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THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE

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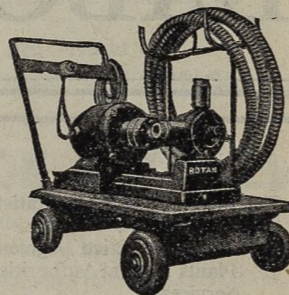
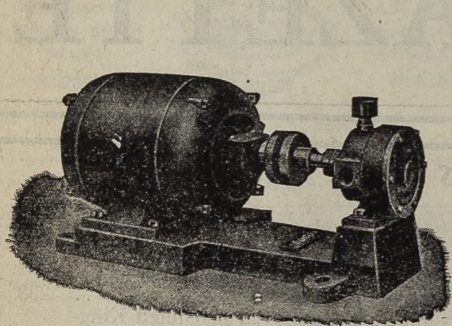
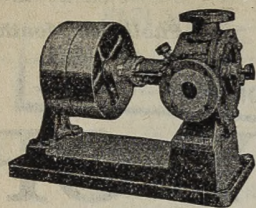
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SUMMARY OF PRINCIPAL STATISTICS.

EMPLOYMENT.

The following is a summary of the employment statistics for Great Britain for May, 1948, and for mid-1939, mid-1945, end-1947, and April, 1948:—

	Mid-1939.	Mid-1945.	End 1947.	April, 1948.	May, 1948.
(Thousands)					
Number in Civil Employment:—					
Manufacture for Export ..	990	410	1,942	1,996	2,009
Other Manufacture:—					
Equipment, etc., for the Forces ..	1,270	3,830	350		
Manufacture for Home Market ..	4,555	2,580	4,959	5,274	5,246
Agriculture, Fishing, Mining, etc., Utilities and Transport ..	3,298	3,288	3,629	3,679	3,693
Building and Civil Engineering ..	1,310	722	1,364	1,367	1,362
Government Services ..	1,465	2,030	2,172	2,192	2,199
Distribution ..	2,887	1,958	2,351	2,347	2,350
Other Services ..	2,225	1,598	2,120	2,142	2,148
Total in Civil Employment	18,000	16,416	18,887	18,997	19,007
Armed Forces and Auxiliary Services ..	480	5,090	1,113	896	866
Ex-H.M. Forces who have not yet taken up Employment ..	—	40	123	165	145
Insured Persons registered as Unemployed ..	1,270	103	300	294	279
Total Working Population (excluding Indoor Private Domestic Service) ..	19,750	21,649	20,423	20,352	20,297

The total working population declined during May by 44,000 men and 11,000 women. The decrease in the working population during the first five months of the year totals 126,000 compared with the figure of 213,000 forecast in the "Economic Survey" for the first six months of the year.

The total number in civil employment in May, 1948, included 13,391,000 males and 5,616,000 females. Compared with April, there was an increase in the number of males of 15,000 offset by a decrease in the number of females of 5,000. Compared with mid-1939, the number of males showed an increase of 228,000 and the number of females an increase of 779,000.

The above figures are analysed in greater detail on pages 234 and 235.

UNEMPLOYMENT.

The numbers of insured persons registered as unemployed in Great Britain at 14th June, 1948, are given below, together with the corresponding figures for May and for mid-1939.

	Mid-1939.	10th May, 1948.	14th June, 1948.	Decrease at June compared with May.
Men (18 and under 65) ..	992,000	219,452	210,162	9,290
Boys (under 18) ..	20,000	4,351	3,953	398
Women (18 and under 60) ..	239,000	63,095	57,318	5,777
Girls (under 18) ..	19,000	3,108	2,687	421

The numbers unemployed at 14th June, 1948, represented 2 per cent. of the estimated total number of insured persons, the corresponding percentages for males and females being 2 and 1½ respectively.

Of the total of 274,120 persons unemployed, 264,593 were wholly unemployed and 9,527 were temporarily stopped. Of the former, 69,330 had been out of work for not more than two weeks, 66,266 for more than two but not more than eight weeks, and 128,997 for more than eight weeks.

The figures for June, 1948, are analysed in greater detail on pages 238 to 241, on which statistics are given for each of the Regions and for a number of the larger towns and also for the separate industries.

WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.

In the industries covered by the Department's statistics, the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation in June resulted in an aggregate increase estimated at approximately £129,000 in the weekly full-time wages of about 538,000 workpeople.

The principal groups of workpeople affected by increases in wage rates were employed in the non-trading services of local authorities in England and Wales, in the iron and steel industry, and in sugar confectionery and food preserving.

At the end of June, 1948, the average level of weekly rates of wages compared with the level at the end of June, 1947 (taken as 100), was 106; the corresponding figure for the end of May was 105.

In the rubber manufacturing industry the normal weekly working hours beyond which overtime rates become payable were reduced by an Order issued under the Wages Councils Act which became operative in June. The reduced hours had, however, been in operation since December, 1947, under an agreement made by the National Joint Industrial Council for the industry. During June hours were also reduced for workers employed at coking plants associated with coal mining.

Full particulars of the changes in rates of wages and hours of labour in June are given on pages 246 to 248.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.

The number of stoppages of work arising from industrial disputes reported to the Department as beginning in June was 141. In addition, 8 stoppages which began before June were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The approximate number of workers involved, during June, in these 149 stoppages (including workers thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred) was about 60,000, and the aggregate number of working days lost at the establishments concerned, during June, was about 273,000.

Further particulars of disputes involving stoppages of work during June are given on page 249.

RETAIL PRICES.

At 15th June, the official index figure, which measures changes in the average level of retail prices compared with the level at the base date, 17th June, 1947 (taken as 100), was 110. The corresponding figure at 11th May was 108.

The rise of two points in the index during the month under review was mainly seasonal, being due almost entirely to the widespread exhaustion of stocks of old potatoes and their replacement by new potatoes at considerably higher prices.

Further details of changes in retail prices during the month under review are given on page 250.

EMPLOYMENT OF ELDERLY PERSONS.

The statistics of employment normally published by the Ministry of Labour and National Service (e.g., on pages 234 to 237 of this issue) exclude men aged 65 and over and women aged 60 and over, those being the ages at which, before 5th July, 1948, employed persons ceased to be entitled to benefits under the Unemployment Insurance and Health Insurance Acts and became entitled to pensions under the Contributory Pensions Acts. Their exclusion is due to the fact that statistics in respect of them have not been available in the same detail that has been obtained in respect of persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts. Nevertheless a considerable amount of information is available from various sources as to the numbers of persons of pensionable age who continue to work, and a summary of this information is given below.

Although men aged 65 and over and women aged 60 and over were not insured against unemployment, the employer's insurance contribution had to be paid in respect of every such person in employment. Special Contribution Cards of half-yearly currency were used for the purpose, and at the end of each half-year the cards were surrendered to the Ministry of Health or the corresponding Department in Scotland and in Wales. Counts of the cards thus surrendered provided figures of the numbers of persons of pensionable age who had had some employment during the half-year. The figures, therefore, exceed the number actually in employment on any one day, but they provide a measure of the numbers in the employment field and of the changes in those numbers from year to year. The following Table shows the estimated numbers whose cards bore stamps in respect of employment that was insurable under the unemployment insurance schemes in Great Britain at mid-1939, mid-1945 and mid-1947 :-

Table with 3 columns: Year, Men aged 65 and over, Women aged 60 and over. Rows for Mid-1939, 1945, and 1947.

The contribution of the pensioner class to the war effort is shown by the very large increase in the numbers in the employment field

in 1945 compared with 1939—from 320,000 to 600,000 in the case of men and from 63,000 to 118,000 in the case of women, an addition of nearly 90 per cent. in both cases. Since the end of the war there has been, as was to be expected, a considerable reduction, but the number employed is still substantially higher than the pre-war figure. The increase was due to some extent to the changes in the estimated total population of these ages, which are shown in the following Table :-

Table with 4 columns: Year, Men 65 and under 70, Men 70 and over, Women 60 and under 65, Women 65 and over. Rows for Mid-1939 and 1947.

It will be seen that the number of men aged 65 and over in insurable employment formed 18.0 per cent. of the total population of those ages in 1939 and 21.4 per cent. in 1947. In the case of women, the figures were 1.8 and 2.5 per cent. If it is assumed that the employed men were in the 65 and under 70 group and the women in the 60 and under 65 group, the proportion of the total population in these groups who were employed rose between 1939 and 1947 from 40.2 per cent. to 52.1 per cent. in the case of men, and from 5.3 to 7.9 per cent. in the case of women. It is clear, therefore, that the increase in population only partially accounted for the increase in the numbers of insured persons between 1939 and 1947.

INDUSTRIAL ANALYSIS.

Figures showing the numbers of employed men aged 65 and over and women aged 60 and over are obtained on the monthly returns rendered by employers in manufacturing industries. On the basis of these figures estimates have been made of the numbers of those ages in employment which was insurable under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, and the latest available figures—those for April, 1948—are given in the Table below. Figures are also given showing the percentages that the numbers over 65, in the case of men, and 60, in the case of women, represent of the total numbers employed.

Employed Men aged 65 and over and Women aged 60 and over at April, 1948.

Main table with 14 columns: Industry, Men aged 65 and over, Women aged 60 and over, Total, Proportion of Total Numbers Employed (Men, Women, Total).

* Women aged 60 and under 65 did not cease to be insured until July, 1940, but the estimated number of those ages is included in the figure for 1939 for comparison with later years.

In all manufacturing industries taken together, men aged 65 and over represented 3.3 per cent. of the total number of male employees, and women aged 60 and over represented 2.2 per cent. of the total number of female employees. The highest group percentages for men were those for the leather (5.6 per cent.) and textile and clothing groups (5.3 per cent. in each group), and the figure was well above the general average for every industry in these groups except rayon yarn manufacture. In the lace industry nearly 11 per cent. of the total number of males were aged 65 or over. There were relatively high percentages also in the cotton weaving, linen, jute, and the underclothing and hat and cap industries. (It will be appreciated that a high percentage does not necessarily indicate an abnormally high rate of retention of elderly workers; it may well be due to a serious shortage of workers in the younger age groups.) The proportion of men aged 65 and over was well below the average in the motor, cycle and aircraft industry, the electric apparatus and cable industry, heating and ventilating apparatus manufacture, the explosives industry, and the tobacco industry.

The textile, leather and clothing industries also had the highest proportions of women aged 60 and over, viz., 2.8 per cent. in the leather group, 3.0 per cent. in the textile group and 2.6 per cent. in the clothing group. As was the case for men, the lace industry had by far the highest percentage of the older women—8.3 per cent. The percentage was also much above the average in the jute and hat and cap industries.

Estimates of the numbers of men aged 65 and over in some of the non-manufacturing industries and services can be made on the basis of returns received from a sample of employers, and the figures for April are as follows :-

Table with 3 columns: Industry, Number, Per cent. of total, all ages. Rows for Gas, Water and Electricity Supply, Distributive Trades, etc.

It is not possible to make similar estimates of the numbers of women aged 60 and over in these industries and services.

As regards agriculture, the latest available figures are those which show the numbers of cards of persons over insurable age for the first half of 1947 which bore one or more agricultural scheme stamps, the totals for Great Britain being 54,000 men and 1,000 women. These figures cover farming, market gardening, private gardening, forestry and other employments that were insurable under the agricultural scheme. As already indicated, these totals will be in excess of the numbers in employment on any one day.

For the mining and quarrying group of industries it is estimated from information supplied by the Ministry of Fuel and Power that the number of men aged 65 and over is in the region of 25,000, or about 3 per cent. of the total numbers employed.

For the shipping industry, information supplied by the Registrar General of Shipping and Seamen shows that the number of men over insurable age in sea-going employment is about 1,000 or a little under 1 per cent. of the total.

SUPPLY OF ELECTRICAL POWER FOR INDUSTRY.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR SPREADING THE ELECTRICITY LOAD NEXT WINTER.

As a result of the war, the provision of new generating plant both to replace plant becoming obsolescent and to meet the continuing growth in demand for electricity has fallen into serious arrears. Every effort is being made to remedy this deficiency, but for the present the fact must be faced that during the peak periods in the winter months there is bound to be a considerable excess of demand over the supply. Unless steps are taken to deal with this problem by the various measures open to different classes of consumers, electricity cuts are inevitable, with the most harmful effects on production.

After the experience of load-shedding in the severe winter of 1946-47, the problem was examined by the Electricity Sub-Committee of the National Joint Advisory Council, which recommended in a Report dated 12th May, 1947, that industry should be asked to reduce its load during the peak hours in the six months of the winter of 1947-48 by one-third. The Government accepted this Report; arrangements to effect the reduction recommended were subsequently worked out by the Regional Boards for Industry with the various firms concerned, and resulted in a substantial reduction in the industrial demand for electricity at peak periods during last winter. The result of these efforts, aided by the mild weather, was that load-shedding last winter was generally confined to comparatively small amounts and caused little dislocation to industry. (See the issues of this GAZETTE for May, August and December, 1947, pages 147, 253 and 404.)

The Electricity Sub-Committee have recently examined the contribution which industry should be asked to make to this problem next winter, and their recommendations are contained in a Report dated 15th June, which has recently been published by H.M. Stationery Office (price 4d. net, 5d. post free). It is, of course, impossible to forecast accurately what weather conditions will be experienced next winter, but in order to get as good an estimate,

as possible the Sub-Committee obtained from the British Electricity Authority statistics showing the average experience over the last five years. It was considered that in this way the estimated demand likely to be made on the capacity next winter could be measured against a reasonable expectation of weather conditions which would not be based on the experience of one particular winter. It was also considered desirable to examine the problem regionally, in view of the possible variation between regions from the point of view both of weather expectation and of potential demand. Graphs giving the result of these enquiries are appended to the Report.

The Electricity Sub-Committee recommend that during the months of December, January and February, when estimates based on average weather show that there will be, taking the country as a whole, a substantial deficiency of generating plant in relation to potential peak demands, industry should be asked to reduce its load by 20 per cent. during the peak hours, which are 8 a.m. to 12 noon and 4 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. As last winter, arrangements to achieve this should again be worked out by the Regional Boards for Industry and their district, town and other local committees, with the firms concerned. During the months of October, November and March, the problem is not uniform over the whole country, and the Committee therefore recommend that for these months the Regional Boards for Industry should examine the problem in the light of the circumstances of their own Regions and in collaboration with the British Electricity Authority, and should make such arrangements as they consider necessary to spread the industrial load during these months.

The Government have accepted these recommendations, and they are asking the Regional Boards for Industry to make the necessary arrangements to give effect to them. All such arrangements will have the full support of the Government. While the Government are confident that both sides of industry will once again show the same spirit of co-operation which characterised last winter's arrangements, they are prepared, as an assurance to the vast majority of public-spirited employers and workpeople that their efforts will not be rendered useless by any selfish minority, to make available again as last winter statutory powers to secure the observance by firms of their obligations to reduce their load by spreading or other means when requested to do so by a Regional Board for Industry. It was not necessary to use these powers in any case last winter, but if it were necessary they would be exercised by the issue of a direction to a firm under Defence Regulation 55 (2) (a) to use electricity in such a way that its maximum demand did not exceed a specified amount. Such a direction would only be issued after a case had been examined both by the Regional Board for Industry concerned and by the Electricity Sub-Committee and if both these bodies were satisfied that a refusal on the part of an individual firm had been unreasonable.

Industry is responsible for one part only of the total consumption of electricity. Commercial and domestic consumers between them account for an equal, and in some areas a greater, amount. Last winter, industrial undertakings were, however, the only class to which organised arrangements for the reduction of load during the peak hours were applied. Contributions from other classes were made on a voluntary basis.

It has been decided that, next winter, commercial consumers (including shops, offices, warehouses, hotels, cinemas, etc.) shall also be brought within the scope of the arrangements made by the Regional Boards for Industry, and that they also will be under a specific obligation to make arrangements in co-operation with the Regional Boards for Industry to reduce their load during the peak hours by 20 per cent. A national committee on which the consumers will be represented is being constituted by the Ministry of Fuel and Power to consider any questions of national application which may arise in this connection.

It has hitherto been found impracticable to make organised arrangements to secure a reduction on the part of domestic consumers; but, as was stated in the issue of this GAZETTE for April, 1948 (page 131), a Committee under the Chairmanship of Sir Andrew Clow, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., have recently investigated means of controlling the demand of domestic consumers, and this Committee's Report is now being studied and will shortly be published. The campaign organised through Electricity Economy Committees and other means to secure a voluntary reduction in the domestic load during the peak hours will continue.

The problem created by the temporary shortage of generating plant is a very serious one. Failure to reduce the load during the peak periods would, by interfering with production, seriously retard the economic recovery of the country, besides causing much inconvenience to other consumers. The arrangements made for each class of consumer will materially assist to overcome this problem, but they can only be successful if they have the whole-hearted co-operation of every member of the public both at work and at home.

NATIONAL SERVICE BILL.

The National Service Bill* was introduced into the House of Lords on 8th July by Viscount Hall. The Bill reproduces, without amendment, the law contained in the National Service Acts, 1939 to 1947, and so much of the law contained in the Reinstatement in Civil Employment Act, 1944, as relates to persons called up for service after 31st December, 1948. The Bill has been passed by the House of Lords and received its second reading in the House of Commons on 23rd July.

* House of Lords Bill 128 (Session 1947-1948). H.M. Stationery Office; price 1s. net (is. 2d. post free).

tariff protection when competition from low-priced Indian imports is again experienced, such assurance to be conditional upon a minimum of grouping.

The Working Party state that the present average output per worker in the spinning and weaving sections of the jute industry is considerably below that of the pre-war period and that the present average production obtained from the spindles (though not from the looms) is also below the pre-war level. They recommend that representatives of employers and workers should jointly investigate the reasons for these decreases and should consider the measures to be adopted to secure a return to pre-war standards and to improve upon them. The most economical methods of staffing the machinery used by the industry should be explored, and high priority should be given to the development of a suitable automatic loom to produce the normal types of jute cloth. It is recommended that the new type spinning machinery in the industry should be worked on the double-shift system as far as possible. The Working Party suggest that plans for the gradual introduction of double day-shift working should be proceeded with and that everything possible should be done to make the arrangement acceptable to the workers.

With regard to labour problems in the industry, the Report states that difficulties of recruitment are due in part to the memory of conditions obtaining in the industry in pre-war days. It is noted that considerable improvements in working conditions have been made in some mills and factories, but that working conditions in others are not greatly different from what they were before the war. In this connection, the Working Party endorse the recommendations as to improvements in working conditions contained in the Final Report of the Jute Industry Factory Advisory Committee which was published in 1946 (see the issue of this GAZETTE for December, 1946, page 351).

The Working Party consider that in an industry where so many women and girls are employed it is important, in the larger works at least, that there should be personnel managers, properly qualified by training and personality, to carry out such duties as recruitment, selection and training, supervision of interdepartmental transfers, supervision of health, welfare and general working conditions, and the handling of all other general problems affecting workers and their relations with the management. The working Party urge the necessity for co-operation between workers and management for increasing output by greater use of modern machinery and the acceptance of larger labour loads. Direct discussion between the management and the particular workers affected could, it is suggested, be supplemented by the establishment of Production or Works Committees.

In order to lay a sound basis of workmanship and good industrial habits, the Working Party suggest the provision of a Central Training School, equipped with modern machinery, to which school leavers could go for a period varying in length according to the work for which they are being trained.

The Working Party believe that the jute industry requires an organisation, composed of representatives of employers and workers and independent members, to give guidance and advice on matters of general policy. They accordingly recommend the establishment of a Jute Development Council under the Industrial Organisation and Development Act, 1947. An important function of this Council should be to view the scale of re-organisation and equipment of the industry after the initial stage of grouping has been effected and to keep continually under review the deployment of machinery and labour to the best possible advantage. The Council should also be responsible for furthering the adoption of the various suggestions put forward for encouraging recruitment of labour, especially the proposals for improving working conditions and relations between employers and workers, as well as the establishment of a Central Training School.

The President of the Board of Trade held a meeting with representatives of the jute industry in Dundee on 16th June, and said that he could not promise protection now to the industry at some future date, but that, equally, he would not say that protection would not be granted in the future. He said, however, that the Government could not allow the industry to decline to proportions that would imperil the security of the State, and he urged the industry to accept the other recommendations of the Working Party and to do everything to bring the industry up to the maximum of efficiency.

BUILDING INDUSTRY.

APPOINTMENT OF WORKING PARTY.

In reply to a question in the House of Commons on 5th July, the Minister of Works stated that he had appointed a Working Party on building operations, and that the terms of reference were to inquire into (a) the organisation and efficiency of building operations in this country, including those of the specialist and sub-contracting trades; (b) the position of the professions in relation thereto; (c) the arrangements for financing operations; and (d) the types of contract in general use, and to make recommendations. Questions of wages and conditions which were dealt with by the joint negotiating machinery in the industries would be outside the scope of the inquiry.

Sir Thomas W. Phillips, G.B.E., K.C.B., has been appointed as Chairman of the Working Party, which has twelve other members, including representatives of employers' and workers' organisations in the building and allied industries. A number of assessors also have been appointed, after consultation with the professional institutions concerned. Mr. W. T. Lewis, Ministry of Works, will act as Secretary to the Working Party.

GUIDES TO OFFICIAL SOURCES.

BOOKLET DESCRIPTIVE OF THE STATISTICS COLLECTED BY THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND NATIONAL SERVICE.

H.M. Stationery Office have published a booklet describing the statistical material collected by the Ministry of Labour and National Service, under the title "Guides to Official Sources: No. 1, Labour Statistics" (price 9d. net, 10d. post free). The booklet has been prepared by the Inter-Departmental Committee on Social and Economic Research as the first of a series of Guides, and is experimental in form.

It is stated in an introductory note to the booklet that the function of the Committee, which has academic as well as Departmental members, is to survey and advise upon research work in Government Departments, to consider the extent to which material collected by Departments is of potential value to research in the social sciences, to suggest new methods and areas of collection, and to advise how the information gathered can be made available to research workers. The Ministry of Labour and National Service has been chosen as the first major Department for survey because, in the opinion of the Committee, its work is of both social and economic interest and because it has a long tradition of co-operation with research workers.

The booklet opens with a brief account of the development of the Ministry's statistical service. The principal information at present collected by the Ministry is then considered under the four headings: (a) Employment and unemployment: general; (b) employment and unemployment: special groups; (c) wages, earnings, hours and industrial relations; and (d) retail prices and family budgets. The booklet mentions the factors which determine the degree of continuity of the statistical series issued by the Ministry, and gives a list of the principal published sources of labour statistics, whether prepared by the Ministry or by other Government Departments.

The following information is supplied in appendices to the booklet: (i) The principal measures administered by the Ministry of Labour and National Service which yield statistical data; (ii) a subject index to published sources of the Ministry's statistics; (iii) specimen forms used by the Ministry; (iv) sources of international labour statistics; (v) definitions of employment in relation to the Ministry's statistics; and (vi) a list of the more important Employment Exchanges by Region and county.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE.

30th SESSION: REPORT BY DELEGATES OF H.M. GOVERNMENT.

In an article published on page 338 of the October, 1947, issue of this GAZETTE, an account was given of the proceedings of the 30th Session of the International Labour Conference, which was held at Geneva from 19th June to 11th July, 1947. A Report on the Conference made to the Minister of Labour and National Service by the Delegates appointed to represent H.M. Government has now been published by H.M. Stationery Office as a Command Paper (Cmd. 7437; price 2s. net, 2s. 2d. post free). The Report contains a summary of the proceedings of the Conference. The texts of the Conventions and Recommendations and the Resolutions adopted by the Conference are reproduced in the Appendices.

REGULATION OF WAGES IN INDIA.

MINIMUM WAGES ACT, 1948.

Provision for the fixing of minimum rates of wages for certain scheduled industries and for agriculture has been made in India by the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, which received the assent of the Governor General on 15th March. The Act, which extends to all the Provinces of India, requires the Central or the Provincial Governments, as appropriate, to fix within two years minimum rates of wages for all workers in a number of industries, including carpet-weaving, rice or flour milling, tobacco manufacture, plantations, road construction, building, stone breaking, mica mining, public motor transport, tannery, leather manufacture, and employment under any local authority. Minimum wage rates for workers in agriculture are to be fixed within three years. The appropriate Government may fix time rates, piece rates, guaranteed rates and overtime rates. The Act also provides for the appropriate Government to review the minimum rates so fixed at intervals not exceeding five years, and to revise them if necessary; and to add other categories of employment to the Schedule. The appropriate Government may also prescribe the number of hours of work constituting a normal working day, and provide for a day of rest in every period of seven days and for the payment for work on a rest day at a rate not less than the overtime rate.

Before fixing minimum rates of wages for the first time, the appropriate Government is required either to appoint an advisory committee to enquire into the question of wages in different localities, or to publish its proposals for the information of persons likely to be affected, and take their views into account. For the revision of wage rates, the Government concerned is required to appoint advisory committees to enquire into the conditions prevailing in the several scheduled employments.

The Act also provides for the appointment by each Government of an Advisory Board to co-ordinate the work of the advisory committees and for the appointment by the Central Government of a Central Advisory Board to advise the Central and Provincial

Governments on general questions and to co-ordinate the work of the Advisory Boards. The Central Advisory Board and the several Advisory Boards and advisory committees are to consist of equal numbers of representatives of employers and workers in the scheduled employments, together with a number of independent members not exceeding one-third of the total number of members. For the local administration of the Act, the appropriate Government is empowered to appoint Inspectors, with specified powers of entry and examination.

SOCIAL INSURANCE IN INDIA.

EMPLOYEES' STATE INSURANCE ACT, 1948.

By the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948, which received the assent of the Governor General on 19th April, provision has been made for the establishment in India of a system of compulsory insurance against sickness, maternity and employment injury for workers in factories. The main features of the system are outlined below.

Scope.—The Act, which is to come into force on a date or dates to be fixed by the Central Government, extends to all the Provinces of the Dominion, and it applies to all factories, other than seasonal factories, in which 20 or more persons are normally employed. All workers in such factories whose aggregate remuneration does not exceed 400 rupees a month are to be liable for insurance.

Finance.—The financial resources of the scheme are to be derived from contributions levied on insured persons and their employers. For the assessment of contributions, the insured workers are classified in eight Groups according to the amount of their average daily wages: Group 1 comprises workers earning less than 1 rupee a day, Group 2 those earning 1 rupee or more, but less than 1 rupee 8 annas, and Group 8 those earning 8 rupees or more a day. The weekly contributions range from 2 annas in Group 2 to 1 rupee 4 annas in Group 8 for workers, and from 7 annas in Groups 1 and 2 to 2 rupees 8 annas in Group 8 for employers. Workers whose average daily wages are less than 1 rupee are not required to pay contributions. The workers' contributions are to be deducted by the employers from the workers' wages and paid into the Employees' State Insurance Fund, for the establishment of which the Act makes provision.

Benefits.—The benefits payable under the Act take the form of periodical payments to insured persons for sickness, maternity, or disablement resulting from an employment injury, periodical payments to the dependants of an insured person who dies as the result of an employment injury, and medical treatment for and attendance on insured persons (medical benefit). The grant of medical benefit may be extended to the families of insured persons at the discretion of the Central or Provincial Government, as appropriate.

The rates of sickness, disablement and dependants' benefit are assessed on the basis of an assumed average daily wage varying from 14 annas for insured persons in Group 1 to 10 rupees for those in Group 8; and the rates vary proportionately with the sum of the assumed average daily wages in a prescribed period and the number of weeks during which the insured person was fit and available for employment, or during which contributions were paid.

Insured persons who have paid a minimum of twelve contributions in a period of 26 consecutive weeks or six consecutive months, and who satisfy certain other conditions, are entitled, when sick, to receive benefit for a maximum of 56 days in any continuous period of 365 days. Disablement benefit is payable while the disablement lasts, or for life in the case of permanent disablement; and, if the insured person dies as the result of an employment injury, his widow or widows, or, in certain cases, other dependants, may receive a proportion of the full rate of benefit for life, or until re-marriage. Proportionate benefits are also payable for legitimate or adopted children under 15 years of age, or 18 years if the child continues its education.

Subject to the fulfilment of conditions similar to those prescribed for sickness benefit, insured women are entitled to receive maternity benefit at the rate of 12 annas a day for a period of twelve weeks, of which not more than six may precede the expected date of confinement.

Administration.—The responsibility for the general administration of the Act is to be vested in an Employees' State Insurance Corporation appointed by the Central Government. The membership of the Corporation is to include the Minister for Labour in the Central Government, as Chairman, officials of the Central Government, and representatives of Provincial Governments, employers' and workers' organisations, and the medical profession; and the Central Government is empowered to appoint a number of officers of the Corporation, including a Director General of Employees' State Insurance, an Insurance Commissioner and a Medical Commissioner. The Act also provides for the appointment of a Medical Benefit Council, under the chairmanship of the Director General, Health Services, to advise the Corporation on matters relating to the administration of medical benefit, and on other matters.

In addition to its general administrative responsibilities, the Corporation may promote measures for the improvement of the health and welfare of insured persons and for the rehabilitation and re-employment of the disabled or injured. For the local administration of the scheme, it may appoint Regional Boards, Local Committees and Regional and Local Medical Benefit Councils, as well as Inspectors with specified powers of entry and examination.



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UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG INSURED PERSONS AT 14th JUNE, 1948.

SUMMARY FOR GREAT BRITAIN.

The numbers of insured persons registered as unemployed* in Great Britain at 10th May and 14th June, 1948, were as follows :—

Summary table for Great Britain showing insured persons registered as unemployed by gender and age group for May 10th and June 14th, 1948.

In addition, there were on the registers at 14th June 11,946* uninsured persons, including 811 boys and girls under 18 who had not yet entered industry.

The figures for 14th June are analysed below :—

Table analyzing the figures for 14th June, showing the breakdown of unemployed persons into 'Wholly Unemployed' and 'Temporarily Stopped' by gender and age group.

The total of 274,120 includes 28,012 married women, and ex-Service personnel numbering 9,194 who had had no employment since leaving the Forces.

The changes between 10th May and 14th June, 1948, in each administrative Region were as follows :—

Large table showing changes in unemployment by region (London & South-Eastern, Eastern, Southern, South-Western, Midland, North-Midland, East and West Ridings, North-Western, Northern, Scotland, Wales, Great Britain) between May 10th and June 14th, 1948.

* The figures exclude registered disabled persons who are suitable only for employment under sheltered conditions.

The following Table gives the numbers unemployed and the approximate percentage rates of unemployment at 14th June among insured males and females in each Region :—

Table showing the number of insured persons registered as unemployed and the percentage rates for males and females in each region at 14th June 1948.

NUMBERS UNEMPLOYED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM :

REGIONAL ANALYSIS.

The total number of insured persons registered as unemployed* in the United Kingdom at 14th June, 1948, was 299,069, including 234,976 men and boys and 64,093 women and girls.

The numbers of insured unemployed persons on the registers in each Region are shown below.

Regional analysis table showing unemployment figures for various regions including London & South-Eastern, Eastern, Southern, South-Western, Midland, North-Midland, East and West Ridings, North-Western, Northern, Scotland, Wales, Great Britain, Northern Ireland, and the United Kingdom.

* See footnote in previous column.

NUMBERS UNEMPLOYED IN THE PRINCIPAL TOWNS.

The Table below shows the total numbers of unemployed* insured persons on the registers of all Employment Exchanges and Juvenile Employment Bureaux in each Administrative Region at 14th June, 1948, and the numbers of insured persons on the registers of the Exchanges and Bureaux situated in some of the principal towns in each Region, together with the increase or decrease compared with 10th May, 1948.

Table showing the total numbers of unemployed insured persons on registers in principal towns across various regions, including London & South-Eastern, Eastern, Southern, South-Western, Midland, North-Midland, East and West Ridings, North-Western, Northern, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, and London & West Ridings.

* The figures exclude registered disabled persons who are suitable only for employment under sheltered conditions. They include, however, some persons who are not available for employment away from home and others who for various reasons are not suitable for the types of vacancies current.

Table showing the numbers of insured persons* on registers at 14th June 1948, broken down by region and gender/age group, with a comparison to the total number of insured persons in May 1948.

NUMBERS UNEMPLOYED : 1939 to 1948.

The Table below shows the average numbers of insured persons registered as unemployed in the years 1939 to 1947, and the numbers so registered in each month of 1948.

Table showing the average numbers of insured persons registered as unemployed in Great Britain and the United Kingdom from 1939 to 1947, and monthly figures for 1948.

NUMBERS UNEMPLOYED § : COMPOSITION OF STATISTICS.

The Table below gives an analysis of the numbers of persons registered as unemployed* in Great Britain at 14th June, distinguishing (1) claimants for benefit and applicants for unemployment allowances and (2) non-claimants.

Table detailing the composition of unemployment statistics, distinguishing between insured and uninsured persons, and further into claimants for benefit, allowances, and non-claimants.

* See footnote * in previous column. † The averages for 1947 are based on the numbers actually registered as unemployed at Employment Exchanges. ‡ The figures for 1948 are not strictly comparable with those for earlier years. § Including insured and uninsured persons.

NUMBERS UNEMPLOYED: INDUSTRIAL ANALYSIS.

The statistics given below show, industry by industry, the numbers of persons aged 14 and over, insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, who were registered as unemployed at 14th June, 1948, distinguishing those wholly unemployed (i.e., out of a situation) from those temporarily stopped (i.e., suspended from work on the understanding that they were shortly to return to their former employment).

The Unemployment Insurance Acts provide, subject to certain exceptions, for the compulsory insurance against unemployment of substantially all employed males under 65 years of age and females under 60 years of age. The principal classes of excepted employments are indoor private domestic service, employment otherwise than by way of manual labour at a rate of remuneration exceeding in value £420 a year, employment as female professional nurse, and, subject to certain qualifications, employment in the teaching profession and in the police forces; employment under public or local authorities, railway and public utility companies may, in certain circumstances, also be excepted.

In such casual harvesting work as hop-picking, or gathering flowers, fruit, peas, or potatoes (unless they normally undertake other insurable work). Persons not domiciled in the United Kingdom (e.g., migratory labourers from Eire) are not insurable in respect of employment in agriculture, and are accordingly not included in the figures. Part-time workers employed for not more than 30 hours a week who entered employment during the war are in most cases not insurable against unemployment, and are not, therefore, included. Registered disabled persons who require employment under sheltered conditions are also excluded.

An unemployment book, on which is recorded 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 makes a claim for unemployment benefit or for an unemployment allowance, or registers as unemployed without claiming benefit or an allowance. The files of 'lodged' books at the Employment Exchanges thus furnish for each industrial group a record of the unemployment of insured persons. The industries to which unemployed persons are classified for the purposes of these statistics are those in which they were employed at the annual exchange of unemployment books in July, 1947 (or, if they were then unemployed, the industries in which they were last employed). Some insured workpeople will have changed their industry since then and to the extent that this has happened the figures given below will not accurately represent the numbers unemployed in each industry.

Table with columns for Industry, Wholly Unemployed (including Casuals), Temporarily Stopped, Total, and United Kingdom. Sub-headers include Males aged 14 and under 65, Females aged 14 and under 60, and Total. Rows include Agriculture, Fishing, Mining, Non-Metalliferous Mining Products, Glass, Chemicals, Paints, Oils, etc., Metal Manufacture, Engineering, etc., and Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing.

* Excluding private gardeners, grooms, gamekeepers, park gardeners, sports ground keepers, etc., who are insured under the Agricultural Scheme but including workers in certain other employments, e.g., clerks, lorry drivers, etc., who are insured under the General Scheme.

NUMBERS UNEMPLOYED: INDUSTRIAL ANALYSIS—continued.

Table with columns for Industry, Wholly Unemployed (including Casuals), Temporarily Stopped, Total, and United Kingdom. Sub-headers include Males aged 14 and under 65, Females aged 14 and under 60, and Total. Rows include Textiles, Leather, Clothing, Food, Drink and Tobacco, Woodworking, Building and Civil Engineering Construction, Paper, Printing, etc., Other Manufacturing Industries, Gas, Water and Electricity Supply, Transport and Communication, Shipping, and Miscellaneous Services.

* Persons insured under the Special Schemes for the banking and insurance industries are included in these figures. † The figures on this line relate to persons whose unemployment books indicate that they were employed in the National Fire Service at July, 1947. ‡ Including private gardeners, grooms, gamekeepers, park gardeners, sports ground keepers, chauffeurs, hairdressers, window cleaners, etc. § These are ex-Service personnel who have not yet been classified to a particular industry, although they may have had some employment since release or discharge from the Forces. || The totals include unemployed casual workers (3,043 males and 182 females in Great Britain and 4,616 males and 190 females in the United Kingdom).

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING JUNE—continued.

Table with 5 columns: Industry, District, Date from which Change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of Change. Includes entries for Sugar Confectionery, Piano Manufacture, Inland Waterways, Local Authority Services, Rubber Manufacture, and Retail Pharmacy.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED DURING JUNE.

Table with 5 columns: Industry, District, Date from which Change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of Change. Includes entries for Coke and By-Products and Rubber Manufacture.

* These increases took effect under an Order issued under the Wages Councils Act. See page 254 of this GAZETTE.
† The agreement of October, 1947, to pay a lieu bonus (adult male and female time-workers who were not employed under an approved payment by results scheme and who had not been offered such a scheme, is now cancelled (see page 388 of the November, 1947, issue of this GAZETTE).

INDEX OF RATES OF WAGES.

The index figure of rates of wages measures the movement, from month to month, in the level of full-time weekly rates of wages in the principal industries and services in the United Kingdom compared with the level at 30th June, 1947, taken as 100.

The figures for the end of each month, on the basis of 30th June, 1947 = 100, are as follows:—

Table with 5 columns: Date (end of month), Men, Women, Juveniles, All Workers. Shows index values from 100 in 1947 to 105 in 1948.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN JUNE.

Number and Magnitude.—The number of stoppages of work* arising from industrial disputes in the United Kingdom, reported to the Department as beginning in June, was 141. In addition, 8 stoppages which began before June were still in progress at the beginning of that month.

Of the stoppages of work through industrial disputes known to have been in progress at some time in June, the coal mining industry accounted for 93, involving over 14,000 workers, and resulting in an aggregate loss of about 23,000 working days.

The following Table gives an analysis, by groups of industries, of stoppages of work in June due to industrial disputes:—

Table with 6 columns: Industry Group, Number of Stoppages in progress in Month (Started before beginning of Month, Started in Month, Total), Number of Workers involved in all Stoppages in progress in Month, Aggregate Number of Working Days lost in all Stoppages in progress in Month. Includes entries for Coal Mining, Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding, Transport, and Other Industries and Services.

In the 141 stoppages which began during June, over 50,000 workers were directly involved, and nearly 9,000 indirectly involved (i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes).

Duration.—Of 139 stoppages of work, owing to disputes, which ended during June, 68, directly involving 9,600 workers, lasted not more than one day; 29, directly involving 3,500 workers, lasted two days; 13, directly involving 2,200 workers, lasted three days; 21, directly involving 7,000 workers, lasted four to six days; and 8, directly involving 28,100 workers, lasted over six days.

Causes.—Of the 141 disputes leading to stoppages of work which began in June, 20, directly involving 4,600 workers, arose out of demands for advances in wages, and 45, directly involving 3,500 workers, on other wage questions; 6, directly involving 1,100 workers, on questions as to working hours; 9, directly involving 4,800 workers, on questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons; 53, directly involving 22,200 workers, on other questions respecting working arrangements; and 5, directly involving 300 workers, on questions of trade union principle.

TOTALS FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1948 AND 1947.

The following Table gives an analysis, by groups of industries, of all stoppages of work through industrial disputes in the United Kingdom in the first six months of 1948 and in the corresponding months of 1947:—

Table with 6 columns: Industry Group, January to June, 1948 (Number of Stoppages beginning in period, Number of Workers involved in all Stoppages in progress, Aggregate Number of Working Days lost in all Stoppages in progress), January to June, 1947 (Number of Stoppages beginning in period, Number of Workers involved in all Stoppages in progress, Aggregate Number of Working Days lost in all Stoppages in progress). Includes entries for Coal Mining, Other Mining and Quarrying, Brick, Pottery, Glass, Chemical, etc., Engineering, Shipbuilding, Iron and Steel and Other Metal, Textile, Clothing, Food, Drink and Tobacco, Woodworking, Furniture, etc., Paper, Printing, etc., Building, Transport, Public Administration Services, Commerce, Distribution, etc., and All Other Industries.

PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES INVOLVING STOPPAGES OF WORK DURING JUNE.

Table with 5 columns: Occupations and Locality, Approximate Number of Workers involved (Directly, Indirectly), Date when Stoppage (Began, Ended), Cause or Object, Result. Includes entries for Coal Mining (Colliery workers), Stonemen, Shifters and other colliery workers, Engineering (textile machinery, workers employed in textile machinery), Dock Transport (Dockers and stevedores), and Dockers, stevedores, lightermen, cold storage workers, tally clerks, etc.

* Stoppages of work due to disputes not connected with terms of employment or conditions of labour are excluded from the statistics. In addition, stoppages involving less than 10 workers, and those which lasted less than one day, are also excluded, unless the aggregate number of working days lost exceeded 100.

† Some workers, largely in the coal mining industry, were involved in more than one stoppage and are counted more than once in the totals. The net number of individuals involved in coal mining stoppages in the period under review in 1948 was approximately 110,000 and in the corresponding period in 1947 was approximately 115,000.

‡ The occupations printed in italics are those of workers indirectly involved, i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes.

§ The stoppage began on the night shift of 28th-29th June.

|| The stoppage lasted for one hour only.

INDEX OF RETAIL PRICES.

FIGURES FOR 15th JUNE, 1948 (PRICES AT 17th JUNE, 1947, TAKEN AS=100).

All Items 110 : Food 113.

The index of retail prices measures, for the United Kingdom, the average changes, as compared with 17th June, 1947, in the prices of the goods and services which entered into working-class expenditure in 1937-38, as recorded in the family budgets collected from large numbers of households in that period.

The following Table shows the indices at 15th June for each of the main groups of items and for all the groups combined, together with the relative weights which are used in combining the group indices into a single "all items" index :-

Table with columns: GROUP, INDEX FIGURE FOR 15th JUNE, 1948, WEIGHT. Rows include I. Food, II. Rent and rates, III. Clothing, IV. Fuel and light, V. Household durable goods, VI. Miscellaneous goods, VII. Services, VIII. Drink and tobacco, and All items.

The figures given above are shown in the form in which they are used in the procedure adopted for calculating the index for all the groups combined, i.e., to the nearest first place of decimals. The decimals are shown only in order that, if desired, calculations may be made of the effect of combining particular groups and excluding others.

On the above basis, and taking the level of prices at 17th June, 1947, as 100, the "all items" index at 15th June was 110, compared with 108 at 11th May. The rise in the index during the month under review was almost entirely accounted for by a substantial rise in the prices of potatoes.

In the food group the average level of prices at 15th June was nearly 5 per cent. higher than at 11th May. This was largely a seasonal movement and was almost entirely due to the fact that in a large number of areas the stocks of old potatoes had become exhausted and had been replaced by new potatoes at considerably higher prices.

In the clothing group there were increases in the average prices of men's suits and shirts, men's and women's cotton and wool underwear and overalls, various articles of children's and infants' underclothing, and woollen and cotton clothing materials.

In the fuel and light group there were increases in the charges for electricity in some areas and there was also a small rise in the price index for lamp oil.

In the group covering household durable goods there were general reductions in the prices of radio sets, and some reductions in those of sewing machines and mangles, these changes being usually attributable to recent alterations in the rates of purchase tax.

In the four groups covering rent and rates, miscellaneous goods, services, and drink and tobacco there were relatively few changes in prices during the month under review.

* Taken as equivalent to 110 (see paragraph following the Table).
† The combination of any two or more group indices is effected by multiplying the respective indices by their corresponding weights and dividing the sum of the resulting products by the sum of the weights used.

The price comparisons used in compiling these index figures relate to a fixed list of items, and steps are taken to ensure that, so far as possible, the index figures reflect real changes in price levels but not changes in the prices quoted which are attributable to variations in quality.

SUMMARY OF INDEX FIGURES.

The following Table shows the index figures for food and for "all items" from 17th June, 1947, onwards :-

Table with columns: Date, Food Index, All Items Index. Rows show data for 1947 (17th June, 15th July, 12th August, 16th September, 14th October, 18th November, 16th December) and 1948 (13th January, 17th February, 16th March, 13th April, 11th May, 15th June).

A full description of the method of construction and calculation of the index, "Industrial Relations Handbook, Supplement No. 2, Index of Retail Prices," is obtainable, price 6d. net (7d., post free), from H.M. Stationery Office, at the addresses shown on the front cover of this GAZETTE.

RETAIL PRICES OVERSEAS.

In the table below a summary is given of the latest information relating to changes in retail prices in overseas countries, contained in official publications received since last month's issue of this GAZETTE was prepared.

Table with columns: Country and Base of Index, Latest Period for which Index Figure is available, Index Figure, Rise of Index Figure since August, 1939, Index Points, Per Cent. Rows include European Countries (Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Eire, Finland, France, Hungary, Iceland, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland) and Other Countries (Canada, Ceylon, India, Jamaica, New Zealand, Peru, Southern Rhodesia, Northern Rhodesia, Trinidad, United States).

* The items of expenditure on which the "all-items" index figures are based are food, house-rent, clothing, fuel and light, and other or miscellaneous items, except in the case of Portugal (food, house-rent, fuel and light, and certain other household articles only), Northern Rhodesia (food, clothing and household stores only) and Peru (food, house-rent, clothing, and miscellaneous items only).

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

The number of workpeople (other than seamen) in the United Kingdom whose deaths from accidents in the course of their employment were reported in June was 127, compared with 126 in May, 1948, and 123 in June, 1947.

Table with columns: MINES AND QUARRIES, FACTORIES. Rows include Under Coal Mines Acts (Underground, Surface), Metalliferous Mines, Quarries, Clay, Stone, Cement, Pottery and Glass, etc.

Table with columns: RAILWAY SERVICE, SEAMEN. Rows include Brakemen, Goods Guards, Engine Drivers, Motormen, Firemen, Guards (Passenger), Labourers, etc.

Table with columns: Country and Base of Index, Latest Period for which Index Figure is available, Index Figure, Rise of Index Figure since August, 1939, Index Points, Per Cent. Rows include Canada, Ceylon, India, Jamaica, New Zealand, Peru, South Africa, Southern Rhodesia, Northern Rhodesia, Trinidad, United States.

ACCIDENTS IN THE COAL MINING INDUSTRY.

SECOND QUARTER OF 1948.

A statement issued by the Ministry of Fuel and Power shows that the number of persons killed during the 13 weeks ended 26th June, 1948, as a result of accidents occurring in that period at mines as defined by the Coal Mines Act, 1911, in Great Britain was 115, compared with 110 in the 13 weeks ended 27th March, 1948, and 119 in the 13 weeks ended 28th June, 1947.

An analysis of the figures, by nature of accident, is given in the Table below.

Accidents at Mines as defined by the Coal Mines Act, 1911.

Table with columns: Nature of Accident, Number of Persons killed during 13 weeks ended, Number of Persons Seriously Injured during 13 weeks ended. Rows include Underground (Explosions of Fire-damp or Coal Dust, Falls of Ground, Haulage, Miscellaneous), Surface (All Causes), Total Underground and Surface.

* See footnotes * and † in second column on page 250.
† Linked with the earlier series of index figures for Ceylon (base, November, 1938, to April, 1939=100), the "all-items" figure for April, 1948, was 263, an increase of 3 points compared with March and of 162 points or 160 per cent. compared with August, 1939.

INDUSTRIAL DISEASES.

The Table below shows the number of cases and deaths in the United Kingdom reported during June under the Factories Act, 1937, or under the Lead Paint (Protection against Poisoning) Act, 1926 :-

Table with columns: I. Cases, I. Cases—continued. Rows include LEAD POISONING (Operatives engaged in: Smelting of Metals, Plumbing and Soldering, Shipbreaking, etc.), ANTHRAX (Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins, etc.), EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCERATION (SKIN CANCER) (Pitch, Tar, Paraffin, Oil, etc.), CHROME ULCERATION (Manuf. of Bichromates, etc.), OTHER POISONING (Arsenical Poisoning, Aniline Poisoning), II. Deaths (EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCERATION (SKIN CANCER), Oil).

* These figures exclude fatal accidents to seamen directly attributable to causes arising from the war; 3 such accidents were reported in June, 1948, none was reported in May, 1948, but 17 were reported in June, 1947.

necessary adaptations to that Act, and the Regulations in force thereunder, in consequence of the coming into operation of the provisions of the National Insurance Act, 1946, relating to unemployment insurance.

The National Assistance Act (Appointed Day) Order, 1948 (S.I. 1948, No. 1218), dated 8th June and coming into operation on 10th June; *The National Assistance Act (Appointed Day) (Scotland) Order, 1948 (S.I. 1948, No. 1207(S. 93))*, dated 7th June and coming into operation on 9th June.—These Orders were made by the Minister of Health and the Secretary of State for Scotland, respectively, under the National Assistance Act, 1948, and brought into operation on 5th July, as respects England and Wales and Scotland, all the provisions of that Act with the exception of Section 37 to 40 (which relate to registration, etc., of homes for disabled persons and the aged).—See last month's issue of this GAZETTE (page 198).

The National Assistance (Determination of Need) Regulations, 1948 (S.I. 1948, No. 1334; price 2d. net, 3d. post free), made on 22nd June by the Minister of National Insurance under the National Assistance Act, 1948.—These Regulations came into operation on 5th July. A summary of the draft Regulations as submitted to Parliament was published in last month's issue of this GAZETTE (page 199).

The National Assistance (Charges for Accommodation) Regulations, 1948 (S.I. 1948, No. 1385), made on 24th June, by the Minister of Health under the National Assistance Act, 1948.—These Regulations, which came into operation on 5th July, prescribe the minimum amounts which persons, including persons accompanied by children, are required to pay for accommodation provided in premises managed by local authorities under the provisions of the Act.

The National Assistance (Appeal Tribunals) Rules Confirmation Instrument, 1948 (S.I. 1948, No. 1454), made on 29th June by the Minister of National Insurance under the National Assistance Act, 1948.—This Instrument confirms, with effect from 5th July, Rules made by the Assistance Board laying down the procedure of Appeal Tribunals set up by the Act, and the manner in which matters are to be brought before and determined by those Tribunals. The Rules are contained in the Schedule to the Instrument.

The Baking Wages Council (Northern Ireland) (Constitution) Order, 1948, and *The Laundry Wages Council (Northern Ireland) (Constitution) Order, 1948 (S.R. & O. of Northern Ireland 1948, Nos. 136 and 137)*.—These Orders were made on 2nd March and 11th May, 1948, respectively, by the Ministry of Labour and National Insurance for Northern Ireland under the Wages Councils Act (Northern Ireland), 1945, and provide that, as from the dates of the Orders, the constitution of the Wages Councils concerned (which were in existence as Trade Boards at the commencement of the Act) shall be in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

The Baking Wages Council (Northern Ireland) Wages Regulation (Holidays) Order, 1948 (S.R. & O. of Northern Ireland, 1948, No. 145; price 5d. net, 6d. post free), dated 20th February, 1948; *The Paper Box Wages Council (Northern Ireland) Wages Regulation (Holidays) Order, 1948 (S.R. & O. of Northern Ireland, 1948, No. 148*; price 4d. net, 5d. post free), dated 19th April, 1948. These Orders were made by the Ministry of Labour and National Insurance for Northern Ireland under the Wages Councils Act (Northern Ireland), 1945.—See the issues of this GAZETTE for March and May, 1948 (pages 111 and 192).

The Factories Act (Northern Ireland), 1938 (Extension of Section 47) Regulations (Northern Ireland), 1948 (S.R. & O. of Northern Ireland 1948, No. 151), made on 14th June by the Ministry of Labour and National Insurance for Northern Ireland under the Factories Act (Northern Ireland), 1948.—See page 228.

The National Insurance (Increase of Unemployment Benefit) Regulations (Northern Ireland), 1948 (S.R. & O. of Northern Ireland 1948, No. 162; price 6d. net, 7d. post free).—These Regulations were made on 26th May by the Ministry of Labour and National Insurance for Northern Ireland, in conjunction with the Ministry of Finance, under the National Insurance Act (Northern Ireland), 1946, and introduced, as from the first payment of benefit on or after 3rd June, 1948, the rates of unemployment benefit (including increase in respect of children and adult dependants) under the Act,

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INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION.—*International Labour Conference, 30th Session, Geneva, 19th June–11th July, 1947. Report to the Minister of Labour and National Service by the Delegates of H.M. Government in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.* Cmd. 7437. Ministry of Labour and National Service. Price 2s. (2s. 2d.). See page 232.

JUTE INDUSTRY.—*Working Party Reports: Jute.* Board of Trade. Price 2s. 6d. (2s. 9d.).—See pages 231 and 232.

LABOUR STATISTICS.—*Guides to Official Sources: No. 1. Labour Statistics. Material Collected by the Ministry of Labour and National Service.* Inter-Departmental Committee on Social and Economic Research. Price 9d. (10d.).—See page 232.

MINES AND QUARRIES.—*Provisional Statement of Number of Deaths by Accidents at Mines and Quarries in Great Britain together with the Isle of Man during 1947.* Ministry of Fuel and Power. Price 2d. (3d.).—See page 228.

NATIONAL INSURANCE.—*Reports of the National Insurance Advisory Committee* (on preliminary drafts of Regulations under the National Insurance Act, 1946): *Maternity Benefit* (147), price 2d. (3d.); *Medical Certification* (149), 2d. (3d.); *Widow's Benefit and Retirement Pensions* (156), 3d. (4d.); *Contributions during Holidays* (157), 2d. (3d.); *National Insurance and Industrial Injuries, Collection of Contributions* (158), 3d. (4d.); *General Benefit* (160), 2d. (3d.); *Unemployment and Sickness Benefit* (161), 4d. (5d.); *Residence and Persons Abroad* (164), 4d. (5d.); *Guardian's Allowances* (165), 2d. (3d.) Ministry of National Insurance. See pages 229 and 230.

REINSTATEMENT IN CIVIL EMPLOYMENT.—*Selected Decisions given by the Umpire in respect of Applications under the Reinstatement in Civil Employment Act, 1944.* R.E. Code 1. Pamphlet No. 71. Ministry of Labour and National Service. Price 1d. (2d.).

TEACHERS' SALARIES.—*Scales of Salaries for the Teaching Staff of Training Colleges, England and Wales.* Report of the Committee representative of Associations of Local Education Authorities, Training College Authorities and of the Association of Teachers in Colleges and Departments of Education. Ministry of Education. Price 4d. (5d.).

CHOICE OF CAREERS.—*Choice of Careers. New Series, No. 1, Civil Service,* Central Juvenile Employment Executive. Price 6d. (7d.).—See page 228.

SOCIAL SECURITY.—*Agreement on Social Security between the Government of the United Kingdom and the French Government.* Paris, 11th June, 1948. France No. 2 (1948). Cmd. 7455. Foreign Office. Price 3d. (4d.).—See page 230.

PORT TRANSPORT.—*Report of the Working Party on the Turn-Round of Shipping in the United Kingdom Ports.* Ministry of Transport. Price 9d. (10d.).—See page 231.

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