF-LIVING INDEX NUMBERS.

(intended to measure changes in the cost of living in a given country at different periods).

(1) In each country statistics should be published showing changes in the cost of living. They should cover the food, clothing, heating and lighting, rent, and miscellaneous groups. Each group should include the most important items of consumption, and especially those articles the price changes of which may be taken as representative of changes in the prices of articles not included.

Separate index numbers should be published for each of the groups and general index numbers for all the groups combined. In calculating these index numbers, weights should be used proportionate to the relative importance in consumption of the items in each group and of the different groups. Changes in the cost of living in a given period should be calculated by using weights which remain unchanged throughout the period. When changes in consumption render the weights inappropriate, a new series of index numbers based on new weights should be calculated.

It would be desirable that as far as possible the information published should enable the differences which would result in the index numbers from the inclusion or exclusion of direct taxes to be determined.

(2) A series of national index numbers, calculated by using weights based on the consumption of industrial workers generally, should be published. In cases where desirable, index numbers may also be calculated for other classes of workers.

In countries in which there are marked differences in economic conditions in different districts or among different sections of the working classes, it is desirable that separate index numbers should be published for such areas and classes. In these cases the weights used should, as far as possible, be based on working-class consumption in the districts or among the sections of workers to which the index numbers relate.

It may be convenient that the national index should be computed by combining the separate indices, account being taken of the relative populations in the different groups.

(3) In view of the existing inadequacy of statistics of consumption, the most satisfactory method of determining the weights of the different items and groups appears to be that based on a standard family budget obtained as the result of an enquiry into the average expenditure of a number of families during a given period.

Where statistics of family budgets are not available, statistics of aggregate consumption may be of some value in the determination of the relative importance of certain articles of consumption in the country as a whole, account being taken of the fact that certain articles are used for purposes other than human consumption. Theoretical budgets computed from all information available may also be utilised.

(4) Care should be taken to ensure that the quality of each item for which prices are obtained at different dates and the methods of collection and calculation remain unchanged during the period covered.

(5) Index numbers should be computed as often as may be necessary, regard being had to the extent to which prices are changing. In present conditions they may with advantage be computed at monthly intervals, but under more stable conditions their publication at less frequent intervals may be adequate.

(6) It is desirable that in those countries in which no family budget enquiries have been held since 1920-1921 such enquiries should be undertaken as soon as economic conditions are sufficiently favourable, and, if possible, not later than the year 1928.

(7) It is desirable that the Governments, in collaboration with the International Labour Office, should agree to adopt the same year as base for the calculation of a new series of index numbers. It is suggested that the year 1930 would be suitable for this purpose.

(8) It is of great importance that the principles adopted in the selection of articles and of the different qualities of such articles, in the collection and computation of the price data, and in the fixing of the weights should be indicated in full detail when such index numbers are first published, also the precise date to which the index numbers refer.

II. UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS.

(1) In countries in which a widespread system of unemployment insurance exists the information obtained from the working of such a system forms the best basis for unemployment statistics.

(2) These statistics should furnish the following information as a minimum:—

(a) Annually, the total number of workpeople insured against unemployment, which should be related so far as practicable to the total number of workers.

(b) Monthly, the total number of unemployed on a given day in receipt of benefit, and the total number of insured workers unemployed (whether on benefit or not) on the same day.

(c) Monthly, the percentage that on a given day the total number of insured unemployed (whether on benefit or not) forms of the estimated number of insured workpeople.

(d) Annually, the total amount paid during the year in benefits. A method according to which, as in the Netherlands, a percentage is calculated between the number of days of unemployment during one week and the total number of days of work which might have been performed is one which is worthy of attention.

(3) Where statistics based on unemployment insurance, compulsory or voluntary, are not available, it is desirable to obtain from workers' organisations the following information:—

* Studies and Reports, Series N (Statistics), Nos. 6 and 7.

(a) Monthly, the total number of unemployed on a given day and the percentage they form of the total membership covered by the inquiry.

(b) Annually, the number of workers covered by the inquiry as a percentage of the total number of workers in the corresponding industries or occupations.

Even when statistics based on unemployment insurance become available it is desirable, for purposes of comparison, to continue trade union statistics as long as they are reliable.

(4) The statistics derived from public employment offices should give:

(a) The number of workpeople registered on a given day of the month as seeking work, with the total number of vacancies remaining unfilled on the same day.

(b) The number of workers' applications registered; of vacancies notified; and of vacancies filled, during the month.

(5) Employment exchange statistics should be compiled so that as far as possible unskilled workers are distinguished from other classes of workers.

(6) Information as to the state of employment should also be published periodically, if possible monthly, based on returns made by a representative number of employers.

(7) In countries in which satisfactory information concerning unemployment cannot be obtained by the means indicated above, it is desirable that an attempt should be made to obtain at the general population census, or at an industrial or occupational census, information as to the amount of unemployment, or that special enquiries relating to the whole population or to an adequate sample thereof should be made from time to time with a view to ascertaining the number and condition of the unemployed.

(8) The statistics indicated in the preceding resolutions should distinguish males and females and should, so far as possible, give figures for separate occupations in the case of statistics arising out of the activities of employment exchanges, and for separate occupations or industries as may be most convenient in the case of trade union and insurance statistics and in the case of special industrial or occupational enquiries. The classifications used should be based on the classifications adopted in the general population census in so far as these are applicable to employment exchange operations.

(9) It is desirable, for comparing statistics of unemployment internationally:

(a) That precise and detailed information should be published and kept up to date as to the methods adopted in compiling the various statistics of unemployment; in particular, each country should indicate any legislative or administrative changes affecting the value of its unemployment statistics;

(b) That copies of all forms and questionnaires used in collecting the various statistics should be forwarded to the International Labour Office;

(c) That in each country an inquiry should be made to determine, as exactly as possible, the representative value of the unemployment statistics in relation to the "ideal statistics" which would give, at any date, the total number of unemployed in relation to the total number of workers. For this purpose it is agreed:

(1) that the ideal population "field" to which the statistics should relate should be all persons whose normal means of livelihood is employment under contract of service, as well as those persons not hitherto wage earners who seek to become so;

(2) that the unemployment measured should exclude that due to sickness, invalidity, participation in trade disputes, or voluntary absence from work, and should be limited to unemployment due to lack of employment or to lack of work while in employment;

(3) that the necessary and sufficing condition for being enumerated as unemployed is that the individual must have been not at work for one day at least.

(10) It is desirable that the different statistics of unemployment (insurance, trade union, and employment exchanges) should be presented together, preferably in graphic form, so that they might be co-ordinated and checked one with another and as clear and correct an idea as possible of the fluctuations in unemployment obtained.

(11) Statistics of short-time employment should, if possible, be given separately from those of whole-time unemployment.

III. INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS OF REAL WAGES.

The Conference recognises the great theoretical and practical importance of the international comparisons of real wages which were initiated by the British Ministry of Labour and the interest of the researches which have been subsequently carried on by the International Labour Office and which have certainly led to progress in this sphere.

The Conference, however, expresses the opinion that, since these figures cannot be considered as representative of the real differences in the workers' standard of living which exist from country to country it is desirable that a second series of index numbers should be published along with the first, measuring the relative standards of living of the working classes in the different countries. In this case it would be necessary to base the calculations on the actual earnings of working-class families and to take account of the differences in the physiological needs of the population, due chiefly to climate and race.

The International Labour Office in publishing these index numbers should give in the greatest detail the original figures, the methods of calculation adopted, and any reservations necessary. The different countries should send to the International Labour Office the fullest information, together with a detailed description as to the nature and value of their figures.

IV. CLASSIFICATION OF INDUSTRIES.

The Conference realising, as it did in 1923, that it is not possible at the present time to reach an agreement as to the scientific basis of an international classification of industries, but recognising that it is necessary to ensure in the immediate future some form of international comparison, at least for the principal industries, recommends that pending the time when a complete classification becomes possible there should be drawn up, after consultation with the various statistical services and international organisations concerned, a provisional list of the most important industries.

In order that the question of drawing up a more complete list of industries which would serve as a base for international statistical comparisons might be thoroughly investigated, the Conference recommends the International Labour Office to invite the Governments to examine the draft classification which has been submitted to them, and to inform the Office of the difficulties which they would experience in adopting it, calling attention to cases where the draft list might be reduced or expanded.

THE EFFECTS OF THE EIGHT-HOUR DAY IN GERMANY PRIOR TO 1924.

TWO INVESTIGATIONS.

THE legal restriction of the working hours of manual and non-manual workers to eight a day or 48 a week was established in Germany by Orders dated 23rd November, 1918, 17th December, 1918, and 18th March, 1919. As has been noticed in this GAZETTE (January, 1924, page 11), these Orders lapsed in November, 1923, and were renewed, with extensive amendments, by an Order dated 21st December, 1923, which came into force on 1st January, 1924, and which is still in force. This last Order confirmed the general principle of the eight-hour day or 48-hour week; but it introduced a number of provisions permitting of extensions of hours, under certain conditions, up to 10 a day.

Some employers in Germany maintained that the earlier Orders referred to above made a too rigid application of the eight-hour day, in view of the weak and overburdened state of German trade and industry in the years following the War; and that, as a consequence, there was a considerable reduction in output. It is extremely difficult to arrive at a satisfactory conclusion upon this matter, particularly as regards the years 1918-21, when the difficulties of German industry were complicated by industrial disorganisation, revolutionary disturbances, war weariness, and other causes quite unconnected with the simple economic effects of the eight-hour day. But two investigations into production relating to later years, and conducted by two large German engineering undertakings, offer material for a more considered judgment, at least so far as these particular undertakings are concerned.

The results of these investigations have been published in two reports, viz. —

(1) An article* entitled, "Increase in the Cost of Production and Decline in Production," by W. Bolz, a director of the Siemens Works.

(2) An article† entitled, "How shall we overcome the present economic crisis?" by Dr. V. Litz, Managing Director of the Borsig Works.

These reports have been discussed in the *Kölnner Sozialpolitische Vierteljahresschrift* (Vol. IV, No. 1, 1925) from which the following summary is taken:—

Herr Bolz attempts to ascertain the loss in working hours from various causes (socio-political measures, e.g., the eight-hour day, strikes, etc.) suffered by the Siemens Works in the post-war period. He draws a distinction between "productive" and "unproductive" work. "Productive" workers are those workers who, by hand or machine, are actually engaged in producing the goods; while the other workers, both manual and non-manual, who are only indirectly concerned with production, are called "unproductive."

The problems arising out of the application of the eight-hour day, according to the experience at the Siemens Works, were mainly connected with "unproductive" work. It is admitted that, in the period under investigation, the real output of the productive piece workers, in general, no longer fell below the peace-time standard. The total number of male manual workers over 21 engaged in producing a given quantity of goods rose by 29 per cent. between 1914 and 1923. In the same period, the number of "unproductive" workers rose by 96 per cent. In 1914, 28 per cent. of the staff was "unproductive," as compared with 43 per cent. in 1923.

The increases in the number of "unproductive" workers were found to be greater in the less skilled categories. But these increases could not be wholly attributed to the effects of the eight-hour day. Watchmen, for instance, increased by 340 per cent., an increase due to deterioration in morals and the consequent necessity for guarding against thefts, etc.; non-manual workers by 71 per cent., an increase chiefly due to the extra work caused by the inflation of the currency and frequent changes in its value. In the case, however, of the group of machinists and stokers, whose work must be partly done before the other workers begin and after they have finished, large increases in numbers were necessary, owing to the fact that the earlier Working Hours Orders made no provision for excepting this class of work, a state of things which was remedied by the Order of 21st December, 1923.

* Published in *Technik und Wirtschaft*, No. 2, 1924, and in *Siemens-Mitteilungen*, No. 56, 1924.

† Published in the *Borsig Zeitung*, Nos. 8-9, 1924.

Moreover, an analysis of the total loss of working hours of manual workers in 1923, a loss that on average amounted to 21.6 per cent., showed that the direct loss due to the introduction of the statutory eight-hour day was relatively small, as will be seen from the following table, wherein the percentage figures appear to have been calculated on a working day of approximately 9 hours (8½ hours + ¼ hour overtime):—

Cause of Loss.	Hours.	Per cent.
Decreased overtime	0.73	8.25
Sickness	0.475	5.36
Statutory reduction from 8½ hours to 8 hours ...	0.25	2.82
Reduction from 8 to 7.77 hours by collective agreement	0.23	2.60
Loss through holidays	0.151	1.68
Loss through strikes	0.098	1.11
	1.914	21.62

The greatest losses are here shown to be due to reduction in overtime, and to an increase in sickness caused mainly by the deterioration in the health of the workers owing to the war and post-war privation. The causes for the reduction in overtime are mainly to be sought among the "unproductive" manual workers. Before the war the normal working day in the Siemens Works was 8½ hours. The average day worked by the productive workers, inclusive of overtime, was about three-quarters of an hour longer; but the so-called "unproductive" workers had much longer hours, varying between 8½ and 12 hours a day according to the intensity of the work. The loss of hours was greatest among the warehouse and transport workers, in the number of whom there was an increase of 138 per cent. These facts are cited as supporting the assertion frequently made in Germany that the eight-hour day was too rigidly applied by the earlier Working Hours Orders to workers whose working time partly consisted of mere 'attendance on duty.'

The experience of the Borsig Works appears to have been largely similar to that of the Siemens Works. Dr. Litz gives the following figures for the engineering section proper:—

	1913.	1922.
Total number of workers (manual and non-manual)	4,561	7,245
Total number of working days	300	302
Total output (tons)	31,615	32,311
Output per worker (kilos.)	6,932	4,460

Although discipline and the willingness to work had, in general, greatly deteriorated, it is stated that the average output of the directly productive workers on piece rates had, during the period covered by the investigation, pretty well reached the pre-war level again, and the great decline in the output per capita is attributed to the increase in the number of "unproductive" workers, which is shown in the following table:—

	1913.	1922.
Total number of workers	4,561	7,245
"Productive" manual workers	2,740	3,271
"Unproductive" manual workers	1,003	2,306
Non-manual workers and labourers on weekly wage	818	1,668

The "productive" workers in the Borsig works had already enjoyed what was practically an eight-hour day before the war, but the "unproductive" workers had a day of 10.47 hours. As regards the "productive" workers, the introduction of the statutory eight-hour day led to a reduction of output in certain cases; for example, in iron founding (an exception to the 8-hour day rule), where the hours were reduced from 9½ to 8 a day, and the technical process did not admit of an immediate intensification of effort.

The effect on the "unproductive" workers, however, was much more marked. Their hours were reduced by 23 per cent., and an equivalent increase in their number, to make up for this reduction, might have been expected. In fact, however, the increase was far greater than the reduction of working hours demanded. As will be seen from the figures given above, for an approximately equal output in 1913 and 1922, the increase in the number of "productive" manual workers was from 2,740 to 3,271, or 19 per cent.; of "unproductive" manual workers, from 1,003 to 2,306, or 130 per cent.; and of non-manual workers and labourers on a weekly wage from 818 to 1,668, or 104 per cent. It is stated, however, that the greater part of the actual increase was due to the restrictions on dismissals laid down by the Demobilisation Order of the 12th February, 1920.* This is a factor which is often overlooked in comparisons of output under the pre-war and the eight-hour day régime, and, to that extent, the influence of the restriction of hours on output has been exaggerated. On the whole, however, the Borsig investigation leads to much the same result as the Siemens inquiry.

In conclusion, it should be stated that a fairly large number of other investigations into the effect on production of the earlier German Orders on Working Hours led, more or less, to the same general results, i.e., that the relative reduction in output, where it took place, was due, for a large part, to increases in the number of "unproductive" workers consequent upon the restriction of their working hours. It is understood that the German Government had this fact in mind when drafting the amending Order, dated 21st December, 1923, which makes provision, *inter alia*, for extensions of the working hours, subject to a daily maximum of ten, of persons engaged on intermittent work, which is the case with most "unproductive" workers in Germany.

* An Order dated 15th October, 1923, permitted the dismissal of superfluous workers retained under the Demobilisation Order of 12th February, 1920.

UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF IN SWEDEN: RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY.*

The Committee appointed by the Swedish Government in the summer of 1924 (see this GAZETTE for August, 1924, page 279) to inquire into the question of the organisation of public relief works as a means of alleviating unemployment, presented their Report on 8th September last.

The Committee recommend that the present system of State relief works should be permanently continued under the direction of the existing Unemployment Commission. They consider, however, that the Commission should have greater freedom, and that, at periods when unemployment is slight, systematic preparations should be made for the organisation of relief works against future times of necessity.

The Committee attach great importance to the continued application of the rule that wages paid for relief work should be lower than the local rates paid in the open market. They recommend that certain privileges conceded to relief workers when unemployment was very severe, in the form of cheap food and clothing, rent allowances, etc., should be entirely abolished, where this has not already been done. They favour, however, the continuance of the so-called "local increments," that is, allowances paid to the families of persons employed upon relief works who have been transferred to a place where the local wages are lower than those prevailing in their home district, but these allowances should in future be paid by the commune, instead of, as hitherto, by the State. They are not to be regarded as poor relief.

The regulations of 1922 on the payment of unemployment donations, although still in force, have been in abeyance since the autumn of 1923, when unemployment declined greatly. The Committee consider that these regulations should remain in abeyance, because they disapprove, in principle, of the system of unemployment relief "doles"; but they recommend that the possibility of granting unemployment donations in cases of emergency should be left open.

In addition to State relief works, the Committee recommend the continuance of State contributions to communal relief works, which should remain under State control, both in order to ensure uniformity and to avoid interference with work in the open labour market. As hitherto, no relief should be given to workers involved in labour disputes.

The Committee make no recommendation in regard to the introduction of a system of unemployment insurance; but the Minister for Social Affairs recently stated that he anticipated that a Bill on this subject would be laid before the Riksdag next year.

EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES AND UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE IN BULGARIA: NEW ACT.†

UNDER an Act dated 5th May last, a system of free public employment exchanges combined with unemployment insurance is to be established in Bulgaria as from 1st January, 1926.

Private employment agencies are to be abolished, other than those which charge no fees and are attached to trade unions. Labour Bureaux will be set up at Sofia and Plovdiv (Philippopolis), and also, on the advice of the Higher Labour Council, in any district where there are more than 3,000 workers. Each of these Bureaux will be organised in three sections, dealing respectively with employment and unemployment, social insurance, and vocational training. In every municipality where there is no Labour Bureau, a local employment exchange will be set up. Attached to the local Exchanges will be conciliation committees consisting of a representative of the employers and a representative of the workpeople, presided over by a magistrate; these will deal with all questions relating to dismissal, engagement, wages and works regulations. Labour Councils, presided over by the Departmental Factory Inspector, will also be established, to deal with local labour conditions, with a view to the organisation of relief works in the event of acute unemployment and, generally, to take measures for the prevention or reduction of unemployment. The general control of the exchange service for the whole country will be in the hands of a special branch to be created at the Labour Department of Bulgaria.

One section of the Act establishes the principle of 15 days' notice to be given in the event of dismissal or of resignation, except where provision is made under this head in the works regulations or by previous agreement.

Wage-earners between 15 and 60 in all occupations mentioned in the Social Insurance Act§ will be under obligation to insure against loss of employment, except domestic servants and persons employed in pensionable positions in the public services. Seamen are included in the scope of the Act, and also agricultural workers in agricultural undertakings recognised as "model" undertakings in a special Act.

In case of unemployment an allowance of 16 leva|| a day is to be made to heads of families and of 10 leva|| a day to unmarried persons, for a maximum period of twelve weeks per annum on condition that the insured person has been paying contributions for at least 52 weeks over a period of two years.

* Based on a despatch from H.M. Representative at Stockholm, dated 22nd September.

† For notes on the Swedish system of unemployment relief, see this GAZETTE for May and August, 1922, pages 206 and 326.

‡ Industrial and Labour Information, 13th July, 1925. Geneva.

§ All wage earners and salaried employees in public or private establishments without distinction as to nature of employment, sex, or rate of wage or salary.

|| On 13th October the exchange rate was 660-675 leva to the £ sterling.

The benefits are paid out of the unemployment fund made up of contributions from the workers, the employers, and the State.

CONCILIATION IN FINLAND: NEW ACT.*

AN Act which comes into force on 1st January, 1926, has recently been passed in Finland, providing for the establishment of conciliation and voluntary arbitration in industrial disputes on the lines of the existing Swedish legislation. Conciliation officers, under the supervision of the Ministry of Social Affairs and paid by the State, are to be appointed by the Council of State for a period of three years. The number is to be fixed later by Administrative Order. If a dispute affects the districts of several conciliation officers, the Minister for Social Affairs may either select one of the ordinary officers to deal with it, or appoint a special conciliator. The Minister may also appoint a special conciliator or conciliation board if he considers that the dispute may endanger the interests of the community, or if the negotiations instituted by the competent conciliation officer have failed.

At the request of one of the parties or of the trade association to which the party belongs, the conciliation officer must take steps to settle a dispute. He is empowered to summon the employers and workers concerned to appear before him and to supply the necessary information. He may also summon expert witnesses. If the dispute seems likely to endanger the interests of the community, the conciliation officer may intervene on his own initiative. In other cases, he may not start conciliation proceedings until he has heard the opinions of the parties to the dispute, and not at all if it is against the unanimous wish of the parties.

If the conciliation officer does not succeed in inducing the parties to effect a settlement of the dispute in the course of the negotiations, he may lay before them a proposal for settlement, to be accepted or rejected by them within a period fixed by him. If his proposal is accepted, a written agreement on this basis is to be drawn up and signed by the parties. If the proposal is rejected, the conciliation officer must advise the parties to refer the dispute to one or more arbitrators, whose award they bind themselves to accept. The conciliation officer must not himself act as arbitrator; but he must give the parties assistance in selecting an arbitrator, and supply the arbitrator selected with all useful information.

An account of the conciliation negotiations and the proposal of the conciliator may be published, if publicity seems likely to further the settlement of the dispute, unless this course is unanimously opposed by both parties.

WAGES IN GERMANY IN JULY, 1925.

THE journal of the Federal Statistical Office for the second half of August† presents further statistics of wages,‡ in certain large industrial groups, based on collective agreements in force in June and July. The figures shown in the Table below are extracted from the statistics in question: they are weighted averages for the principal centres of the respective industries. For mining and the metal and textile industries the data are based on piece-rates or on time-rates with allowances for output; for railway workers on time-rates plus allowances which vary according to locality.

Industry.	Skilled Workers.				Unskilled Workers.			
	Rate per Hour.||		Rate per Full Week.||		Rate per Hour.||		Rate per Full Week.||	
	June.	July.	June.	July.	June.	July.	June.	July.
Mining§ ...	Rpf. 96	Rpf. 96	Rmk. 45.8	Rmk. 45.8	Rpf. 55	Rpf. 55	Rmk. 32.6	Rmk. 32.6
Metal§ ...	83	86	41.5	43.2	57	59	28.4	29.4
Chemicals§ ...	80	80	38.5	38.5	68	68	32.5	32.5
Building ...	108	111	51.8	52.8	90	92	43.2	44.0
Woodworking ...	88	92	41.7	43.5	77	80	36.4	37.9
Papermaking, &c.§	65	66	31.0	31.7	58	60	28.0	28.6
Textile, males§	58	59	27.9	28.5	48	49	23.2	23.7
Textile, females ...	47	48	22.6	22.9	36	37	17.0	17.7
Brewing§ ...	93	95	44.5	45.6	82	84	39.2	40.3
Sugar confectionery	78	78	37.4	37.4	68	68	32.5	32.5
Printing ...	92	96	44.1	45.8	80	83	38.5	40.0
State railways§ ...	77	77	41.5	41.5	61	61	32.9	32.9
Average (weighted)	86	88	42.5	43.3	62	63	31.9	32.5

† If all industries be taken together, the average increase between June and July in the hourly rates amounts to 2.0 per cent. for skilled workers and 1.9 per cent. for unskilled.

‡ A comparison with pre-war wages is made in regard to three groups (building, woodworking and printing) for which figures are available both for 1913-14 and for July, 1925. This shows an increase in hourly rates amounting to from 46 to 57 per cent. for skilled workers and from 64 to 72 per cent. for unskilled. Weekly rates increased to a less extent, viz., from 34 to 45 per cent. for skilled workers and from 48 to 61 per cent. for unskilled.

* Social Tidsskrift, No. 6, 1925. Helsingfors.

† Wirtschaft und Statistik, No. 16. Berlin. The rates are expressed in Reichspfennigs and Reichsmarks. (100 Rpf. = 1 Rmk. = 11.8d approximately.)

‡ See this GAZETTE for June, p. 196.

§ Inclusive of "social allowances" on the scale laid down for a wife and two children, so far as these are paid in the locality from which returns were received.

|| The rates for a full week are, for the most part, based on a week of 48 hours; in the building trades, however, the full-time week is 47 hours at Hamburg, 47 at Leipzig, Dresden, Chemnitz; in wood working, it is 46 at Berlin; in the metal industry, 54 at Hamburg and Cologne and 56 in each of the five towns forming the north-western group; for State railways, it is 54 hours; and for surface workers at mines, 60 hours.

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

Summary: Average Increases since July, 1914.

All Items included ...	76%
Food only ...	72%

FOOD.

At 1st October the average level of retail prices of the principal articles of food showed a slight increase as compared with that at 1st September. There was an average advance of about 3d. each in the price of eggs, of 3d. per quart in the price of milk, and of nearly 3d. per lb. in the price of butter. These seasonal upward movements were, however, partly counterbalanced by a decline in the average price of bread (3d. per 4 lbs.), flour (3d. per 7 lbs.) and potatoes (3d. per 7 lbs.). The movements in prices of the remaining articles included in the statistics were relatively small.

As a net result of all the changes recorded, the average increase over the level of July, 1914, in the retail prices (in Great Britain and Northern Ireland) of the articles of food included in these statistics was about 72 per cent. at 1st October, as compared with about 70 per cent. at 1st September and 72 per cent. at the corresponding date in 1924.

In the following Table is given a comparison of retail prices of these articles of food in July, 1914, and at 1st September and 1st October, 1925:—

Article.	Average Price (per lb. unless otherwise indicated—to the nearest 1/4d.)			Average Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) at 1st Oct., 1925, as compared with	
	July, 1914.	1st Sept., 1925.	1st Oct., 1925.	July, 1914.	1st Sept., 1925.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Beef, British—					
Ribs ...	0 10	1 6	1 6	+ 0 8	...
Thin Flank ...	0 6 1/2	0 10	0 10	+ 0 3 1/2	...
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—					
Ribs ...	0 7 1/2	0 10 1/2	0 10 1/2	+ 0 3 1/2	...
Thin Flank ...	0 4 1/2	0 5 1/2	0 5 1/2	+ 0 1	...
Mutton, British—					
Legs ...	0 10 1/2	1 8 1/2	1 8	+ 0 9 1/2	- 0 0 1/2
Breast ...	0 6 1/2	0 11 1/2	0 11 1/2	+ 0 4 1/2	...
Mutton, Frozen—					
Legs ...	0 6 1/2	1 0 1/2	1 0 1/2	+ 0 6	...
Breast ...	0 4	0 5 1/2	0 5 1/2	+ 0 1 1/2	...
Bacon (streaky)*	0 11 1/2	1 8 1/2	1 9	+ 0 9 1/2	+ 0 0 1/2
Flour ... per 7 lb.	0 10 1/2	1 6 1/2	1 6 1/2	+ 0 7 1/2	- 0 0 1/2
Bread ... per 4 lb.	0 5 1/2	0 10 1/2	0 9 1/2	+ 0 4	- 0 0 1/2
Tea ...	1 6 1/2	2 5	2 5	+ 0 10 1/2	...
Sugar (granulated) ...	0 2	0 3 1/2	0 3 1/2	+ 0 1 1/2	...
Milk ... per quart	0 3 1/2	0 5 1/2	0 6 1/2	+ 0 3	+ 0 0 1/2
Butter—					
Fresh ...	1 2 1/2	2 2	2 2 1/2	+ 1 0	+ 0 0 1/2
Salt ...	1 2 1/2	2 0 1/2	2 1 1/2	+ 0 11 1/2	+ 0 0 1/2
Cheese† ...	0 8 1/2	1 2 1/2	1 2 1/2	+ 0 6	+ 0 0 1/2
Margarine ...	0 7	0 8	0 8	+ 0 1	...
Eggs (fresh) ... each	0 1 1/2	0 2 1/2	0 2 1/2	+ 0 1 1/2	+ 0 0 1/2
Potatoes per 7 lb.	0 4 1/2	0 8 1/2	0 8	+ 0 3 1/2	- 0 0 1/2

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

Article.	Average Percentage Increase at 1st October, 1925, as compared with July, 1914.			Corresponding General Average for 1st Sept., 1925.
	Large Towns (Populations over 50,000).	Small Towns and Villages.	General Average.	
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	
Beef, British—				
Ribs ...	82	77	79	80
Thin Flank ...	50	51	50	50
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—				
Ribs ...	49	45	47	46
Thin Flank ...	18	19	18	17
Mutton, British—				
Legs ...	91	93	92	94
Breast ...	78	70	74	74
Mutton, Frozen—				
Legs ...	91	81	86	85
Breast ...	38	35	36	34
Bacon (streaky)*	91	84	87	84
Fish ...	132	104	118	115
Flour ...	68	74	71	76
Bread ...	71	69	70	77
Tea ...	54	61	58	59
Sugar (granulated) ...	80	72	76	79
Milk ...	83	83	83	65
Butter—				
Fresh ...	82	83	82	78
Salt ...	81	79	80	75
Cheese† ...	68	69	69	66
Margarine ...	19	10	15	12
Eggs (fresh) ...	127	126	126	93
Potatoes ...	74	51	63	78
All above articles of Food (Weighted Centage Increase) ...	74	71	72	70

* 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.

‡ The increase between 1st September and 1st October was very small, but sufficient to raise the average as expressed to the nearest farthing.

RENT, CLOTHING, FUEL AND LIGHT.

As regards rents, inquiries which have been made into the changes which have taken effect under the Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Acts indicate that the average increase in the rents of working-class dwellings between July, 1914, and 1st October, 1925, was approximately 48 per cent. Of the total increase, about two-fifths is accounted for by increases on account of rates and water charges and about two-fifths is on account of the landlord's responsibility for repairs, increases on account of the higher level of mortgage interest permitted by the Acts falling within the remaining one-fifth.

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, textile materials and boots, received from retailers in the principal towns, indicates that at 1st October the level of retail prices of articles in this group, taking goods of the kinds purchased by the working classes and so far as possible the same qualities of goods at each date, averaged between 125 and 130 per cent. higher than in July, 1914.

In the fuel and light group the average prices of coal and gas were slightly higher than at 1st September, and were nearly 90 and 55 per cent., respectively, higher than in July, 1914. The prices of lamp oil, candles and matches, however, showed no appreciable change during the month. Taking the fuel and light group as a whole, the average increase at 1st October as compared with July, 1914, was slightly over 80 per cent.

ALL ITEMS.

If the average increases in the cost of all the foregoing items are combined in accordance with their relative importance in pre-war working-class family expenditure, allowance being also made for the increase in the prices of soap, soda, domestic ironmongery, brushware and pottery, tobacco, fares and newspapers (averaging about 80 per cent.), the resultant general average increase for 1st October is, approximately, 76 per cent.* over the level of July, 1914, as compared with 74 per cent. at 1st September and 76 per cent. at the corresponding date in 1924.

The result of this calculation (in which the same quantities and, as far as possible, the same qualities of each item are taken in 1925 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). Owing to the variations in the amounts of increase in the prices of different commodities it is probable that economies or re-adjustments in expenditure have been effected in many families, especially in those cases where incomes have not increased so much as prices. On the other hand, it is probable that the standard of living has been raised in some families in which wages have been increased in greater proportion than prices. No allowance is made in the figures for any such alterations in the standard of living, as to which trustworthy statistics are not available.

SUMMARY TABLE: 1915 TO 1925.

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, etc.)

Month (beginning of)	Average Percentage Increase since July, 1914—All Items.											
	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	
January ...	10-15	35	65	85-90	120	125	165	92	78	77	80	
February ...	15	35	65-70	90	120	130	151	88	77	79	79	
March ...	15-20	35-40	70	90	115	130	141	86	76	78	79	
April ...	15-20	35-40	70-75	90-95	110	132	133	82	74	73	79	
May ...	20	40-45	75	95-100	105	141	128	81	70	71	73	
June ...	25	45	75-80	100	105	150	119	80	69	69	72	
July ...	25	45-50	80	100-105	105-110	152	119	84	69	70	73	
August ...	25	45-50	80	110	115	155	122	81	71	71	73	
September ...	25	50	80-85	110	115	161	120	79	73	72	74	
October ...	30	50-55	75-80	115-120	120	164	110	78	75	76	76	
November ...	30-35	60	85	120-125	125	176	103	80	75	80	...	
December ...	35	65	85	120	125	169	99	80	77	81	...	

NOTE.

A brief Statement of the method of compiling these statistics was given on page 236 of the July, 1923, issue of this GAZETTE. A more detailed account was given in the issue of February, 1921.

* If allowance is made for the changes in taxation, since July, 1914, on the commodities included in these statistics the average increase is about 2 per cent. less.

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 to females, of adults to juveniles, and of skilled to unskilled workers in the respective industries.

COAL MINING.

EMPLOYMENT during September was bad, and much worse than a year ago. In Durham employment was still affected by stoppages of work owing to disputes.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 23.2 at 21st September, 1925, as compared with 22.2 at 24th August, 1925, and 8.2 at 22nd September, 1924.

The total number of wage-earners on the colliery books at 26th September, 1925, showed an increase of 0.8 per cent. as compared with that at 29th August, 1925, but a decrease of 8.9 per cent. as compared with that at 27th September, 1924.

The average number of days worked per week in the fortnight ended 26th September, 1925, was 4.59, an increase of 0.11 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 29th August, 1925, but a decrease of 0.59 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 27th September, 1924.

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 26th September, 1925, as shown by returns obtained by the Mines Department. Small numbers of workpeople employed at coal mines in raising or handling minerals other than coal are included in the totals:—

Districts.	Total Number of Wage Earners on Colliery Books at		Average Number of Days worked per Week by the Mines.*		
	26th Sept., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago.	Fortnight ended 26th Sept., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND AND WALES:					
Northumberland ...	49,206	+ 0.8	5.13	+ 0.23	- 0.05
Durham ...	141,568	+ 0.1	4.19	+ 0.18	- 0.66
Cumberland and Westmorland ...	10,791	+ 1.8	4.62	+ 0.15	- 0.73
South Yorkshire ...	118,428	+ 0.6	5.10	+ 0.64	- 0.36
West Yorkshire ...	63,817	- 0.5	4.35	+ 0.41	- 0.83
Lancs and Cheshire ...	95,862	+ 0.1	3.84	+ 0.21	- 1.22
Derbyshire ...	62,570	+ 0.4	4.64	+ 0.24	- 0.87
Notts and Leicester ...	66,392	+ 0.7	4.88	+ 0.05	- 0.29
Warwick ...	34,719	+ 0.8	4.29	+ 0.18	- 1.30
Staffs, Worcester and Salop ...	34,922	+ 0.4	4.82	+ 0.29	- 0.93
Glos. and Somerset ...	13,656	- 0.1	4.13	- 0.33	- 0.81
Kent ...	1,625	- 1.0	4.46	- 0.58	+ 1.99
North Wales ...	15,247	+ 2.7	4.54	- 0.22	- 0.51
South Wales and Mon. ...	209,369	+ 1.8	4.62	- 0.16	- 0.53
England and Wales	937,855	+ 0.6	4.56	+ 0.13	- 0.63
SCOTLAND:					
Mid & East Lothians ...	14,775	+ 1.9	4.96	- 0.19	- 0.32
Fife and Clackmannan ...	27,382	+ 1.0	4.82	- 0.39	- 0.30
Rest of Scotland ...	76,435	+ 1.8	4.73	+ 0.02	- 0.33
Scotland ...	118,592	+ 1.6	4.78	- 0.10	- 0.32
GREAT BRITAIN	1,056,447	+ 0.8	4.59	+ 0.11	- 0.59

The average number of coal-winding days lost in Great Britain during the fortnight ended 26th September, 1925, was 1.17 days per week, of which 1.02 was due to want of trade and transport difficulties and 0.10 of a day to disputes. The figures for the fortnight ended 29th August, 1925, were 1.29 days, of which 1.00 was due to want of trade and transport difficulties, and 0.19 of a day to disputes; for the fortnight ended 27th September, 1924, the average time lost was 0.58 of a day per week, of which 0.49 of a day was due to want of trade and transport difficulties. The average non-winding time for each of the three periods under review was about one quarter of a day per week.

The output of coal for Great Britain for the four weeks ended September, 1925, was returned to the Mines Department at 17,206,600 tons, as compared with 15,596,400 tons in the four weeks ended 29th August, 1925, and with 20,430,300 tons in the four weeks ended 27th September, 1924.

The exports of coal, including coal shipped for the use of steamers engaged in foreign trade, and the coal-equivalent of coke and manufactured fuel, amounted to 5,597,404 tons in September, compared with 4,829,244 tons in August.

The percentages unemployed among insured workpeople in different areas are shown in the following Table:—

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

Area.	Percentage Unemployed at 21st Sept., 1925.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND AND WALES:			
Northumberland ...	19.2	- 2.9	- 0.2
Durham ...	32.4	+ 9.5	+ 18.8
Cumberland and Westmorland ...	43.8	+ 19.6	+ 29.4
Yorkshire ...	12.3	- 6.2	+ 9.1
Lancs and Cheshire ...	32.5	- 2.5	+ 25.6
Derbyshire ...	13.2	- 2.3	+ 12.0
Notts and Leicester ...	12.5	+ 4.3	+ 9.1
Warwick ...	3.1	+ 1.0	+ 0.3
Staffs, Worcester and Salop ...	12.0	+ 0.3	+ 7.9
Glos. and Somerset ...	29.7	+ 6.6	+ 15.4
Kent ...	7.0	+ 4.3	- 26.8
Wales and Monmouth ...	29.9	+ 1.4	+ 20.7
England and Wales ...	23.3	+ 1.0	+ 15.2
SCOTLAND ...	23.0	+ 1.3	+ 14.4
GREAT BRITAIN ...	23.2	+ 1.0	+ 15.0

IRON AND SHALE MINING.

Iron Mining.

EMPLOYMENT showed a considerable improvement on the whole during the latter half of September, owing chiefly to the re-opening of some mines in Cumberland. In the Cleveland district, however, employment continued bad and the number of workpeople employed showed a slight decline compared with the previous month, although, compared with a year ago, the numbers showed an improvement. The position in districts other than Cleveland, Cumberland and Lancashire was worse than a year ago. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed in iron-ore and ironstone mining and quarrying, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 27.1 at 21st September, 1925, as compared with 33.0 at 24th August, 1925, and 26.5 at 22nd September, 1924.

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

Districts.	Number of Workpeople employed at Mines included in the Returns.		Average No. of Days worked per Week by the Mines.*		
	Fortnight ended 26th Sept., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago.	Fortnight ended 26th Sept., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND AND WALES:					
Cleveland... ..	2,446	- 1.8	5.15	+ 0.19	- 0.65
Cumberland and Lancashire ...	2,767	+ 80.1	5.61	+ 0.02	+ 0.04
Other Districts ...	1,418	+ 7.8	5.38	- 0.23	- 0.33
ALL DISTRICTS	6,631	+ 24.1	5.39	+ 0.09	- 0.30

Shale Mining.

At shale mines employment continued fairly good, but showed a slight decline as compared with the previous month.

At mines employing 3,982 workpeople during the fortnight ended 26th September, 1925, there was a decrease of 1.4 per cent. in the number employed as compared with the previous month, and of 3.9 per cent. as compared with September, 1924. The average number of days* worked per week by the mines was 5.90 in September, 1925, as compared with 5.97 in August, 1925, and 5.99 in September, 1924.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during September was bad, and showed a decline as compared with the previous month. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 21.4 at 21st September, 1925, as compared with 20.7 at 24th August, 1925, and with 15.7 at 22nd September, 1924. According to returns received by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, from 83 firms employing at the end of September 16,754 workpeople, a decrease of 2.3 per cent. is shown compared with August, and a decrease of 20.4 per cent. compared with September, 1924.

The total number of furnaces in blast at the end of the month as shown by the returns collected by the Federation was 129, a

* See note * in previous column.

net decrease of 7 compared with the number in blast at the end of August, and a decrease of 41 compared with September, 1924.

The following Table shows the number of furnaces in blast at the end of September, 1925, August, 1925, and September, 1924:—

Districts.	Total Number of Furnaces.	Number of Furnaces in Blast at end of			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Sept. on a	
		Sept., 1925.	August, 1925.	Sept., 1924.	Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND AND WALES:						
Durham and Cleveland	111	32	34	42	- 2	- 10
Cumberland and W. Lancs... ..	47	7	6	11	+ 1	- 4
Other parts of Lancs and Yorks (including Sheffield) ...	35	11	12	12	- 1	- 1
Derby, Leicester, Notts and Northants ...	73	33	37	42	- 4	- 9
Lincolnshire ...	23	12	12	11	...	+ 1
Staffs, Shropshire, Worcester and Warwick ...	60	11	11	13	...	- 2
South Wales ...	32	8	8	10	...	- 2
Total, England and Wales	381	114	120	141	- 6	- 27
SCOTLAND ...	101	15	16	29	- 1	- 14
Total ...	482	129	136	170	- 7	- 41

The production of pig iron in September amounted to 448,700 tons, as compared with 444,500 tons in August, and 569,200 tons in September, 1924.

IRON AND STEEL TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT continued bad during September and showed little change on the whole, as compared with the previous month. Short time was again reported to have been worked in many districts.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the number of unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 25.7 on 21st September, 1925, as compared with 25.9 on 24th August, 1925, and 25.7 on 22nd September, 1924.

According to returns received from firms employing 61,907 workpeople the volume of employment during the week ended 26th September, 1925 (as indicated by the number of workpeople employed combined with the number of shifts during which work was carried on in each department) decreased by 1.3 per cent. as compared with the previous month, and by 7.6 per cent. as compared with a year ago. The average number of shifts during which the works were open was 5.2 in September, 1925, the same as in August, as compared with 5.3 in September, 1924.

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

DEPARTMENTS.	No. of Workpeople employed by firms making returns.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a		Aggregate Number of Shifts.*	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	
		Week ended 26th Sept., 1925.	Month ago.		Week ended 26th Sept., 1925.	Month ago.
Open Hearth Melting Furnaces ...	6,436	- 2.7	- 8.4	37,447	- 2.4	- 9.2
Puddling Forges ...	2,687	- 14.7	- 24.3	10,663	- 25.1	- 30.8
Rolling Mills ...	23,365	- 1.2	- 0.9	112,736	- 2.8	- 2.5
Forging and Pressing ...	2,379	- 11.7	- 13.6	12,573	- 7.7	- 10.7
Founding ...	7,881	+ 0.4	- 1.9	44,085	+ 5.8	- 1.8
Other Departments ...	6,576	+ 5.0	- 7.5	35,704	+ 4.7	- 8.9
Mechanics, Labourers ...	12,583	+ 1.2	- 9.6	70,050	+ 0.8	- 11.9
TOTAL ...	61,907	- 1.2	- 6.2	323,258	- 1.3	- 7.6
DISTRICTS.						
Northumberland, Durham and Cleveland... ..	14,619	+ 3.4	+ 1.8	80,211	+ 2.5	+ 0.5
Sheffield and Rotherham ...	13,093	+ 1.4	- 4.1	67,468	+ 4.1	- 5.1
Leeds, Bradford, etc. ...	1,893	- 13.0	+ 3.2	10,109	- 13.4	+ 3.3
Cumberland, Lancs and Cheshire ...	6,360	+ 14.5	- 4.6	31,602	+ 12.5	- 6.3
Staffordshire ...	5,351	- 20.3	- 26.8	28,623	- 19.8	- 25.5
Other Midland Counties	1,912	- 11.2	- 14.9	9,057	- 12.0	- 18.5
Wales and Monmouth	8,101	- 2.7	- 4.3	44,671	- 2.1	- 0.3
Total, England and Wales ...	51,329	- 1.2	- 5.9	271,741	- 1.0	- 5.8
Scotland ...	10,578	- 0.8	- 7.6	51,517	- 2.7	- 16.1
TOTAL ...	61,907	- 1.2	- 6.2	323,258	- 1.3	- 7.6

The production of steel ingots and castings, as returned by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, amounted to 638,900 tons in September, 1925, as compared with 477,100 tons in August, 1925, and 645,000 tons in September, 1924.

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

TINPLATE AND STEEL SHEET TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT during September was fair and showed an improvement as compared with the previous month; it was not so good as a year ago. At the end of the month, 522 tinplate and steel sheet mills were in operation at the works for which information is available, compared with 505* a month ago and with 539 a year ago.

The following Table shows the number of mills in operation at the end of September, 1925, at the works covered by the returns received, as compared with August, 1925, and with September, 1924:—

Works.	Number of Works Open		Number of Mills in Operation		
	At end of Sept., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	At end of Sept., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Tinplate ...	70	+ 1	397	+ 17	- 15
Steel Sheet	13	...	125	+*	- 2
TOTAL ...	83	+ 1	522	+ 17*	- 17

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed on 21st September, 1925, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 12.3, as compared with 15.8 at 24th August, 1925, and with 3.7 on 22nd September, 1924.

The exports of tinned and galvanised plates and sheets in September, 1925, amounted to 92,447 tons, or 1,198 tons more than in August, 1925, but 2,059 tons less than in September, 1924.

ENGINEERING.

EMPLOYMENT during September continued bad on the whole and showed little change compared with the previous month. In the marine engineering section it was very bad, and showed a further slight decline; while in the heavy engineering section it remained bad, with practically no improvement. In the motor and cycle section employment showed a further slight decline in some districts but in others it improved, and on the whole employment remained fair for the time of year. In the textile machinery section in Lancashire and Cheshire an improvement was reported. On electrical work employment remained fairly good.

Compared with a year ago employment was better, except in the North-Eastern district and in Wales, where a decline was shown, and in Scotland and Northern Ireland, where there was little change.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed at 21st September, 1925, and the increase or decrease as compared with August and with a year ago:—

Divisions.	Number of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 21st September, 1925.						Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	
	Engineering, Iron and Steel Foundries.	Electrical Engineering.	Marine Engineering, etc.	Constructional Engineering.	Construction and Repair of Motor Vehicles, Aircraft, and Aircraft.	TOTAL.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London ...	6,086	334	85	94	1,996	8,595	+ 25	- 3,013
South-Eastern ...	2,016	201	147	31	952	3,347	- 6	- 1,941
South-Western ...	1,782	59	494	81	846	3,262	+ 133	- 222
Midlands ...	8,198	1,262	55	587	8,242	18,348	- 573	- 9,052
North-Eastern ...	21,481	612	8,704	951	7,438	32,496	- 1,068	+ 3,557
North-Western ...	19,434	1,256	255	125	2,536	23,606	+ 55	- 8,377
Scotland ...	15,468	322	3,197	1,042	768	20,797	+ 105	+ 145
Wales... ..	1,183	24	30	61	140	1,438	- 95	+ 494
Northern Ireland	1,998	22	1,275	14	195	3,504	+ 200	+ 63
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND ...	77,646	4,092	14,243	2,986	16,423	115,390	- 1,434	- 18,346

Percentages Unemployed at 21st September, 1925.

Divisions.	Per cent.		Per cent.		Per cent.	Per cent.	
	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
London ...	6.9	3.8	12.5	4.6	6.0	6.5	+ 0.1
South-Eastern ...	4.8	2.4	4.6	5.8	4.2	4.3	- 2.5
South-Western ...	5.2	2.0	7.5	13.3	4.5	5.	

In Lancashire and Cheshire employment improved in the textile machinery section, although short time was still in operation at many centres. In the motor section employment showed a further decline; agricultural, printing and biscuit machinery makers were fairly well employed; at railway works employment continued moderate, some short time being worked; while in the heavy engineering section employment was still depressed.

In the Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Coventry district there was a little improvement in the motor and cycle section, employment being very fair for the time of year; skilled men were chiefly in demand. Conditions in the electrical section were fairly good, but employment on heavy engineering remained depressed. At Nottingham employment was good in the motor and cycle section, bad in the lace machinery section, and declining in the hosiery machinery section. At Derby it was fairly good in the motor section; railway works were still not working on Saturdays. At Leicester employment remained fair on the whole.

In the Eastern Counties employment remained fair, although showing a tendency to slacken off at some centres. In London and the Southern Counties it continued fair generally, and good in the electrical section, which showed an improvement on the previous month. In South Wales employment remained bad, but showed a slight improvement.

In Scotland employment was again bad and showed little change from the previous month. In the Glasgow district employment at sewing machine works continued good, but the slight improvement formerly reported in the locomotive section was not maintained.

At Belfast employment was very bad and showed a decline.

SHIPBUILDING AND SHIP-REPAIRING.

EMPLOYMENT continued very bad during September, and showed a slight decline compared with the previous month. Compared with a year ago there was a considerable decline on the North-East Coast and in Scotland, the principal shipbuilding districts; at smaller centres some improvement was shown.

On the North-East Coast employment remained very bad, nearly half the workpeople being out of employment. At Hull and Grimsby employment on repair work declined; at smaller ports on the East Coast it was moderate. Employment continued slack on the Thames and on the South Coast, and bad at the Bristol Channel Ports and on the Mersey.

In Scotland and in Northern Ireland, employment continued very bad.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed at 21st September, 1925, and the increase or decrease as compared with 24th August, and with a year ago:—

Divisions.	Total Number of Insured Workpeople 21st Sept., 1925.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Percentage Unemployed at 21st Sept., 1925.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
London...	2,622	+ 98	- 977	18.3	+ 0.6	- 6.9
South-Eastern...	568	+ 23	- 456	6.0	+ 0.3	- 4.5
South-Western...	4,201	+ 35	- 524	14.9	+ 0.1	- 1.9
Midlands...	61	6	- 63	12.0	+ 1.2	- 12.3
North-Eastern...	33,483	+ 119	+ 8,884	47.7	+ 0.2	+ 12.7
North-Western...	11,332	+ 369	- 78	33.3	+ 1.0	- 0.3
Scotland...	23,117	+ 68	+ 4,969	35.3	- 0.1	+ 7.6
Wales...	4,419	+ 72	- 668	39.1	+ 0.5	- 6.0
Northern Ireland...	6,565	+ 166	- 2,524	30.6	+ 0.8	- 11.7
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.	86,373	+ 820	+ 8,583	33.9	+ 0.4	+ 3.4

SHIPBUILDING IN THE QUARTER ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1925.

According to Lloyd's Register Quarterly Shipbuilding Returns, the gross tonnage of merchant vessels under construction in Great Britain and Ireland at the end of September, 1925, amounted to 1,009,155 tons, as compared with 1,093,587 tons at the end of June, 1925, and 1,468,408 tons at the end of September, 1924, the present total being the lowest recorded since December, 1909. The tonnage on which work was suspended at the end of September, 1925, amounted to 81,000 tons, as compared with only 37,000 tons at the end of September, 1924. The average tonnage building during the twelve months immediately preceding the war was 1,890,000 tons.

The tonnage of motorships building at the end of September, 1925, equalled 55 per cent. of the steam tonnage under construction. An increase is shown in the tonnage commenced during the quarter, viz., 260,551 tons, as compared with 189,805 in the previous quarter.

The tonnage launched during the quarter, viz., 225,236 tons, was 72,925 tons lower than that for the previous quarter.

The total horse-power of the marine engines building or being installed on board vessels in Great Britain and Ireland at the end of September, 1925, amounted to 642,266 H.P.

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

COTTON TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT showed a slight improvement on the whole during September. The mills spinning American cotton continued, with very few exceptions, to curtail production to the extent of 8½ hours a week. The Egyptian spinning section continued to be moderately well employed. In the weaving section the depression continued and a considerable number of looms were idle.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 10.2 on the 21st September, 1925, as compared with 13.6 on the 24th August, 1925, and with 14.3 on the 22nd September, 1924.

In the Oldham, Ashton, Stalybridge, and Stockport districts, employment with spinners was reported as bad, and extended stoppages for holidays were fairly general. In the weaving section in the Oldham district employment was very slack, with a further decline in the velvet section. In the Bolton district employment continued moderate with spinners, fair with card-room workers, and bad with weavers. At Leigh employment was reported as good in the spinning section. At Bury irregular short time continued during September. In the Rochdale district employment continued bad, but was better than a year ago.

In the principal weaving districts there was little general change. At Blackburn the position was described as worse; the unsatisfied demand for weavers reported in previous months had given place to some unemployment among weavers. At Burnley employment was reported as bad and worse than in August; about 40 per cent. of the trade union operatives worked short time. Employment at Great Harwood and Nelson was also worse than in August, and many weavers at Nelson were under-employed.

An improvement was reported at Chorley. At Preston employment was more regular than for some time past; at the end of the month only three mills in the district were on short time. At Darwen the preparatory processes worked very irregular time; the weaving section showed a decline, and extended holidays were taken at a number of mills. At Todmorden, Brighouse, and Sowerby Bridge, there was an improvement; but employment on the whole in Yorkshire was bad, and worse than in September of last year.

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

DEPARTMENTS.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 26th Sept., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 26th Sept., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Preparing ...	11,355	+ 0.2	+ 0.8	19,699	+ 2.7	+ 3.4
Spinning ...	20,499	- 0.6	+ 2.1	36,664	+ 2.2	- 0.8
Weaving ...	34,993	+ 0.4	+ 0.7	61,770	+ 1.2	+ 2.4
Other ...	7,682	- 0.4	- 0.8	19,449	- 1.2	+ 1.5
Not Specified ...	8,236	+ 0.7	- 3.7	15,189	+ 3.7	+ 1.1
Total ...	82,765	+ 0.0	- 0.6	152,771	+ 0.8	+ 1.5
DISTRICTS.						
Ashton ...	2,954	- 6.1	- 10.4	5,101	+ 5.4	- 7.3
Stockport, Glossop and Hyde ...	7,181	- 0.7	+ 22.1	15,007	- 1.3	+ 10.7
Oldham ...	10,389	+ 0.1	- 2.8	20,416	+ 0.5	+ 10.9
Bolton and Leigh ...	15,638	+ 0.1	+ 0.0	26,870	+ 0.8	- 0.8
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Walsden and Todmorden ...	7,153	+ 3.4	+ 5.3	12,903	+ 7.7	+ 19.2
Manchester ...	4,723	- 0.2	+ 3.5	8,432	+ 12.0	+ 12.7
Preston and Chorley ...	5,659	- 1.0	- 6.0	9,933	- 4.0	- 7.9
Blackburn, Accrington and Darwen ...	9,049	+ 0.7	- 6.0	6,562	- 1.5	- 7.8
Burnley, Padiham, Colne and Nelson ...	9,545	- 1.0	- 0.6	19,745	- 1.6	+ 1.0
Other Lancashire Towns ...	2,737	+ 2.1	- 1.3	4,381	- 3.3	- 2.1
Yorkshire Towns ...	3,758	- 0.4	- 8.4	6,318	+ 2.9	- 16.0
Other Districts ...	4,179	+ 1.2	- 6.3	7,103	+ 0.2	- 4.0
Total ...	82,765	+ 0.0	- 0.6	152,771	+ 0.8	+ 1.5

Returns from firms employing 75,260 workpeople showed that nearly 24 per cent. of these workpeople were on short time, to the extent of about 11 hours on the average, in the week ended 26th September.

The following Table shows the numbers of men and women respectively registered as applicants for employment at Employment Exchanges at 7th September, 1925, in the principal centres, at which approximately 85 per cent. of the total number of applicants for employment in the cotton trade were registered:—

Department.	Number of Applicants for Employment at 7th September, 1925.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with 3rd August, 1925.		
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.
Card and Blowing Room ...	1,325	8,324	9,649	+ 5	+ 1,024	+ 1,029
Spinning ...	9,048	6,876	15,924	+ 1,724	- 1,628	+ 96
Beaming, Winding and Winding ...	1,847	11,836	13,683	+ 166	+ 428	+ 594
Weaving ...	2,231	6,555	8,786	+ 51	- 1,195	- 1,144
Other Processes ...	705	600	1,305	- 77	+ 44	- 33
Total ...	15,166	34,191	49,347	+ 1,869	- 1,327	+ 542

The imports (less re-exports) of raw cotton (including cotton linters) were 68,220,900 lbs. in September, 1925, compared with 44,112,700 lbs. in August, 1925, and with 60,368,700 lbs. in September, 1924.

The exports of cotton yarn were 13,923,400 lbs. in September, 1925, compared with 15,037,900 lbs. in August, 1925, and with 11,316,200 in September, 1924.

The exports of cotton piece goods were 359,810,400 square yards as compared with 344,277,300 square yards in the previous month and with 359,971,300 square yards in September, 1924.

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT showed an appreciable improvement during September, largely due to an endeavour to make up for the time lost during August when the industry was disorganised by the dispute and by annual holidays. Employment was worse than a year ago in all the principal districts and departments.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 13.0 on 21st September, 1925, as compared with 18.1 on 24th August, 1925, and 7.7 on 22nd September, 1924.

In the Bradford district employment with woolcombers was still bad and worse than a year ago, with less than half the machinery running; in other sections a slight improvement was reported and less short time was worked than in August, when employment was affected not only by the dispute but also by the annual holidays which immediately followed the dispute. In the Keighley district employment was still depressed; but in the Halifax district a slight general improvement was reported, and a number of firms resumed full-time working. In the Huddersfield and Colne Valley areas there was an improvement amongst woollen workers, and a few firms were running full time, with a little overtime and night work. There was also some improvement in the Heavy Woollen District of Dewsbury and Batley and in the Leeds district. In the Stockport district the operatives only worked about half-time. At Trowbridge employment was described as slack and worse than a month earlier. In Wales a distinct improvement was reported. In Scotland there was a slight improvement in the tweed trade, but few firms were able to keep their workers fully employed.

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

DEPARTMENTS.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 26th Sept., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 26th Sept., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*
Wool sorting ...	440	+ 1.1	- 11.6	931	+ 6.2	- 4.6
Spinning ...	3,460	+ 1.3	- 10.0	6,855	+ 4.1	- 13.0
Weaving ...	5,475	+ 0.7	- 4.2	10,238	+ 7.9	- 8.5
Other Departments ...	4,292	+ 0.5	- 1.4	9,605	+ 4.8	- 4.2
Not specified ...	1,040	+ 1.9	+ 0.6	2,243	+ 6.3	- 1.0
TOTAL ...	14,707	+ 0.9	- 4.8	29,872	+ 5.8	- 7.6
WOOLLEN INDUSTRY.						
Huddersfield District ...	1,659	+ 2.3	- 2.5	3,972	+ 10.9	- 2.8
Leeds District ...	1,482	+ 1.6	- 5.0	3,366	+ 10.7	- 13.8
Dewsbury and Batley District ...	1,206	- 2.0	- 9.6	2,335	- 7.3	- 21.5
Other Parts of West Riding ...	1,954	- 0.7	- 0.4	4,520	+ 7.4	- 0.6
Total, West Riding ...	6,301	+ 0.4	- 3.9	14,193	+ 6.3	- 8.5
Scotland ...	3,680	+ 2.0	- 4.3	6,959	+ 3.7	- 10.3
Other Districts ...	4,726	+ 0.6	- 6.3	8,720	+ 6.8	- 3.8
TOTAL ...	14,707	+ 0.9	- 4.8	29,872	+ 5.8	- 7.6
WORSTED INDUSTRY.						
Wool sorting and combing ...	3,570	+ 1.3	- 13.4	8,547	+ 17.7	- 15.3
Spinning ...	14,479	+ 2.7	- 5.2	22,078	+ 16.5	- 6.5
Weaving ...	4,963	+ 1.5	- 3.6	10,282	+ 6.2	- 3.1
Other Departments ...	2,703	- 1.7	- 4.0	6,773	+ 4.6	- 3.5
Not specified ...	1,612	+ 1.3	- 10.3	2,931	+ 12.8	- 3.2
TOTAL ...	27,327	+ 1.8	- 6.3	50,611	+ 12.5	- 6.9
DISTRICTS.						
Bradford District ...	13,845	+ 3.0	- 6.2	27,194	+ 22.5	- 7.1
Keighley District ...	4,224	+ 0.8	- 6.7	7,282	+ 3.3	- 12.6
Halifax District ...	2,517	+ 1.6	- 5.5	4,249	+ 2.4	- 6.9
Huddersfield District ...	2,692	+ 1.9	- 4.5	5,059	+ 4.9	- 1.6
Other Parts of West Riding ...	2,977	- 0.8	- 3.8	5,271	+ 1.7	- 3.5
Total, West Riding ...	26,255	+ 1.9	- 6.4	49,055	+ 13.0	- 7.1
Other Districts ...	1,072	- 1.8	- 3.9	1,556	- 1.2	- 2.5
TOTAL ...	27,327	+ 1.8	- 6.3	50,611	+ 12.5	- 6.9

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

DEPARTMENTS.	Number of Applicants for Employment at 7th September, 1925.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with 3rd August, 1925.		
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.
Card and Blowing Room ...	1,325	8,324	9,649	+ 5	+ 1,024	+ 1,029
Spinning ...	9,048	6,876	15,924	+ 1,724	- 1,628	+ 96
Beaming, Winding and Winding ...	1,847	11,836	13,683	+ 166	+ 428	+ 594
Weaving ...	2,231	6,555	8,786	+ 51	- 1,195	- 1,144
Other Processes ...	705	600	1,305	- 77	+ 44	- 33
Total ...	15,166	34,191	49,347	+ 1,869	- 1,327	+ 542

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

Returns from firms in the woollen section, employing 13,817 workpeople, showed that 35 per cent. of these workpeople were on short time in the week ended 26th September, to the extent on the average of about 9 hours. In the worsted section returns from firms employing 23,863 workpeople showed that in the same week about 28 per cent. of these workpeople were on short time, to the extent of about 9 hours on the average.

The following Table shows the number of men and of women registered as applicants for employment at Employment Exchanges at 7th September, 1925, in the principal centres, at which approximately 68 per cent. of the total number of applicants for employment in the woollen and worsted industries were registered:—

Departments.	Number of Applicants for Employment at 7th September, 1925.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with 3rd August, 1925.		
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.
Wool sorting ...	787	21	808	- 145	+ 12	- 133
Wool washing and preparing ...	895	419	1,314	- 487	- 296	- 783
Wool combing ...	943	677	1,620	- 356	- 884	- 1,240
Wool carding ...	1,069	232	1,301	- 452	+ 43	- 409
Wool spinning ...	579	245	824	- 99	+ 9	- 90
Worst drawing and spinning ...	695	2,771	3,466	+ 88	- 1,371	- 1,283
Wool winding and warping ...	139	130	269	- 29	- 15	- 44
Worst drawing and warping ...	57	806	863	- 96	- 360	- 456
Woolen weaving ...	426	2,488	2,914	+ 134	+ 771	+ 905
Worst weaving ...	199	3,197	3,396	+ 23	+ 36	+ 59
Other processes ...	1,725	379	2,102	+ 259	+ 57	+ 316
TOTAL ...	7,512	11,365	18,877	- 1,160	- 2,070	- 3,230

The imports of raw wool (sheep's or lambs') were 28,653,400 lbs., while re-exports amounted to 18,328,400 lbs. in September, 1925, compared with 28,279,500 lbs. and 31,053,300 lbs., respectively in August, 1925, and with 34,617,400 lbs. and 9,252,000 lbs. in September, 1924.

The exports of woollen and worsted yarns were 3,225,100 lbs., compared with 3,091,200 lbs. in August, 1925, and with 3,347,600 lbs. in September, 1924.

The exports of woollen and worsted tissues were 12,896,000 square yards, compared with 16,023,700 square yards in August, 1925, and 15,528,700 square yards in September, 1924.

The exports of blankets were 86,56

Employment remained quiet in London, but showed a slight improvement in some districts. At Leicester it was again very slack, with a very considerable proportion of the operatives working short time; at Northampton there was a decline, and very few firms were on full time. At both centres employment was somewhat worse than a year ago. In the Higham and Rushden area there was very little change, and employment was only quiet; at Raunds it continued good on Government contract work; but at Wellingborough, in spite of a slight upward movement, it was still poor with most firms, and worse than in September, 1924. There was much unemployment and short time at Kettering; some firms, however, were fairly well employed, and the average working hours were reported to be about three-quarter time.

There was a slight improvement at Leeds, but employment remained generally poor, with a large number of boot and shoe operatives unemployed. At Stafford it was very slack, and there was a marked increase in short time working during the month. At Norwich employment was moderate, and about the same as in the previous month, but not so good as a year earlier; some departments were on short time, others worked some overtime during the month. A further slight seasonal improvement was reported from Bristol; at Kingswood there was little change, and short-time working was still common, especially with the smaller firms. At Street there was a further decline, and employment was bad; it was worse than a year ago. Fair conditions continued to prevail in the shoe and slipper trade of the Rossendale Valley, though a good deal of short time was still being worked.

Employment was fair at Aberdeen, Kilmarnock, Maybole, and Ayr; quiet at Edinburgh and Glasgow; bad at Dundee and Arbroath. On the whole it was somewhat worse in the Scottish centres than in August, 1925, or in September, 1924.

The following Table shows the number of men and of women registered as applicants for employment at Employment Exchanges at 7th September, 1925, in the principal centres, at which approximately 81 per cent. of the total number of applicants for employment in the boot and shoe industry were registered:—

Department.	Number of Applicants for Employment at 7th September, 1925.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with 3rd August, 1925.		
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.
Boot and Shoe Manufacture:						
Preparing Department	207	44	251	- 17	- 7	- 24
Rough Stuff Department	620	24	644	- 57	- 12	- 69
Clicking Department	1,706	23	1,729	- 302	+ 6	- 296
Closing Department	28	2,189	2,217	+ 7	- 303	- 296
Making Department	3,495	94	3,589	+ 79	+ 32	+ 111
Finishing Department	2,153	815	2,968	+ 120	+ 93	+ 213
Slipper Making	553	192	745	+ 65	+ 77	+ 142
Clog Making	36	2	38	- 8	- 1	- 9
Repairing and Hand Sewn Work	623	2	625	- 41	- 1	- 42
Total	9,421	3,385	12,806	- 154	- 116	- 270

The exports of boots and shoes in September, 1925, amounted to 122,068 dozen pairs, or 3,319 dozen pairs more than in August, 1925, but 3,944 dozen pairs less than in September, 1924.

PAPER MANUFACTURE, PRINTING, AND BOOKBINDING.

EMPLOYMENT in the paper trade continued fair on the whole; there was a slight improvement compared with August in some districts, but some slackness was again reported in the wrapping and hand-made sections.

With letterpress printers employment generally continued fairly good, and showed an improvement compared with September, 1924. At Birmingham and Leeds there was a further slight improvement, but in London a slight decline was reported at the end of the month. Employment with electrotypers and stereotypers was very good in London and Edinburgh and good in most other districts.

In the lithographic printing trade there was a slight decline compared with August, but employment remained fairly good generally, and was rather better than during September, 1924. With lithographic artists employment was reported as fair in London and slack at Manchester, and worse than in August in both centres.

Employment continued moderate on the whole with bookbinders and some short time was reported in most of the large centres. There was a slight decline on the previous month at Manchester and Leeds, and in the former town employment was reported as bad.

The percentage unemployed among insured workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts in the printing and book-binding trades was 4.3 at 21st September, compared with 4.5 at 24th August and 5.0 at 22nd September, 1924. In the paper and paper board industry, the percentage was 6.7 at 21st September, compared with 7.2 at 24th August and 8.6 at 22nd September, 1924. In the cardboard box, paper bag and stationery trades, the percentage was 5.3 at 21st September, compared with 5.7 at 24th August and 6.4 at 22nd September, 1924.

The following Table summarises the returns received from Trade Unions:—

	No. of Members of Unions at end of Sept., 1925.	Percentage Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on a	
		Sept., 1925.	Aug., 1925.	Sept., 1924.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Letterpress Printing:						
London	35,014	2.4	1.9	2.9	+ 0.5	- 0.5
Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire.	13,973	3.0	3.2	3.6	- 0.2	- 0.6
Midlands and Eastern Counties	8,324	2.4	2.9	2.5	- 0.5	- 0.1
Scotland	6,060	2.4	2.3	3.3	+ 0.1	- 0.9
Other Districts	6,786	2.5	2.9	2.5	- 0.4	...
Total	70,157	2.5	2.4	3.0	+ 0.1	- 0.5
Lithographic Printing	10,262	2.6	2.4	2.9	+ 0.2	- 0.3
Bookbinding	15,737	3.0	3.3	3.3	- 0.3	- 0.3

BUILDING TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT in the industry generally, showed little change during September. It remained good in most districts with skilled operatives, other than painters, and moderate, on the whole, with unskilled workers; it was a little better than in September, 1924.

As regards individual occupations, employment was very good generally with bricklayers and plasterers, and good, at most centres, with masons and with carpenters and joiners; a shortage was again reported, in a considerable number of districts, of one or more of the foregoing classes of skilled operatives, chiefly bricklayers and plasterers. Employment remained fairly good with slaters and tilers and was generally fair with plumbers; it showed a seasonal decline with painters and, although varying to some extent at different centres, was fair, on the whole, with skilled men. Employment continued generally moderate with builders' labourers.

The following Table shows the numbers and approximate percentages* of workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts who were unemployed at 21st September, 1925, and the increase or decrease in the percentages as compared with August, 1925, and September, 1924:—

	Total Number of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 21st September, 1925.	Approximate Percentage* Unemployed.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage as compared with a	
			Month ago.	Year ago.
OCCUPATIONS.				
Carpenters	2,484	2.0	+ 0.2	- 0.3
Bricklayers	832	1.5	+ 0.2	+ 0.2
Masons	658	3.0	+ 0.3	+ 0.7
Slaters	191	3.7	- 0.7	- 1.3
Plasterers	170	1.0	- 0.2	- 0.9
Painters	13,166	12.3	+ 4.2	+ 0.2
Plumbers	1,731	5.0	- 0.3	- 0.5
Labourers to above	24,256	9.5	+ 0.4	- 0.7
All other occupations	20,586	20.8	- 0.4	- 4.6
Total	64,074	8.9	+ 0.8	- 0.9
DIVISIONS.				
London	14,398	9.3	+ 1.8	- 2.6
South-Eastern	5,059	4.5	+ 0.3	- 2.2
South-Western	5,799	6.5	+ 0.4	- 0.9
Midlands	6,306	8.0	...	- 1.7
North-Eastern	9,667	11.0	+ 0.9	+ 2.2
North-Western	9,844	10.6	+ 0.5	- 0.8
Scotland	6,484	9.7	+ 0.6	+ 0.8
Wales	3,141	12.2	+ 0.9	+ 1.3
Northern Ireland	3,376	26.5	+ 1.0	+ 2.9
Great Britain and Northern Ireland	64,074	8.9	+ 0.8	- 0.9

BUILDING PLANS APPROVED.

Returns from Local Authorities in 138 of the principal urban areas in Great Britain (except the London County Council area), with a total population of 14,784,000, show that in September, 1925, plans were passed for buildings of an estimated cost of £5,551,200, as compared with £2,594,500 in August, 1925, and £4,258,100 in September, 1924. Of the total for September, 1925, dwelling houses accounted for £3,687,200; factories and workshops for £278,900; shops, offices, warehouses and other business premises for £494,700; and other buildings, and additions and alterations to existing buildings, for £1,090,400.

(For figures for the quarter ended September, 1925, in comparison with the corresponding quarter of 1924, see page 367.)

* Figures are not available relative to the exact number of insured workpeople in each of the occupations shown in the first column of the Table. For the purpose of computing the percentages given in the third column, the total numbers insured, in each occupation, have been roughly estimated by applying ratios derived from the exchange of unemployment books which took place in 1922 to the total number of insured workers engaged in the building industry as shown by the 1924 exchange of books. In view of the probability that changes have taken place since 1922 in the ratios referred to, the percentages of unemployed, as given in the third column should not be regarded as more than approximate indications of the actual proportions unemployed in the different occupations.

BRICK TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT during September continued good on the whole and showed little change as compared with the previous month. Short-time working due to bad weather was reported from some districts.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed in the brick, pipe, tile, etc., trades, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges at 21st September, 1925, was 7.2, as compared with 7.1 at 24th August, 1925, and with 6.8 at 22nd September, 1924.

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

Districts.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 26th Sept., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 26th Sept., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire.	1,817	+ 1.2	+ 0.5	4,626	+ 1.3	+ 3.7
Midlands and Eastern Counties.	5,181	- 1.3	+ 10.5	13,852	+ 2.5	+ 11.5
South and South-West Counties and Wales.	1,638	- 1.2	+ 5.5	4,410	- 2.6	+ 10.9
Scotland	193	- 3.5	- 3.0	510	- 0.8	+ 7.6
TOTAL	8,829	- 0.9	+ 7.1	23,398	+ 1.2	+ 9.7

POTTERY TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in North Staffordshire during September showed an improvement, but there was still much unemployment and short-time working. In the sanitary ware and fireclay section, and in the first-class chinaware trade at Stoke-on-Trent, it continued good.

Employment was reported to be good at Derby and Worcester; at Bristol it showed a decline. In the stoneware section in Scotland employment was slack.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 15.5 at 21st September, 1925, as compared with 19.8 at 24th August, 1925, and 11.5 at 22nd September, 1924.

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

BRANCHES.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 26th Sept., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 26th Sept., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
China Manufacture	1,484	+ 1.2	+ 1.2	2,763	+ 3.1	- 2.7
Earthenware Manufacture	9,402	+ 0.7	+ 0.8	17,859	+ 3.6	+ 2.8
Other Branches (including unspecified)	1,883	+ 3.2	+ 3.6	3,622	+ 2.8	+ 2.8
TOTAL	12,769	+ 1.1	+ 1.3	24,244	+ 3.4	+ 2.1
DISTRICTS.						
North Staffordshire	9,868	+ 1.2	+ 2.3	17,554	+ 2.1	+ 2.7
Other Districts	2,901	+ 0.9	- 2.2	6,690	+ 7.1	+ 0.7
TOTAL	12,769	+ 1.1	+ 1.3	24,244	+ 3.4	+ 2.1

Returns from employers relative to short-time working showed that of 12,082 workpeople employed by firms furnishing information, 3,098, or 26 per cent., were working on an average about 15 hours less than full time in the week ended 21st September, 1925.

SEAMEN.

DURING September employment continued slack on the whole. Among insured workpeople in the shipping service the percentage unemployed at 21st September was 19.9, compared with 20.6 at 24th August, and 18.6 at 22nd September, 1924. The partial strike of seamen at certain ports, which commenced in August, continued throughout the month.

The demand for men on the Thames improved, and was described as brisk on the whole. It was fairly brisk on the Tyne, and dull on the Wear. On the Tees it was very dull, and at Hull it was fairly brisk. The demand at Southampton was moderate to very fair; at Bristol it remained quiet to moderate. At Avonmouth it improved during the first half of September and declined afterwards, being reported to be moderate at the end of the month. There was a decline at Newport, the demand at the end of the month being poor. At Cardiff it was generally fair, and at Swansea it was fair in the first half of the month and quiet subsequently. In the foreign-going trade on the Mersey the demand was fair to good. It was very fair on the whole at Manchester. The demand on the Clyde fluctuated, being described as fair at the end of the month. It was moderate to fair at Leith, and poor on the whole at Belfast.

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

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

Principal Ports.	Number of Seamen* shipped in				
	Sept., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Nine Months ended	
		Month ago.	Year ago.	Sept., 1925.	Sept., 1924.
ENGLAND & WALES:					
Liverpool†	15,423	+ 1,885	+ 435	114,153	107,728
Manchester	994	+ 355	- 11	7,607	7,189
London	8,984	+ 1,788	- 639	72,320	74,998
Southampton	12,137	+ 1,654	+ 1,649	83,514	77,286
Tyne Ports	2,388	+ 505	+ 74	18,213	16,402
Sunderland	270	- 130	+ 66	2,570	1,925
Middlesbrough	448	+ 32	- 134	3,517	4,045
Hull	1,504	+ 263	- 161	13,440	13,966
Grimsby	1	- 41	- 17	95	167
Bristol	1,043	- 147	- 190	9,808	8,693
Newport, Mon.	514	- 53	- 169	7,101	7,554
Cardiff‡	2,460	+ 658	- 833	22,165	26,919
Swansea	555	+ 8	- 221	5,905	6,945
SCOTLAND:					
Leith	429	+ 15	- 73	3,247	3,404
Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth	328	- 143	+ 63	3,191	2,556
Glasgow	3,380	+ 32	- 789	27,747	29,452
NORTHERN IRELAND:					
Belfast	226	+ 53	- 1	1,580	1,937
TOTAL for above Ports	51,084	+ 6,534	- 1,011	401,173	391,166

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

EMPLOYMENT during September continued slack generally, although at London and several other ports it was better than in the previous month.

Among insured workpeople in the canal, river, harbour and dock service, 30.1 per cent. were unemployed at 21st September, 1925, as compared with 29.6 per cent. at 24th August, 1925, and with 27.8 per cent. at 22nd September, 1924.

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

Period.	Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London.				
	In Docks.			At Wharves making Returns.	Total Docks and Principal Wharves.
	By the Port of London Authority or through Contractors.	By Ship-owners, etc.	Total.		
Week ended—					
5th Sept., 1925	4,484	1,661	6,145	7,025	13,170
12th " "	4,970	2,022	6,992	7,367	14,359
19th " "	5,264	1,667	6,931	7,700	14,631
26th " "	5,421	2,726	8,147	7,771	15,918
Average for 4 weeks ended 26th Sept., 1925	5,034	2,019	7,053	7,466	14,519
Average for Aug., 1925	4,559	1,630	6,189	7,056	13,245
Average for Sept., 1924	5,051	2,047	7,098	7,259	14,357

Tilbury.—The mean daily number of dock labourers employed in September was 1,163, as compared with 1,044 in the previous month, and with 793 in September, 1924.

East Coast.—Employment with coal trimmers and teamers on the North-East Coast was bad. With other classes of dock workers on the Tyne it was moderate and a little better than in August, but on the Wear and at Blyth it remained slack. At Hull employment declined and was bad, but at Middlesbrough and most of the East coast ports it was fair.

Liverpool.—Employment at Liverpool continued slack. The average weekly number of dock labourers registered at the clearing houses under the Liverpool Docks Scheme as employed in the four weeks ended 28th September, was 15,665, compared with 15,186 in the five weeks ended 31st August, and with 14,881 in the four weeks ended 29th September, 1924. The average weekly amount of wages paid to these men through the clearing-houses was £43,629 in the four weeks ended 28th September, compared with £40,837 in the five weeks ended 31st August, and with £42,390 in the four weeks ended 29th September, 1924.

Other Ports in England and Wales.—Employment at the South Wales ports and at Bristol continued slack, but at Avonmouth it had improved and was good. At Southampton, Plymouth and other South-Western ports it was fair.

Scottish and Irish Ports.—Employment continued moderate at Glasgow. At Leith and Greenock it was good. At Belfast it was moderate.

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

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED INDUSTRIES.

THE statistics here presented show, industry by industry, the number of persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, and the number and percentage of such persons who were unemployed on the 21st September, 1925.

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

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

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

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

these points is lacking the books remain in the "lodged" files, and are included in the statistics of unemployment, for a period of two months from the date on which the insured person was last in touch with the Employment Exchange.

This last item determines in the main the difference between the total number of unemployed persons given in the following Table and the figure given on page 362 showing the total number of persons registered at Employment Exchanges as unemployed. The difference would be greater were it not that this latter figure includes uninsured persons who are maintaining registration. These do not appear in the figures of "books lodged," which relate solely to insured persons.

The term "unemployed" as used in these statistics does not necessarily mean that the person is definitely without a job. Persons who on 21st September, 1925, were not at work because they were suspended, "stood off," "furloughed," or on short time, and whose unemployment books were lodged at Exchanges, are counted in the statistics as "unemployed."

The number of persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was estimated at approximately 11,514,000 at July, 1924. This figure is computed annually, and is estimated from a count of the unemployment books which are exchanged annually. The annual exchange begins in the first week of July, but it is not sufficiently near completion to allow of a satisfactory estimate being made before the end of October. In making this annual estimate consideration is given not only to the actual number of books exchanged, but also to the number likely to be exchanged in the course of the insurance year.

In order to enable a comparison of the unemployment position to be made over a longer period than hitherto, there are given in the Table figures showing the increase or decrease at 21st September, 1925, in the percentages unemployed, not only as compared with those of a month earlier, but also as compared with those of a year ago and two years ago respectively.

NUMBERS AND PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED.

Table with columns: INDUSTRY, ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AT JULY, 1924, NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYMENT BOOKS REMAINING LODGED AT 21ST SEPTEMBER, 1925, PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 21ST SEPTEMBER, 1925, INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN TOTAL PERCENTAGES (GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND) AS COMPARED WITH 24TH AUGUST, 1925, 22ND SEPT., 1924, 24TH SEPT., 1923. Rows include Mining, Non-Metallic Mining, Pottery, Glass, Ammunition, Metal, Engineering, etc.

NUMBERS AND PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED.

Table with columns: INDUSTRY, ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AT JULY, 1924, NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYMENT BOOKS REMAINING LODGED AT 21ST SEPTEMBER, 1925, PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 21ST SEPTEMBER, 1925, INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN TOTAL PERCENTAGES (GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND) AS COMPARED WITH 24TH AUGUST, 1925, 22ND SEPT., 1924, 24TH SEPT., 1923. Rows include Shipbuilding, Metal Trades, Textile Trades, Leather and Leather Goods, Clothing, Printing, Building, Other Manufacturing, Gas Water and Electricity Supply, Transport and Communication, Distributive Trades, Commercial, Banking, Insurance and Finance, Miscellaneous Trades and Services.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE STATISTICS: GREAT BRITAIN.

NUMBER OF CLAIMS TO BENEFIT.

During the four weeks ended 23rd September, 1925, 881,607 fresh claims were added to the register, while 898,671 claims were removed from the register. At 23rd September the number of claims current was 1,266,167, as compared with 1,283,274 at 31st August.

CLAIMS TO EXTENDED BENEFIT.

Claims to "extended" benefit—i.e., benefit beyond that to which the claimant is entitled in respect of contributions paid—are submitted for decision to the Local Employment Committees, composed, in the main, of representatives of employers and workpeople. The following Table shows the number of claims dealt with by these Committees in Great Britain during the period 11th August to 24th August, 1925:—

Applications referred to Committees during period	157,186
Applications admitted by Committees during period:—	
(a) For 12 weeks	47,826
(b) For less than 12 weeks	87,830
Applications rejected during period	24,877

Of the total number of applications rejected during the period, 1,550 were rejected as not normally insurable and not seeking to obtain a livelihood by means of insurable employment, 1,131 were rejected on the ground that insurable employment was not likely to be available, 7,769 were rejected as not having served a reasonable period of insurable employment during the preceding two years, and 6,038 were rejected as not making every reasonable effort to obtain suitable employment, or not willing to accept suitable employment.

UNEMPLOYMENT FUND.

During the four weeks ended 26th September, 1925, the receipts and payments of the Unemployment Fund were approximately as shown in the following Table; figures for the five weeks ended 29th August, 1925, and for the four weeks ended 27th September, 1924, are also given for purposes of comparison:—

	Four weeks ended 26th Sept., 1925.	Five weeks ended 29th Aug., 1925.	Four weeks ended 27th Sept., 1924.
Contributions (Receipts):—			
By Employers	1,410,000	1,920,000	1,390,000
Employed Persons	1,260,000	1,730,000	1,250,000
Service Departments (Admiralty, War Office, Air Ministry)	20,000	20,000	10,000
Exchequer	960,000	1,310,000	940,000
Total	3,650,000	4,980,000	3,590,000
Payments:—			
Benefit	3,590,000	4,370,000	3,320,000
Other payments*	410,000	490,000	390,000
Total	4,000,000	4,860,000	3,710,000
Treasury Advances outstanding at end of period	7,935,000	7,650,000	4,810,000

MINISTRY OF LABOUR EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES.†

The number of persons registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland as unemployed on 28th September, 1925, was 1,401,007. Of this number, 1,105,907 were men, 41,664 boys, 220,979 women and 32,457 girls. Compared with 31st August there was a decrease of 16,651. In the men's department there was an increase of 11,441, while in the case of women and juveniles there were decreases of 20,719 and 7,373 respectively.

During the four weeks ended 28th September, the number of vacancies filled by Employment Exchanges was 93,816, of which 50,371 were for men, 25,044 for women, and 18,401 for juveniles.

Week ended	Applications from Employers.		Vacancies Filled.	Number of Workpeople Registered as Unemployed.
	During Week.	Outstanding at end of Week.		
31st August, 1925	27,148	20,403	23,662	1,417,658
7th September, 1925	27,788	20,337	23,659	1,407,345
14th "	27,071	21,403	22,604	1,391,532
21st "	28,111	22,274	23,434	1,374,256
28th "	27,817	21,397	24,119	1,401,007
Total (4 weeks)	110,787	83,816*	93,816*	...

* Includes refunds at age 60 and compensation for the abolition thereof, cost of administration, etc.

† The figures relate to Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and refer to all workpeople on the Registers of Exchanges, including persons "suspended" or "stood off," and those who, although employed on a basis of systematic short time, were not actually at work on the date in question. For Great Britain alone, the corresponding figures, as published in the Press, show that on 28th September, 1925, the numbers registered as unemployed were 1,068,900 men, 195,900 women, and 71,300 juveniles, as compared with 970,000 men, 239,000 women, and 65,000 juveniles at 29th December, 1924. ‡ This figure includes a weekly average of about 750 placings of casual workers, such as dock labourers and coal porters.

The following Table shows for each of the Employment Exchange administrative areas, and for the principal towns therein, the number of persons registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland as unemployed on 28th September, 1925. In certain cases—e.g., Bristol, Birmingham, Sheffield, Liverpool, Glasgow, etc.—the figures cover more than one Exchange area.

Area.	Number of Persons registered as Unemployed on 28th September, 1925.				Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with 31st Aug., 1925.
	Men.	Women.	Juveniles.	Total.	
London Division ...	103,060	21,319	6,545	130,924	+ 285
South-Eastern Division ...	28,984	6,660	3,717	39,361	+ 3,711
Brighton ...	1,739	334	231	2,304	+ 417
Chatham ...	1,438	281	549	2,268	+ 38
Ipwich ...	1,200	206	105	1,511	+ 68
Norwich ...	2,738	639	161	3,538	+ 13
Rest of South-Eastern	21,869	5,200	2,671	29,740	+ 3,251
South-Western Division ...	49,273	8,741	4,537	62,551	+ 3,598
Bristol ...	9,720	2,248	894	12,862	+ 64
Plymouth ...	4,201	567	541	5,309	+ 315
Portsmouth ...	4,638	655	406	5,699	+ 389
Reading ...	1,034	91	186	1,311	+ 55
Southampton ...	5,139	410	407	5,956	+ 690
Swindon ...	286	66	142	494	+ 13
Rest of South-Western	24,255	4,704	1,961	30,920	+ 2,220
Midlands Division ...	116,247	34,479	6,444	157,170	- 13,511
Birmingham ...	19,093	6,838	608	26,539	- 1,949
Coventry ...	2,207	382	18	2,607	- 484
Cradley Heath ...	3,470	462	88	4,020	+ 529
Derby ...	984	418	201	1,603	+ 13
Leicester ...	4,476	2,498	122	7,096	+ 538
Northampton ...	1,601	883	150	2,634	+ 232
Nottigham ...	9,178	1,979	544	11,701	+ 1,507
Smethwick ...	2,366	909	88	3,363	- 178
Stoke-on-Trent ...	11,844	5,441	761	18,046	- 2,443
Walsall ...	3,918	969	272	5,159	- 496
West Bromwich ...	2,564	439	102	3,105	+ 177
Wolverhampton ...	3,779	736	256	4,771	- 599
Rest of Midlands	50,767	12,525	3,234	66,526	- 6,270
North-Eastern Division ...	266,954	34,033	15,996	316,983	- 28,925
Barnsley ...	1,822	270	84	2,176	- 6,586
Bradford ...	8,865	3,819	446	13,130	- 1,381
Darlington ...	2,362	206	148	2,716	+ 54
Dewsbury ...	1,275	709	121	2,105	- 196
Doncaster ...	551	172	317	1,020	- 76
Gateshead ...	10,193	809	865	11,867	- 272
Grimsby ...	1,380	147	342	1,869	- 500
Hallifax ...	2,319	971	87	3,377	- 969
Hartlepool ...	6,878	233	369	7,480	- 20
Huddersfield ...	3,363	2,002	215	5,580	- 2,032
Hull ...	9,053	724	877	10,654	+ 426
Leeds ...	13,165	6,294	475	19,934	- 50
Lincoln ...	1,979	329	194	2,502	- 224
Middlesbrough ...	10,630	473	358	11,461	- 228
Newcastle-on-Tyne ...	14,480	1,452	879	16,811	- 1,018
Rotherham ...	3,763	196	332	4,291	- 1,109
Sheffield ...	22,360	2,520	1,096	25,976	- 616
South Shields ...	7,297	513	585	8,395	+ 4,004
Stockton-on-Tees ...	7,473	217	442	8,132	- 313
Sunderland ...	18,254	778	993	20,025	- 279
York ...	1,398	274	80	1,752	- 15
Rest of North-Eastern	118,114	10,925	6,691	135,730	- 17,525
North-Western Division ...	195,559	54,868	14,817	265,244	- 17,027
Accrington ...	1,571	900	120	2,591	+ 1,154
Ashton-under-Lyne ...	2,281	1,197	106	3,584	- 165
Barrow ...	5,346	264	230	5,840	+ 147
Birkenhead ...	4,809	355	268	5,432	+ 310
Blackburn ...	3,127	2,357	260	5,744	- 863
Blackpool ...	997	420	76	1,493	+ 734
Boiton ...	5,464	2,011	436	7,911	+ 1,466
Burnley ...	1,997	1,538	150	3,685	+ 185
Bury ...	957	796	56	1,809	- 197
Chorley ...	2,600	464	157	3,221	- 801
Liverpool ...	46,875	5,519	4,277	56,471	- 678
Manchester ...	21,103	7,107	1,339	29,549	- 341
Nelson ...	197	11	903	1,101	+ 1
Oldham ...	5,066	2,590	178	7,834	- 10,316
Preston ...	2,678	1,506	171	4,355	- 307
Rochdale ...	2,292	826	94	3,212	- 1,092
St. Helens ...	6,851	406	437	7,694	- 1,740
Salford ...	9,461	3,623	1,149	14,233	+ 377
Stockport ...	2,883	1,361	183	4,427	- 1,161
Stockport ...	2,263	545	—	2,808	+ 263
Warrington ...	8,461	3,618	741	12,820	- 2,951
Wigan ...	5,982	17,268	4,378	79,628	+ 1,880
Scotland Division ...	156,041	32,628	11,207	199,876	+ 2,218
Aberdeen ...	4,743	1,071	247	6,061	+ 34
Clydebank ...	2,588	187	251	3,026	+ 26
Dundee ...	6,194	2,579	229	9,002	- 167
Edinburgh ...	10,472	2,162	947	13,581	+ 1,290
Glasgow ...	56,263	11,922	4,013	72,198	- 657
Greenock ...	6,736	721	385	7,842	- 423
Motherwell ...	3,322	319	118	3,759	- 300
Paisley ...	4,345	1,066	315	5,726	+ 13
Rest of Scotland	61,378	12,601	4,702	78,681	+ 2,392
Wales Division ...	152,830	3,139	8,077	164,046	+ 31,504
Cardiff ...	7,304	638	582	8,524	+ 628
Llanelli ...	1,409	113	95	1,617	- 2,326
Newport ...	3,495	226	311	4,032	+ 208
Swansea ...	5,160	282	495	5,937	- 338
Rest of Wales	135,462	1,880	6,594	143,936	+ 33,332
Northern Ireland ...	26,959	25,112	2,781	54,852	+ 1,496
Belfast ...	24,501	15,370	1,636	41,507	+ 682
Londonderry ...	2,356	1,133	147	3,616	+ 181
Lurgan ...	1,143	1,136	135	2,414	- 113
Lisburn ...	599	548	74	1,221	+ 111
Newry ...	797	301	21	1,119	+ 10
Rest of Northern Ireland	7,583	6,624	768	14,975	+ 625
Great Britain and Northern Ireland ...	1,105,907	220,979	74,121	1,401,007	- 16,651

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.

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 September, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, resulted in an aggregate increase of about £2,800 in the weekly full-time wages of 47,000 workpeople, and in a reduction of about £2,400 in the weekly wages of 27,000 workpeople. The number of persons affected by the changes was the smallest recorded in any month in the last 10 years.

The groups of industries principally affected were as follows:—

Group of Industries.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by		Amount of Changes in Weekly Wages.	
	Increases.	Decreases.	Increases.	Decreases.
Mining and Quarrying ...	30,000	7,500	£ 1,400	£ 675
Iron and Steel ...	5,000	9,250	250	525
Public Utility Services ...	3,000	10,000	650	40
Other ...	3,000	10,000	525	1,150
Total ...	47,250	27,250	2,825	2,390

The increases in the mining group mainly affected coal miners in West Yorkshire and the Radstock district. In the former district, under an arrangement made in September to take effect from July, over 20,000 lower paid day-wage workers received additions to their gross wages varying in amount from 3d. to nearly 5d. per shift. In Radstock the percentage addition to basis rates was increased by an amount equivalent to nearly 1½ per cent. on current rates, affecting the wages of over 5,000 workpeople. There were reductions in the wages of over 5,000 iron-ore miners in Cumberland and Furness, varying, in the case of adult workers, from 3d. to 1d. per shift in Cumberland, and from 3d. to 3½d. per shift in Furness.

In the iron and steel group over 6,000 of the workpeople affected by reductions were iron puddlers and millmen and iron and steel sheet millmen in the West of Scotland, whose wages were reduced by about 1½ per cent. on current rates. There was also a reduction of over 4½ per cent. in the current percentage addition to the basis rates of blastfurnace workers in Cumberland. The principal increase in this group was one of over 1½ per cent. on the current rates of nearly 4,000 iron puddlers and millmen in the North of England.

The principal increase in the public utility services group affected workpeople employed in the non-trading services of local authorities in the West Midlands, some 7,000 of whom received increases varying from 10d. to 1s. 3½d. per week.

Changes in the other industrial groups included reductions in the wages of asbestos workers and in the Trade Board minimum rates for female bespoke dressmakers in Northern Ireland, and increases

for assistants and mates to heating and domestic engineers in London and for certain classes of dock labourers at Glasgow.

Of the total increase of about £2,825 per week in September, £750 took effect under arrangements made by joint standing bodies of employers and workpeople; £400 took effect under sliding scales based on the proceeds of industry, or on selling prices; and nearly the whole of the remainder was the result of direct negotiations between employers and workpeople. Increases preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work amounted to about £180 per week.

Of the decreases, totalling £2,390, £750 took effect as a result of Orders under the Trade Boards Acts; £750 took effect under sliding scales based on selling prices; £540 took effect after direct negotiation between employers and workpeople; and £350 took effect under cost-of-living sliding scales. Reductions preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work amounted to nearly £500 per week.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES REPORTED IN JANUARY-SEPTEMBER, 1925.

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 nine completed months of 1925, and the net aggregate amounts of such changes:—

Group of Industries.	Approximate Number of Workpeople† affected by net		Net Amount of Change in Weekly Wages.	
	Increases.	Decreases.	Increases.	Decreases.
Mining and Quarrying ...	4,000	400,000	£ 600	£ 67,000
Brick, Pottery, Glass, Chemical, etc. ...	29,000	1,200	4,600	200
Iron and Steel ...	8,000	182,000	750	26,100
Engineering and Shipbuilding ...	6,500	600	1,000	50
Other Metal ...	31,000	50,000	4,500	

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING SEPTEMBER, 1925 (continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
MINING AND QUARRYING (continued).				
Iron Mining	Cumberland...	14 Sept.	Workpeople employed at iron-ore mines.	Decrease* of 1d. per shift in the bargain-price for iron-ore miners (8s. 5d. to 8s. 4d.), of 1d. per shift for winding enginemen (7s. 6d. to 7s. 5d.), of 1d. per shift for other underground and surface workers and of 1d. per shift for boys under 16 years. Rate after change for 1st class or leading labourers, 5s. 6d. per shift, plus a bonus of 5d. per shift.
	Furness District ...	13 Sept.	Iron-ore miners and surfacemen (except blacksmiths and fitters whose wages are not regulated by sliding-scale arrangements).	Decrease* of 3d. per shift in the bargain-price (7s. 9d. to 7s. 6d.), of 3d. per shift in the minimum wage (1s. to 6s. 9d.), of 3d. per shift for surfacemen and of 1d. per shift for boys under 16 years.
Lead Mining	Wearhead and Allendale.	31 Aug.	Underground and surface workers...	Bonus increased* from 6s. 9d. to 8s. per week. Rate after change for surface labourers: 6s. 3d. per shift, plus a bonus of 8s. per week.
Quarrying	West Cumberland ...	14 Sept.	Limestone quarryworkers ...	Decrease* of 1d. per shift for blacksmiths and joiners, of 1d. per shift for other men, and of 1d. per shift for boys under 16 years. Rates after change: knobblers, 7s. 4d.; day borers (1st class), 6s. 10d.; day labourers, 6s. 2d.; plus a bonus of 7d. per shift in each case.
	Northumberland and Durham.	17 Sept.	Freestone quarryworkers ...	Increase of 1d. per hour (1s. 7d. to 1s. 7½d.).
IRON AND STEEL SMELTING AND MANUFACTURE.				
Pig Iron [†] Manufacture	West Cumberland and North Lancashire.	2nd full pay in Sept.	Workpeople (excluding skilled craftsmen and bricklayers on maintenance work) employed at blast-furnaces.	Decrease* of 5½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 13 per cent. above the standard, plus weekly cost of living wage, plus, in some cases, an output bonus.† Rates after change for labourers: general, 4s. 10d. per shift, plus 13 per cent., plus 5s. 2½d. per week; shift, 5s. per shift plus 13 per cent., plus 5s. 2½d. per week.
Iron and Steel Manufacture	North of England ...	28 Sept.	Iron puddlers ...	Increase* of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 60 per cent. above the standard.
	Barrow-in-Furness...	28 Sept.	Merchant millmen ...	Increase* of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 57½ per cent. above the standard.
	West of Scotland ...	28 Sept.	Iron puddlers and millmen ...	Increase* of 2½ per cent. on standard rates of 1919, making wages 57½ per cent. above the standard.
			Iron and steel sheet millmen ...	Decrease* of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 52½ per cent. above the standard.
ENGINEERING, SHIPBUILDING AND OTHER METAL TRADES.				
Railway Workshops	London District ...	1 Aug.	Coil winders (field coil), employed by railway companies.	Rates fixed at 43s. to 46s. per week, such rates to be subject to the current cost-of-living bonus (15s. 6d. per week).
Engineering, etc.	Lerwick ...	26 Sept.	Workpeople employed in engineering, ship-repairing, etc.	Decrease of 1½d. per hour for tradesmen, and of 1d. per hour for labourers. Rates after change: tradesmen, 1s. 1½d. per hour; labourers, 9d. per hour.
	Electrical Cable Making	Great Britain ...	3rd pay day in Sept.	Workpeople employed in the electrical cable-making industry (except plumber-jointers, etc.):— Night-shift workers:— When a simple day and night shift is worked. When 8-hour shifts are worked in rotation.	Rate fixed at time-and-a-quarter for a normal working night of 9½ hours, inclusive of mealtime. Rate fixed at time-and-a-quarter for all time (other than overtime) worked outside the normal working day (8 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. on ordinary weekdays, and 8 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. on Saturday); work done on Sunday to be paid for at double time.
Heating and Domestic Engineering				London District ...	1st pay day after 4 Sept.	Assistants and mates to heating and domestic engineers (pipe fitters).	Increase of 1d. per hour (1s. 1½d. to 1s. 2d.).
Frost Cog Making	Lye, Stourbridge and Old Hill.	1 Sept.	Frost cog makers ...	Increase of 5 per cent., making wages 12½ per cent. above the rates paid at 31st August, 1924.
TEXTILE TRADES.				
Asbestos	Great Britain ...	Day following 1st make-up day after 9 Sept.	Workpeople employed in the asbestos trade.	Decrease† of 1d. per hour for men and 1d. per hour for women. Minimum rates after change: men, 1s. 1d.; women, 8½d.
Elastic Web Weaving	Leicester ...	1st pay day after 17 Sept.	Elastic web weavers (male workers)	Bonus increased‡ from 14s. to 15s. in the £.
CLOTHING TRADES.				
Dressmaking	Northern Ireland ...	7 Sept.	Female workers employed in the retail bespoke dressmaking trade:— Other than learners:— Those 20 years and over with not less than 2 years' experience after learnership and who are fully qualified bodice, skirt, gown or blouse hands. Other workers ...	Decreases in the minimum time and piecework basis time rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts, of 1d. and 1d. per hour for Class A§ and B§ respectively. Minimum time and piecework basis time rates, respectively, after change: Class A§, 8d., 9d.; Class B§, 7d., 8d. (See Order on p. 336 of September GAZETTE.)
			Learners ...	Decreases in the minimum time and piecework basis time rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts, of 1d. and 1d. per hour for Class A§ and B§ respectively. Minimum time and piecework basis time rates respectively after change: Class A§, 7d., 8d.; Class B§, 6d., 7d. (See Order on p. 336 of September GAZETTE.)
FOOD, DRINK, AND TOBACCO TRADES.				
Brewing	Burton-on-Trent ...	Aug.	Engineers employed in maintenance shops.	Bonus of 5s. per week. Rate after change for fitters, 55s. per week, plus bonus of £1 per calendar month, plus 5s. per week.
WOODWORKING AND FURNITURE TRADES.				
Vehicle Building	Bournemouth and Poole.	4 Sept.	Workpeople employed in the vehicle building and wheelwright trades.	Increase in the minimum rates of 1d. per hour for labourers and of 1d. per hour for other classes (except hammermen or strikers and brush hands, for whom there was no change). Minimum rates after change: skilled men, 1s. 6d.; coach fitters, 1s. 5d.; vicemen, 1s. 2d.; hammermen or strikers and brush hands, 1s.; labourers, 11d.

* The change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with selling prices.
† The percentage on bonus earnings paid to keepers, slagers, fillers, enginemen, etc., was reduced under the sliding scale to 50½ in the Workington Area and 45½ in the Furness Area.
‡ The change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour cost-of-living index number.
§ Class A: Workers employed within the areas of the County Boroughs of Belfast and Londonderry. Class B: Workers employed in areas other than those specified in Class A.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING SEPTEMBER, 1925 (continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
BUILDING AND ALLIED TRADES.				
Building	Aberystwyth ...	7 Aug.	Building trade operatives ...	Decrease* of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: craftsmen, 1s. 4½d.; labourers, 1s. 0½d.
	Glasgow and District	22 Sept.	Derrick cranemen ...	Increase, varying in amount, to a rate of 70s. per week.
TRANSPORT TRADES.				
Dock, etc. Labour	Glasgow ...	28 Sept.	Dock labourers (ship men only) discharging bulk grain cargoes by elevator.	Increase of 3d. per hour as "dirty money" for ship men discharging bulk grain cargoes by elevator. Rates after change: 1s. 6d. per hour, plus an additional 4d. per hour "dirty money" for cargoes other than those from North Africa and Palestine, and 6d. per hour "dirty money" for North African and Palestine cargoes.
	Port of Bristol ...	16 Sept.	Casual tally clerks, checkers and samplers working in conjunction with grain elevators.	Increase of 4s. 2d. per day. Rates after change: 16s. 2d. to 19s. 11d. per day.
PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES.				
Tramways Undertakings	Manchester ...	18 April†	Certain classes of workpeople (mainly semi-skilled and unskilled) employed in engineering shops.	Increase varying from 2s. 10d. to 8s. per week. Rates after change: labourers, 55s. 7½d. per week; handymen and rubbers, 1st grade, 56s. 6½d., 2nd grade, 55s. 7d.; overhaulers, 1st grade, 62s. 5d.†
	Bradford ...	12 Aug.	Manual workers ...	Increase of 1d. per hour.† Rates after change: labourers and road-sweepers, 1s. 1d. per hour; refuse collectors, 1s. 2d.
	Macclesfield ...	27 Aug.	Manual workers employed by Rural District Council.	Decrease* of 1s. 9d., 1s. 6d., or 1s. per week. Rates after change: roadmen, 1st class, 36s.; 2nd class, 34s.
Non-Trading Departments of Local Authorities	Certain Authorities in the West Midlands.	Pay preceding 1st pay day in Oct.	Able-bodied male manual workers (excluding those whose wages are regulated by other trades).	Increase of 1s. 3½d. per week for Zone A1 areas; of 1s. 3d. for Zone A2; of 1s. 2d. for Zone B1; of 1s. 1d. for Zone B2; of 1s. for Zone B3; of 11d. for Zone C1; of 10d. for Zone C2. Scheduled minimum weekly rates after change for general labourers and scavengers: Zone A1 areas, 51s. 10½d.; Zone A2 areas, 50s. 5½d.; Zone B1 areas, 47s. 8d.; Zone B2 areas, 44s. 10½d.; Zone B3 areas, 42s. 1½d.; Zone C1 areas, 38s. 4½d.; Zone C2 areas, 34s. 7½d.‡
	Certain Authorities in the East Midlands.	1st pay day in Sept.	Motor drivers ...	Rates of wages fixed at 1s. 5½d. in Grade A areas, 1s. 3½d. in Grade B, and 1s. 1½d. in Grades C and D.†
Ayrshire (Northern District), Glasgow, Lanarkshire (Middle Ward).	1 July	7 Sept.	Men working in water so deep as to necessitate the wearing of top boots or waders.	Rates of wages fixed at 1s. 2½d. in Grade A areas; 1s. 0½d. in Grade B areas; 11½d. in Grade C areas; and 11½d. (industrial) and 10½d. (rural) in Grade D areas.‡
			Road labourers employed by County Council.	Decrease* of 1s. per week (54s. to 53s.).
			Settmakers ...	Decrease* of 1d. per ton (4s. 11d. to 4s. 10d.).
Manual workers employed by County Council.	1 Sept.	1 Sept.	Manual workers employed by County Council.	Decrease* of 1s. 6d. per week. Rate after change for road surface-men and scavengers, 52s. 6d.
			MISCELLANEOUS TRADES.	
Basket Making	London ...	31 Aug.	Basket makers ...	Bonus of 45 per cent. on 1916 list increased to 50 per cent. Rate after change for timeworkers, 1s. per hour, plus 50 per cent.

* The change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour cost-of-living index number.
† These increases were arranged in September to take effect from the date shown.
‡ The increase was arranged in September to take effect from the date shown, and restored wages to the same level as before the reduction of the same amount which took effect in August under the West Riding of Yorkshire Joint Industrial Council's cost-of-living sliding scale (see page 328 of September GAZETTE).
§ These increases took effect under an agreement of the West Midlands Joint Industrial Council for Local Authorities' Non-Trading Services. The Authorities affected are those which follow the recommendations of the Joint Industrial Council, and include: Zone A1, Birmingham, Smethwick; Zone A2, Burton-on-Trent, Coventry, Walsall, Wolverhampton, West Bromwich; Zone B1, Kenilworth, Leamington, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Nuneaton, Rugby, Stafford, Willenhall; Zone B2, Brierley Hill, Leek, Lichfield, Lye and Wollescote, Sedgley, Shrewsbury, Stone, Warwick; Zone B3, Amblecote, Tettenhall; Zone C1, Cannock R.D.C., Cheadle R.D.C. The rates paid by some of the Authorities differ slightly from the minima quoted above. Under the terms of the agreement providing for the above increases, wages were to be stabilised for twelve months.
|| The new rates of wages are embodied in an agreement made by the East Midlands Joint Industrial Council for Local Authorities' Non-Trading Services.

CHANGES IN WAGES TAKING EFFECT IN OCTOBER, 1925.

The following groups of workpeople are among those affected by changes in wages already reported as having been arranged to take effect in October:—Increases.—Iron-ore miners in Cumberland; steel sheet millmen and galvanisers in various districts in England and Wales. Decreases.—Iron puddlers and iron and steel millmen in the Midlands; iron and steel workers in South Wales and Monmouthshire.

PRICES AND WAGES IN THE IRON AND STEEL TRADE.

In continuation of the particulars published in previous issues of this GAZETTE, the following Table shows the results of recent ascertained of selling prices of pig iron and manufactured iron in certain districts:—

Product and District.	Price according to last Audit.*		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) of last Audit* on	
	Period covered by last Audit.	Average Selling Price Per Ton.	Previous Audit.	A Year ago.
Pig Iron:	1925.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
	Cumberland ... (Hematite mixed numbers) †	July-Aug. 80 7½	- 4 3½	- 16 5
	Lincolnshire ‡	July 81 3½	- 2 7½	- 16 7½
	August 79 9	- 1 6½	- 16 5½	
Manufactured Iron:	July-Aug. 253 6½	+ 4 3½	+ 3 5½	
North of England ... (Bars and angles) §	July-Aug. 236 9½	- 1 7	- 14 1½	
West of Scotland ... (Rounds, flats, tees, angles, hoops, and rods) ¶				

* Stated to the nearest farthing.

The variations in prices indicated in the Table in the preceding column resulted, as regards the price of Cumberland pig iron, in reductions varying from 1½d. to 3d. per shift in August in the wages of iron ore miners in Cumberland, followed by further reductions of 1d. to 1d. per shift in September, while iron ore miners in the Furness district sustained a reduction of 3d. or 3½d. per shift in September. The same factor produced reductions in the wages of limestone quarrymen in Cumberland, amounting to 1½d. or 2½d. per shift in August and 1d. or 1½d. per shift in September, and also a reduction in September of 5½ per cent. on the standard basis rates of blastfurnacemen in West Cumberland and North Lancashire. In the case of Lincolnshire pig iron, the reduction in price for the period April to June resulted in a reduction in August of 8½ per cent. on the standard basis rates of blastfurnacemen in North Lincolnshire, a similar reduction applying to ironstone miners and quarrymen in the same district. The ascertained for manufactured iron resulted in an increase of 2½ per cent. on the standard rates for iron puddlers and millmen in the North of England, and in a decrease of 2½ per cent. on the standard rates for similar classes in the West of Scotland, the reductions in both cases taking effect in September.

Further details of the above changes in wages will be found on pages 325 and 326 of the September issue of the GAZETTE, in the case of changes taking effect in August, and on page 364 of the current issue in the case of those taking effect in September.

TRADE DISPUTES.*

Number, Magnitude and Duration.—The number of trade disputes involving a stoppage of work, reported to the Department as beginning in September in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was 36, as compared with 39 in the previous month and 41 in September, 1924. In addition 33 disputes which began before September were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The number of new and old disputes in September was thus 69.

Information as to the total number of seamen involved in a dispute which began about 12th August at various ports in Great Britain is not at present available. Excluding this dispute, however, the number of workpeople who were on strike or locked out, or were thrown out of work at establishments where disputes occurred in consequence of the disputes, in the disputes in progress in September was about 41,000, and the aggregate number of working days lost in disputes during the month was about 410,000.

The following Table analyses the disputes in progress in September in Great Britain and Northern Ireland by groups of industries and indicates the number of workpeople involved at the establishments concerned and the approximate time lost during the month in all disputes in progress:—

Groups of Industries.	Number of Disputes in progress in September.			Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress in September.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress in September.
	Started before 1st Sept.	Started in Sept.	Total.		
Mining and Quarrying... Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding.	13 5	11 5	24 10	29,000 1,000	353,000 6,000
Woodworking and Furnishing.	3	2	5	1,000	19,000
Transport ...	2	3	5	3,000	5,000
Other ...	10	15	25	9,000	29,000
Total, Sept., 1925 ...	33	36	69	41,000†	410,000†
Total, Aug., 1925 ...	36	39	75	218,000†	2,813,000†
Total, Sept., 1924 ...	34	41	75	28,000	518,000

Causes.—Of the 36 disputes beginning in September, 12, directly involving 3,000 workpeople, arose on questions of wages; 10, directly involving 3,000 workpeople, on questions respecting the employment

of particular classes or persons; 8, directly involving 4,000 workpeople, on questions of Trade Union principle; and 6, directly involving 2,000 workpeople, on other questions.

Results.—Settlements were effected in the case of 23 new disputes, directly involving 9,000 workpeople, and 12 old disputes, directly involving 5,000 workpeople. Of these new and old disputes, 8, directly involving 2,000 workpeople, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 11, directly involving 1,000 workpeople, in favour of the employers; and 16, directly involving 11,000 workpeople, were compromised. In the case of 3 disputes, directly involving 1,000 workpeople, work was resumed pending negotiations.

TOTALS FOR FIRST NINE MONTHS OF 1924 AND 1925.‡

The following Table summarises the figures for Great Britain and Northern Ireland for the first nine months of 1925, as compared with the corresponding period of 1924:—

Groups of Industries.	January to Sept., 1924.			January to Sept., 1925.		
	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.
Mining and Quarrying.	150	107,000	1,264,000	133	112,000	2,372,000
Engineering ...	22	10,000	88,000	14	6,000	36,000
Shipbuilding ...	30	33,000	564,000	18	4,000	27,000
Other Metal ...	54	24,000	529,000	35	5,000	58,000
Textile ...	29	6,000	133,000	47	171,000	3,167,000
Clothing ...	26	3,000	29,000	21	3,000	21,000
Food, Drink, and Tobacco.	15	8,000	35,000	17	3,000	16,000
Woodworking and Furnishing.	22	3,000	85,000	22	4,000	86,000
Paper, Printing, etc.	9	3,000	17,000	9	17,000	70,000
Building, Decorating, Contracting, etc.	44	112,000	3,119,000	42	5,000	72,000
Transport ...	60	242,000	1,522,000	36	†	†
Public Administration Services.	20	4,000	104,000	19	2,000	13,000
Other ...	52	10,000	169,000	39	25,000	123,000
Total ...	533	565,000	7,658,000	452	373,000†	6,068,000†

PRINCIPAL DISPUTES INVOLVING STOPPAGES OF WORK DURING SEPTEMBER, 1925.

Occupations and Locality.‡	Approximate Number of Workpeople Involved.		Date when Dispute Began. Ended.		Cause or Object.‡	Result.‡
	Directly.	Indirectly.‡	Began.	Ended.		
MINING AND QUARRYING:—			1925.	1925.		
Coal miners, etc.—South Shields (near).	3,389		24 April	21 Sept.	Against proposed reduction in piece-work rates, and against concessions as to payment of minimum wage.	Certain reductions in piece-work rates agreed upon, with concessions as to payment of minimum wage, etc.
Coal hewers, day-wagemen and surface workers—Wrexham (near).	874	1,377	15 June	...	Against proposed reduction in wages	No settlement reported.
Coal miners, etc.—Durham (near)	7,000		22 June–6 July	...	Against proposed increase in working hours, revision of piece-work rates, etc.	No settlement reported.
	2,577	252	5 Aug.	...	Against proposed reduction in piece-work rates and increase in working hours of certain workpeople, and against concessions as to payment of minimum wage.	No settlement reported.
Coal miners, mechanics, enginemen, etc.—South Shields (near).	2,258	156	14 Aug.	...	Dispute respecting terms of employment and respecting the wages of certain sets of machine coal getters.	No settlement reported.
Coal miners, etc.—Chesterfield (near).	1,980	226	21 Sept.	24 Sept.	Dispute as to rates of wages payable following the introduction of new methods of working in two seams, and the opening of a new district in a third seam.	Compromise effected.
OTHER INDUSTRIES:—						
Seamen—Various ports in Great Britain.	Not yet available		12 Aug.	12 Oct.	Against reduction in wages ...	Trade Union concerned decided to terminate the strike.
Organ builders—London and other centres.	800	...	28 Aug.‡	...	Strike in London for advance in wages, reduction in working hours and other concessions, followed by lock-out at other centres.	No settlement reported.
Press and pneumatic rubber workers and other workpeople (rubber tyres)—Birmingham (near).	7,019		14 Sept.	17 Sept.	Against proposed reduction in the manning of certain presses.	Workpeople agreed to abide by the decision of a committee appointed to witness a test of the new arrangements.

* Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople, and those which lasted less than one day, have, as usual, been omitted from the statistics except when the aggregate duration (i.e., number of workpeople multiplied by number of working days, allowing for workpeople replaced by others, etc.) exceeded 100 days.
 † Particulars are not yet available as regards the number of seamen involved in the dispute in various ports of Great Britain. The totals given for the numbers of workpeople involved and the aggregate duration of the disputes are, therefore, exclusive of figures relating to this dispute.
 ‡ A dispute involving about 165,000 workpeople in the wool textile industry in the West Riding of Yorkshire and part of Lancashire accounted for most of the loss of time in August, 1925.
 § 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 amount of such duplication, is, however, very slight.
 ¶ The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople "indirectly involved," i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes. The statements of cause and result do not apply to these persons.
 † The lock-out took effect on 10th September and subsequent dates.

BUILDING PLANS APPROVED.

RETURNS have been received from 138 Local Authorities in Great Britain giving the estimated cost of buildings for which plans were passed during the third quarter of 1925. The summarised figures for the quarter are given in the Table below, together with similar figures as to plans passed by the same Local Authorities during the corresponding quarter of 1924:—

District and Aggregate Population (at Census of 1921) of Towns from which returns have been received.	Estimated Cost of Buildings for which plans were approved in the 138 towns from which returns have been received.					
	Dwelling Houses.	Factories and Workshops.	Shops, Offices, Warehouses, and other Business Premises.	Churches, Schools, and Public Buildings.	Other Buildings, and Additions and Alterations.	TOTAL.
(a) THIRD QUARTER OF 1925.						
ENGLAND AND WALES—	£	£	£	£	£	£
Northern Counties (917,000)	304,100	28,500	37,900	63,700	106,100	540,300
Yorkshire (2,334,000)	1,205,800	72,200	178,000	37,100	224,400	1,717,500
Lancashire and Cheshire (3,035,000)	1,484,100	83,500	324,300	158,400	214,500	2,264,800
North and West-Midland Counties (1,991,000)	771,000	134,800	99,400	130,600	327,600	1,463,400
South-Midland and Eastern Counties (641,000)	523,000	38,400	79,700	24,700	82,000	747,800
Outer London* (1,807,000)	2,820,200	131,600	230,900	81,400	250,300	3,514,400
South-Eastern Counties (1,025,000)	706,200	49,400	37,400	12,500	209,200	1,014,700
South-Western Counties (433,000)	394,200	5,600	22,300	7,300	64,500	493,900
Wales and Monmouthshire (579,000)	390,500	7,900	95,400	47,100	44,300	585,200
SCOTLAND (2,022,000)	564,800	31,100	53,100	412,100	236,700	1,297,800
Total (14,784,000)	9,163,900	583,000	1,158,400	974,900	1,759,600	13,639,800

District and Aggregate Population (at Census of 1921) of Towns from which returns have been received.	Estimated Cost of Buildings for which plans were approved in the 138 towns from which returns have been received.					
	Dwelling Houses.	Factories and Workshops.	Shops, Offices, Warehouses, and other Business Premises.	Churches, Schools, and Public Buildings.	Other Buildings, and Additions and Alterations.	TOTAL.
(b) THIRD QUARTER OF 1924.						
ENGLAND AND WALES—	£	£	£	£	£	£
Northern Counties (917,000)	275,700	19,600	20,300	32,500	134,900	483,000
Yorkshire (2,334,000)	852,000	52,100	214,000	142,000	258,600	1,518,700
Lancashire and Cheshire (3,035,000)	1,272,100	193,100	320,300	129,800	257,700	2,173,000
North and West-Midland Counties (1,991,000)	761,300	327,000	89,600	137,400	247,900	1,563,200
South-Midland and Eastern Counties (641,000)	417,100	56,600	63,400	21,600	73,200	631,900
Outer London* (1,807,000)	1,874,400	268,000	181,400	39,300	228,000	2,591,100
South-Eastern Counties (1,025,000)	607,400	13,000	105,000	65,100	144,200	934,700
South-Western Counties (433,000)	292,600	8,600	7,600	26,100	46,900	381,800
Wales and Monmouthshire (579,000)	488,100	9,600	41,700	35,100	35,700	610,200
SCOTLAND (2,022,000)	637,100	33,300	42,300	85,200	323,700	1,121,600
Total (14,784,000)	7,477,800	980,900	1,085,600	714,100	1,750,800	12,009,200

ASSISTED PASSAGES UNDER THE EMPIRE SETTLEMENT ACT, 1922.

THE number of assisted passages granted during September, 1925, in connection with agreed schemes under the Empire Settlement Act, and the total number of such passages granted from the inception of these schemes, together with the number of departures during the same periods, are shown in the following Table:—

Assisted Passage Schemes.	Assisted Passages Granted in Sept., 1925.	Total Assisted Passages Granted.		Departures in Sept., 1925.	Total Departures.	
		1922 to 1924.	Jan.-Sept., 1925.		1922 to 1924.	Jan.-Sept., 1925.
To Australia ...	2,809	56,073	18,664†	2,272	55,281	18,324
" New Zealand ...	1,002	16,456	6,720†	806	14,575	6,487
" Canada ...	505	12,169	7,408†	440	11,623	7,564
Province of Ontario ...	...	1,367	...	...	1,356	...
" South Africa‡ ...	...	88	...	...	50	...
Minor Schemes ...	206	3,314†	1,682†	137	3,105	1,260†
Total ...	4,610	89,379†	34,562†	3,705	85,940	33,685†

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

* Particulars are not available for the London County Council Area.
 † Revised figures.
 ‡ New scheme.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.

THE total number of cases of poisoning, anthrax and epitheliomatous and chrome ulceration in Great Britain and Northern Ireland reported under the Factory and Workshop Act during September, 1925, was 61. Six deaths were reported during the month, three due to epitheliomatous ulceration, two due to lead poisoning, and one due to anthrax. In addition nine cases of lead poisoning among house painters and plumbers came to the knowledge of the Home Office during September, but notification of these cases is not obligatory.

(a) CASES OF LEAD POISONING. Among Operatives engaged in—	(b)—cont. Aniline Poisoning ... 5
Smelting of Metals ... 4	Chronic Benzene Poisoning ...
Plumbing and Soldering ...	Toxic Jaundice ...
Shipbreaking ... 1	TOTAL, OTHER FORMS OF POISONING ... 6
Printing ... 2	
Tinning of Metals ...	
Other Contact with Molten Lead ... 2	(c) CASES OF ANTHRAX. Wool ... 2
White and Red Lead Works ... 4	Handling of Horsehair ...
Pottery* ... 5	Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins ... 3
Vitreous Enamelling ...	Other Industries ...
Electric Accumulator Works ... 3	TOTAL, ANTHRAX ... 5
Paint and Colour Works ... 3	
Indiarubber Works ... 1	(d) CASES OF EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCERATION. Pitch ... 6
Coach and Car Painting ... 1	Tar ... 4
Shipbuilding ... 3	Paraffin ...
Paint used in Other Industries ... 5	Oil ... 3
Other Industries ...	TOTAL, EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCERATION ... 13
TOTAL OF ABOVE ... 33	
HOUSE PAINTING AND PLUMBING ... 9	(e) CASES OF CHROME ULCERATION. Manufacture of Bichromates ... 1
	Dyeing and Finishing ... 2
(b) CASES OF OTHER FORMS OF POISONING. Phosphorus Poisoning ...	Chrome Tanning ... 1
Mercurial Poisoning ... 1	Other Industries ...
Arsenical Poisoning ...	TOTAL, CHROME ULCERATION ... 4
Carbon Bisulphide Poisoning ...	

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 September, 1925, was 198, as compared with 181 in the previous month and with 183† in September, 1924. The number of seamen belonging to vessels registered in Great Britain and Northern Ireland under the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, who were reported during September, 1925, to have met with fatal accidents was 46, as compared with 55 in the previous month; comparable figures for September, 1924, are not available.

RAILWAY SERVICE.	FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS (continued):
Brakemen and Goods Guards ... 1	Locomotives, Railway and Tramway Carriages, Motors, Aircraft ... 1
Engine Drivers ... 2	Other Metal Trades ... 5
Firemen ... 2	Shipbuilding ... 11
Guards (Passenger) ...	Wood ... 2
Permanent Way Men ... 8	Gas ... 2
Porters ... 3	Electric Generating Stations ... 5
Shunters ... 1	Clay, Stone, Glass, etc. ... 2
Mechanics ...	Chemicals, etc. ... 3
Labourers ... 1	Food and Drink ... 7
Miscellaneous ... 5	Paper, Printing, etc. ... 2
Contractors' Servants ...	
TOTAL, RAILWAY SERVICE ... 23	PLACES UNDER SS. 104-106, FACTORY ACT, 1901. Docks, Wharves, etc. ... 12
	Buildings ... 16
MINES. Underground ... 74	Warehouses and Railway Sidings ...
Surface ... 5	
TOTAL, MINES ... 79	TOTAL, FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS, AND PLACES UNDER SS. 104-106 ... 91
QUARRIES OVER 20 feet deep ... 5	TOTAL (excluding Seamen) ... 198
	SEAMEN. Trading Vessels, Sailing ... 4
FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS. Cotton ...	" Steam ... 36
Wool, Worsted and Shoddy ... 1	Fishing Vessels, Sailing ...
Other Textiles ... 1	" Steam ... 6
Textile Bleaching & Dyeing ...	
Metal Extracting and Refining ... 2	TOTAL, SEAMEN ... 46
Metal Conversion, including Rolling Mills and Tube Making ... 12	
Metal Founding ... 1	TOTAL (including Seamen) ... 244
Engineering and Machine Making ... 4	
Boiler Making and Constructional Engineering ... 2	

* Of the five persons affected in the Pottery industry three were females.
 † Revised figure.

POOR LAW RELIEF IN GREAT BRITAIN.

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

THE number of persons* relieved on one day† in September, 1925, in the thirty-one selected areas named below was 745,322, or 1.7 per cent. more than in the previous month, and 7.7 per cent. more than in September, 1924. The numbers relieved at these three dates were equivalent, respectively, to rates of 417, 410 and 389 per 10,000 of the estimated population.

In the twenty-five selected areas in England and Wales the number of persons relieved in September, 1925, was 619,910, or 393 per 10,000 of the estimated population. In the six areas in Scotland the number relieved was 125,412, or 603 per 10,000 of the estimated population.

Recipients of indoor relief in the thirty-one districts in September numbered 122,913, or 0.8 per cent. more than in the previous month, and 2.8 per cent. more than in September, 1924. Recipients of outdoor relief numbered 622,409, or 1.9 per cent. more than in the previous month, and 8.8 per cent. more than a year ago.

Twenty-four areas showed increases and seven areas showed decreases in the number per 10,000 relieved in September, 1925, as compared with the previous month; with the exception of Bradford, where a decrease of 151 per 10,000 was recorded, all the changes were small. Compared with September, 1924, twenty-four areas showed increases, including East London (177 per 10,000) and Paisley and Greenock (157 per 10,000); and six areas showed decreases, the most noteworthy being Barnsley (132 per 10,000).

Selected Urban Areas.	Number of Persons* in receipt of Poor Law Relief on one day† in September, 1925.			Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with a	
	Indoor.	Out-door.	Total.		Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
<i>Metropolises.</i>						
West District ...	8,804	7,167	15,971	192	+ 9	+ 13
North District ...	10,337	17,812	28,149	275	+ 8	+ 7
Central District ...	2,265	3,021	5,287	394	+ 20	+ 30
East District ...	10,218	54,679	64,897	1,003	+ 8	+ 177
South District ...	19,023	71,651	90,674	465	+ 14	+ 44
TOTAL, Metropolises ...	50,648	154,330	204,978	447	+ 9	+ 49
<i>West Ham ...</i>	4,507	60,260	64,767	846	+ 8	- 90
<i>Other Districts.</i>						
Newcastle District	2,564	28,994	31,558	626	- 5	+ 108
Stockton and Tees District ...	1,173	13,089	14,262	515	+ 1	+ 96
Bolton Oldham, etc.	4,017	7,958	11,975	150	- 6	+ 7
Wigan District ...	1,764	11,352	13,116	289	+ 12	+ 46
Manchester District	8,662	28,250	36,912	353	+ 13	+ 46
Liverpool District...	9,501	54,561	64,062	513	+ 55	+ 79
Bradford District ...	1,737	5,046	6,783	183	- 151	+ 44
Hull District ...	1,314	3,146	4,460	118	- 6	+ 15
Leeds† ...	2,441	9,994	12,435	262	+ 4	+ 53†
Barnsley District ...	881	8,897	9,778	297	+ 2	- 132
Sheffield ...	2,486	24,556	27,042	524	+ 11	- 30
Hull District ...	1,740	11,958	13,698	427	+ 5	+ 65
North Staffordshire	2,168	6,381	8,549	204	+ 7	+ 33
Nottingham District	2,135	11,103	13,238	281	- 8	+ 56
Leicester ...	1,176	2,911	4,087	169	+ 12	+ 11
Wolverhampton District	3,223	16,348	19,571	263	+ 2	...
Birmingham ...	7,078	18,405	25,483	269	+ 1	- 58
Bristol District ...	2,376	12,319	14,695	354	+ 26	+ 1
Cardiff and Swansea	2,426	16,035	18,461	386	+ 10	+ 83
TOTAL, "Other Districts" ...	58,862	291,303	350,165	335	+ 4	+ 28
TOTAL, Districts in England and Wales ...	114,017	505,893	619,910	393	+ 6	+ 29
SCOTLAND.						
Glasgow District ...	4,974	75,800	80,774	827	+ 17	+ 13
Paisley and Greenock District ...	801	13,637	14,438	745	+ 19	+ 157
Edinburgh ...	1,427	14,196	15,623	366	+ 13	- 25
Dundee and Dunfermline ...	744	3,816	4,560	205	+ 6	+ 51
Aberdeen ...	517	2,748	3,265	205	+ 9	- 2
Coatbridge and Airdrie	433	6,319	6,752	660	- 13	+ 101
TOTAL for the above Scottish Districts ...	8,896	116,516	125,412	603	+ 14	+ 26
TOTAL for above 31 Districts in Sept., 1925	122,913	622,409	745,322	417	+ 7	+ 28

A Statement, issued by the Ministry of Health, showing the number of persons in receipt of Poor Law relief in England and Wales in the quarter ended June, 1925, and giving some statistics of "unemployed" persons in receipt of relief, is summarised on page 347 of this GAZETTE.

* The figures include dependants, but exclude casuals, lunatics in Asylums, Registered Hospitals and Licensed Houses, and persons receiving out-door medical relief only.
† The figures for England and Wales relate to 26th September and those for Scotland to 15th September.
‡ Owing to alteration of area, comparison with a year ago is approximate only.

RETAIL PRICES OVERSEAS.

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

I.—FOOD.

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

Country.	Percentage Increase as compared with July, 1914.*					Latest figures available.	
	July, 1922.	July, 1923.	July, 1924.	July, 1925.	Per cent.	Date.	
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.		
UNITED KINGDOM ...	80	62	62	67	72	1925. Oct.	
FOREIGN COUNTRIES.							
Czechoslovakia ...	...	...	...	794	794	Aug. July
Denmark ...	84	88	100	110	110	July	
Egypt (Cairo) ...	72	52	48	58	58	July	
Finland ...	1,005	868	916	1,007	1,082	Aug.	
France (Paris)† ...	197	221	260	321	331	Sept.	
(other towns)† ...	212‡	249‡	300‡	351‡	351	Aug.	
Holland (The Hague)† ...	...	...	...	67	76	July
(Amsterdam) ...	40	36	38	52	52	July	
Italy (Milan) ...	392	396	408	502	521	Aug.	
Norway ...	133	118	148	160	141	Sept.	
Spain (Madrid)† ...	79	72	82	90	90	Aug.	
(Barcelona)† ...	73	65	72	82	82	Aug.	
Sweden† ...	79	60	59	69	68	Sept.	
Switzerland ...	57	64	68	67	65	Aug.	
United States ...	39	44	40	59	59	July	
BRITISH DOMINIONS, &c.							
Australia ...	48	64	49†	56	56	July	
Canada ...	38	37	34	41	46	Sept.	
India (Bombay) ...	60	48	51	52	46	Sept.	
Irish Free State ...	85†	82	85	88	88	July	
New Zealand ...	44	42	48	51	52	Aug.	
South Africa ...	16	16	17	20	19	Aug.	

II.—ALL ITEMS.

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

Country.	Items on which Computation is based.¶	Percentage Increase as compared with July, 1914.¶					Latest figures available.	
		July, 1922.	July, 1923.	July, 1924.	July, 1925.	Per cent.	Date.	
		Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.		
UNITED KINGDOM A,B,C,D,E		84	69	70	73	76	1925. Oct.	
FOREIGN COUNTRIES.								
Austria (Vienna) ...	A,D	266	329	393	...	134††	Apr. Sept.	
Belgium ...	A,O,D,E	...	...	...	...	425	May
Chile ...	A,C,D,E	99	104	114	119	119	July	
Denmark ...	A,B,C,D,E	1,018	990	1,032	1,094	1,142	Aug.	
Finland ...	A,B,C,D,E	189**	231**	267**	...	290	2nd Qr.	
France (Paris) ...	A,B,C,D,E	...	...	...	...	43	45
Germany ...	A,B,C,D,E	...	...	...	...	1,372	1,384
Greece (Athens) ...	A,B,C,D,E	516	933	1,225	1,372	1,384	Aug.	
Hungary ...	A,B,C,D	...	...	...	...	1900600	1900600
Italy (Milan) ...	A,B,C,D,E	388	387	412	498	510	Aug.	
Luxemburg ...	A,C,D	259	340	381	415	419	Aug.	
Norway ...	A,B,C,D,E	155††	139††	151††	161††	148	Sept.	
Poland (Warsaw) ...	A,B,C,D,E	90	74	71	76	76	July	
Sweden ...	A,B,C,D,E	...	...	...	...	27	52
Switzerland ...	A,C,D	63	67	70	69	67	Aug.	
United States ...	A,B,C,D,E	67††	70††	69††	74††	74	June	
BRITISH DOMINIONS, &c.								
Australia ...	A,B	43**	66**	48**	...	53	2nd Qr. Sept.	
Canada ...	A,B,D	46	46	44	46	49	Sept.	
India (Bombay) ...	A,B,C,D	65	53	57	57	51	Sept.	
Irish Free State ...	A,B,C,D,E	85**	80	83	88	88	July	
South Africa ...	A,B,D,E	35	30	32	33	32	Aug.	

* Exceptions to this are: France (other towns), August, 1914; The Hague, January to July, 1914; Milan, January to June, 1914; Switzerland, June, 1914; Amsterdam, South Africa, average, 1914. † Figure for June. ‡ Fuel and lighting are also included in these figures. § Figure for August. ¶ A = Food; B = House-Rent; C = Clothing; D = Fuel and Light; E = Other or Miscellaneous Items. ¶ Exceptions to this are: France, Spain, Australia and South Africa, in which comparison is with the average for 1914; Belgium, April, 1914; Greece, March, 1914; Milan, January to June, 1914; Germany, Egypt, Hungary, average, 1913-1914; Switzerland and Luxemburg, June, 1914; United States and Chile, 1913; Poland, January, 1914. ** Figure for 3rd Quarter. †† Figure for June. ‡‡ Figures based on scilling prices.

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 employed with those on pp. 352-353 to compare the actual level of employment in the United Kingdom with that of other countries. For details as to the bases of the unemployment statistics of the various countries see Report issued by the International Labour Office under the title "Methods of Statistics of Unemployment." (Studies and Reports, Series N (Statistics) No. 7.)]

FRANCE.*

Unemployment in September.—The total number of unemployed persons remaining on the "live register" of employment exchanges on 26th September was 10,076 (6,338 men and 3,738 women). At the end of August the corresponding total was 9,154 and in September, 1924, 9,510. The total number of vacancies remaining unfilled on the same date was 11,509 (5,915 for men and 5,594 for women), as compared with 9,571 at the end of August and 12,255 in September, 1924. During the last week of September the exchanges succeeded in placing 31,630 persons in situations, including 9,179 dock workers at seaports, and in addition found employment for 1,586 foreign immigrants.

GERMANY.†

Employment in August.—Statistical reports show that the tendency of the labour market in August was in general the same as in July. The slackness in employment, however, was in some cases less than in the previous month, and here and there definite improvements were reported. On the whole the position of the labour market could not be considered unsatisfactory.

Returns from 5,954 statutory health insurance societies show a falling off during August in the number of persons under obligation to insure (and therefore assumed to be in work). On 1st August the membership of these societies was 14,459,328, and on 1st September, 14,413,433—a decline of 0.3 per cent.—whereas in July the decrease as compared with June amounted to 0.9 per cent.

The number of applications for employment registered at employment exchanges making returns was 1,113,078 in August, as compared with 1,088,460 in July; the total number of vacancies reported by employers was 570,572, as against 620,798 in July. For each 100 situations offered there were thus 195 applications in August, as against 175 in the preceding month.

Forty trade unions, with an aggregate membership of 3,612,342, reported concerning unemployment during August. At the end of the month 154,032 of these, or 4.3 per cent. of the total, were out of work, as compared with 3.7 per cent. at the end of July and 12.4 per cent. in August, 1924. The following Table gives the percentages for the principal unions included in these totals:—

UNIONS.	Member-ship at end of month.	Percentage Unemployed at end of Month.		
		Aug., 1925.	July, 1925.	Aug., 1924.
All Unions making Returns ...	3,612,342	4.3	3.7	12.4
Porcelain (S.D.) ...	51,450	3.3	2.8	10.3
Glass (S.D.) ...	51,108	1.8	1.6	...
Metal (S.D.) ...	775,708	4.5	3.7	20.5
(H.D.) ...	80,117	5.4	5.1	10.1
Textile (S.D.) ...	321,827	3.0	2.8	7.2
(C.) ...	84,445	0.9	0.8	6.7
Clothing (S.D.) ...	87,351	6.7	4.7	13.0
Boot and shoe (S.D.) ...	90,166	5.0	4.6	12.2
Food, tobacco, etc. (S.D.) ...	53,639	7.4	8.1	11.4
Food and drinks (S.D.) ...	68,336	2.2	2.2	3.4
Tobacco (S.D.) ...	61,651	7.6	9.2	20.2
Woodworking (S.D.) ...	308,968	4.2	3.4	15.2
Printing (S.D.) ...	75,100	1.4	1.2	3.9
Bookbinding (S.D.) ...	55,540	3.0	2.1	12.5
Building (S.D.) ...	370,198	4.8	3.7	11.4
Carpenters (S.D.) ...	82,252	5.2	2.5	...
Transport (S.D.) ...	290,962	4.3	4.1	8.8
Factory workers (trades not distinguished) (S.D.) ...	358,345	4.8	3.6	11.6
Engine drivers and firemen (S.D.) ...	51,173	5.2	5.4	15.9
Factory and transport (C.) ...	66,476	5.6	6.2	21.1
Municipal and State workers (S.D.) ...	199,217	0.7	0.7	2.0

The foregoing figures relate to persons entirely without work. Statistics are also available concerning the prevalence of partial unemployment. Returns made by 35 trade unions show that, out of an aggregate membership of 3,095,238, 6.9 per cent. were working short time in August, as compared with 5.8 per cent. in July and 27.5 per cent. in August, 1924.

The number of totally unemployed persons in receipt of out of work benefit from public funds was 251,271 on 15th September, as compared with 209,675 on 15th August. These figures (it is stated) do not represent the total unemployed throughout Germany, since a claim to benefit is dependent upon compliance with certain statutory requirements.

* Bulletin du Marché du Travail, 2nd October, 1925. Paris.
† Reichs-Arbeitsblatt, 1st October, 1925. Berlin.

BELGIUM.*

Unemployment in August.—Returns received by the Ministry of Industry and Labour from 135 approved unemployment insurance societies, with a total membership of 596,134, show that 5,634, or 0.95 per cent., of these were totally unemployed on the last day of the period covered by the returns (i.e., on 5th September). The total days lost through unemployment in August numbered 322,303, or 1.80 per cent. of the aggregate possible working days; in the preceding month the percentage was 2.32, and in August, 1924, 1.45.

HOLLAND.

Unemployment in August.—The issue of the Maandschrift van het Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek (the journal of the

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTS; CONCILIATION AND
ARBITRATION CASES; TRADE BOARDS ACTS, Etc.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTS,
1920-25.

DECISIONS GIVEN BY THE UMPIRE.

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

Appeals to the Umpire may be made by the Insurance Officer or by an Association of which the claimant is a member, or, with the permission of the Court of Referees, by the claimant himself.

The following are recent decisions of general interest:—

Case No. 1593/1925 (20/8/1925). Section 8 (1) of the Principal Act and 4 (1) of the U.I. No. 2 Act, 1924.—Trade Dispute—Alleged Contravention of Agreement.

Colliery Owners Closed Pits when Miners Refused to Work at New Proposed Rates and Hours of Work—Employers' Association had Previously Given Notice to Determine Agreement by which Old Rates and Hours were fixed—Contention that Notice was "Bad" Because it Related to one Particular Clause only, not upheld.

The applicant, a miner, lost his employment on the 28th May, 1925, in circumstances which were held to constitute a stoppage of work due to a Trade Dispute, and his claim for benefit was disallowed under the provisions of Section 8 (1).

It appeared that on the 6th June the colliery owners had issued notices to the miners purporting to terminate contracts on the 20th June. During the currency of these notices certain proposals were put forward by the employers with a view to the economic working of the pits. The proposals were, in effect, that all classes of workmen should agree to work the full hours allowed by law if required to do so by the management, and that the existing average rates should be reduced in the case of hewers to 15 per cent., in the case of stonemen to 19 per cent., and in the case of fellers to 18 per cent. above the County Average. In order that the miners could give due consideration to these proposals, it was agreed that the men should work on day to day contracts, and this arrangement continued until the pits closed on the 3rd July.

At a hearing of the case before the Court of Referees it was contended by the applicants' Association that the employers were contracting parties to an Agreement dated 10th July, 1919, between the Durham Coal Owners' Association and the Durham Miners' Association. They stated that the Agreement was one of six clauses, and that the Secretary of the Durham Coal Owners' Association had written to the Durham Miners' Association on the 29th September, 1924, a letter which only determined one clause relating to the hours which should be worked. They contended that the other clauses were not affected by that letter, but were still binding, and that as a clause in an agreement could not be determined without rescinding the whole Agreement, the Agreement dated 10th July, 1919, was still in existence, as the other five clauses had not been rescinded.

On the other hand, the employers contended that the Agreement of the 10th July, 1919, was terminated by the letter dated 29th September, 1924, sent by the Durham Coal Owners' Association to the Durham Miners' Association, wherein it was stated that "individual colliery owners in the County of Durham will no longer be bound by any agreement which prohibits them claiming such alteration in the hours (within the limitation fixed by Law) as is necessary to meet the circumstances and enable them to afford employment to the workmen."

In connection with the letter dated 29th September, 1924, a case was previously before the Umpire in which the owners of a colliery had sought to impose an increase in the working hours of shifts, and in which it was similarly contended by the Association that the employers in so doing had contravened the Agreement of the 10th July, 1919. The Umpire, however, held in that case that the letter of the 29th September, 1924, had put an end to the Agreement. The decision, which was as follows, was read to the Court:—

Decision (No. 700/25).—"On the facts before me my decision is that the claim for benefit should be disallowed.

"By an agreement made on the 10th July, 1919, between the Durham Coal Owners' Association and the Durham Miners' Association to effect an adjustment suggested by the Sankey Award and in view of the expected passing of the Coal Mines Act, 1919, it was agreed among other things that the hewers should continue to work the same number of hours per shift as theretofore, those hours being less than the statutory seven hours provided for by the Act of 1919.

* Volumes containing the collected decisions of the Umpire are published by His Majesty's Stationery Office.

Decisions given after March, 1922, are not published in volume form, but summaries of the cases are printed in pamphlets issued at approximately fortnightly intervals. The pamphlets will be supplied post free, as and when issued, on payment of an annual subscription. All applications should be made to His Majesty's Stationery Office at any of the addresses shown on the front cover of this GAZETTE.

"This agreement continued to operate until on the 29th of September, 1924, the Secretary of the Durham Coal Owners' Association wrote to the Durham Miners' Association a letter purporting to determine it. Negotiations followed and finally, as no settlement was reached, the applicants' late employers in March, 1925, determined the applicants' contracts of employment. There is no doubt that the resulting stoppage of work was due to employers refusing to carry out the terms of the agreement of 10th July, 1919, and, if in refusing to do so they were so acting as to contravene the terms of an existing agreement the applicants are entitled to benefit.

"In my opinion, however, the Agreement of July, 1919, was not in March, 1924, an existing agreement. I think that it was intended to operate only until it was rescinded by mutual agreement or by one of the parties giving to the other notice of determination, and in my opinion it was lawfully determined by the letter of 29th September and thereafter ceased to be an existing agreement."

Recommended by a majority of the Court of Referees that the claim for benefit should be disallowed. The Court were of opinion that the applicant's case was governed by the decision given on case No. 700/25. The insured contributors' representative dissented on the ground that in his opinion the Agreement dated the 10th July, 1919, still existed. He was not prepared to admit that a clause in any Agreement could be determined separately unless provision was made in the Agreement for doing so. He was led to believe that the Agreement was a six-clause agreement and it must therefore remain as a whole.

The Association appealed to the Umpire and an oral hearing of the case took place on the 18th August. It was contended by the Association that the letter of the 29th September, 1924, was not a "good" notice of termination of the 1919 Agreement, and that, therefore, the Agreement was still binding on all Federated employers in the County of Durham. The following decision was given by the Deputy Umpire:—

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

"I have given very careful consideration to the arguments put forward, but I feel compelled to come to the same conclusions as did the Umpire in Decision No. 700/25.

"I agree that the Agreement of July 10th was one and indivisible and that no one of its terms could be varied or rescinded except by consent. The owners were unable to arrange a variation of the clause relating to the hours of hewers, and they, therefore, wrote the letter of September 29th. On my interpretation of that letter it was a valid notice to determine the whole agreement."

Case No. 1673/25 (7/9/1925). Section 7 (1) (iv) of the Principal Act (as Amended).—Suitable Employment, Unable to Obtain.

Miners Formerly Employed at Cambrian Group of Collieries Refused Offer of Re-Engagement at Rates Applicable to Adjoining Naval Collieries—Existing Agreement Provided for Certain Specific Rates at Cambrian Group—Rates Prevailing at Naval Collieries at Date of Offer were Substantially Lower than those Applicable to Cambrian Group—Offer at such Rates held Unsuitable Offer of Employment.

A number of miners who had formerly been employed at the Cambrian group of Collieries in Wales, and who had become unemployed when, owing to economic causes, the Colliery closed down in August, 1924, were offered re-engagement in July and August, 1925, under new conditions of employment and at reduced basic rates. The men affected refused to work at the new rates on the ground that the offer made was not a suitable offer of employment within the meaning of Section 7 (1) (iv) (as amended), inasmuch as it involved a reduction in Price Lists which had been fixed by Agreement under the machinery which existed for fixing wages in coalfields in South Wales and Monmouthshire.

The Insurance Officer instead of himself determining the question whether in the circumstances benefit should be continued or withheld, exercised his power under Section 11 (4) of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, and referred the case of an applicant, as a "test" case, to the Court of Referees. The Court of Referees recommended that benefit should be allowed, but the Insurance Officer was unable to accept the recommendation and referred the case to the Umpire. The full details of the case are contained in the following decision given by the Deputy Umpire:—

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

"The applicant is one of a number of hewers who were formerly employed at the Cambrian group of Collieries, and who became unemployed when, for financial reasons, the Cambrian Company closed down these pits in August, 1924.

"In July and August of the present year the Owners of the Cambrian Collieries announced their intention of opening the pits for work on certain terms and conditions, which the applicant and all the other hewers concerned would not accept or work under.

"The terms were, in short, that the Standard Base Rates with the percentage thereon and allowances and agreements and working arrangements which should prevail at the adjoining Naval Collieries during the period August 1st, 1925, to April 30th, 1926, should apply to the Cambrian Collieries, instead of those which were in force at the Cambrian Collieries when they closed down.

"As the applicant and other hewers concerned were in receipt of unemployment benefit the Insurance Officer exercised his power under Section 11 (4) of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, of referring applicant's case, as a test case, to the Court of Referees, instead of himself determining the question whether in the circumstances benefit should be continued or withheld.

"The Court of Referees unanimously recommended that benefit be allowed, and from this recommendation the Insurance Officer has appealed.

"My duty is to determine the issues between the Insurance Officer and the applicant according to the statutory provisions and the decisions thereon, and not to allow my judgment to be influenced by other matters such as, on the one hand, the economic conditions of the South Wales Coalfields in general, or of the Cambrian Collieries in particular, and, on the other hand, the effect my decision might have upon the industrial relations in the Coal Trade as they exist to-day. In the Coalfields of South Wales and Monmouthshire (hereinafter referred to as 'the area') each Colliery has, and for many years has had, its own Price Lists, which have been settled either by agreement or in proceedings before a Conciliation Board, or, in some instances, by arbitration.

"As between the Collieries these Price Lists have always varied, and in many instances have varied considerably, the variations being due in the main to the differences to be found in the physical conditions, the character of the coal and seams, and such like circumstances of the Collieries. Possibly, also, the fixing of prices may have been influenced by the conditions of the trade, or the exigencies of the situation at the moment.

"But whatever the origin or history of the respective Price Lists, it has long been an established practice and a recognised condition of employment in the Area that such Price Lists should remain in force, in respect of the Collieries for which they were agreed or determined, unless and until they were varied or terminated by mutual arrangement or by means of a Board of Conciliation; and any collier moving from one colliery to another would expect to be paid, and would be entitled to demand, the prices fixed for the pit at which he became employed.

"The Price Lists of the 1915 Standard (subject to any legitimate variations made since) became the Standard Base Rates of the respective Collieries for which they were agreed or determined; and, as those which governed the Cambrian Collieries, when they were closed down, have not been varied or terminated in either of the above-mentioned ways, they must be regarded, in accordance with the established practice and recognised conditions of employment in the Area, as having been in existence at the time when the present offer of employment was made.

"It was, however, contended before me, that the effect of the notices to terminate, as from the 31st July, 1925, the National Agreement, and the Conciliation Board Agreement for the Coal Trade of the Area, was to put an end to those Agreements and the existing Price Lists. I do not agree with this contention.

"In the first place, after considering the origin, purpose and immediate practical result of the Subvention Agreement, made between the Mines Department and the Mining Association, I am of opinion that, although these notices have not been expressly withdrawn, their operation has been suspended for the period from 1st August, 1925, to 1st May, 1926, and that, as between the Coal Owners and their Workmen, all the contractual relations existing on 31st July, 1925, have been preserved for this period of truce.

"In the second place, the Agreements referred to recognised the Standard Base Rates, and regulated the percentages to be added to them, but they did not create those rates or the system by which those rates have become one of the established and recognised conditions of employment within the Area. In my view, those rates and systems would have continued to be effective even if the Agreements had in fact terminated as contended.

"I find that the Standard Base Rates at the Naval Collieries were, at the time when employment at the Cambrian Collieries was offered to applicant, substantially lower than the Standard Base Rates applicable to the Cambrian Collieries; and, in these circumstances, I must hold, following the principles of previous decisions (see, for example, Decisions 141 (1920), 2155 (1920), 6710 (1920)), that applicant was entitled to regard the employment offered to him as not suitable within the meaning of Section 7 (1) (iii) of the Act of 1920 and Section 3 (1) (a) (iv) of the (No. 2) Act of 1924.

"In the face of this finding, it is unnecessary to consider the application to the circumstances of this case of proviso (b) of subsection (1) of Section 7 of the Act of 1920 as amended by the (No. 2) Act of 1924.

"I was requested at the hearing by both sides to give a decision not only in respect of the piece-workers represented by the applicant, but also in respect of all other classes of workmen who had previously been employed at the Cambrian Collieries. It was admitted that if the hewers were not employed there could be no work at the pits for the other classes of workmen. I, therefore, hold in respect of them that the offer of the employment was not an effective one, that they were unable to obtain the employment, and that they are not disentitled to benefit by their failure to accept the offer."

Case No. 1693/25 (12/9/1925). Section 8 (1) of the Principal Act.—Trade Dispute.

Amounting to—Colliery Closed when Miners Refused to Negotiate with Employers on Subject of Proposed Reduced Tonnage Rates—Miners hoped by Inaction to Avoid Question of Trade Dispute—Fact that Proposals Rejected by Actions instead of Words not Material.

The applicants had been employed as coal getters at a colliery in Yorkshire when on the 23rd June, 1925, a stoppage of work occurred

at the pits where they were employed. Their claims for benefit were disallowed under the provisions of Section 8 (1).

For some time prior to the stoppage the employers, owing to the high cost of production, had under consideration certain proposals for the more economic working of the mines. In this connection they had proposed reductions in the tonnage rates of certain coal getters. With a view to obtaining an agreed reduction with the miners, individual representations were made to the men and a deputation of the miners was later requested to meet the employers to discuss the question. The miners, however, refrained from entering into any negotiations whatever and a subsequent communication to the Branch Secretary of their Association on the subject proved of no avail.

Accordingly on the 16th June notices were posted at the pit heads setting out the revised piece rates which were to come into operation on the 23rd June. On the latter date the men held a pit-head meeting and decided to stop work.

At the hearing of the case before the Court of Referees the applicants' Association stated that the reason the men had not accepted the employers' invitation was that if the men had met the management and failed to come to an agreement, the subsequent stoppage of work would have been held to have been due to a trade dispute. It was therefore contended that as the men had not negotiated with the employers the stoppage of work at the colliery could not be held to be due to a trade dispute. The men ceased work as they considered that the employers had broken their contract by altering the price lists which had been in operation since 1919.

The employers stated that the notices were posted at the pits so that the men would meet the management and discuss the economic position at the pits, with a view to reaching an amicable settlement on the matter of reduced piece rates. The agreement regarding price lists was one between employers and workmen, and not an agreement between a group of employers and the Miners' Association.

On the 15th July at a meeting between the employers and the men it was agreed to resume work at the revised rates.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claims for benefit should be disallowed. The Court by a majority were of the opinion that the applicants had lost their employment by reason of a stoppage of work due to a trade dispute. The insured contributors' representative dissented on the ground that as the owners had varied the price lists in operation since 1919, the applicants were justified in leaving their employment. The full facts of the case are outlined in the following decision given by the Deputy Umpire:—

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

"I agree with the Court of Referees.

"It would not be necessary to say more than this were it not for the attitude which was taken up by the workmen and Association and which appears to have been based upon a misapprehension of the effect of previous decisions.

"For some time before the stoppage of work the employers had realised that the working of the seam at which the applicants were employed could not be continued unless there was some reduction of the base rates which had been agreed in 1919 during a period of prosperity.

"The employers first took steps through the under-manager and the deputy to approach the men individually with a view to securing an agreed reduction, but nothing came of these informal communications. They next posted a notice at the pit on 28th May asking the men in the seam to appoint representatives to meet the management to discuss important matters in connection with the working of the seam. It was well known among the men what the object of this meeting was but they did not accept the invitation. The employers next wrote to the Branch Secretary on June 4th asking him to arrange for a deputation to meet the management at any date and time convenient to him and the men. There being no reply to this the employers next communicated with the Association at the head offices, Barnsley, but failed to obtain the deputation they sought. On June 16th a notice was posted at the pit stating that at the expiration of one week the rates mentioned in the notice would become operative in the seam. On the 23rd the men held a pit-gate meeting and at the end of it demanded their employment cards; and work in the seam was stopped as from that date. On 15th July a meeting was held between the employers and the men or their representatives in consequence of which work was resumed. It seems clear therefore, that in all probability the stoppage of work could have been avoided if the men or their representatives had accepted the repeated invitation of the employers to a discussion of the proposed terms.

"The reason they did not do so was disclosed before the Court of Referees and was that if the men had met to discuss terms and failed to come to an agreement there would have been a trade dispute, and it was hoped by inaction to avoid this result.

"The Court of Referees, by a majority, expressed the opinion that the circumstances in which the applicants lost their employment constituted a trade dispute, and I think they were right.

"The refusal of the men throughout to meet the employers, knowing the purpose for which the meeting was desired; their continued refusal to do so after the June notice with full particulars was exhibited; and their meeting amongst themselves on 23rd June, after which they demanded their unemployment cards rather than continue work on the new terms, had just the same effect as if they had sent a deputation to the employers with instructions to meet the request for a reduction with a simple and emphatic denial. The rejection of the proposals for an alteration of rates by actions instead of by words, constituted, in my opinion, a trade dispute within the principles laid down in Decision 8730/1920."

DECISIONS OF THE HIGH COURT ON APPEALS MADE UNDER SECTION 10 (1) OF THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT, 1920.

INSURANCE INDUSTRY (AMENDED) SCHEME (1923).

On the 28th July, 1925, Mr. Justice Roche heard appeals by the Insurance Unemployment Board, Incorporated, against decisions given by the Minister of Labour that the persons employed in the undermentioned circumstances were persons to whom the Insurance Industry (Amended) Scheme (1923) applied.

(a) A sick visitor employed by the Prudential Approved Societies for three full days weekly and four days in alternate weeks.

(b) A sick visitor employed by the Prudential Approved Societies for between seven and eight hours per day for two days per week.

(c) A sick visitor employed by the Prudential Approved Societies for nine hours per day for four days per week.

The judge decided that the persons referred to at (a) and (b) were not persons to whom the said Scheme applied, but that the person referred to at (c) was a person to whom the said Scheme applied.

COLLECTION OF CONTRIBUTIONS (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS, 1925.

The Unemployment Insurance (Collection of Contributions) (Amendment) Regulations, 1925, dated 30th July, 1925, made by the Minister of Labour under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920 (10 & 11 Geo. 5. c. 30).

WHEREAS the Minister of Labour (hereinafter referred to as "the Minister") by virtue of the powers conferred on him by the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, has made the Unemployment Insurance (Collection of Contributions) Regulations 1920 (hereinafter referred to as "the principal regulations"):

And whereas it is desirable to amend the said Regulations:

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

1. The following words shall be added in paragraph (1) of Regulation 8 of the principal Regulations after the word "employers" and immediately before the words "(but not for any other purpose)":—

"And of Regulation 17 hereof."

2. The following paragraph shall be substituted for paragraph (5) of Regulation 3 of the principal Regulations:—

"The person for the time being responsible for the custody of the book in accordance with these Regulations, or any person having in his possession or under his control any book issued in respect of an insured contributor, shall produce it for inspection at any reasonable time when required to do so by an Inspector appointed for the purposes of the Act, and, if so required by the Inspector, shall deliver up the book to the Inspector who may, if he thinks fit, retain the book."

3. The following paragraph shall be substituted for paragraph (8) of Regulation 9 of the principal Regulations:—

"No person shall affix to a book a stamp which has been cancelled or defaced or which has been previously affixed to a book or other document to which stamps are required or authorised to be affixed for the purposes of the Act."

4. The following paragraph shall be added to Regulation 17 of the principal Regulations:—

"For the purposes of this Regulation a person who removes from a book a stamp which has been affixed thereto for the purposes of the Act shall be deemed to have defaced that book."

5. Where by these Regulations any Regulations or words are directed to be added to the principal Regulations, or to be substituted for any other Regulations or words in the principal Regulations, copies of the principal Regulations printed under the authority of His Majesty's Stationery Office after these Regulations come into force, may be printed with the Regulations or words inserted or substituted as these Regulations require, and the principal Regulations shall be construed as if they had at the time these Regulations come into force, been made with such additions.

6. These Regulations may be cited as the Unemployment Insurance (Collection of Contributions) (Amendment) Regulations, 1925, and shall have effect from the date hereof.

Signed by order of the Minister of Labour this 30th day of July, 1925.

H. J. WILSON,
Secretary to the Ministry of Labour.

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

Recent Proceedings.

(A.)—INDUSTRIAL COURT DECISIONS.

IRON AND STEEL WORKERS, DOWLAIS.—The South Wales and Monmouthshire Iron and Steel Manufacturers' Association (representing Messrs. Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds, Ltd.) v. The Workers' Union. *Difference.*—Rate of payment for changing outside train rolls. *Decision.*—The introduction of the overhead electric crane at the Big Mill, Dowlais Works, has materially affected the position of the rollers, roughers and catchers and under the new conditions the work of changing the outer rolls is no more laborious than that of changing the inner rolls. The Court decided that the same payment should be made for changing the outside train rolls as is paid for changing the inner rolls. Effective as from the beginning of the first full pay period following the date hereof. Issued 8th September, 1925. (1120.)

METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE MALE CLERKS, AIR MINISTRY.—The Civil Service Clerical Association v. Air Ministry. *Difference.*—Assimilation into Departmental Clerical Class—Initial Salaries—Claim for increase. *Decision.*—The Court adjudged that, subject to certain specified conditions, the officers concerned should receive an advance of £10 per annum on basic salary. Operative on and after 1st September, 1925. Issued 25th September, 1925. (1121.)

ARMY AUDIT STAFF WRITERS, WAR OFFICE.—Civil Service Clerical Association v. War Office. *Difference.*—Assimilation into Clerical Class—Initial Salaries—Claim for increase. *Decision.*—The Court decided that, subject to certain specified conditions, the Chief Writers and Senior Writers concerned should receive an advance of £40 per annum on basic salaries, and Writers an advance of £30 per annum on basic salaries. Effective as on and after 1st September, 1925. Issued 26th September, 1925. (1122.)

CLERICAL CLASS (WOMEN).—Civil Service Clerical Association v. H.M. Treasury. *Difference.*—Promotions from Writing Assistant and Typing Grades to Clerical Class—Initial Salaries—Claim for adjustment. *Decision.*—The Court decided that members of the Clerical Class entering that Class by promotion from the Writing Assistant and Typing Grades, who were debarred by the age limit of 30 years from sitting at the 1919 examination, should have their salaries so adjusted as from 1st August, 1925, as to secure that no such officer shall be in receipt of a lower salary than is being paid to members of the Clerical Class (Women) who were recruited to that class by limited competition after previous service as Grade III. Temporary Clerks, and have less or equal service in the Clerical Class. With regard to the other Claimants, the Court found against any revision of salaries. Issued 29th September, 1925. (1123.)

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

(There were no cases under this heading during September, 1925.)

(C.)—OTHER SETTLEMENTS.

TIMBER PORTERS: LONDON.—Transport and General Workers' Union v. Messrs. Gabriel, Wade & English, Limited. *Difference.*—Claim for payment of wages in accordance with the National Agreement relating to dock labour. *Settlement.*—Agreement to be observed. Agreed 7th September, 1925.

ROAD TRANSPORT: LONDON.—Transport and General Workers' Union v. Messrs. T. Smith & Son, Haulage Contractors. *Difference.*—Claim for 48-hour working week and re-employment of certain workers. *Settlement.*—Hours claim conceded and comprehensive Agreement, to become operative from 7th September, 1925, signed by both parties.

LOCK, LATCH AND KEY INDUSTRY: WILLENHALL.—Lock Makers and Metal Workers' Trade Society v. Messrs. Banks & Rushton. *Difference.*—Failure of firm to operate Joint Industrial Council Agreement relating to the proportion of boys and youths to graded workmen. *Settlement.*—Correct proportion secured by the dismissal of certain youths and grading of others. Agreed 11th September, 1925.

ROAD TRANSPORT: LONDON.—Transport and General Workers' Union v. J. Ward, Meat Carrier, London. *Difference.*—As to the observance of the London Road Transport Agreement. *Settlement.*—Agreement to operate from the 12th September, 1925.

COPPER WORKS: DUNDEE.—National Society of Coppersmiths, Braziers and Metal Workers v. Messrs. Alex. McAr & Sons. *Difference.*—Strike as a result of the dismissal of a certain workman, following a difference regarding payment by results. *Settlement.*—Resumption of work secured on 14th September, 1925.

RAILWAY NATIONAL WAGES BOARD.

In accordance with Section 64 (1) (b) of the Railways Act, 1921, the Minister of Labour has appointed Mr. Harold Morris, K.C., to be Independent Chairman of the National Wages Board for Railways in the place of Sir William W. Mackenzie, K.B.E., K.C., who has resigned.

TRADE BOARDS ACTS.

Orders, Notices, etc., Recently Issued.

Jute Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order No. J. (41), dated 2nd October, 1925, confirming the variation of general minimum time rates, guaranteed time rates, piece-work basis time rates, general minimum piece rates and overtime rates, by providing that the minimum rates of wages at present effective in the trade, and set out in the Order J. (39), shall continue in operation after the 7th October, 1925.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.

Draft Regulations for the Grinding of Cutlery and Edge Tools.

THE Home Secretary has issued a notice, dated 29th September, 1925, that he has amended the draft Regulations for the grinding of cutlery and edge tools, issued on the 8th February, 1924,* to which a number of objections were received; and that he proposes to make Regulations in accordance with a revised draft. The revised draft has been prepared after consultation with the associations of employers and of workpeople concerned, and has been accepted by the Sheffield Lighter Trades Employers' Association, the Edge Tool Manufacturers' Association, and various other organisations affected; and the Secretary of State hopes that they will now be accepted by all concerned. The Regulations apply to the manufacture of cutlery, edge tools, swords, bayonets, files, saws, ploughs, or other cutting or piercing implements of iron or steel.

Copies of the draft Regulations, as amended, may be obtained on application to the Chief Inspector of Factories, Home Office, Whitehall, London, S.W.1, and any objections to the amended draft, by or on behalf of any persons affected by the Regulations, must be sent to the Secretary of State within 21 days from the date of the notice.

* See the March, 1924, issue of this GAZETTE, page 112.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.

LIST OF NEW CONTRACTS, SEPTEMBER, 1925.

ADMIRALTY.

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

Chatham: Creosoted Sleepers: Calders, Ltd., London, W.—**Lathe:** John Lang & Sons, Ltd., Johnstone, near Glasgow. **Devonport: Creosoted Timber:** Plymouth & Oreston Timber Co., Ltd., Plymouth. **Portland Cement:** Smeed, Dean & Co., Ltd., Murston, Sittingbourne. **Dunnet Head: Additional Accommodation:** A. Miller, Bredalbane Crescent, Wick, Scotland. **Pembroke: Cast Iron Pipes, etc.:** Sheepbridge Coal & Iron Co., Ltd., Chesterfield. **Portsmouth: Timber:** W. Crundall & Co., Ltd., Dover. **H.M. Naval Establishments Abroad: Cast Iron Pipes, etc.:** Sheepbridge Coal & Iron Co., Ltd., Chesterfield. **Steel Fencing:** The District Iron & Steel Co., Ltd., Smethwick, Birmingham.

(Contract and Purchase Department.)

Accumulators, Air Loaded: MacTaggart, Scott & Co., Ltd., Edinburgh. **Ambulances, 20-h.p., "Austin":** Austin Motor Co., Ltd., Birmingham. **Barrels, Elm:** W. Ryan & Co., London, E.—**Battery Spares:** Hart Accumulator Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Boats, Steel Boat:** J. S. White & Co., Ltd., East Cowes, I. of W.—**Boats, 32-ft Cutters:** Harland & Wolff, Ltd., Bootle, Lancs.—**Boilers, Cylindrical:** Bow, McLachlan & Co., Ltd., Paisley; Harland & Wolff, Ltd., Belfast. **Bolts, Nuts and Studs, Naval Brass:** Muntz's Metal Co., Ltd., Birmingham; E. H. Benthall & Co., Ltd., Heybridge. **Boots, Half:** R. Coggins & Sons, Ltd., Raunds; J. Horrell & Son, Raunds; C. E. Nichols, Ltd., Raunds; Regulation Boot Co. (Raunds), Ltd., Raunds; Owen Smith, Raunds; Stephen Walker, Walgrave, Northampton. **Boxes, W/T.:** Player & Mitchell, Birmingham. **Brushes, Painters':** R. A. Rooney & Sons, London, E.; Beechwood, Ltd., Chesham, Bucks; A. Reid & Sons, Ltd., London, S.E.; C. H. Leng & Sons, Birmingham; Brockley & Son, Epsom; H. W. Underwood, London, N.; S. Ludbrook & Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Bunting:** C. B. Brook & Co., Ltd., Bradford; J. Clough & Son, Shipley. **Canvas Sailcloth:** Anderson & Chalmers, Arbroath; Baxter Bros. & Co., Ltd., Dundee; Boase Spinning Co., Ltd., Dundee; Port Glasgow and Newark Sailcloth Co., Ltd., Port Glasgow; Richards, Ltd., Aberdeen; M. C. Thomson & Co., Ltd., Arbroath; Francis Webster & Sons, Arbroath. **Capstan Gear:** Clarke Chapman & Co., Ltd., Gateshead-on-Tyne; Napier Bros., Ltd., Glasgow. **Cells:** Fuller's United Electric Works, Chadwell Heath; D. P. Battery Co., Ltd., Bakewell, Derbyshire; Chloride Electrical Storage Co., Ltd., Manchester. **Chamois Skins:** J. S. Deed & Sons, Ltd., London, W.C.; C. Kirkham & Sons, Nottingham. **Chairs:** T. Glenister, Ltd., High Wycombe. **Cocks, Asbestos Packed:** W. N. Baines & Co., Ltd., Rotherham; Hayward, Tyler & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Sir J. Laing & Sons, Ltd., Sunderland. **Coir Yarn:** Bastone & Firminger, London, E.C.; J. H. Vavasseur & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Hindley & Co., London, E.C.—**Compressor, Air:** P. Brotherhood, Ltd., Peterborough. **Cooking Apparatus, Hot Plates and Oven Ranges for:**

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

AGRICULTURAL CO-OPERATION.—The co-operative purchase of agricultural requisites. (A survey of the present position in England and Wales.) Economic Series No. 5. Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. (S.O. publication; price 1s. 6d.)

EMIGRATION.—Migration movements, 1920–1923. Studies and Reports, Series O (Migration), No. 1. International Labour Office. (Geneva, 1925; price 2s.)

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.—(1) Report of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies for the year ended 31st December, 1924. Part I.—General. (H.C. 89, price 9d.) (2) The guide book of the Registry of Friendly Societies and the Office of the Industrial Assurance Commissioner, completely revised and brought down to 1st July, 1925. (S.O. publication; price 2s.)

LABOUR STATISTICS.—The Second International Conference of Labour Statisticians, held at Geneva, 20th to 25th April, 1925. Studies and Reports, Series N. (Statistics) No. 8. International Labour Office. (Geneva, 1925; price 1s. 3d.) (See pages 347–9.)

MINING.—Reports of H.M. Inspectors of Mines for the year 1924. 1. Scotland Division. 3. Yorkshire Division. 4. North Midland Division. 5. Lancashire and North Wales Division. 6. Cardiff and Newport Division. 8. Midland and Southern Division. (S.O. publications; price 1s. each.)

POOR LAW RELIEF.—Statement showing the number of persons in receipt of Poor Law Relief in England and Wales in the quarter ending in June, 1925, with some particulars as to the number of "unemployed" persons in receipt of such relief. (S.O. publication; price 3d.) (See page 347.)

SAFETY.—The use of chains and other lifting gear. Safety Pamphlet No. 3. 3rd edition. Home Office. (S.O. publication; price 6d.)

TECHNICAL EDUCATION.—Report of H.M. Inspectors on technical instruction in structural engineering. Board of Education. (S.O. publication; price 2d.)

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