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

EMPLOYMENT.

THROUGHOUT February there was a continuous and substantial improvement in employment, which affected most of the principal industries. The improvement was most marked in iron mining and quarrying; ship-building and ship-repairing; iron and steel manufacture; general, marine and constructional engineering; the cotton, wool and linen textile industries; the clothing trades; and building and public works contracting. In the industries named, which include $3\frac{3}{4}$ million insured workpeople, the numbers recorded as unemployed showed at 21st February a decrease of 96,000 as compared with 24th January.

Among the workpeople (numbering approximately 12,000,000) insured against unemployment under the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the percentage unemployed in all industries taken together at 21st February, 1927, was 10.9, as compared with 12.1 at 24th January, 1927, and 10.4 at 22nd February, 1926. The total number of applicants for employment registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 28th February, 1927, was approximately 1,208,000, of whom 970,000 were men and 172,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls; at 31st January, 1927, it was 1,375,000, of whom 1,083,000 were men and 213,000 were women; and at 1st March, 1926, it was 1,169,000, of whom 911,000 were men and 194,000 were women.

WAGES.

In the industries for which statistics are regularly compiled by the Department, the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation in February resulted in an aggregate reduction of £9,000 in the weekly full-time wages of about 136,000 workpeople, and in an increase of £4,300 in those of 44,000 workpeople.

The principal groups of workpeople whose wages were reduced included workers in steel-smelting shops and rolling mills in various districts in England and Scotland, and coal miners in the Cannock Chase and Forest of Dean areas. In the former case the reduction amounted to about 2 per cent. on the previous wages of most classes except the lower-paid men, and in the case of coal miners the percentage additions to basis rates were reduced by nearly $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the previous wages in the Cannock Chase area and by over 6 per cent. in the Forest of Dean. There were reductions in the minimum rates of wages fixed under the Trade Boards Acts for various classes of workpeople in the flax and hemp, brush and broom, and coffin furniture trades. Other workpeople whose wages were reduced

included Siemens steel makers in South-West Wales and electrical cable makers.

Workpeople who received increases included steel sheet millmen and galvanisers, men employed by electrical contractors in England and Wales, and those employed in the non-trading services of various local authorities in the West Riding of Yorkshire.

During the first two months of 1927 the changes reported to the Department in the industries for which statistics have been compiled have resulted in net increases of over £24,000 in the weekly full-time wages of nearly 440,000 workpeople, and in net reductions of £47,500 in those of over 410,000 workpeople. In the corresponding period of 1926 there were net increases of £8,250 in the weekly full-time wages of 80,000 workpeople, and net reductions of nearly £15,000 in those of 250,000 workpeople.

COST OF LIVING.

At 1st March 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 and light, and miscellaneous items) was approximately 71 per cent. above that of July, 1914, as compared with 72 per cent. a month ago and a year ago. The corresponding figures for food alone were 62, 64 and 65 respectively.

The fall in the index number at 1st March, as compared with a month earlier, was due to reductions in the retail prices of various articles of food, notably eggs, and of coal.

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, and 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.

TRADE DISPUTES.

The number of trade disputes involving stoppages of work reported to the Department as beginning in February was 15. In addition, 13 disputes which began before February were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The number of workpeople involved in all disputes in February (including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes) was about 5,700, and the estimated aggregate duration of all disputes during February was about 65,000 working days. These figures compare with totals of approximately 15,300 workpeople involved and 130,000 days lost in the previous month. The number of workpeople involved in disputes in February was smaller than in any month since December, 1914.

INDUSTRIAL CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES IN 1925.

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 1925 was 1,496. The aggregate membership of these societies at the end of 1925 was 4,886,000. Their sales in the year amounted to £284,000,000,* and resulted in a net surplus (before deduction of interest on share capital) of £22,555,000.† The total share, loan and reserve capital was £152,513,000.‡ As compared with 1924, membership increased by 196,000, or 4.2 per cent.; while capital increased by £6,887,000, or 4.7 per cent. This latter increase, which was wholly attributable to the retail and productive societies, would have been materially larger but for the maturity of development bonds issued by the English Wholesale Society. The figure for sales represents an increase of nearly £13,000,000, or about 5 per cent., and indicates a continued improvement in co-operative trading. Of the increase, retail societies were responsible for £8,170,000, and wholesale societies for £4,370,000. The improved trading resulted in a surplus larger by £1,288,000 than in the preceding year.

The total number of persons directly employed by these societies at the end of 1925 (excluding native labour employed by the English and Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society, Ltd., on their tea estates, etc. abroad) was about 200,000, some 7,000 more than in the preceding year. The total amount paid in salaries and wages (£26,129,000) showed an increase of £790,000.

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 1925, 1,120 industrial co-operative societies of various types were engaged in production. The total number of persons employed in production by these societies was 83,215; the amount paid as salaries and wages during the year was £10,551,000; and the value of productions £73,900,000. The corresponding figures for 1924 were 1,147 societies; 80,154 employees; £10,304,000 salaries and wages; and £67,671,000 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 1914-1925:—

Year.	Wholesale Value of Productions.					
	Associations of Consumers.					Grand Totals of all Societies.
	Productive Departments of Distributive Societies.		Productive Societies.		Associations of Workers.	
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	3,183,999	5,403,814	95,391,640
1921	38,123,374	37,325,115	341,114	2,877,087	3,435,150	82,701,840
1922	29,980,520	27,619,886	239,080	2,298,134	2,671,345	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
1925	32,626,933	35,134,054	240,621	2,893,489	3,005,333	73,900,430

To ascertain the real trend of the volume of production, the figures in the above Table must be considered in conjunction with the variations in wholesale and retail price levels. It is evident, however, that, when allowance is made for these variations, there has been material expansion in 1924 and 1925.

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

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	89,349,518	24,775,381
1920	1,491	245,406,124	105,439,628	29,559,314
1921	1,491	218,321,770	80,884,661	22,041,158
1922	1,392	168,799,221	65,904,812	17,009,251
1923	1,455	164,122,688	66,205,566	17,261,828
1924	1,368	174,473,315	72,888,064	17,312,194
1925	1,344	182,643,583	76,585,764	17,714,967

* Including farm and dairy produce valued at £1,679,000, and sales of wholesale and productive societies to other societies for re-sale.
 † Owing to a change in the form of return for 1925, certain items were charged against the surplus instead of being allocated from it. As a result the figure for 1925 is some £600,000 less than would have been shown on the same basis as in previous years.
 ‡ Includes capital contributed by retail societies to wholesale and productive societies.
 § 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.

Groups of Industries or Services.	Associations of Consumers.			Associations of Workers.		
	No. of Employees.	Salaries and Wages.	Wholesale Value of Productions.	No. of Employees.	Salaries and Wages.	Wholesale Value of Productions.
Food and tobacco	26,386	3,788,445	53,525,177	120	12,367	94,007
Clothing	20,435	2,233,060	5,822,863	4,969	493,796	1,769,821
Soap, candles, and starch	1,794	240,920	2,495,141	...	...	...
Textiles	3,333	329,050	1,654,024	641	81,694	482,532
Mining and quarrying	473	51,545	90,872	237	26,004	40,899
Building and woodworking	8,934	1,522,114	3,432,741	347	51,192	112,027
Papermaking, printing, etc.	2,902	382,657	1,162,277	1,060	159,989	326,670
Metal, engineering, etc.	1,776	277,651	966,328	487	56,407	117,754
Other productions	1,193	142,048	970,897	294	30,213	58,201
Productive transport	2,224	319,722	...	16	1,836	...
Laundry work	2,969	284,008	600,936	...	...	...
Other services	611	63,700	173,841	14	1,942	3,422
Totals, 1925	73,030	9,634,920	70,895,097	8,185	915,640	3,005,333
Totals, 1924	72,150	9,407,339	64,691,211	8,004	896,707	2,979,988
Percentage increase	1.2	2.4	9.6	2.2	2.1	0.9

In 1925 the English and Scottish wholesale societies returned a surplus on production of £680,000, as against £727,000 for the preceding year. The 149 productive societies returned a surplus of £441,000, as against £403,000 for 1924. For retail distributive societies the corresponding figure is not ascertainable.

Bonus on Wages.—Of the 1,120 societies engaged in industrial production, 85, employing 11,200 persons in productive departments, with wages amounting to £1,415,000, allotted a sum of £63,649 to these employees as a bonus on wages in 1925, this being equivalent to about 10½d. in the £, as against an average rate of 9½d. for 1924.

Associations of Workers: Share of Employees in Membership, Capital, and Management.—Eighty-two of the 88 Associations of Workers, with sales amounting to £3,332,000, 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 1925 was 29,342, of whom 4,985, or 17 per cent., consisted of employees; 19,278, or 66 per cent., of other individuals; and 5,079, or 17 per cent., of other societies. Of the 8,182 persons employed by the associations, 61 per cent. were members of the associations employing them.

Of the £1,504,000 share and loan capital, £265,000, or 18 per cent., belonged to employees; £647,000, or 43 per cent., to other individuals (including loans from non-members and bank overdrafts), and £592,000, or 39 per cent., to other societies. The number of committees of the associations was 705, of whom 324, or 46 per cent., were employees of the associations; 267, or 38 per cent., were other individual members; and 114, or 16 per cent., were representatives of other (shareholding) societies.

(b) Distribution.

In 1925, 1,344 retail and three wholesale societies were engaged in distribution, including the English and Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society, Ltd., this being the joint tea, etc., department of the English and Scottish wholesale societies, which was registered as a separate society at the beginning of 1924. These 1,344 societies had an aggregate membership of 4,840,000; a total share, loan, and reserve capital of £148,298,000; sales amounting to £277,000,000; and a surplus (before deducting interest on share capital) of £22,115,000. 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 118,933, and their wages for the year were £15,579,000. The corresponding figures for 1924 were:—membership, 4,645,000; capital, £141,630,000; sales, £265,000,000; surplus, £20,864,000; employees, 112,415; and wages, £15,035,000.

In the following Table the sales for each of the years 1914-1925 are shown separately for the retail and for the wholesale societies. It should be noted that practically the whole of the sales of the English and Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society, Ltd., are invoiced through the two wholesale societies:—

Year.	Retail Societies.		Wholesale Societies.	
	Number.	Sales.	Sales of English Society.	Sales of Scottish Society.
1914	1,385	87,979,898	34,910,813	9,425,384
1915	1,374	103,073,321	43,101,747	11,363,076
1916	1,364	121,853,932	52,230,074	14,499,037
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1924	1,368	174,473,315	72,888,064	17,312,194
1925	1,344	182,643,583	76,585,764	17,714,967

* Includes farm and dairy produce valued at £1,679,000, in respect of which there were 2,822 employees, with wages of £290,000.
 † Included in the "Value of Productions" of the various Departments.
 ‡ See footnote † in preceding column.
 § See footnote † in preceding column.

Bonus on Wages.—Of the total of 1,344 retail societies in 1925, 63, employing 12,670 persons and paying wages amounting to £1,595,000 in their distributive departments, allotted out of the surplus a total of £56,314 to their employees as a bonus, this being equivalent to about 8½d. in the £, as compared with an average of 7½d. in the £ for 1924. In addition, in 1925, two productive societies, employing 154 persons in their distributive departments, with wages amounting to £28,500, allotted £861 to the employees in these departments as a bonus, equivalent to about 7½d. in the £.

Dividends on Purchases.—For 1925 the retail societies distributed an average dividend of nearly 1s. 9d. in the £ on purchases, as compared with 1s. 6½d. in the £ for the preceding year. The Scottish Wholesale Society declared a dividend of 4d. in the £ for each half-year, the same rate as that for 1924. The English Wholesale Society declared a dividend of 3d. in the £ for the second half of 1925; for the first half the rate was 2d. in the £, the same as that for each half of 1924.

MINERS' WELFARE FUND.

THE Mines Department have issued the Fifth Report* of the Committee appointed to allocate the Miners' Welfare Fund, covering the year 1926. This was the last of the five and a half years for which the Fund was originally established by Section 20 of the Mining Industry Act, 1920; and the Committee have therefore taken the opportunity to include in this Report a review of the experience of the first quinquennium as a whole, and to draw therefrom certain conclusions in regard to future policy. The Mining Industry (Welfare Fund) Act, 1925, having extended the operation of the scheme for another five years, the Committee have been re-appointed, with the addition of two members; and the functions and the resources of the Fund have been enlarged, and the membership of the Committee still further increased, under the Mining Industry Act, 1926.†

The sum which accrued to the Fund during the year 1926, including interest, was £1,103,380, showing a reduction of more than £100,000 on 1925, owing to the increasing depression in the industry. The number of allocations made during the year was 583, and the sum allocated £1,283,200; showing a reduction of 5 in the number, but an increase of £613,057 in the amount, over 1925. The amount actually paid out from the Fund during the year was £1,208,135, as compared with £948,082 in 1925.

The position of the Fund as at the 31st December, 1926, was as follows:—

	District Fund.	General Fund.	Total.
Contributions and interest	£ 4,638,317	£ 1,210,401	£ 5,848,718
Allocations approved	3,701,093	868,142	4,569,235
Payments on account of allocations	3,253,914	675,323	3,929,237

The total sum allocated from the inception of the scheme up to the 31st December, 1926, from district funds (£3,701,093) is classified in the Report as follows:—

Description.	Total number of Schemes.	Total allocated.
1. Recreation:— (a) Indoor.—Institutes, halls, clubs, libraries (including small grants for the purchase of books), swimming baths, etc.	486	1,399,483
(b) Outdoor.—Recreation and sports grounds, playing fields, swimming pools, colliery bands, etc.	431	965,841
2. Pit Welfare:— (a) Cycle sheds, drying rooms and shelters, washhouses, etc.	11	10,019
(b) Pithead baths	16	121,463
3. Health:— (a) Hospitals (structural additions, equipment, endowment of existing public institutions, etc.)	32	97,036
(b) Convalescent schemes (new institutions for the use of miners only, and funds for the purchase of admission tickets, the provision of surgical appliances, the special treatment of serious accidents, etc.)	21	963,704
(c) District nursing services	19	28,541
(d) Ambulance services	46	51,111
4. Education:— Lectures, scholarships, establishment and equipment of centres for junior technical instruction, etc.	23	30,075
5. Expenses of administration	...	33,820
Totals	1,085	3,701,093

The General Fund, which is provided by setting aside approximately one-fifth of the total contributions, reached a total of £1,210,401 during the five and a half years since the inception of the scheme, of which, however, £126,800 represented interest on temporary investments. Out of this £1,210,401 a sum of £500,000 was set aside for research, and another £500,000 was set aside for buildings and equipment for senior and advanced courses of instruction.

* H.M. Stationery Office; price 1s. 6d. net.
 † See article on Labour Legislation in 1926 in last month's issue of this GAZETTE, page 48.
 ‡ Many of the schemes under heading 1 (a) include land for recreation purposes, and such recreation grounds are not shown separately under heading 1 (b).

tion in mining; the whole of the research grant and the greater part of the mining education grant have been allocated. In addition, miscellaneous services (consisting mainly of expenditure on technical staff) accounted for £16,700, and £150,000 has been provided for a scholarship scheme. Under this scheme (which is reproduced in full in an appendix to the Report) a sum of £150,000 is to be invested in a trust fund, styled "The Miners' Welfare National Scholarship Endowment Fund," the trustees of which are required to apply the income "in or towards defraying the expenses of and incidental to the provision of university scholarships for workers in and about coal mines in Great Britain, and their sons and daughters."

COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION AND INDUSTRY.

I.—FIRST REPORT OF SCOTTISH COMMITTEE.

The Committee appointed in 1925 by the Secretary of State for Scotland, "to inquire into and advise upon the public system of education in Scotland in relation to the requirements of trade and industry, with particular reference to the adequacy of the arrangements for enabling young persons to enter into and retain suitable employment," have issued their first Report.* In this Report they have dealt, at the suggestion of the Secretary of State for Scotland, with the second part of their terms of reference, i.e., the adequacy of the arrangements for enabling young persons to enter into and retain suitable employment; they propose to deal with the relation of the public system of education in Scotland to the requirements of trade and industry in a second Report.

The Committee have been in close touch with the corresponding committee for England and Wales, with whose Report† they are largely in agreement; though they point out that the educational systems, and the official arrangements for advising juveniles and placing them in employment, are different in the two countries, for which, therefore, separate treatment is necessary.

The number of juveniles (boys and girls of 14 or over, but under 18) employed or seeking employment in Scotland in 1926 is estimated at 248,300. The percentage of insured juveniles unemployed at 29th November, 1926, was 7.3, exclusive of those in the coal-mining industry who ceased work on account of the dispute. The percentage, however, varies much from district to district and from industry to industry.

The Report refers to the fact that, owing to the decline in the birth-rate, the number of juveniles estimated to be available for employment in Scotland will probably have declined by about 18 per cent. (to little more than 200,000) by 1933. It is therefore inevitable, in the opinion of the Committee, that in the not distant future there will be a general shortage of juvenile labour. This general shortage, however, will not necessarily mean that there will be no juvenile unemployment. In certain districts the staple industries may continue to be depressed, and in those districts there will still be unemployment among boys and girls. Juvenile labour, unlike adult labour, cannot easily follow the trend of employment; and the difficulty of relating in any area the demand for and supply of juvenile labour will still remain.

The following is a summary of the principal recommendations of the Committee:—

The existing public arrangements in Scotland for advising juveniles and placing them in employment should be maintained and developed. A Central Advisory Committee for Juvenile Employment should be established in each county, with sub-committees for local areas. Education Authorities should co-operate more closely with Advisory Committees. The experiments in vocational guidance of the National Institute of Industrial Psychology should be continued and encouraged. Special Advisory Committees, similar to the existing London Committees, should be established in Edinburgh and Glasgow, and possibly in Aberdeen and Dundee, for advising and placing in employment juveniles from secondary schools. A Scottish National Advisory Council for Juvenile Employment should be established.

Pupils who have reached the existing school-leaving age should be retained at school until they obtain suitable employment or attain the age of 15 years.

The present arrangements for the migration of juveniles overseas should be developed; training centres for boys handicapped by their environment should be encouraged, and the provision of training centres generally should form the subject of immediate inquiry.

The proposed Scottish National Council for Juvenile Employment should be closely associated with the work of the Oversea Settlement Committee.

Juvenile Unemployment Centres should be developed. There should be a permanent scheme under which Centres could be opened as and when required. Centres should continue to be organised by Education Authorities under the supervision of the Ministry of Labour or, in exceptional cases, directly by the Ministry. The full cost incurred by Authorities should be repaid by the Ministry, subject to any necessary financial safeguards.

* H.M. Stationery Office; price 1s. net. The appointment of the Committee was notified in the December, 1925, issue of this GAZETTE, page 420.
 † Report of the Committee on Education and Industry: England and Wales. Part I. H.M. Stationery Office; price 1s. 6d. net. A summary of this Report appeared in the December, 1926, issue of this GAZETTE, pages 435-6.

Due notice should be given by the Scottish Education Department, as soon as it may be found financially practicable, of the appointed day for the raising of the school-leaving age to 15 years in terms of the Education (Scotland) Act, 1918. Total exemption from school attendance should be granted only in cases of exceptional hardship. When, but not before, the school-leaving age is raised to 15 years, the age of entry into unemployment insurance should be lowered to 15 years.

As a temporary expedient, until the recommendations regarding the raising of the school-leaving age become effective, a system of working certificates should be introduced, applicable to all juveniles except those regularly employed in agriculture. There should be a statutory obligation on employers, before engaging juveniles, to require from them evidence that they possess working certificates issued by Advisory Committees. The certificate should be issued to and retained by the employer, who should return it to the Advisory Committee on the discharge of the juvenile. There should be a statutory obligation on every juvenile with a working certificate to attend an Unemployment Centre or other course of instruction when unemployed. If it is decided that no unemployment benefit be payable unless and until thirty contributions have been paid in the preceding two years, then the working certificate procedure should continue to apply to juveniles until they attain the age of 17 years or become eligible for benefit, whichever is the earlier.

II.—GOVERNMENT STATEMENT REGARDING ENGLISH COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

A statement of the Government position on the recommendations contained in the Report of the Committee on Education and Industry, England and Wales, Part I,* was made in the House of Lords on the 9th March by the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

The Government have decided to accept the recommendation of the majority of the Committee, and to transfer to the Ministry of Labour the central responsibility for the administration by Local Education Authorities of choice of employment work. They also accept the Committee's proposal for the establishment of a National Juvenile Advisory Council, on which Local Education Authorities should be strongly represented, but they will not arrive at a final conclusion on this matter until the Local Education Authorities have been consulted.

As regards the Committee's recommendation that a permanent scheme for Juvenile Unemployment Centres should be instituted, the Government are anxious to give sympathetic consideration to the matter, but consider that further examination and discussion are required, in particular on the Committee's proposal that the full cost of the Centres should be thrown upon the taxes.

The Government regard with great initial favour the Committee's proposal that a system of working certificates for juveniles between 14 and 16 should be instituted, but before they adopt it they consider it necessary to consult the Local Education Authorities, employers, and the other interests concerned.

APPOINTMENT OF SHOP HOURS COMMITTEE.

The Home Secretary has appointed a Committee "to enquire into the working of the Shops (Early Closing) Acts, 1920 and 1921, and to consider and report whether it is desirable that those Acts should or should not be made permanent, and, if made permanent, whether with or without modifications."

The members of the Committee are:—Sir W. W. Mackenzie, G.B.E., K.C. (Chairman); Sir David Brooks, G.B.E.; Sir William Hart, O.B.E.; Mr. L. Hore-Belisha, M.P.; Sir George Hume, M.P.; Miss Margaret Irwin, C.B.E.; Major C. G. MacAndrew, M.P.; Sir Frank Meyer, Bt., M.P.; Sir William Perring, M.P.; Mrs. Hilton Philipson, M.P.; Mr. E. A. Radford, M.P.; Mr. James Stewart, M.P.; Lieutenant-Colonel A. Sutherland-Harris; and Mr. R. A. Taylor, M.P.

The Secretary of the Committee is Mr. W. H. Coles (Home Office, Whitehall, London, S.W.1), to whom any communications should be addressed.

EARNINGS AND HOURS OF LABOUR: MISCELLANEOUS INDUSTRIES.†

In the following Tables particulars are given of the earnings and hours of labour of workpeople in various industries† in 1924, as shown by the returns received from employers in response to the general inquiry instituted in 1925 by the Ministry of Labour. The details supplied in the returns relate to four dates in 1924, viz., the weeks ended 19th January, 12th April, 12th July and 18th October. The figures given below may be subject to slight revision when the final tabulations are completed. Particulars are also given below in regard to earnings in the railway service in 1924. For an explanation of the scope and nature of the inquiry, reference should be made to the article on page 196 of the issue of this GAZETTE for June, 1926.

I.—NUMBER OF RETURNS RECEIVED AND NUMBER OF WORKPEOPLE COVERED.

The number of returns received, giving information regarding earnings, and the average number of workpeople covered, as shown by the average of the numbers in the four weeks specified above, in this group of industries, are as shown below:—

* See footnote † in previous column.

† Particulars relating to other groups of industries have been published in the issues of this GAZETTE for June, 1926–February, 1927.

Industry.	Number of	
	Returns received.	Workpeople covered.*
Fellmongering and leather tanning ...	817	31,371
Saddlery and leather goods manufacture ...	1,154	14,749
Brush and broom manufacture ...	305	35,482
Piano, organ and musical instrument (other than metal) manufacture ...	318	9,007
Quarrying ...	374	13,521
Metalliferous and shale mining ...	1,449	48,778
Carting and warehousing ...	124	15,318
Waste reclamation (other than metal) ...	4,101	75,594
Various other industries† ...	614	9,977
All the above ...	1,757	50,320
All the above ...	11,013	304,117

The following Table shows the total number of workpeople, including adults and juveniles, employed by firms which have made returns as to earnings, in each of the four specified weeks of 1924, together with the proportions of males and females employed, as shown by the averages of the numbers in the four weeks:—

Industry.	Number of workpeople employed in the week ended				Proportion of	
	19th Jan.	12th Apr.	12th July.	18th Oct.	Males.	Females.
Fellmongering and leather tanning ...	30,872	31,393	31,452	31,766	87.2	12.8
Saddlery and leather goods ...	14,171	14,519	15,018	15,286	52.2	47.8
India rubber ...	33,506	36,532	36,546	35,343	56.3	43.7
Brush and broom ...	9,016	9,121	9,000	8,890	53.4	46.6
Pianos, organs and musical instruments (other than metal) ...	13,873	12,741	12,361	15,110	91.5	8.5
Quarrying ...	46,509	48,518	50,134	49,951	99.7	0.3
Metalliferous and shale mining ...	15,483	15,174	15,507	15,109	99.7	0.3
Carting and warehousing ...	74,223	75,422	75,996	76,736	92.6	7.4
Waste reclamation (other than metal) ...	9,736	9,925	10,113	10,136	43.0	57.0
Other industries† ...	48,143	50,088	50,801	52,250	71.9	28.1
All the above ...	295,532	303,433	306,928	310,577	82.0	18.0

II.—AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS.

The following Table shows the average actual earnings per head, in the four specified weeks, of the workpeople employed by the firms making returns, together with the average earnings of males and females, as shown by those returns which gave separate particulars:—

Industry.	Number of Workpeople covered.*	Average earnings (for time actually worked) in the week ended				Average of the Earnings in the four weeks.
		19th Jan.	12th Apr.	12th July.	18th Oct.	
Fellmongering and leather tanning ...	31,371	50 8	52 4	52 1	52 8	51 11
Saddlery and leather goods ...	14,749	36 2	37 1	37 3	37 8	37 1
India rubber ...	35,482	43 7	44 3	44 11	44 7	44 4
Brush and broom ...	9,007	37 4	38 9	37 5	38 2	37 11
Pianos, organs and musical instruments (other than metal) ...	13,521	60 9	59 7	57 7	64 10	60 11
Quarrying ...	48,778	47 11	51 7	53 0	52 8	51 4
Metalliferous and shale mining ...	15,318	48 8	49 9	47 10	48 4	48 8
Carting and warehousing ...	75,594	51 2	51 6	52 1	51 9	51 7
Waste reclamation (other than metal) ...	9,977	36 3	36 5	37 0	36 8	36 7
Other industries† ...	50,320	46 8	48 8	48 2	47 11	47 11
All the above ...	304,117	47 8	49 0	49 1	49 5	48 10

(B) MALBS.

Industry.	Number of Workpeople covered.*	Average earnings (for time actually worked) in the week ended				Average of the Earnings in the four weeks.
		19th Jan.	12th Apr.	12th July.	18th Oct.	
Fellmongering and leather tanning ...	23,063	54 0	55 10	55 10	56 2	55 6
Saddlery and leather goods ...	5,306	48 4	49 4	50 8	50 11	49 8
India rubber ...	17,639	54 10	57 3	57 7	56 11	56 8
Brush and broom ...	3,904	50 2	52 0	50 4	50 6	50 9
Pianos, organs and musical instruments (other than metal) ...	8,434	66 6	64 11	61 8	69 7	65 10
Quarrying ...	48,521	48 0	51 8	53 1	52 9	51 5
Metalliferous and shale mining ...	15,277	48 9	49 10	47 11	48 5	48 9
Carting and warehousing ...	67,002	53 3	53 8	54 3	54 0	53 10
Waste reclamation (other than metal) ...	3,969	52 1	52 1	52 3	52 5	52 3
Other industries† ...	31,692	54 8	57 3	56 7	56 1	56 2
All the above ...	224,807	52 7	54 3	54 5	54 7	53 11

* Averages of the numbers employed in the four weeks.

† Including patent fuel, games and toys, fancy goods, pencils and artists' materials, floorcloth, roofing and flax felts, building materials, etc.

V.—AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS.

The following Table shows the average earnings per hour of those workpeople covered by returns which showed the number of hours actually worked. As some firms were unable to give particulars of the number of hours worked, the average weekly earnings obtained by multiplying the average hourly earnings shown below by the average hours shown in Section IV do not correspond precisely with the average weekly earnings shown in Section II.

Industry.	Number of Workpeople covered.*	Average Hourly Earnings in the week ended				Average Hourly Earnings in the four weeks.
		19th Jan.	12th Apr.	12th July.	18th Oct.	
Fellmongering and leather tanning ...	18,353	d. 13.4	d. 13.6	d. 13.8	d. 13.7	d. 13.6
Saddlery and leather goods ...	5,103	9.8	9.9	10.0	9.9	9.9
India rubber ...	27,188	11.5	11.7	11.7	11.7	11.6
Brush and broom ...	4,906	10.1	10.1	10.1	10.0	10.1
Pianos, organs and musical instruments (other than metal) ...	8,172	15.2	15.1	15.1	15.4	15.2
Quarrying ...	23,407	13.8	13.9	14.2	14.1	14.0
Metalliferous and shale mining ...	11,122	13.1	13.2	13.2	13.0	13.1
Carting and warehousing ...	36,952	12.8	12.8	12.9	12.9	12.9
Waste reclamation (other than metal) ...	4,384	9.9	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Other industries† ...	29,561	12.4	12.6	12.3	12.3	12.4
All the above ...	169,248	12.6	12.7	12.7	12.8	12.7

VI.—EXTENT OF SHORT TIME.

The following Table shows the proportion of workpeople, employed by firms making returns, who were reported to be working less than full time, together with the average number of hours lost per week by such workpeople, and the average time lost by all the workpeople covered by the returns. Workpeople "stood-off" for the whole of any of the weeks specified have been regarded as unemployed, and have not been taken into account in compiling the statistics:—

Industry.	Number of Workpeople covered.*	Proportion of Workpeople on Short Time in the week ended			
		19th Jan.	12th Apr.	12th July.	18th Oct.
Fellmongering and leather tanning ...	29,750	Per cent. 14.1	Per cent. 10.8	Per cent. 13.5	Per cent. 11.5
Saddlery and leather goods ...	13,613	13.9	11.8	9.9	6.9
India rubber ...	34,829	7.5	7.0	4.1	8.0
Brush and broom ...	7,755	29.0	20.4	28.0	27.5
Pianos, organs and musical instruments (other than metal) ...	13,165	4.1	12.6	24.8	0.8
Quarrying ...	46,940	6.7	4.0	4.1	3.6
Metalliferous and shale mining ...	14,180	20.4	10.5	25.0	15.5
Carting and warehousing ...	67,695	2.4	2.0	1.7	1.8
Waste reclamation (other than metal) ...	9,070	12.1	9.3	9.4	13.0
Other industries† ...	48,271	11.8	7.2	6.7	6.4
All the above ...	285,248	9.1	6.8	7.9	6.5

Average Number of Hours lost (a) by those who worked less than Full Time and (b) by all Workpeople covered in the week ended

Industry.	Average Number of Hours lost (a) by those who worked less than Full Time and (b) by all Workpeople covered in the week ended			
	19th Jan.	12th Apr.	12th July.	18th Oct.
Fellmongering and leather tanning ...	(a) 11.1	(b) 1.6	(a) 11.5	(b) 1.2
Saddlery and leather goods ...	10.1	1.4	9.9	1.2
India rubber ...	8.1	0.6	8.9	0.6
Brush and broom ...	7.9	2.3	7.4	1.5
Pianos, organs and musical instruments (other than metal) ...	12.1	0.5	9.4	1.2
Quarrying ...	8.3	0.6	6.1	0.2
Metalliferous and shale mining ...	7.3	1.5	6.2	0.6
Carting and warehousing ...	14.9	0.4	15.2	0.3
Waste reclamation (other than metal) ...	10.4	1.3	10.3	1.0
Other industries† ...	10.6	1.3	8.8	0.6
All the above ...	9.8	0.9	9.3	0.6

VII.—WORKPEOPLE EMPLOYED ON RAILWAYS.

Particulars are not available as to the earnings and hours of labour of workpeople employed in the railway service in each of the four weeks specified above, but information supplied by the Ministry of Transport relating to the week ended 29th March, 1924, shows that the total number of male employees, other than shop and artisan staff, clerical staffs and supervisory staffs, was 426,928, and the average weekly earnings were 65s. 1d. per week. The normal hours of labour were 48 per week, and the approximate time actually worked was 5.5 per cent. in excess of the normal hours. The amount of short time was stated to be negligible.

* Averages of the numbers employed in the four weeks.

† Including patent fuel, games and toys, fancy goods, pencils and artists' materials, floorcloth, roofing and flax felts, building materials, etc.

Industry.	Number of Workpeople covered.*	Average earnings (for time actually worked) in the week ended				Average of the Earnings in the four weeks.
		19th Jan.	12th Apr.	12th July.	18th Oct.	
Fellmongering and leather tanning ...	3,380	s. d. 25 4	s. d. 26 0	s. d. 27 1	s. d. 27 11	s. d. 26 7
Saddlery and leather goods ...	4,855	22 4	22 9	22 7	24 1	23 0
India rubber ...	13,700	27 6	28 5	29 0	29 1	28 6
Brush and broom ...	3,410	24 9	25 10	24 6	25 9	25 3
Pianos, organs and musical instruments (other than metal) ...	781	33 9	30 2	28 10	32 10	31 6
Quarrying ...	136	23 11	23 8	25 7	25 1	24 7
Metalliferous and shale mining ...	41	22 1	22 5	22 11	22 3	22 5
Carting and warehousing ...	5,350	26 9	26 10	27 5	26 6	26 11
Waste reclamation (other than metal) ...	5,253	24 4	24 9	25 8	25 1	25 0
Other industries† ...	12,396	25 0	25 8	26 0	26 4	25 9
All the above ...	49,302	25 8	26 4	26 8	26 11	26 5

The relative level of average earnings, shown for the different industries are, of course, affected by the variations in the proportions of males and females, and of adults and juveniles, employed.

It should be observed that the workpeople covered by the returns include workers of all ages, including boys and apprentices and other juveniles. Owing to the fact that certain firms were unable to separate the wages paid to males and females respectively, the number of males and females for whom particulars are given separately in Sections (B) and (C) of the Table add to less than the total numbers given in Section (A) of the Table.

III.—NORMAL HOURS OF LABOUR.

The following Table shows the proportion of the workpeople employed by firms making returns on this subject, whose normal weekly hours, exclusive of meal times, in the week ended 18th October, 1924, fell within the limits stated, and the average normal hours:—

Industry.	Number of Workpeople covered.*	Percentage of employees whose normal weekly hours were					Average weekly normal hours.	
		44 or less.	44½ to 46½.	47.	47½ to 48.	Over 48.		
Fellmongering and leather tanning ...	31,704	Per cent. 3.9	Per cent. 3.3	Per cent. 9.6	Per cent. 1.4	Per cent. 75.4	Per cent. 6.4	47.8
Saddlery and leather goods ...	15,308	5.5	5.5	9.4	4.7	54.9	20.0	48.0
India rubber ...	35,339	3.0	6.2	27.6	2.1	52.3	8.8	47.7
Brush and broom ...	8,742	8.1	16.2	7.0	5.5	56.9	6.3	47.2
Pianos, organs and musical instruments (other than metal) ...	15,095	2.7	3.1	72.6	1.1	3.5	17.0	47.5
Quarrying ...	49,563	22.5	8.1	16.1	1.1	33.9	18.3	46.8
Metalliferous and shale mining ...	14,967	37.6	11.5	13.6	0.8	16.6	14.9	45.5
Carting and warehousing ...	73,372	17.1	7.5	8.9	1.5	44.7	20.3	47.6
Waste reclamation (other than metal) ...	10,134	11.0	19.8	5.5	2.0	55.6	6.1	47.0
Other industries† ...	51,940	16.7	10.2	31.2	2.6	22.5	16.8	47.2

REPORT ON THE AGRICULTURAL WAGES BOARD AND AGRICULTURAL WAGES COMMITTEES.

THE Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries have published a Report of proceedings under the Agricultural Wages (Regulation) Act, 1924, during the twelve months ending 30th September, 1926.*

The Agricultural Wages Board (the central co-ordinating body for England and Wales) made 68 Orders during the year, bringing into operation minimum and overtime rates of wages fixed by the county Agricultural Wages Committees in substitution for rates which had been varied or cancelled or had expired through efflux of time. In the case of 13 areas Orders were made fixing special rates of wages for harvest employment. In addition, the Agricultural Wages Committees themselves made 51 Orders, 24 in relation to overtime employment, and the remainder in connection with the reckoning of benefits or advantages as part payment of wages. There has been a tendency for rates to be fixed for twelve months, so as to enable farmers to budget a full year ahead on their labour costs; there are now only five areas, out of a total of 47 in England and Wales, where rates are definitely fixed for less than one year.

There was a narrower range in the minimum rates fixed for ordinary male workers in the summer of 1926 than in the summer of 1925, the lowest being 30s. a week (in 13 areas) and the highest 36s. a week (in three areas), as against a minimum of 29s. and a maximum of 37s. 6d. in 1925. Eighty per cent. of the rates in 1926 fell within the range from 30s. to 33s.†

In Norfolk and Suffolk and in Berkshire, where the minimum rate in 1925 was between 28s. and 29s. 2d., the wage was raised in 1926 to 30s. a week; in five other areas (two in England and three in Wales) the minimum wage has been raised from 30s. to 31s.; and in two other English areas a rise of 1s. was given (from 31s. 6d. to 32s. 6d., and from 34s. to 35s.). On the other hand, in three areas the minimum wage has been reduced; but in two of these areas the reductions have been accompanied by reductions in the hours in respect of which the wage is payable. In Glamorganshire it has been reduced from 37s. 6d. (for 53 hours in summer and 51 hours in winter) to 36s. (for 50 hours in summer and 48 hours in winter); and in the Holland division of Lincolnshire from 36s. (for 52 and 48 hours) to 35s. (for 50 and 48 hours).

The general effect of all the changes of the year has been to raise the average of the minimum rates for ordinary adult male workers from 31s. 5d. a week to 31s. 8d. The index number for wages of ordinary adult male workers now stands at 76 per cent. above the pre-war figure, as compared with 75 per cent. in the summer of 1925, and 56 per cent. immediately before the passing of the Agricultural Wages (Regulation) Act, 1924. During the operation of the Corn Production Act, 1917, the wages index figure ranged from 69 to 160 per cent. above the pre-war level.

Speaking generally, and with some exceptions, the lowest rates are paid in the areas that are predominantly agricultural, particularly those in the eastern and southern counties, and the highest in counties with a large urban, industrial, or mining population. The nine areas with a summer rate exceeding 33s. are Cheshire, Derbyshire, Lancashire, Leicestershire, the Holland division of Lincolnshire, Middlesex, the East and West Ridings of Yorkshire, and Glamorganshire.

In a section of the Report dealing with the state of employment in agriculture it is stated that little unemployment appears to exist at the present time amongst regular farm hands, and that the shortage of skilled workers is becoming more pronounced.

As the older workmen who were experts in such varying processes as hedging, ditching, thatching, rick binding, etc., die off their places are more and more difficult to fill. A good deal has been done in the past by Local Authorities, with aid from the Ministry, in the way of providing facilities for instruction in these subjects, and during the last year the Ministry has endeavoured to secure that the question shall receive increased attention in the counties.

THE GUARANTEED WEEK IN THE RAILWAY SERVICE.

AN agreement signed on 16th February, 1927, by representatives of the Railway Companies, the National Union of Railwaymen, the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen and the Railway Clerks' Association provides that as from 21st February each employee concerned shall be guaranteed weekly earnings equivalent to not less than four days' pay at the ordinary rate, and that as from 14th March the guarantee is to be extended to five days per week. As from 11th April the guaranteed week for Conciliation Grades under the National Agreements and full-time working for clerical, supervisory and other staff on salary or equivalent basis is to be restored. The Railway Companies have agreed that the provisions as regards the gradual restoration of full-time working shall apply to the clerical, supervisory and other salaried staff, as well as to the Conciliation Grades.

* H.M. Stationery Office; price 1s. net.

† The areas of North and East Lancashire are excluded in both years, as it is understood that the majority of the regular workers are of the "special class" categories (stockmen, etc.).

JOINT INDUSTRIAL COUNCIL FOR THE FLOUR MILLING INDUSTRY.

IN May, 1919, a National Joint Industrial Council was established for the Flour Milling Industry. Since its inception, the Council has made twelve national agreements, has settled, through its Executive Committee, 55 disputes, has made a large number of interpretations of the Agreements, and has dealt with a large number of other relevant matters. Criticisms and complaints have, however, been made against the Whitley organisation in the industry, the principal complaint being concerned with the violation of the national agreements in the General Strike. As a result, the Flour Milling Employers' Federation set up a Committee, in July, 1926, to review the present working of the Whitley organisation.

The Committee heard evidence from a number of persons, both connected and unconnected with the industry, and issued a questionnaire to all federated and certain non-federated firms. In their report, which was approved and adopted by the Board of the Federation on 12th January, 1927, the Committee make the following recommendations:—

1. That, with certain modifications of organisation and procedure, the Whitley organisation be retained.

2. That all settlements between the two sides shall continue to be made on a national basis, with due regard to local conditions.

3. That the Council should extend its system of Committees, and should appoint such other Committees as may be necessary from time to time, such Committees to report to the Council direct.

4. That where difficulties arise in securing meetings of the Joint District Council, it should be permissible for the Council concerned to delegate its duties to a joint committee, say, of three representatives on each side, which should be able to meet at short notice as and when required.

5. That a fresh effort should be made to establish Works Committees in mills where they are not in existence or have fallen into disuse, that the Trade Union official be present *only by invitation of both sides*, and that the employer undertake that only matters of domestic concern shall be decided at such meetings.

6. That each district shall be directly represented on both sides of the National Council, and that due regard shall be paid to the claims of the districts in electing the members of any of the Committees of the Council that may be set up as recommended in No. 3 above.

7 and 8. These recommendations deal with the question of secretarial expenses.

It is understood that a copy of the Report has been submitted to the Trade Union side of the Joint Industrial Council.

THE STANDARD OF LIVING BEFORE AND SINCE THE WAR.

THE Report of the Committee on National Debt and Taxation, which has recently been published,* contains a section devoted to the standard of living and the standard of saving. The conclusions of the members of the Committee who signed the Majority Report, as to the standard of living of the working population, are summarized by them as follows:—

"For the employed wage-earner it appears from the purely statistical evidence that real earnings are on the general average much the same as in 1914, and, in view of considerations affecting piecework, they may well be higher.

"In relation to the working population as a whole, increased unemployment is a seriously depressing factor. On the other hand, earnings are more largely supplemented by unemployment relief, health benefits, pensions and other welfare provision.

"There have been great changes in the relative position of workers in different industries. Both in rates of wages and in steadiness of employment those in sheltered occupations have usually, but not always, bettered their position relatively to those in industries open to foreign competition.

"The earnings of unskilled labour have generally improved relatively to those of skilled. The last-mentioned fact raises a presumption that, if spending and saving could be measured, spending would prove to be in a higher proportion to saving than before the War. Certain statistical evidence seems, if anything, rather contrary to this view, but it is far from conclusive. Purely statistical evidence as to the total resources and total savings of the working population may seem to suggest that rather less is being spent than in 1914. But the evidence is too defective to justify such a conclusion, and, moreover, indications as to the consumption of various important commodities tell in a contrary direction.

"General observation points, on the whole, to some improvement in the standard of living. Such an improvement, which we believe to exist, may be partly due to the smaller size of families, and to changes in the direction of expenditure and the quality of goods available. The evidence is insufficient to yield precise or dogmatic conclusions. Balancing the various considerations before us, we can only conclude that, if the worker's average standard of living differs from that of 1914, it is probably rather higher than lower. The present position is, however, that, while in some industries large numbers have secured an improved standard, in others very many have suffered a reduction. There are thus great changes, and the position of the less fortunate is aggravated by the memory of the high pay in the period of boom following the War."

* Cmd. 2800. H.M. Stationery Office; price 7s. 6d. net.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION IN 1925.

THE Home Office have issued a volume* containing statistics of compensation and of proceedings under the Workmen's Compensation Acts, 1906 and 1923, and the Employers' Liability Act, 1880, during the year 1925. The statistics relate to seven great groups of industries—mines, quarries, railways, factories, docks, constructional work, and shipping—in regard to which particulars of compensation are received from or on behalf of employers under section 12 of the Act of 1906. These groups embrace a large proportion of the chief industries, but it has to be borne in mind that they do not by any means cover the whole field. Besides the various commercial, clerical, and domestic employments to which the Act applies, there are several important industries which are not covered by the returns, for example, building, road transport, and agriculture.

The aggregate number of persons coming within the provisions of the Acts employed in Great Britain in the seven groups of industries to which the returns relate was 7,541,014 in 1925, as compared with 7,512,359 in 1924 and with 8,359,183 in 1919, the largest number in any year for which statistics exist. (It should be noted that the figure which the employer is asked to give is the average number employed throughout the year.) The following Table gives comparative figures for 1914†, 1924, and 1925:—

	1914.†	1924.	1925.
Number of workpeople covered by returns	7,057,111	7,512,359	7,541,014
Number of cases:—			
Fatal	4,216†	2,878	3,030
Not-fatal	437,900	487,442	473,055
Total	442,116	490,320	476,085
	£	£	£
Payments for compensation:—			
In fatal cases	679,732	786,444	864,726
In non-fatal cases	2,785,629	5,888,594	5,778,204
Total	3,465,361	6,675,038	6,642,930

The average amount of compensation paid in fatal cases in 1925 was £285, as compared with £273 in 1924 and with £161 in 1914. The average amount paid in 1925 in non-fatal cases was £82 10s. for lump-sum payments and £8 19s. for weekly payments, as compared with £69 16s. and £9 3s., respectively, in 1924; the average for all non-fatal cases was £12 4s. in 1925, as against £12 2s. in 1924 and £6 7s. in 1914.

The following Table shows the number of persons employed, the total compensation paid, and the cost per person employed, in each of the seven groups of industries covered by the returns for the years 1924 and 1925:—

Groups of Industries.	Persons employed.		Total compensation paid		Cost per person employed.	
	1924.	1925.	1924.	1925.	1924.	1925.
Shipping ...	207,174	207,194	229,095	237,148	s. d.	s. d.
Factories ...	5,242,521	5,318,658	2,254,465	2,288,580	8 7	8 7
Docks ...	158,321	142,550	280,153	263,223	35 5	36 11
Mines ...	1,202,597	1,157,085	3,376,214	3,275,547	56 2	56 7
Quarries ...	74,771	76,274	87,157	107,754	23 4	28 3
Constructional work ...	106,312	108,813	149,050	151,943	28 0	27 11
Railways ...	520,663	530,440	298,904	318,735	11 6	12 0
Total ...	7,512,359	7,541,014	6,675,038	6,642,930	17 9	17 7

It will be seen that the only considerable change was an increase in quarries, where the proportion of fatal accidents showed a marked increase (from 0.8 to 1.2 per thousand persons employed) in 1925 as compared with 1924.

The figures given above as to total compensation paid in the seven groups of industries represent only the actual amount paid to workpeople or their dependants, and not the total charge on the industries, which would need to include the administrative expenses and medical and legal expenses of employers, insurance companies, and mutual indemnity associations, the amounts placed in reserve, and the sums set aside by insurance companies as profits.

Statistics regarding the various industrial diseases included under the Workmen's Compensation Acts indicate that compensation was paid, in the seven groups of industries, in 41 fatal cases in 1925, to the amount of £8,390, and in 17,256 disablement cases, to the amount of £656,027. The 41 fatal cases included 17 of lead poisoning, and 14 of epitheliomatous cancer. The bulk of the non-fatal cases occurred, as in previous years, in the mining industry, and were chiefly due to miner's nystagmus, "beat hand" and "beat knee." These, with "beat elbow" and inflammation of the synovial lining of the wrist joint and tendon sheaths, accounted for 91.8 per cent. of the total number of cases. Cases of miner's nystagmus alone show an increase from 460 in 1908 and 5,993 in 1914 to 11,335 in 1925.

Compensation is also paid in cases of silicosis (i.e., fibrosis of the lungs due to inhalation of silica dust), an industrial disease not scheduled under the Workmen's Compensation Acts but included under a special scheme, made by the Home Secretary for certain

* Cmd. 2784. H.M. Stationery Office; price 9d. net.

† Comparative figures for 1915 cannot be given. The figures for 1914 include Ireland; those for 1924 and 1925 do not.

‡ There was a great colliery explosion in this year.

industries under the Workmen's Compensation (Silicosis) Acts, 1918 and 1924. The scheme embraces upwards of 200 works, employing in 1925 about 2,700 persons; all the employers in the industries covered by the scheme are required to contribute to a general compensation fund. The scheme is concerned with the prevention of the disease as well as with the provision of compensation. During the period from the 1st February, 1919 (when the scheme came into force), up to the end of 1925, upwards of 13,000 medical examinations were carried out, and £47,018 was spent in payments of compensation.

Statistics in regard to the administration of the Acts show that the total number of cases under the Workmen's Compensation Acts taken into court in Great Britain in 1925 was 5,846. Many of these were settled out of court or otherwise disposed of, and only 2,983 were finally settled with the cognisance of the courts. The decision in 2,303 cases, or 77.2 per cent., was in favour of the applicant.

There were 29,771 cases in which memoranda of agreements and informal arbitrations were registered in the courts, as compared with 30,967 cases in 1924.

Cases under the Employers' Liability Act, 1880, numbered only 41 in 1925 as compared with 583 in 1907 when the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906, came into force; the remedy provided by the former Act is falling into disuse.

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 December, 1926, (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.

The total number of persons in receipt of poor law relief fell steadily from 2,357,000 on the first Saturday of the quarter to 2,175,000 on the 27th November. Thereafter, following the resumption of work in the coal mines, the decrease was more rapid, and on the last Saturday of the quarter the total number was 1,484,000. The latter figure was smaller by over 38 per cent. than the corresponding figure at the end of the third quarter of the year, but it was larger by over 21 per cent. than the figure at the beginning of the coal-mining dispute on the 1st May, 1926.

The following Table gives figures for persons in receipt of domiciliary relief in England and Wales for the month of November, 1926, together with certain comparative figures for November, 1925:—

Classes of persons in receipt of domiciliary relief.	England and Wales.	
	Numbers.	Numbers per 10,000 of the estimated population.
1. Unemployed persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts (i.e., persons holding the appropriate form issued by an Employment Exchange) and their dependants†	485,000	125
2. Unemployed persons not insured, but registered at an Employment Exchange, and their dependants	44,000	11
3. Other persons ordinarily engaged in some regular occupation, and their dependants†	961,000	247
4. Totals of above three classes:—		
November, 1926	1,490,000	383
November, 1925	530,000	136
5. All other persons in receipt of domiciliary relief:—		
November, 1926	491,000	127
November, 1925	529,000	136
6. Totals (all persons in receipt of domiciliary relief):—		
November, 1926	1,981,000	510
November, 1925	1,059,000	272

The 1,490,000 persons recorded in the first three classes in November, 1926, included 390,000 men, 368,000 women and 732,000 children.

Statistics relating to the numbers of persons receiving poor law relief in certain districts in February, 1927, are given on page 119 of this GAZETTE.

EMPLOYMENT OF DISABLED EX-SERVICE MEN.

KING'S NATIONAL ROLL.

THE latest returns show that there are approximately 27,500 employers on the King's National Roll. Enrolled employers include Government Departments and Government Industrial Establishments, Local Authorities, Railway Companies, Electricity, Gas and Water Authorities, and most of the large industrial and commercial undertakings in the country.

The number of disabled ex-service men employed by enrolled employers is approximately 375,000.

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING.

At 22nd February, 1927, the number of men in training was 347, and the number awaiting training, 81. Since August, 1919, 99,910 men have terminated training.

* H.M. Stationery Office; price 4d. net.

† Insured persons ineligible for benefit in consequence of a trade dispute may be included either in item 1 or in item 3 of the Table.

EXTENSION OF HOURS OF LABOUR IN ITALY.

AN Order* issued by the Minister of National Economy, dated 11th January, 1927, contains administrative regulations for the application of Article 1 of the Royal Decree-Law† of 30th June last, which authorises the extension by one hour daily of the working time of manual and non-manual workers employed in industrial, commercial and agricultural undertakings. The normal limits on working hours fixed by the Decree-Law of 15th March, 1923, were eight hours a day and forty-eight hours a week. Under the new Order, hours may be extended to nine a day only by mutual agreement between legally recognised associations of employers and workers, which organisations are to determine the method of application of such extensions. The local factory inspectorate (or, in the case of agreements applicable to the jurisdictional area of more than one inspectorate, the Ministry of National Economy) is to be notified of the conclusion of agreements of this nature. The Order further provides that the remuneration payable for the additional hours worked is to be not less than 10 per cent. above that paid for ordinary work.

The Order came into force on 15th January last.

HOURS OF LABOUR IN GERMANY: NEW ORDERS.

THREE Orders,‡ dated 9th February, 1927, have been issued by the Federal Minister of Labour, bringing certain categories of workers employed in gas works, certain smelting works and glass works under the provisions of Article 7 of the Order on Working Hours of 21st December, 1923.§ This Article provides that extensions of hours beyond eight a day, by collective agreement or by sanction of a public authority, are permissible for branches of industry involving special danger to life or health, or for classes of workers engaged in such work (in particular for underground workers in coal mines and for workers who are exposed in an unusual degree to the action of heat, poisonous substances, dust, and the like, or to danger from explosives) only if such extension of hours is urgently necessary in the public interest, or if it has been proved in practice by many years' experience to have no ill-effects and does not exceed half an hour.

An earlier Order,|| dated 20th January, 1925, brought certain categories of workers employed in coke works and blastfurnaces within the scope of this protective clause. The new Orders are applicable to the following classes of workers:—(1) Persons employed in connection with ovens and generators in gas works which produce gas for purposes of illumination; (2) certain categories of workers employed on smelting, refining, etc., processes in works engaged in the smelting of zinc, copper, lead and aluminium, and alloys of these metals; (3) various categories of workers in glass works, including mixers, blowers, cutters, pressers and sand-blasters, except in cases where automatic machinery is used or proper appliances are provided for the protection of the workers.

Each of the Orders contains a clause providing that workers who are employed part-time on the scheduled processes shall be regarded as subject to the provisions of the respective Orders only where such employment on any one day exceeds four hours in duration.

The new Orders are to come into force on 1st April, 1927, except in the case of the white hollow glass-ware industry, in which the provisions of existing collective agreements are to remain in force until the normal date of expiry, or until the earliest possible date on which notice of termination may be given, but in no case later than the end of the present year.

HOURS OF LABOUR IN FOUR GERMAN INDUSTRIES IN 1926.

A REPORT¶ recently issued by the German Federal Ministry of Labour contains the results of an investigation into hours of labour in four industries (metal and engineering, textile, leather and tobacco) about which complaints had been received regarding the working of excessive overtime. In view of the limited time available only certain of the larger and more representative establishments in the four industries, employing from 17 to 33 per cent. of the total numbers of workers engaged in these trades, were asked to furnish returns. It is pointed out, therefore, that the results should not be regarded as necessarily indicative of the general position in the four industries concerned. The investigation was carried out by the local factory inspectors by means of a questionnaire requiring the employers concerned to state *inter alia*—

(1) the average number of workers employed during each of the months April, July and October, 1926;

(2) the average weekly hours actually worked during each of these months;

* *Gazzetta Ufficiale*, 14th January, 1927. Rome.

† See this GAZETTE for July, 1926, page 249.

‡ *Deutscher Reichsanzeiger*, 10th February, 1927. Berlin.

§ See this GAZETTE, January, 1924, page 11.

|| See this GAZETTE, February, 1925, page 42.

¶ *Reichsarbeitsblatt*, 10th February, 1927. Berlin.

(3) in cases in which hours exceeded 48 a week, whether additional hours were worked under the terms of a collective agreement, or were officially sanctioned;

(4) any special industrial factors affecting working hours in October, 1926.

The total numbers of undertakings and workers in the four industries (on the basis of the factory inspectors' reports for 1923-4) and the numbers covered by the investigation in October, 1926, are shown in the following Table:—

Industrial Group.	Total Number.		Number covered by Inquiry.			
	Undertakings.	Workers.	Undertakings.		Workers.	
			Number.	Per cent.	Number.	Per cent.
Metal and engineering ...	74,631	2,135,108	1,459	2	379,515	18
Textile ...	15,913	920,560	1,169	7	307,386	33
Leather ...	3,835	109,291	111	3	18,591	17
Tobacco ...	6,071	134,521	284	5	40,129	30

Of the 745,621 workers employed in October, 1926, in the undertakings covered by the inquiry, 394,996 (52.97 per cent.) were working over 48 hours a week. Overtime in the case of 386,219 of the workers was in accordance with the provisions of collective agreements, while in the case of 2,402 workers official overtime permits had been issued. The reasons most frequently given by employers in justification of overtime included seasonal pressure due to Christmas orders, a general trade revival, and the lack of skilled workers residing in the district, combined with the fact that the scarcity of houses rendered it impossible to engage workers from other localities.

The following Table shows the percentage of the total number of workers, in the establishments covered by the investigation, working 48, less than 48, and more than 48 hours a week in October, 1926:—

Industrial Group.	Percentage of total number of workers in each industry covered by the investigation whose weekly hours of labour in October, 1926, were				
	42 hours and under.	Over 42 and less than 48 hours.	48 hours.	Over 48 and up to 54 hours.	Over 54 to 60 or more hours.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Metal and engineering ...	14.35	18.24	19.42	36.00	11.99
Textile ...	11.47	12.29	12.93	57.65	5.66
Leather ...	1.71	4.60	74.85	16.15	2.69
Tobacco ...	9.41	5.47	48.32	36.13	0.87
All four groups combined ...	12.59	14.76	19.68	44.44	8.53

1. *Metal and Engineering.*—The investigation covered 1,459 undertakings engaged in the manufacture of iron and steel goods, machinery, boilers, etc., as well as in the shipbuilding, motor vehicle, railway wagon and aircraft industries. While the number of workers employed decreased from 406,126 in April, 1926, to 379,515 in October, 1926, the number of persons whose weekly hours exceeded 48 increased during the same period from 130,489 to 182,111. In the case of 179,405 of the workers employed on overtime in October, 1926, this was regulated by the provisions of collective agreements; as regards 336 other workers, official overtime permits had been issued; while in the remaining cases overtime was stated to be either voluntary, due to emergencies, or in contravention of the Hours of Work Order.

A more exhaustive analysis of the figures for various branches of the industry shows that the decrease in the number of workers employed was mainly confined to undertakings engaged in the production of machinery, boilers, etc., and in motor vehicle and aircraft construction. In all these branches of the industry, the number of workers on overtime showed a marked increase during the same period. As regards undertakings engaged in the production of metal goods, while the number of employed workers remained approximately unchanged, a considerable increase was recorded in the numbers both of undertakings and of workers on overtime.

2. *Textiles.*—The number of workers employed increased from 287,204 in April, to 307,386 in October, 1926, with an increase during the same period from 79,397 to 194,616 in the number of workers employed for more than 48 hours a week. In October, 190,168 workers were working overtime under the provisions of collective agreements and 1,845 under overtime permits. In those undertakings in which the weekly working hours exceeded 48, a 53 hour week appeared to be general. Many employers stated that a working week of this duration gave the maximum output and made possible a reduction in costs of production. The reasons advanced by employers in explanation of overtime include pressure of business due to the Christmas season, lack of capital which had prevented many undertakings from producing for stock, and the general effects of the English coal stoppage.

3. *Leather Goods.*—The number of workers in the undertakings covered increased between April and October, 1926, from 17,372 to 18,591. It is, however, pointed out that many persons employed in the production of leather goods are home workers. In October, 31 undertakings, employing 3,502 workers, had a working week of more than 48 hours, in the majority of cases 52-54 hours. The reasons assigned for overtime vary according to the various branches

of the industry: in tanneries the necessity for additional hours was attributed to irregularity of orders and uncertainty of supplies of raw materials, and in the fancy leather goods trade, to urgent orders for the Christmas season.

4. *Tobacco, Cigars, etc.*—The number of workers increased from 32,984 in April to 40,129 in October, 1926, while the numbers of establishments and of workers on overtime increased during that period from 24 and 2,284 to 91 and 14,767 respectively. In many branches of the industry home work is customary, and many firms are stated to prefer to send out work during periods of increased activity, such as that usually experienced before Christmas, rather than to engage additional factory labour. This, it is stated, enables them to reduce overhead costs by using smaller premises than would be necessary were the additional work carried out in their own factories.

NEW GERMAN PROGRAMME FOR THE RELIEF OF UNEMPLOYMENT BY THE PROVISION OF WORK.

In an article on recent German emergency schemes for unemployment relief published in this GAZETTE for December, 1926 (page 441), reference was made to certain measures adopted by the Federal Government for the allocation of credits in aid of various schemes intended to stimulate industry and thereby to absorb as large a proportion as possible of those unemployed persons for whom work could not be provided through the various productive relief schemes. A memorandum* submitted to the Reichstag in January last by the Federal Minister of Labour contains a detailed account of the manner in which these subsidies are being utilised. Statistical tables are also given showing *inter alia* that, since the industrial depression which began in the autumn of 1925, the productive relief schemes already sanctioned by the various States have provided a total of 24,425,000 days' work at an approximate cost of 240 million marks.

The Federal Government realised at an early stage of the crisis that the existing productive relief schemes were bound to be inadequate, and that further action must be taken in order to stimulate industry, especially the "key" industries, and thereby to absorb as large a number of unemployed workers as possible by the provision of additional work in their respective trades. As the result of considerable discussion in the Reichstag and its sub-committees, a "programme for the provision of work" (*Arbeitsbeschaffungsprogramm*) was adopted. An account is given below of the principal items in this programme.

1. *Railways.*—A loan of 100 million marks was granted to the Federal Railways for extensions and improvements of the system. Apart from the direct effect on the labour market resulting from the engagement of additional labour, it was considered that the orders for the necessary materials would be of considerable benefit to employment in the iron and steel, electrical, wire, and timber industries. This railway credit is subdivided as follows:—

	Reichsmarks.
Reconstruction of permanent way ...	30 million.
Renovations, etc., to rolling stock ...	35 "
Reconstruction of bridges, extensions to stations, provision of additional safety appliances, etc.	15 "
Electrification of the Berlin Metropolitan system	20 "
Total ...	100 "

In addition to this credit, a further sum of 53,313,000 marks was advanced on very favourable terms to the Federal Railways for the completion of certain new lines (principally in Prussia), work on which had been commenced before the war. It is estimated that work in connection with these schemes will extend over a period of three years. From a report furnished in October last on the position of railway work in general, it would appear that the greatest progress had been made on the reconstruction of the permanent way, while contracts had been concluded for the execution of most of the other work.

2. *Federal Post Office.*—In addition to the unexpended balance of a sum of 300 million marks provided in the 1926 estimates for the construction of new Post Office buildings and installations, additional expenditure, amounting to a total of 20 million marks, was sanctioned for further building work. By October, 1926, contracts had been concluded covering the greater part of the former sum, the principal industries concerned being the building and ancillary industries, and the cable and electrical, the iron and steel, mechanical engineering, motor and rubber trades.

3. *Canal Construction.*—Although the construction of canals does not enable a large number of unemployed workers to be engaged at any one time, the Minister of Transport agreed, in view of the indirect effect upon the labour market, to expend a sum of 13 million marks for the acceleration of schemes already in progress; while supplementary estimates sanctioned by the Reichstag towards the end of 1926 will enable the construction of further new canals to be undertaken.

4. *Housing.*—Under an Act dated 26th March, 1926, the Federal Government was empowered to advance to the States a total of 200 million marks in aid of loans to be secured by first mortgages on newly-built small dwellings. These advances were to be refunded within a period of one year. Owing to the fact that little use was made of these facilities, an amending Act was passed in July, 1926, extending the period of repayment to three years. In developing

* Published in *Reichsarbeitsblatt*, 1st February, 1927. Berlin.

the State-aided building schemes, regard is paid to the necessity imposed by recent industrial developments of encouraging the migration of workers from areas such as the Ruhr and Rhenish Westphalia, in which chronic unemployment exists, to urban and rural districts in which the labour market is considered to be more favourable.

5. *Provision of Rural Dwellings.*—The fact that, at a time when the number of unemployed was over two million, no fewer than 130,000 agricultural seasonal workers were being admitted into Germany from other countries (chiefly Poland) did not escape the notice of the Federal Government. As this appeared to be largely attributable to the fact that rural housing facilities were not such as to encourage the replacement of foreign workers by German labour, regular provision has been made since 1920 for the construction of rural dwellings as part of the productive relief schemes. This policy has resulted in the erection of about 30,000 houses during the years 1920-1925. In order to accelerate this movement, the Federal Government allocated from productive relief funds a sum of 30 million marks for the construction of houses for workers whose employers are able to guarantee them regular work throughout the year. The granting of this credit is conditional upon the provision of at least an equivalent sum by the States concerned. It is intended to build 10,000 rural dwellings during each of the next three years.

6. *Other Rural Improvement Schemes.*—The Government has also extended existing facilities (to some extent already available under productive relief schemes) for the provision of work on road-making, the reclamation of waste land for agricultural purposes, and the breaking up into small holdings of large estates in the Eastern provinces.

7. *Export Credits.*—In February, 1926, the Reichstag approved a scheme whereby the Federal and State Governments should guarantee, up to 60 per cent. of sale prices, long term contracts for the delivery of manufactured goods to Russia. Contracts of this kind, mainly financed by the German banks, have been concluded to the total value of about 300 million marks, on which sum the maximum Federal guarantee amounts to 105 million marks. Contracts to the amount of about 60 million marks were concluded directly with the Trade Delegation of the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics. These contracts are mainly for mining, smelting and agricultural machinery, and equipment, machine tools and transport vehicles.

In addition to the provision of these special facilities for the encouragement of trade with Russia, arrangements have been made to insure exporters against the risk attendant upon deliveries to other countries, the Federal Government agreeing to indemnify them in respect of the contingency of losses arising from the purchasers' inability to pay for the goods delivered, as well as against unforeseen hazards such as the outbreak of wars or revolutions, and natural catastrophes. The sum of 10 million marks has been allocated for this purpose from productive relief funds, and it is stated that about 2,000 foreign contracts, of the total value of about 25 million marks, have been thus insured. The industries mainly concerned are the textile, engineering, small iron wares, industrial equipment, leather, pottery and glass.

The memorandum adds that the Federal Government intends to extend these schemes for the encouragement of the export industries, and that the 1927 estimates make provision for guarantees up to a total of 175 million marks.

In a paragraph devoted to the financial aspect of the measures for the provision of work referred to above, emphasis is laid on the fact that the Federal financial assistance is so devised as to set in motion, for the purpose in view, moneys provided by the Federal Railways and Post Office, the States and Communes, and, finally, by private enterprise. The Federal Government is actuated by the hope that the general trade revival, which it is the purpose of these measures to encourage, will bring about increased confidence, and, therefore, a greater readiness to turn free capital into productive channels, with the result that work will be provided for large numbers of workers at present unemployed. It is stated that Federal expenditure, already sanctioned in connection with the "programme," amounts for the financial year 1926 to a total of 650 million marks. While it has been possible to provide this from current funds, it is anticipated that future expenditure of the same nature may have to be covered by means of loans.

As regards the direct effect of these measures upon the labour market, the number of unemployed breadwinners in receipt of relief had fallen from 1,740,000 on 1st July, 1926, to 1,308,000 on the 1st November following, while trade union statistics show a similar tendency, which was even more marked in the case of members reported to be on short time. No claim is made in the memorandum that the improvement is solely due to the Government measures described above; it is partly attributed to the increase in the number of employed German miners in consequence of the British coal stoppage, and to other improvements in the economic position. The memorandum states that, while there can be no doubt that the Government programme has materially contributed to the revival of certain basic industries, and that it has resulted in a return to full time in many industries, it is nevertheless impossible for any State measures to nullify the effects of a general upheaval of international economic conditions. All that can be done is to provide unemployed persons with opportunities of obtaining work for as long periods as possible, and to ensure that such periods of work are fairly distributed.

The fact that the unemployment figure has tended to increase since December, 1926, is stated to be due to the usual unfavourable seasonal conditions affecting agriculture and the building trades. It is hoped, however, that the placing of further orders in continuation of the programme already sanctioned will have a favourable effect on the general labour market, and so reduce the unemployment due to seasonal causes.

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

Summary: Average Increases since July, 1914.

All Items included 71%
Food only 62%

FOOD.

Between 1st February and 1st March there was a further slight decline in the average level of the retail prices of the principal articles of food. This was due to a number of small movements, including a decrease of about 1d. each in the average price of eggs, and a drop of nearly 1d. per lb. in the average prices of beef, mutton and bacon. Fish was also cheaper than a month earlier. On the other hand, butter (which showed the only appreciable upward movement) advanced by about 1d. per lb. on the average.

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 62 per cent. at 1st March, 1927, as compared with 64 per cent. a month earlier and 65 per cent. a year ago.

In the following Table is given a comparison of retail prices of these articles of food in July, 1914, and at 1st February and 1st March, 1927:—

Article.	Average Price (per lb. unless otherwise indicated— to the nearest 1/4d.)			Average Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) at 1st March, 1927, as compared with	
	July, 1914.	1st Feb., 1927.	1st Mar., 1927.	July, 1914.	1st Feb., 1927.
Beef, British—	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Ribs	0 10	1 5	1 4 1/2	+ 0 6 1/2	- 0 0 1/2
Thin Flank	0 6 1/2	0 9 1/2	0 9 1/2	+ 0 2 1/2	- 0 0 1/2
Beef Chilled or Frozen—					
Ribs	0 7 1/2	0 10	0 9 1/2	+ 0 2 1/2	- 0 0 1/2
Thin Flank	0 4 1/2	0 5 1/2	0 5 1/2	+ 0 0 1/2	- 0 0 1/2
Mutton, British—					
Legs	0 10 1/2	1 6 1/2	1 6 1/2	+ 0 7 1/2	- 0 0 1/2
Breast	0 6 1/2	0 10 1/2	0 10	+ 0 3 1/2	- 0 0 1/2
Mutton, Frozen—					
Legs	0 6 1/2	0 11 1/2	0 11 1/2	+ 0 4 1/2	- 0 0 1/2
Breast	0 4	0 5 1/2	0 5	+ 0 1	- 0 0 1/2
Bacon (streaky)*	0 11 1/2	1 5 1/2	1 5 1/2	+ 0 6	- 0 0 1/2
Flour ... per 7 lb.	0 10 1/2	1 5 1/2	1 5 1/2	+ 0 7 1/2	...
Bread ... per 4 lb.	1 5 1/2	2 4 1/2	2 4 1/2	+ 0 4	...
Tea	0 2	0 3 1/2	0 3 1/2	+ 0 1 1/2	...
Sugar (granulated)	0 3 1/2	0 6 1/2	0 6 1/2	+ 0 3	...
Milk ... per quart	1 2 1/2	1 11 1/2	1 11 1/2	+ 0 9	+ 0 0 1/2
Butter—					
Fresh	1 2 1/2	1 9 1/2	1 10	+ 0 7 1/2	+ 0 0 1/2
Salt	0 8 1/2	0 7 1/2	0 7 1/2	+ 0 0 1/2	...
Cheese†	0 7	0 7 1/2	0 7 1/2	+ 0 0 1/2	...
Margarine	0 11	0 2 1/2	0 2 1/2	+ 0 1	- 0 0 1/2
Eggs (fresh) ... each	0 4 1/2	0 7 1/2	0 7 1/2	+ 0 3	...
Potatoes ... per 7 lb.	0 4 1/2	0 7 1/2	0 7 1/2	+ 0 3	...

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

Article.	Average Percentage Increase at 1st March, 1927, as compared with July, 1914.			Corresponding General Average for 1st Feb., 1927.
	Large Towns (Populations over 50,000).	Small Towns and Villages.	General Average.	
Beef, British—				
Ribs	70	68	69	71
Thin Flank	39	41	40	43
Beef Chilled or Frozen—				
Ribs	34	33	33	37
Thin Flank	6	10	8	12
Mutton, British—				
Legs	73	76	74	75
Breast	55	53	54	56
Mutton, Frozen—				
Legs	70	63	67	70
Breast	22	24	23	27
Bacon (streaky)*	54	55	54	56
Fish	127	101	114	127
Flour	65	70	68	69
Bread	70	68	69	70
Tea	51	59	55	56
Sugar (granulated)	95	82	89	88
Milk	83	87	85	87
Butter—				
Fresh	57	64	61	60
Salt	55	55	55	55
Cheese†	57	58	58	57
Margarine	11	7	9	11
Eggs (fresh)	82	71	77	96
Potatoes	80	47	63	63
All above articles of Food (Weighted Percentage Increase)	63	60	62	64

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

RENT, CLOTHING, FUEL AND LIGHT.

As regards rents, inquiries which have been made into the changes which have taken effect under the Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Acts indicate that the average increase in the rents (including rates) of working-class dwellings between July, 1914, and 1st March, 1927, was approximately 51 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 March the level of retail prices of articles in this group, taking goods of the kinds purchased by the working classes and so far as possible the same qualities of goods at each date, averaged about 115 per cent. higher than in July, 1914.

In the fuel and light group, the retail prices of coal at 1st March averaged about 110 per cent. above those of July, 1914, as compared with about 120 per cent. at 1st February. The average price of gas was between 80 and 85 per cent. above the pre-war level, or about the same as a month earlier. For the fuel and light group as a whole (including coal, gas, oil, candles and matches), the average increase at 1st March, as compared with July, 1914, was between 100 and 105 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 March is, approximately 71 per cent.* over the level of July, 1914, as compared with 72 per cent. at both 1st February, 1927, and 1st March, 1926.

The result of this calculation (in which the same quantities and, as far as possible, the same qualities of each item are taken in 1927 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: 1918 TO 1927.

The following Table shows the average percentage increase, as compared with July, 1914, for all the items included in the statistics, at the beginning of each month since January, 1918:—

Average Percentage Increase since July, 1914—All Items. (Food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, etc.)

Month.	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927
Jan. ...	85-90	120	125	165	92	78	77	80	75	75
Feb. ...	90	120	130	151	88	77	79	79	73	72
Mar. ...	90	115	130	141	86	76	78	79	72	71
Apr. ...	90-95	110	132	133	82	74	73	75	68	...
May ...	95-100	105	141	128	81	70	71	73	67	...
June ...	100	105	150	119	80	69	69	72	68	...
July ...	100-105	105-110	152	119	84	69	70	73	70	...
Aug. ...	110	115	155	122	81	71	71	73	70	...
Sept. ...	110	115	161	120	79	73	72	74	72	...
Oct. ...	115-120	120	164	110	78	75	76	76	74	...
Nov. ...	120-125	125	176	103	80	75	80	76	79	...
Dec. ...	120	125	169	99	80	77	81	77	79	...

Figures for dates prior to 1918, together with the average increases for each of the five main groups of items (i.e., food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, and other items) month by month from January, 1915, to December, 1925, are published in the "Eighteenth Abstract of Labour Statistics" (Cmd. 2740).

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.

EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

THROUGHOUT February there was a continuous and substantial improvement in employment which affected most of the principal industries. The improvement was most marked in iron mining and quarrying; shipbuilding and ship-repairing; iron and steel manufacture; general, marine and constructional engineering; the cotton, wool and linen textile industries; the clothing trades; and building and public works contracting.

In the industries named, which include nearly 3 1/2 million insured workpeople, the numbers recorded as unemployed showed, at 21st February, a decrease of 96,000 as compared with 24th January.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

Among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts, numbering approximately 12,000,000, and working in practically every industry except agriculture and private domestic service, the percentage unemployed at 21st February, 1927, was 10.9, as compared with 12.1 at 24th January, 1927, and 10.4 at 22nd February, 1926. For males alone, the percentage at 21st February was 12.2, as compared with 13.3 at 24th January, 1927; for females, the corresponding figures were 7.5 and 8.5. The total number of persons (insured and uninsured) registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 28th February, 1927, was approximately 1,208,000, of whom 970,000 were men and 172,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls; at 31st January, 1927, it was 1,375,000, of whom 1,083,000 were men and 213,000 women; and at 1st March, 1926, it was 1,169,000, of whom 911,000 were men and 194,000 were women.

The following Table shows, month by month since February, 1926, (a) up to December, 1926, the percentages unemployed among members of certain Trade Unions from which returns were obtained, (b) the percentages unemployed among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and (c) the approximate number (to the nearest 1,000) of applicants for employment registered at Employment Exchanges, etc., in Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Month.	Percentage Unemployed (at or near end of month) among Insured Workpeople.			Numbers (Insured and Uninsured) registered at Employment Exchanges, etc.
	Trade Unions making Returns.	Males.	Females.		Total.
1926.				
February	10.4	11.4	7.7	1,169,000
March	10.1	10.8	7.1	1,070,000
April	10.0	10.0	6.7	1,034,000
May	13.2	14.9	12.6	1,675,000*
June	12.9	15.4	12.2	1,699,000*
July	13.2	15.1	12.7	1,664,000*
August	13.3	14.9	11.6	1,606,000*
September	13.6	14.7	11.0	1,582,000*
October	13.6	14.8	10.3	1,610,000*
November	13.2	14.8	10.0	1,545,000*
December†	12.2	13.1	8.4	1,357,000*
1927.				
January	†	13.3	8.5	1,375,000
February	†	12.2	7.5	1,208,000

EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

Mining and Quarrying.—In coal-mining, employment continued slack on the whole. The total number of wage-earners on the colliery books on 26th February, 1927, was 1,012,684, an increase of 1.7 per cent. as compared with January; the average number of days worked per week was 5.11, as compared with 5.02 in January.

In the iron-mining industry employment showed a further improvement in all districts. The average number of days worked per week by the mines covered by the returns received was 5.74 in February, 1927, 5.29 in January, 1927, and 5.69 in February, 1926. In the shale mines in West Lothian there was a decrease of 0.9 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed as compared with the previous month. At limestone quarries employment was moderate in the Clitheroe district, and good in the Buxton and Weardale districts; at slate quarries in North Wales it continued fairly good. At whinstone quarries in the East of Scotland it was reported as fair; at china clay quarries it continued fair; and at tin mines it remained good.

Manufacture of Pig Iron, Iron and Steel, and Tinplate.—In the pig-iron industry, employment showed an improvement as compared with the previous month. Of a total of 464 furnaces, the number in blast at the end of February, 1927, was 162, compared with 152 in January, 1927, and with 146 in February, 1926.

In the iron and steel trades employment, though still slack, showed a further improvement, and was better than in February, 1926.

* In the coal-mining industry only those unemployed persons who were not disqualified for benefit under the Unemployment Insurance Acts by reason of the trade dispute were taken into account in the unemployment statistics.
† For insured workpeople and for numbers registered the figures relate to 20th December, 1926.
‡ This series is discontinued—see note on page 59 of the February issue of this GAZETTE.

In the tinplate and steel sheet trades, employment was good, and showed a further improvement. The number of tinplate and steel sheet mills in operation at the end of February, 1927, was 560, as compared with 541 in January, 1927, and with 520 in February, 1926.

Engineering, Shipbuilding and Metal Trades.—In the engineering trades, employment showed a further improvement but was still bad on the whole. In the marine engineering section it was very bad; in the railway engineering section better hours were worked, but in the textile engineering section little improvement was shown, and much short time was in operation. In the electrical and motor vehicle sections, employment was fair. In the shipbuilding and ship-repairing trades, employment continued very bad, but showed an improvement as compared with the previous month. In the other metal trades, employment showed little change, and was moderate on the whole. It was fairly good in the lock, latch and key trade; fair in the needle and fishing tackle, hollow-ware, nut and bolt, sheet metal and tube trades; moderate in the stove, grate, brasswork, file, wire, and cutlery trades; and slack or bad in the metallic bedstead, jewellery and plated ware, and chain and anchor trades.

Textile Trades.—Employment in the cotton trade showed a further improvement, especially in the weaving department. In the American spinning section it was estimated that the machinery ran to the extent of from 70 to 80 per cent. of full capacity; in the Egyptian spinning section practically full time was worked. In the wool textile trades, employment, taken as a whole, showed some improvement.

Employment in the hosiery trade showed a slight improvement as compared with the previous month; in the silk and artificial silk trades, taken together, it also showed an improvement; in the lace trade it remained bad; in the linen and jute trades employment showed a further improvement but was still only moderate. In the textile bleaching, printing, dyeing, etc., trades, employment continued very slack and much short time was worked.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the retail bespoke branch of the tailoring trade continued generally slack or moderate. There was a further improvement in the wholesale bespoke and ready-made branch of the trade, and employment continued generally fair; it was reported as good in the London and Leeds districts. In the dressmaking trade employment remained slack, although there was a slight improvement in some centres; in the London blouse and light underclothing trade it was moderate, and better than in the previous month. In the corset trade employment remained quiet; in the shirt and collar trade it continued to improve, and was fairly good. In the felt hat trade employment showed a further improvement, but much short time was still worked. In the boot and shoe trades employment showed a slight improvement, but was still only moderate; short time was very prevalent, and many factories were still producing below their full capacity.

Leather Trades.—In the tanning and currying section employment was fair, though a decline was reported in several centres; in the portmanteau, trunk and fancy leather section it was moderate; with saddlery and harness makers it was slack.

Building, Woodworking, etc.—Employment in the building trades showed a general improvement; it was fairly good in most districts with skilled operatives, other than painters, and moderate, on the whole, with unskilled workers. It was good with bricklayers and plasterers in most districts; fairly good with slaters; fair with carpenters and moderate with masons; quiet with plumbers; and generally very slack with painters; with tradesmen's labourers it was moderate on the whole. With brickmakers, employment was good on the whole.

Employment in the furnishing trades and with coachbuilders improved during the month, and was fair; with mill-sawyers it also continued fair; with coopers and packing case makers it improved, but was still bad.

Paper Manufacturing, Printing and Bookbinding.—Employment in the paper trade showed a further improvement, and was fairly good. With letterpress printers it was generally reported as slack or moderate, but slightly better than in the previous month; with electrotypers and stereotypers it was good; in the lithographic printing trade it remained moderate, but some improvement was reported in London. In the bookbinding trade employment showed a further decline, and was moderate on the whole.

Pottery and Glass.—Employment in the pottery trade in North Staffordshire showed a further slight improvement, especially in the better-class earthenware and china sections. In the glass trades employment also showed a further improvement, and was moderate, except with glass bottle makers, with whom it was slack.

Agriculture and Fishing.—In agriculture in England and Wales the supply of labour at the end of February was adequate for requirements, and there was practically no unemployment among regular agricultural workers; in Scotland, also, the supply of regular labour was generally ample. With fishermen employment was adversely affected by bad weather, and was only moderate.

Dock Labour and Seamen.—With dock labourers employment was moderate; with seamen it was moderate on the whole.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED INDUSTRIES.

The following Table shows the variations in the rates of unemployment among insured persons in the respective divisions into which the country is divided for the purpose of the administration of the Unemployment Insurance Acts. It will be seen that in Great Britain the rates of unemployment continue to be highest in the areas which include the greatest proportions of coal mining and the heavy iron and steel industries:—

Divisions.	Estimated Numbers Insured at July, 1926. (Totals.)	Percentage Unemployed at 21st February, 1927.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Total Percentages as compared with a	
		Males.	Females.	Total.	Month before.	Year before.
London ...	2,105,400	8.3	4.7	7.2	-0.2	...
South-Eastern ...	840,200	6.4	4.7	6.0	-0.4	-0.1
South-Western ...	810,900	8.7	5.6	8.1	-0.9	-0.8
Midlands ...	1,777,400	8.5	10.0	8.9	-0.6	+1.4
North-Eastern ...	2,020,500	17.6	8.8	15.8	-1.0	+2.6
North-Western ...	2,145,700	12.2	8.7	11.0	-1.7	-0.3
Scotland ...	1,323,100	14.9	8.2	13.1	-1.9	-1.7
Wales ...	626,800	19.6	7.2	18.5	-3.3	+5.4
Northern Ireland	256,000	21.1	9.8	16.7	-2.5	-7.3
Special Schemes	125,000	2.2	0.5	1.7	-0.1	-0.2
TOTAL ...	12,041,000	12.2	7.5	10.9	-1.2	+0.5

NEW ENTRANTS INTO UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

TABLE SHOWING, BY DIVISIONAL AREAS, THE NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT BOOKS RECEIVED AT LOCAL OFFICES OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR IN GREAT BRITAIN DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 1927.

Area.	Men.	Boys.	Women.	Girls.	Total.	
					Num-ber.	Per-centage of numbers insured at July, 1926.
South-Eastern :						
(a) London ...	1,534	5,200	2,071	4,696	13,501	0.64
(b) Rest of South Eastern ...	1,168	2,480	738	1,629	6,015	0.72
South-Western ...	1,011	2,012	640	1,320	4,983	0.61
Midlands ...	1,066	3,926	857	3,008	8,857	0.50
North-Eastern ...	1,353	5,435	1,109	2,733	10,536	0.53
North-Western ...	1,299	4,891	1,177	3,359	10,726	0.50
Scotland ...	1,056	3,193	861	2,244	7,344	0.55
Wales ...	567	2,412	314	528	3,811	0.61
GREAT BRITAIN ...	9,054	29,549	7,767	19,503	65,873	0.57

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

SUMMARY OF EMPLOYERS' RETURNS.

INFORMATION as to employment, derived from returns furnished by employers and employers' associations, is summarised below:—

Trade.	Workpeople included in the Returns for February, 1927.	February, 1927.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	
		Month before.	Year before.	Month before.	Year before.
		Days Worked per week by Mines.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Coal Mining ...	1,012,684	5.11	+ 0.09	- 0.26	
Iron " ...	5,832	5.74	+ 0.45	+ 0.05	
Shale " ...	2,740	5.90	+ 0.13	+ 0.15	
		Furnaces in Blast.	Number.	Number.	
Pig Iron ...	...	162	+ 10	+ 16	
		Mills working.	+ 19	+ 40	
Tinplate and Steel Sheet	...	560			
		Shifts Worked (one week).	Per cent.	Per cent.	
Iron and Steel ...	73,904	403,114	+ 1.7	+ 1.0	

Trade.	Number of Workpeople Employed.		Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople.	
	Week ended 26th Feb., 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before.	Week ended 26th Feb., 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before.
		Per cent.	£	Per cent.
Textiles:—				
Cotton ...	75,179	- 0.7	138,377	+ 0.4
Woolen ...	64,317	- 0.6	131,927	- 0.1
Worsted ...	89,980	- 0.7	171,982	+ 0.3
Boot and Shoe ...	51,079	+ 1.0	118,789	+ 3.9
Pottery ...	11,115	- 0.5	20,811	- 2.0
Brick ...	9,048	- 0.2	24,231	+ 4.1

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

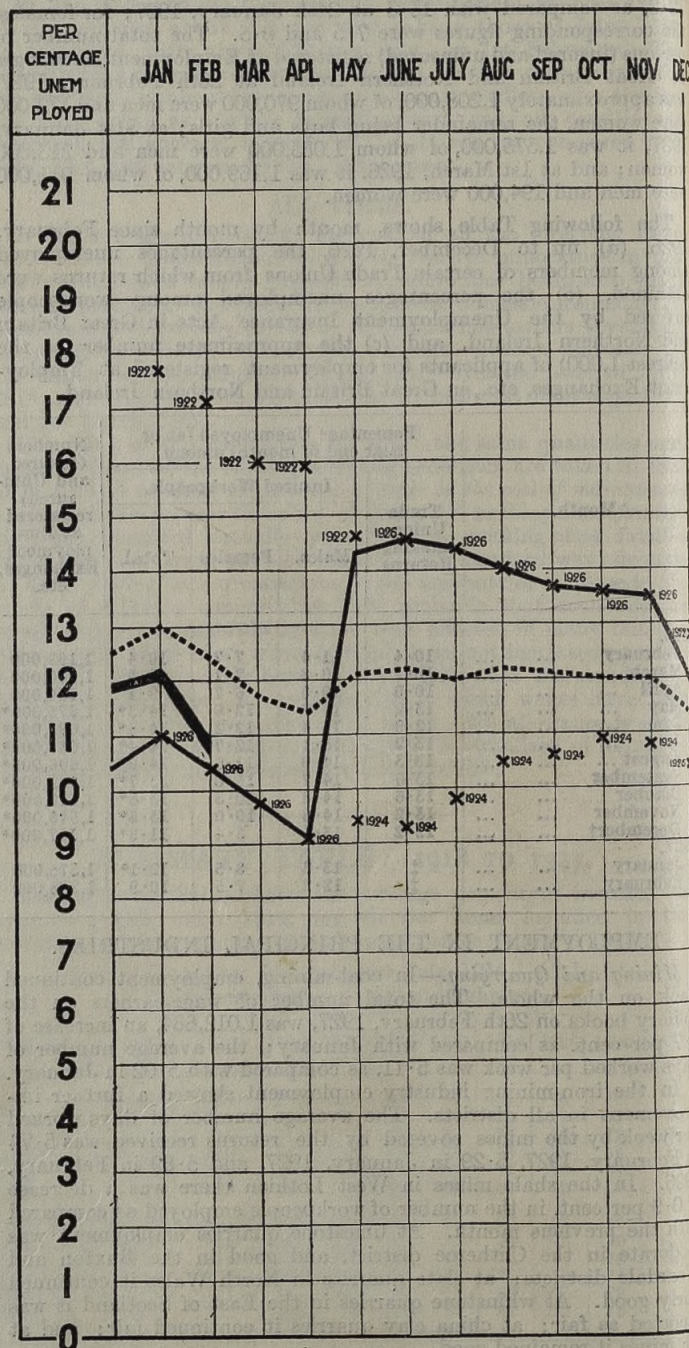
UNEMPLOYMENT CHART.

GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.

PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AMONG WORKPEOPLE INSURED AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT UNDER THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTS:—

Thick Curve - - - - - = 1927.
Dotted Curve - - - - - = Mean of 1922-26.
Thin Curve - - - - - = 1926.

× The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages unemployed, in the months named, during the years 1922-26.



NOTE.—From May to December, the curve for 1926 and the curve showing the mean for the years 1922-26 are influenced by the heavy increase in unemployment in those months due to the stoppage in the coal-mining industry of last year. The diagram shows that while the percentage rates of unemployment in January and February, 1927, are higher than those for the corresponding months of 1926, they are lower than the mean for the past five years. The figures for the first two months of 1927 were still affected in some industries by the results of the coal-mining dispute and also by a comparatively high rate of unemployment in coal-mining itself.

DETAILED REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN SOME OF THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

NOTE.—The numbers of workpeople employed given in the following Tables represent the numbers covered by the Returns received and not the total numbers employed in the various industries. The comparisons of numbers employed and wages paid at different dates relate to the same firms at each date, 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 February continued slack on the whole, and showed little change as compared with the previous month. Shortages of railway wagons, resulting in short-time working, were reported from some districts.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 16.1 at 21st February, 1927, as compared with 16.3 at 24th January, 1927, and 9.6 at 22nd February, 1926.

The total number of wage-earners on the colliery books at 26th February, 1927, showed an increase of 1.7 per cent., as compared with 29th January, 1927, but a decrease of 8.6 per cent. as compared with 27th February, 1926.

The average number of days worked per week in the fortnight ended 26th February, 1927, was 5.11, an increase of 0.09 of a day, as compared with the fortnight ended 29th January, 1927, but a decrease of 0.26 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 27th February, 1926.

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 February, 1927, 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 Feb., 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month before.	Fort-night ended 26th Feb., 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month before.
ENGLAND AND WALES:				
Northumberland ...	54,028	+ 1.3	5.36	- 0.05
Durham ...	131,278	+ 2.4	5.02	+ 0.16
Cumberland and Westmorland ...	11,417	+ 3.0	5.56	+ 0.59
South Yorkshire ...	119,086	+ 0.9	4.44	+ 0.07
West Yorkshire ...	64,527	+ 0.6	4.85	- 0.19
Lancs. and Cheshire ...	90,562	+ 0.5	4.85	+ 0.29
Derbyshire ...	60,699	+ 0.4	4.82	+ 0.19
Notts and Leicester ...	68,253	+ 1.0	4.65	+ 0.02
Warwick ...	19,151	+ 0.4	5.78	- 0.02
North Staffordshire ...	32,930	+ 1.0	5.30	+ 0.12
South Staffs., Worc. and Salop ...	34,738	+ 0.8	5.90	- 0.03
Glouc. and Somerset ...	11,558	+ 0.7	5.51	+ 0.95
Kent ...	2,183	- 1.0	5.44	+ 1.36
North Wales ...	15,331	+ 0.4	5.80	+ 0.58
South Wales and Mon. ...	186,107	+ 3.4	5.39	+ 0.15
England and Wales ...	901,849	+ 1.5	5.05	+ 0.03
SCOTLAND:				
Mid & East Lothians ...	13,696	+ 2.4	5.50	- 0.07
Fife and Clackmannan ...	22,702	+ 4.6	5.48	+ 0.22
Rest of Scotland ...	74,437	+ 2.2	5.50	+ 0.05
Scotland ...	110,835	+ 2.7	5.49	+ 0.06
GREAT BRITAIN ...	1,012,684	+ 1.7	5.11	+ 0.09

The average number of coal winding days lost in Great Britain during the fortnight ended 26th February, 1927, was 0.69 of a day per week, of which 0.67 was due to transport difficulties. The figures for the fortnight ended 29th January, 1927, were 0.78 of a day per week, of which 0.75 was due to transport difficulties; for the fortnight ended 27th February, 1926, the average time lost was 0.39 of a day per week, of which 0.28 was due to want of trade and transport difficulties. The average non-winding time for the periods under review was about one-fifth of a day per week in the fortnights ended 26th February, 1927, and 29th January, 1927, and one-quarter of a day per week in the fortnight ended 27th February, 1926.

The output of coal in Great Britain for the four weeks ended 26th February, 1927, was reported to the Mines Department as 21,365,400 tons, as compared with 20,692,900 tons in the four weeks ended 29th January, 1927, and with 21,602,200 tons in the four weeks ended 27th February, 1926.

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 5,726,800 tons in February, compared with 5,557,800 tons in January, 1927.

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

Districts.	Total Number of Wage Earners on Colliery Books at		Average Number of Days worked per Week by the Mines.*	
	26th Feb., 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month before.	Fort-night ended 26th Feb., 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month before.
Cleveland ...	2,745	+ 3.8	5.55	+ 0.44
Cumberland and Lancashire ...	2,077	+ 15.8	6.00	+ 0.29
Other Districts ...	1,010	+ 9.5	5.75	+ 0.78
ALL DISTRICTS	5,832	+ 8.8	5.74	+ 0.45

* 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 February, 1927.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Total Percentages as compared with a	
	Wholly Unemployed (incl. Casuals).	Temporary stoppages.	Total.	Month before.	Year before.
ENGLAND AND WALES:					
Northumberland ...	10.8	0.6	11.4	- 2.9	+ 2.4
Durham ...	20.4	4.3	24.7	+ 0.7	+ 7.7
Cumberland and Westmorland ...	5.7	1.0	6.7	- 2.2	- 6.5
Yorkshire ...	3.4	13.7	17.1	+ 6.5	+ 14.6
Lancs. and Cheshire ...	6.9	2.8	9.7	- 1.6	- 1.2
Derbyshire ...	2.6	2.0	4.6	+ 0.4	+ 3.5
Notts and Leicester ...	1.8	6.5	8.3	+ 4.3	+ 6.1
Warwick ...	2.9	0.0	2.9	- 0.7	+ 1.6
Staffs, Worcester and Salop ...	4.7	0.8	5.5	- 0.6	- 0.7
Glouc. and Somerset ...	10.1	0.6	10.7	- 2.0	- 1.4
Kent ...	3.8	16.8	20.6	+ 16.6	+ 16.3
Wales and Monmouth ...	17.6	6.4	24.0	- 3.5	+ 10.4
England and Wales ...	10.6	5.8	16.4	+ 0.1	+ 7.0
SCOTLAND ...	13.5	0.8	14.3	- 2.4	+ 3.4
GREAT BRITAIN	11.0	5.1	16.1	- 0.2	+ 6.5

IRON AND SHALE MINING.

IRON MINING. IN all districts during February there was considerable further improvement in the number of workpeople employed and in the number of days worked per week. The improvement in numbers employed was particularly marked in Cumberland and Lancashire. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed in the iron ore and ironstone mining industry, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 12.9 at 21st February, 1927, as compared with 20.8 at 24th January, 1927, and 18.7 at 22nd February, 1926.

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

Districts.	Number of Workpeople employed at Mines included in the Returns.		Average No. of Days worked per week by the Mines.*		
	Fort-night ended 26th Feb., 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month before.	Fort-night ended 26th Feb., 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month before.	Year before.
			Per cent.	Days.	Days.
Cleveland ...	2,745	+ 3.8	+ 22.3	5.55	+ 0.44
Cumberland and Lancashire ...	2,077	+ 15.8	- 7.4	6.00	+ 0.29
Other Districts ...	1,010	+ 9.5	- 25.0	5.75	+ 0.78
ALL DISTRICTS	5,832	+ 8.8	- 0.0	5.74	+ 0.45

SHALE MINING.

According to the returns received 2,740 workpeople were employed during the fortnight ended 26th February, 1927, a decrease of 0.9 per cent. compared with the previous month, but an increase of 4.8 per cent. compared with February, 1926. The average number of days* worked per week by the mines from which returns were received was 5.90 in February, 1927, compared with 5.77 in January, 1927, and 5.75 in February, 1926.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT showed a further improvement during February. According to returns received by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, 162 furnaces were in operation at the end of February, compared with 152 at the end of January and 146 at the end of February, 1926.

Returns received from 79 firms, employing 19,087 workpeople, at the end of February showed an increase of 6.7 per cent. compared with January, and of 7.9 per cent. compared with February, 1926.

* See footnote * in previous column.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 15.8 on 21st February, 1927, compared with 20.3 on 24th January, 1927, and with 17.3 on 22nd February, 1926.

The following table shows the number of furnaces in operation at the end of February, 1927, January, 1927, and February, 1926:—

District.	Total Number of Furnaces.	Number of Furnaces in Blast.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Feb., 1927.	Jan., 1927.	Feb., 1926.	Month before.	Year before.
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
Durham and Cleveland	107	44	43	37	+ 1	+ 7
Cumberland and W. Lancs.	45	15	15	12	+ 1	+ 3
Parts of Lancs and Yorks (including Sheffield)	34	15	13	14	+ 2	+ 1
Derby, Leicester, Notts. and Northants.	69	27	25	33	+ 2	- 6
Lincolnshire	23	14	14	13	...	+ 1
Staffs, Shropshire, Worcester and Warwick.	55	15	15	10	...	+ 5
South Wales	33	8	7	8	+ 1	...
Total, England and Wales	366	138	132	127	+ 6	+ 11
Scotland...	98	24	20	19	+ 4	+ 5
Total	464	162	152	146	+ 10	+ 16

The production of pig iron in February amounted to 567,900 tons, as compared with 434,600 tons in January, 1927, and 502,000 tons in February, 1926.

IRON AND STEEL MANUFACTURE.

EMPLOYMENT in February, though continuing slack on the whole, showed an improvement as compared with the previous month, and was better than a year before.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the number of unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 16.9 on 21st February, 1927, as compared with 20.4 on 24th January, 1927, and 20.8 on 22nd February, 1926.

According to returns received from firms employing 73,904 workpeople in the week ended 26th February, 1927, the volume of employment in that week (as indicated by the number of workpeople employed, combined with the number of shifts during which work was carried on in each department) increased by 1.7 per cent. as compared with January, and by 1.0 per cent. as compared with a year before. The average number of shifts* during which the works were open was 5.5 in February, 1927, as compared with 5.4 in January, 1927, and February, 1926.

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

DEPARTMENTS.	No. of Workpeople employed by firms making returns.		Aggregate number of Shifts.*		Per cent.		Per cent.	
	Week ended 26th Feb., 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	Week ended 26th Feb., 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	Month before.	Year before.	Month before.	Year before.
Open Hearth Melting Furnaces	8,638	+ 6.4	49,760	+ 5.7	+ 0.3	+ 0.3	+ 0.3	+ 0.3
Puddling Forges	3,277	+ 5.5	14,730	+ 8.6	+ 10.8	+ 16.5	+ 16.5	+ 16.5
Rolling Mills	27,299	- 0.3	141,904	+ 0.6	- 0.3	+ 1.7	+ 1.7	+ 1.7
Forging and Pressing	3,492	+ 6.0	18,271	+ 3.9	+ 2.0	+ 3.0	+ 3.0	+ 3.0
Founding	8,026	+ 1.2	46,572	+ 1.7	+ 3.0	+ 3.6	+ 3.6	+ 3.6
Other Departments	8,308	+ 4.7	46,703	+ 4.6	+ 4.9	+ 5.3	+ 5.3	+ 5.3
Mechanics, Labourers	14,864	+ 0.7	85,174	+ 1.2	- 5.5	- 5.8	- 5.8	- 5.8
TOTAL	73,904	+ 1.4	403,114	+ 1.7	+ 0.1	+ 1.0	+ 1.0	+ 1.0
DISTRICTS.								
Northumberland, Durham and Cleveland	16,998	+ 6.4	95,831	+ 6.0	+ 7.3	+ 7.5	+ 7.5	+ 7.5
Sheffield and Rotherham	19,319	+ 0.6	104,119	+ 0.7	+ 1.4	+ 3.7	+ 3.7	+ 3.7
Leeds, Bradford, etc.	2,121	+ 18.6	11,610	+ 17.7	- 11.4	- 10.6	- 10.6	- 10.6
Cumberland, Lancs. and Cheshire	7,634	+ 3.1	39,394	+ 2.8	+ 7.9	+ 7.6	+ 7.6	+ 7.6
Staffordshire	5,366	+ 7.0	28,829	+ 4.8	- 11.5	- 10.9	- 10.9	- 10.9
Other Midland Counties	3,466	+ 5.6	19,225	+ 4.5	- 9.5	- 8.2	- 8.2	- 8.2
Wales and Monmouth	6,771	+ 3.9	37,399	+ 5.8	- 16.6	- 16.7	- 16.7	- 16.7
Total, England and Wales	61,675	+ 2.2	336,407	+ 2.6	- 1.1	- 0.3	- 0.3	- 0.3
Scotland	12,229	- 2.6	66,707	- 2.9	+ 6.3	+ 7.9	+ 7.9	+ 7.9
TOTAL	73,904	+ 1.4	403,114	+ 1.7	+ 0.1	+ 1.0	+ 1.0	+ 1.0

The production of steel ingots and castings, as shown in returns received by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, amounted to 819,100 tons in February, 1927, as compared with 730,700 tons in January, 1927, and 703,800 tons in February, 1926.

* The figures relate to the number of shifts during which the works were in operation, taken in conjunction with 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. Works closed are omitted in computing the number of shifts.

TINPLATE AND STEEL SHEET TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in February was good and showed a further improvement; it was better than in February, 1926. At the end of February, 1927, 560 tinplate and steel sheet mills were in operation at the works for which information is available, compared with 541 in January, and with 520 a year ago. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 7.0 on 21st February, 1927, as compared with 8.7 on 24th January, 1927, and with 10.4 on 22nd February, 1926.

The following Table shows the number of mills in operation at the works covered by the returns received:—

Works.	Number of Works Open		Number of Mills in Operation		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
	At end of Feb., 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before.	At end of Feb., 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before.	Year before.	Year before.
Tinplate	76	+ 2	424	+ 11*	+ 25	+ 25
Steel Sheet	13	...	136	+ 8	+ 15	+ 15
TOTAL	89	+ 2	560	+ 15*	+ 40	+ 40

The exports of tinned and galvanised plates and sheets in February, 1927, amounted to 89,366 tons, or 2,702 tons less than in January, 1927, and 26,899 tons less than in February, 1926.

ENGINEERING.

EMPLOYMENT during February continued to improve in all parts of the country but was still affected to some extent by shortage of raw materials. In London, the Midlands and the South employment was fair to moderate, but in other parts of the country it continued bad. In marine engineering, employment remained very bad. Better time was worked in the railway engineering section; but in the textile engineering section much short time was in operation. In the electrical and motor vehicle sections employment continued fair. Compared with a year before, employment was not quite so good in England and Wales but in Scotland was better.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed:—

Divisions.	Number of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 21st February, 1927.						Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	
	Engineering, Iron and Steel Founding.	Electrical Engineering.	Marine Engineering, etc.	Constructional Engineering.	Construction and Repair of Motor Vehicles, Cycles, and Aircraft.	TOTAL.	Month before.	Year before.
London	5,548	524	101	164	2,065	8,402	- 809	- 756
South-Eastern	2,473	277	130	88	1,244	4,212	- 39	- 482
South-Western	2,193	105	387	68	1,199	3,932	- 603	- 536
Midlands	7,629	1,401	37	656	8,059	17,788	- 3,057	- 3,171
North-Eastern	22,832	6,669	6,653	1,295	1,000	32,449	- 3,803	+ 1,416
North-Western	22,095	1,661	156	198	1,795	25,905	- 1,834	+ 1,873
Scotland	12,435	303	3,294	1,230	948	18,210	- 3,741	- 4,223
Wales	1,062	29	36	131	178	1,436	- 542	+ 110
Northern Ireland	1,576	20	2,164	5	204	3,969	- 86	- 118
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND	77,843	4,995	12,958	3,835	16,692	116,323	- 14,586	+ 2,491
Percentages Unemployed at 21st February, 1927.								
London	6.6	4.6	15.8	5.6	5.8	6.2	- 0.6	- 0.6
South-Eastern	5.8	3.2	3.9	13.8	4.7	5.2	- 0.1	+ 0.5
South-Western	6.2	3.3	6.1	8.8	5.1	5.7	- 0.9	+ 0.6
Midlands	8.4	6.0	2.4	10.2	8.6	8.2	- 1.4	+ 1.5
North-Eastern	18.3	8.4	30.6	16.9	8.8	18.7	- 2.2	+ 1.1
North-Western	15.8	8.9	12.1	8.0	9.3	14.3	- 1.0	+ 1.1
Scotland	14.7	10.2	18.6	21.5	9.5	15.0	- 3.1	- 3.2
Wales	15.5	7.8	17.1	17.0	9.3	14.2	- 5.4	+ 1.6
Northern Ireland	21.6	8.7	39.4	12.5	11.6	26.8	- 0.5	- 0.4
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND	12.6	6.5	22.2	14.0	7.5	11.6	- 1.5	+ 0.3
<i>Ditto, Jan., 1927</i>	<i>14.2</i>	<i>6.8</i>	<i>24.8</i>	<i>18.0</i>	<i>8.3</i>	<i>13.1</i>	...	...
<i>Ditto, Feb., 1926</i>	<i>12.3</i>	<i>6.6</i>	<i>23.6</i>	<i>12.4</i>	<i>6.6</i>	<i>11.3</i>	...	...

On the North-East Coast employment remained very bad, but showed a further and general improvement. In Yorkshire and Lincolnshire it was still bad, but continued to improve. In Lancashire and Cheshire conditions remained bad, showing a further slight improvement on the whole; in the textile machinery section a good deal of short time was reported. In the Birmingham and Coventry district employment showed an all-round improvement, and was fair on the whole. In the Nottingham, Derby and Leicester district conditions were poor, but continued to improve.

In London and in the Eastern and Southern Counties employment was fair on the whole, and good in electrical engineering. At the Swindon railway works an improvement was shown, but short time was still reported. Employment in South Wales was bad, but showed a further improvement. In Scotland conditions were bad, but showed an improvement in nearly all sections.

* Revised figures.

SHIPBUILDING AND SHIP-REPAIRING.

EMPLOYMENT, although adversely affected by scarcity of materials, showed a marked improvement during February. The improvement, compared with a month before, was shared by all the principal districts. Compared also with a year before, there was an almost general improvement.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed at 21st February, 1927, and the increase or decrease as compared with 24th January, 1927, and with a year before:—

Divisions.	Total Number of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 21st Feb., 1927.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Percentage Unemployed at 21st Feb., 1927.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage as compared with	
		A Month before.	A Year before.		A Month before.	A Year before.
London	2,930	- 107	- 110	25.5	- 0.9	+ 1.3
South-Eastern	648	- 178	- 211	7.3	- 2.0	- 1.4
South-Western	2,539	- 186	- 1,483	10.9	- 0.8	- 5.3
Midlands	51	+ 6	22	17.0	+ 2.0	- 9.1
North-Eastern	28,420	- 2,486	- 3,273	45.2	- 5.5	- 2.1
North-Western	7,266	- 1,776	- 3,714	22.5	- 3.9	- 11.0
Scotland	21,123	- 5,348	- 4,923	35.6	- 9.0	- 4.7
Wales	3,239	- 393	- 538	30.7	- 3.7	- 4.5
Northern Ireland	5,161	- 876	- 1,438	35.4	- 6.0	- 0.1
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND	71,413	- 11,344	- 15,772	31.9	- 5.0	- 4.2

Employment on the whole remained very bad, particularly on the North-East Coast, in Scotland, and Northern Ireland. At the Welsh ports there was a further improvement on repair work in the first half of the month; subsequently some decline was reported. In London and the Southern Counties employment showed comparatively little change, but remained better on the whole than in the other districts.

WOOL TEXTILE INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT in this industry, taken as a whole, showed an improvement as compared with the previous month; there was little change in the numbers totally unemployed, but the numbers on short time and temporarily stopped were considerably below the level of a month ago.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed (including those on temporary stoppages), as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 9.9 on 21st February, 1927, as compared with 12.3 on 24th January, 1927, and with 11.1 on 22nd February, 1926.

Employment in the wool-sorting and combing department showed some improvement; the merino section of the trade ran full time, but in the crossbred section much short time was still worked, although there was a slight improvement in the fine crossbred section. In the preparing section employment was still bad, but slightly better than a month earlier. About 31 per cent. of the workpeople in the sorting, combing and preparing branches of the worsted industry covered by the returns received worked short time in the week ended 26th February, with a loss of about 10½ hours each on the average. In worsted spinning there was little change, on the whole, as compared with the previous month; about 32 per cent. of the spinners covered by the returns received lost about nine hours each, on an average, in short-time working during the week ended 26th February.

In worsted weaving there was a slight reduction in the amount of short-time working in the majority of centres. The returns received from employers for the week ended 26th February showed that about 18 per cent. of the weavers worked short time, with a loss, on the average, of about 9* hours each.

In the woollen section employment continued slack on the whole; with spinners there was a slight improvement, but in other sections there was generally little change as compared with January. In the spinning section about 31 per cent. of the operatives covered by the employers' returns worked short time in the week ended 26th February, with a loss on the average of about 11½ hours each; the corresponding figures for the weaving section were 32 per cent. and 11* hours. On the other hand, over 10 per cent. of the spinners were on overtime to the extent of 10 hours each on the average, while nearly 5 per cent. of the weavers worked on an average 6 hours per week overtime.

In the Huddersfield and Colne Valley area a further slight improvement was reported, and a few firms were working overtime or night shifts. In the Heavy Woollen District of Dewsbury and Batley, short time was more general than a month earlier. At Leeds there was an improvement, on the whole, but in the low woollen trade of Leeds and Morley employment declined; in the Yeaton district it was still fairly good. Woollen workers in the Stockport district continued to be well employed. In the blanket manufacturing trade of the Heavy Woollen District employment showed a further decline, but at Witney employment continued good.

With flannel workers employment was reported as fair at Rochdale;

* These figures do not take into account other forms of under-employment, such as "playing for warps" and tending one instead of two looms.

in the Saddleworth district it was only moderate and rather worse than in January.

In Scotland employment in the tweed industry in most of the principal centres continued good.

In the carpet trade there was a slight improvement as compared with a month earlier. At Kidderminster employment was reported as good and as better than a month and a year before. Full-time working was maintained at Sowerby Bridge, and an improvement was reported in the Spen Valley, but at Dewsbury short time was general, and a slight decline was reported at Brighouse.

The following Table summarises the returns received from employers:—

Departments :	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 26th Feb., 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a month before.	Index figure, (Jan., 1926 = 100.)	Week ended 26th Feb., 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a month before.	Index figure, (Jan., 1926 = 100.)
WORSTED SECTION :						
Wool Sorting and Combing	11,164	+ 1.4	100.8	28,328	+ 5.1	98.7
Spinning	42,867	- 0.6	97.2	65,796	- 1.1	95.2
Weaving	21,500	- 1.6	97.4	44,149	+ 0.5	97.4
Other Depts.	12,456	- 1.6	99.1	29,332	- 2.0	95.0
Not specified	1,993	+ 0.1	106.9	4,377	+ 5.6	114.7
Total—Worsted	89,980	- 0.7	98.1	171,982	+ 0.3	96.6
WOOLLEN SECTION :						
Wool Sorting and Combing	1,140	- 2.2	97.4	2,670	- 1.7	102.3
Spinning	14,775	+ 0.2	97.3	31,283	+ 1.6	104.5
Weaving	26,449	- 0.8	101.1	48,382	- 0.4	104.9
Other Depts.	19,225	- 0.9	97.8	43,639	- 1.9	100.1
Not specified	2,727	- 0.8	99.4	5,953	+ 0.2	103.6
Total—Woollen	64,317	- 0.6	99.2	131,927	- 0.1	103.1
CARPET SECTION	9,343	- 1.3	97.8	16,853	+ 1.8	81.7
Total—Wool Textile Industry	163,640	- 0.7	98.2	320,7		

purpose of the foregoing Table (excluding the carpet section), as compared with the numbers employed by the same firms in the week ended 29th January:—

Department.	Percentage Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in numbers employed as compared with the previous month. (... signifies "no change"; —, without a figure, signifies "no workpeople returned.")				
	Wool Sorting and Combing.	Spinning.	Weaving.	Other Depts.	All Depts. (including not specified.)
WORSTED SECTION:					
Bradford ...	+ 1.9	- 0.2	- 0.6	- 0.4	+ 0.1
Huddersfield ...	- 0.3	- 4.0	- 4.0	- 0.8	- 2.8
Halifax ...	- 4.5	- 0.8	- 4.9	- 5.4	- 1.7
Leeds ...	+ 5.2	+ 0.2	+ 0.4	- 5.2	- 0.5
Keighley ...	- 1.4	+ 0.4	- 2.5	- 2.6	- 0.8
Heavy Woollen (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.) ...	- 2.0	- 1.3	- 7.0	- 1.5	- 1.4
Total, West Riding	+ 1.4	- 0.5	- 1.6	- 1.9	- 0.7
West of England and Midlands	+ 4.6	- 1.6	- 2.4	+ 0.2	- 0.7
Lancashire ...	- 0.7	- 0.7	- 2.4	- 2.4	- 0.3
Scotland ...	- 3.7	- 2.0	-	-	- 2.3
TOTAL	+ 1.4	- 0.6	- 1.6	- 1.6	- 0.7
WOOLEN SECTION:					
Huddersfield ...	- 1.6	+ 0.3	- 3.4	+ 1.4	- 1.1
Heavy Woollen (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.) ...	- 6.0	+ 0.3	- 3.3	- 0.9	- 1.5
Leeds ...	+ 2.6	+ 6.1	+ 4.3	- 0.2	+ 3.4
Halifax and Calder Vale	- 11.8	- 4.3	- 3.2	- 2.9	- 3.5
Bradford ...	- 4.0	- 3.3	+ 1.5	+ 3.1	+ 0.9
Total, West Riding	- 4.3	+ 1.1	- 1.1	- 0.1	- 0.3
Lancashire ...	- 1.2	- 0.5	- 3.5	- 2.8	- 2.3
West of England and Midlands	+ 1.7	- 1.7	- 1.6	- 3.3	- 2.1
Scotland ...	- 1.4	- 1.3	+ 1.0	- 1.2	- 0.5
Wales ...	+ 7.7	+ 2.3	+ 18.1	- 7.2	+ 5.8
TOTAL	- 2.2	+ 0.2	- 0.8	- 0.9	- 0.6

The following Table shows the number of men and of women (other than casuals) on the registers of Employment Exchanges in the principal wool textile trade centres at 21st February, 1927:—

Department.	Numbers (excluding Casuals) on the Register at 21st February, 1927.						
	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.			Total.
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	
Wool Sorting ...	105	3	108	62	1	63	171
Wool Washing and Preparing ...	258	154	412	455	427	882	1,304
Wool Combing ...	152	89	241	312	265	577	818
Wool Carding ...	394	46	440	552	128	690	1,130
Woolen Spinning ...	329	70	399	407	205	612	1,011
Worsted Drawing and Spinning ...	304	553	857	224	1,583	1,807	2,664
Wool Winding and Warping ...	83	22	105	177	135	312	417
Worsted Winding and Warping ...	46	81	127	81	496	577	704
Woolen Weaving ...	127	298	425	182	2,469	2,651	3,076
Worsted Weaving ...	93	234	327	89	1,012	1,101	1,428
Other Processes ...	682	51	733	999	183	1,182	1,915
TOTAL	2,583	1,601	4,184	3,550	6,904	10,454	14,638

The following Table shows the increases and decreases as compared with the 24th January, 1927:—

Department.	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.			Total.
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	
Wool Sorting ...	- 70	- 2	- 72	- 199	-	- 199	- 271
Wool Washing and Preparing ...	- 36	+ 4	- 32	- 218	+ 11	- 149	- 151
Wool Combing ...	- 35	- 13	- 48	- 141	- 50	- 191	- 235
Wool Carding ...	- 17	- 11	- 28	- 111	- 56	- 167	- 195
Woolen Spinning ...	- 11	- 41	- 52	- 202	- 951	- 1,153	- 1,205
Worsted Drawing and Spinning ...	- 6	- 5	- 11	- 62	- 64	- 126	- 137
Wool Winding and Warping ...	- 12	- 10	- 22	- 98	- 220	- 318	- 340
Woolen Weaving ...	- 42	- 33	- 75	- 143	- 567	- 710	- 785
Worsted Weaving ...	- 11	- 94	- 105	- 43	- 272	- 315	- 420
Other Processes ...	- 14	- 7	- 21	- 210	- 43	- 253	- 274
TOTAL	- 250	- 214	- 464	- 1,587	- 2,298	- 3,885	- 4,349

The imports, less re-exports of raw wool (sheep's or lambs') were 67,184,800 lbs. in February, 1927, compared with 80,064,000 lbs. in January, 1927, and 68,498,700 lbs. in February, 1926.

The exports of woollen and worsted yarns were 2,915,500 lbs., compared with 3,356,500 lbs. in January, 1927, and with 2,180,400 lbs. in February, 1926.

The exports of woollen and worsted tissues were 14,982,300 square yards, compared with 15,906,600 square yards in January, 1927, and 15,817,300 square yards in February, 1926.

The exports of blankets were 97,020 pairs, 91,009 pairs and 136,421 pairs in February, 1927, January, 1927, and February, 1926.

COTTON INDUSTRY.

THERE was a further improvement in this industry, especially in the weaving department, during February. A number of mills which had been closed for long periods were restarted during the month, and many firms were reported to have substantial orders on hand. Employment was, however, seriously affected by the influenza epidemic.

In the American spinning section it was estimated that the machinery ran to the extent of from 70 to 80 per cent. of full capacity during the month. In the Egyptian spinning section, practically full time running continued. In the weaving department the improvement was chiefly felt by firms supplying the Indian market; on the other hand, mills supplying the Chinese market were seriously affected by the small demand from that market.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 8.2 on 21st February, 1927, as compared with 11.3 on 24th January, 1927, and with 9.3 on 22nd February, 1926.

In the Oldham, Ashton, and Stockport districts employment in the spinning department, though still slack, was better than in the January, especially in the Ashton district. Many mills in the Oldham district also were running full time during the latter half of the month. In the manufacturing section in the Oldham district employment continued slack; operatives engaged on sheetings and fancies were well employed, but employment with velvet weavers was reported as very bad.

In the Bolton district employment showed no marked general change in any department. It was fairly good in the spinning department; in the weaving department it showed a decline on some classes of goods and an improvement on others. At Chorley and at Leigh employment with spinners was good; at Bury it was fair; it was rather better than in January at all three places. At Rochdale employment with spinners showed a further improvement; with cardroom workers it was reported as bad.

In most of the principal weaving districts employment continued to improve, but was still generally slack. At Preston, employment with some firms was very seriously affected by the small demand from China; of the firms not engaged in that trade, however, many were well employed. At Blackburn a great improvement was reported, with a reduction in the number of unemployed workers; some hundreds of workers, however, were absent from work owing to influenza. At Accrington employment showed an improvement, leading to a further absorption of unemployed operatives. At Darwen, not only were all local weavers employed, but, in addition, many were brought in from neighbouring districts. There was a marked improvement at Burnley also towards the end of the month, but at this centre there was still much under-employment, i.e., four-loom weavers with two or three looms, and six-loom weavers with four or five looms running. These, however, were gradually being filled up. At Padiham employment was fair, and better than in January. In the Rossendale Valley there was an improvement in the first half of the month, but employment declined in the second half. At Great Harwood all the mills were running full time; there was also an improvement at Nelson, nearly all the weavers, winders, twisters, and beamers unemployed having been absorbed.

At Todmorden intermittent working has been reduced; full-time working was still exceptional, and there was much "playing for yarn," but several firms were able to work four or five days a week. Elsewhere in Yorkshire a slight improvement was reported; all firms at Hebden Bridge were on full time, but at Sowerby Bridge there were still a large number of women unemployed or under-employed.

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

DEPARTMENTS.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 26th Feb. 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month Year before.		Week ended 26th Feb. 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month Year before.	
		£	Per cent.		£	Per cent.
Preparing ...	10,412	- 0.7	+ 0.6	17,761	+ 1.6	+ 1.4
Spinning ...	19,476	- 0.3	+ 2.5	34,817	- 0.8	+ 4.1
Weaving ...	31,157	- 1.8	- 3.1	54,693	+ 2.6	+ 3.0
Other ...	7,229	- 0.9	- 2.7	17,557	- 0.4	- 5.7
Not Specified ...	6,905	+ 3.0	- 4.0	13,849	- 0.8	- 4.3
TOTAL	75,179	- 0.7	- 1.2	138,377	+ 0.4	- 1.2
DISTRICTS.						
Ashton ...	4,128	+ 1.7	+ 9.1	7,531	+ 1.7	+ 14.4
Stockport, Glossop and Hyde ...	7,076	- 5.0	- 6.1	12,931	- 4.9	- 3.4
Oldham ...	8,373	+ 0.6	+ 4.8	16,222	- 3.0	+ 3.7
Bolton and Leigh ...	11,246	- 0.1	+ 1.0	20,198	+ 0.3	+ 0.5
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Walsden and Todmorden ...	7,844	+ 0.4	- 2.4	13,372	- 0.4	- 2.9
Manchester ...	4,529	- 10.4	- 5.1	7,647	- 6.0	- 4.6
Preston and Chorley ...	6,193	- 1.7	- 5.3	10,825	+ 0.6	- 1.3
Blackburn, Accrington and Darwen ...	7,769	+ 0.5	- 0.6	15,485	+ 4.8	+ 0.3
Burnley, Padiham, Colne and Nelson ...	9,121	+ 0.1	- 4.4	18,860	+ 5.9	- 9.3
Other Lancashire Towns ...	2,422	+ 12.3	+ 7.3	3,945	+ 6.7	+ 3.0
Yorkshire Towns ...	3,895	- 1.0	- 7.7	7,130	+ 0.6	- 7.3
Other Districts ...	2,583	+ 1.6	+ 3.8	4,261	+ 2.2	+ 8.3
TOTAL	75,179	- 0.7	- 1.2	138,377	+ 0.4	- 1.2

Returns from firms employing over 74,000 workpeople in the week ended 26th February showed that about 11 per cent. of these workpeople were on short time in that week, with a loss of about 13 hours each on the average.

The following Table shows the number of men and of women (other than casuals) on the registers of Employment Exchanges in the principal centres at 21st February, 1927:—

Department.	Numbers (excluding Casuals) on the Register at 21st February, 1927.						
	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.			Total.
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	
Card and Blowing Room ...	408	1,272	1,680	645	2,712	3,357	5,037
Spinning ...	1,950	1,135	3,085	3,387	2,352	5,749	8,834
Beaming, Winding and Warping ...	434	919	1,353	1,071	4,585	5,657	7,010
Weaving ...	1,337	2,899	4,236	2,011	4,571	6,582	10,818
Other Processes ...	480	89	569	424	150	574	1,143
Total	4,609	6,314	10,923	7,538	14,381	21,919	32,842

The following Table shows the increases and decreases as compared with 24th January, 1927:—

Department.	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.			Total.
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	
Card and Blowing Room ...	- 64	- 117	- 181	- 473	- 1,029	- 1,502	- 1,683
Spinning ...	- 19	- 254	- 273	- 542	- 1,748	- 2,290	- 2,563
Beaming, Winding and Warping ...	- 224	- 184	- 408	- 579	- 1,581	- 2,160	- 2,568
Weaving ...	- 905	- 989	- 1,894	- 1,338	- 5,448	- 6,786	- 8,680
Other Processes ...	- 74	+ 11	- 63	- 108	- 100	- 208	- 271
Total	- 1,286	- 1,533	- 2,819	- 3,040	- 9,906	- 12,946	- 15,765

The imports (less re-exports) of raw cotton (including cotton linters) were 164,088,000 lbs. in February, 1927, compared with 227,320,400 lbs. in January, 1927, and with 131,230,000 lbs. in February, 1926.

The exports of cotton yarn were 14,259,400 lbs. in February, 1927, compared with 15,906,100 lbs. in January, 1927, and with 15,652,100 lbs. in February, 1926.

The exports of cotton piece goods were 298,754,100 square yards, as compared with 322,344,800 square yards in the previous month, and with 366,409,600 square yards in February, 1926.

BOOT AND SHOE INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT showed an improvement in all the departments, and in most of the principal centres, of the boot and shoe industry, but was still only moderate for the time of year. Short time was very prevalent, and the majority of factories were still producing below their full capacity. The position varied greatly from firm to firm, some being on full time, while others were very slack. The heavy boot trade in particular was still, speaking generally, poorly employed.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 8.5 on 21st February, 1927, as compared with 9.8 on 24th January, 1927, and with 7.7 on 22nd February, 1926.

Employment in London showed a further improvement, and was fairly good with some firms. There was an improvement at Leicester particularly with women workers, good machinists being in demand; short time still continued, but to a less extent than in January. At Hinkley, employment was still quiet, but better than in January. There was little change at Northampton, and employment was only moderate; between 36 and 37 per cent. of the workpeople were on short time, losing nearly 13 hours a week on the average. Employment at Higham and Rushden improved, and was fair. At Wellingborough it remained quiet; some, especially of the older workers in the lasting and finishing departments, were still out of employment, and short time was still worked to a considerable extent. Employment at Kettering and Desborough was fair on the whole, and showed an improvement; though a considerable number of workers remained totally unemployed. At Irthlingborough employment remained fairly good.

Employment at Stafford showed an improvement, and was good; though some firms were still working short time. At Norwich, short time and unemployment were still prevalent; some firms were fairly well employed, but only a few were working to full capacity. At Bristol there was some improvement, particularly in the light shoe trade, though short time was still worked by a number of firms. At Kingswood employment remained poor, short time being very prevalent. Employment at Street was fairly good. At Leeds employment showed little change, and was only moderate. There was a further marked seasonal improvement in the slipper trade at Bacup and at Bury; but at Rawtenstall employment was poor for the time of year.

Employment was very quiet, and showed a decline, at all the principal Scottish centres; one-third of the operatives covered by the returns from employers were on short time, losing 19 hours a week on the average.

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

Department.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 26th Feb. 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month Year before.		Week ended 26th Feb. 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month Year before.*	
		Per cent.	Per cent.		£	Per cent.
England and Wales:—						
London ...	2,073	+ 5.0	- 8.3	4,860	+ 8.1	- 8.3
Leicester ...	9,016	+ 2.6	- 4.0	24,213	+ 7.0	- 7.4
Leicester Country District ...	1,688	-	+ 2.4	3,873	+ 4.8	+ 2.4
Northampton ...	6,405	+ 1.2	+ 1.1	15,481	+ 2.4	- 3.8
Northampton Country District ...	7,890	+ 0.9	- 3.0	18,376	+ 3.0	+ 1.3
Kettering ...	3,571	+ 0.6	+ 1.8	9,470	+ 6.1	+ 3.0
Stafford and District ...	2,611	- 2.0	+ 3.9	5,474	+ 7.5	- 5.1
Norwich and District ...	3,938	- 1.3	+ 4.9	8,395	- 5.1	- 1.0
Bristol, Kingswood and District ...	1,721	+ 1.0	- 0.8	2,967	+ 3.4	- 5.0
Leeds and District ...	1,918	- 0.9	- 0.5	4,270	- 0.8	- 0.4
Lancashire (mainly Rossendale Valley) ...	4,783	+ 3.1	- 4.5	10,481	+ 11.7	- 3.9
Birmingham and District ...	1,008	- 2.9	- 4.7	1,925	- 2.9	- 10.8
Other parts of England and Wales ...	1,952	- 0.8	+ 1.3	3,834	- 0.2	- 0.8
England and Wales	48,574	+ 1.0	- 1.3	113,620	+ 4.2	- 3.1
Scotland ...	2,505	+ 0.1				

BUILDING TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT during February showed a general improvement; it was fairly good in most districts with skilled operatives other than painters, and moderate, on the whole, with unskilled workers. Bad weather conditions hampered outside work and caused an appreciable amount of lost time. Employment was better than in February, 1926, in Scotland and Northern Ireland, but was not so good, on the whole, in England and Wales.

As regards individual occupations, employment improved with bricklayers, and was good in most districts; it was also generally good with plasterers, and a shortage of these classes of operatives was reported from a few centres. Employment was somewhat better with carpenters and masons, and was fair, on the whole, with the former and moderate with the latter. Some improvement occurred with painters, but employment was generally very slack; it also improved with slaters, and was fairly good; it remained generally quiet with plumbers. Employment was moderate, on the whole, with tradesmen's labourers.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts who were unemployed at 21st February, 1927, together with the increase or decrease in the percentages as compared with the previous month and with February, 1926:—

Occupations.	Estimated Number of Insured Workpeople at July, 1926.	Total Number Unemployed at 21st Feb., 1927.	Number included in previous Column who were Temporarily Stopped.	Percentage Unemployed.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage as compared with a	
					Month before.	Year before.
OCCUPATIONS.						
Carpenters ...	126,450	9,253	403	7.3	- 1.3	+ 1.3
Bricklayers ...	72,150	3,393	195	4.7	- 2.5	+ 1.9
Masons ...	25,240	2,162	180	8.6	- 2.4	+ 1.7
Slaters ...	5,710	312	26	5.5	- 5.1	- 2.5
Plasterers ...	19,720	949	37	4.8	- 0.2	+ 2.5
Painters ...	112,930	24,866	536	22.0	- 7.3	+ 1.7
Plumbers ...	31,860	2,939	130	9.2	- 0.4	+ 2.7
Labourers to above ...	245,860	33,589	1,028	13.7	- 2.2	+ 0.3
All other occupations ...	161,110	24,005	866	14.9	- 1.4	+ 0.9
Total ...	801,040	101,473	3,399	12.7	- 2.5	+ 1.0
DIVISIONS.						
London ...	162,020	21,339	21	13.2	- 1.7	+ 0.8
South-Eastern ...	123,470	8,352	44	6.8	- 1.5	+ 0.2
South-Western ...	98,750	9,037	76	9.2	- 2.0	+ 0.1
Midlands ...	91,230	10,578	847	11.6	- 2.6	+ 2.0
North-Eastern ...	103,190	17,309	1,012	16.8	- 2.9	+ 2.6
North-Western ...	104,350	15,238	841	14.6	- 3.2	+ 1.7
Scotland ...	73,690	9,468	259	12.8	- 4.5	- 2.1
Wales ...	29,310	5,647	295	19.3	- 2.9	+ 5.4
Northern Ireland ...	15,030	4,505	4	30.0	- 5.1	- 4.4
Great Britain and Northern Ireland ...	801,040	101,473	3,399	12.7	- 2.5	+ 1.0

BUILDING PLANS APPROVED.

Returns from Local Authorities in 140 of the principal urban areas in Great Britain (except the London County Council area), with a total population of 15,667,000, show that in February, 1927, plans were passed for buildings of an estimated cost of £6,019,300 as compared with £4,664,800 in January, 1927, and £6,084,400 in February, 1926. Of the total for February, 1927, dwelling-houses accounted for £4,423,200; factories and workshops for £298,400; shops, offices, warehouses and other business premises for £552,500; and other buildings, and additions and alterations to existing buildings, for £745,200.

BRICK TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT during February was good on the whole. 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, was 7.3 at 21st February, 1927, as compared with 8.8 at 24th January, 1927, and 7.5 at 22nd February, 1926.

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

Districts.	Number of Workpeople.		Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		Per cent.	
	Week ended 26th Feb., 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before.	Week ended 26th Feb., 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before.	£	Per cent.
Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire.	2,012	- 0.7	+ 2.8	5,188	+ 4.3	+ 0.7
Midlands and Eastern Counties.	5,296	- 0.2	- 2.1	14,813	+ 5.5	- 1.0
South and South-West Counties and Wales.	1,573	- 0.6	- 4.6	3,798	+ 0.6	- 10.3
Scotland ...	167	- 0.6	- 8.7	432	- 8.5	- 10.7
TOTAL ...	9,048	- 0.2	- 1.6	24,231	+ 4.1	- 2.4

PAPER MANUFACTURE, PRINTING, AND BOOKBINDING.

EMPLOYMENT was again fairly good in the paper trade, full time being worked at most centres covered by the reports; an improvement on the previous month was reported at several centres.

With letterpress printers employment in the principal towns was generally reported as slack or moderate, but as slightly better than in January. At Edinburgh, however, employment showed a decline and it was again reported as bad at Liverpool. It was reported as good at Manchester, Derby, and Leicester. With electrotypers and stereotypers employment was good, and somewhat better than in the previous month.

With lithographic printers employment generally remained moderate, although some improvement took place in London; at Manchester, Liverpool and Edinburgh employment was reported as bad. With lithographic artists, etc., employment was fair on the whole, though bad at Manchester.

In the bookbinding trade employment was only moderate on the whole, and showed a decline as compared with the previous month.

The percentage unemployed among insured workpeople in the printing and bookbinding trades covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts was 5.7 at 21st February, compared with 6.0 at 24th January and 4.7 at 22nd February, 1926. In the paper and paper-board trade, the percentage was 6.1 at 21st February, compared with 5.2 at 24th January and 5.1 at 22nd February, 1926. In the cardboard-box, paper bag and stationery trades, the percentage was 5.9 at 21st February, compared with 6.3 at 24th January and 5.7 at 22nd February, 1926.

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

Period.	No. of Members of Unions at end of February, 1927.			Percentage Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on a	
	Feb., 1927.	Jan., 1927.	Feb., 1926.	Feb., 1927.	Jan., 1927.	Feb., 1926.	Month before.	Year before.
Letterpress Printing:								
London ...	41,685	6.7	7.2	2.6	- 0.5	+ 4.1		
Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire.	17,520	5.2	5.7	3.0	- 0.5	+ 2.2		
Midlands and Eastern Counties.	12,174	2.6	2.9	2.1	- 0.3	+ 0.5		
Scotland ...	7,358	6.0	6.0	3.0	...	+ 3.0		
Other Districts ...	11,306	3.6	3.1	2.5	+ 0.5	+ 1.1		
Total ...	90,043	5.4	5.6	2.6	- 0.2	+ 2.8		
Lithographic Printing	10,633	4.0	5.2	2.9	- 1.2	+ 1.1		
Bookbinding ...	21,751	4.5	4.0	4.3	+ 0.5	+ 0.2		

POTTERY INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT in North Staffordshire showed a further slight improvement in the better-class earthenware and china sections. At Worcester employment was good; at Derby it was fairly good; at Bristol it was fair; in the stoneware section in Scotland it was reported to be slack.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 15.2 at 21st February, 1927, as compared with 16.5 at 24th January, 1927, and with 15.7 at 22nd February, 1926.

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.		Per cent.	
	Week ended 26th Feb., 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before.	Week ended 26th Feb., 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before.	£	Per cent.
China Manufacture ...	1,317	+ 0.2	- 6.1	2,677	+ 1.1	+ 1.8
Earthenware Manufacture ...	7,939	- 0.4	- 4.6	14,667	- 2.7	- 3.7
Other Branches (including unspecified) ...	1,809	- 1.4	+ 0.7	3,467	- 1.2	+ 0.5
TOTAL ...	11,115	- 0.5	- 3.9	20,811	- 2.0	- 2.3
DISTRICTS.						
North Staffordshire ...	8,358	- 0.5	- 4.3	14,677	- 3.0	- 3.2
Other Districts ...	2,747	- 0.5	- 2.8	6,134	+ 0.6	- 0.5
TOTAL ...	11,115	- 0.5	- 3.9	20,811	- 2.0	- 2.3

Returns from employers relative to short-time working showed that, of 9,879 workpeople employed by firms making returns, 3,140, or 32 per cent., were working on an average about 11 hours less than full time in the week ended 26th February, 1927.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

EMPLOYMENT during February remained moderate. There was again some improvement at certain ports; but taking the country as a whole there was practically no change.

Among insured workpeople in the canal, river, dock and harbour service, 26.8 per cent. were unemployed at 21st February, 1927, as compared with 26.9 per cent. at 24th January, 1927, and with 27.7 per cent. at 22nd February, 1926.

London.—Employment was reported as fair generally, though slightly below the level of the preceding month. 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 Feb., 1927 ...	4,408	2,053	6,461	7,627	14,088
12th " ...	4,555	2,704	7,259	7,835	15,095
19th " ...	4,087	1,588	5,675	7,779	13,454
26th " ...	4,481	3,185	7,666	8,293	15,959
Average for 4 weeks ended 26th Feb., 1927 ...	4,383	2,382	6,765	7,884	14,649
Average for Jan., 1927 ...	4,763	2,239	7,002	7,720	14,722
Average for Feb., 1926 ...	4,712	2,283	6,995	8,124	15,119

Tilbury.—The average daily number of dock labourers employed during February was 986, compared with 1,109 in January, and with 1,078 in February, 1926.

East Coast.—Employment at the North-East Coast ports was good with coal trimmers and teamers; with other classes of dock workers it was fair on the Tyne and at Middlesbrough, slack at Blyth and moderate on the Wear. On the Humber employment was moderate on the whole. At the East Anglian ports it continued moderate on the average, but an improvement was reported from Ipswich.

Liverpool.—Employment remained generally fair. The average weekly number of dock labourers registered at the clearing houses under the Liverpool Docks Scheme as employed in the four weeks ended 25th February was 15,734, compared with 15,635 in January, and with 16,689 in February, 1926. The average weekly amount of wages paid to these men through the clearing houses was £43,003 in the four weeks ended 25th February, compared with £43,232 in January, and £48,294 in February, 1926.

Other Ports in England and Wales.—At the South Wales ports employment showed a marked improvement and was fairly good, but at Gloucester and Sharpness there was a decline and work was slack. It remained fair at Avonmouth and slack at Southampton, Plymouth and other South-Western ports. At Manchester it continued slack.

Scottish and Irish Ports.—Employment was good at Dundee and showed an improvement as compared with the previous month. It continued poor at Leith and Granton, and moderate at Glasgow and Grangemouth. At Belfast it had improved and was good.

SEAMEN.

DURING February employment remained moderate on the whole; the number of engagements was considerably below that for the previous month. Among insured workpeople in the shipping service, the percentage unemployed at 21st February, 1927, was 17.7, compared with 20.3 at 24th January, 1927, and 19.8 at 22nd February, 1926.

The demand for men was moderate on the Thames, and brisk on the Tyne; a slight decline occurred on both rivers towards the end of February. The demand on the Wear was slack in the first half of the month, and increased afterwards, being described as fairly brisk in the closing stages. It was poor on the Tees and very moderate on the whole at Hull. At Southampton the demand was quiet to moderate. It was quiet at Bristol and generally fair at Avonmouth. The demand was good at Newport; at Cardiff it was very good in the first half of February, but declined subsequently, being reported to be poor at the end of the month. The demand at Swansea was moderate in the first half of February and very good afterwards. On the Mersey it declined during the first half of the month, and improved later, being described as very fair. The demand was fair at Manchester; it was quiet on the Clyde, but showed some improvement in the latter part of the month. It fluctuated at Leith, and was quiet at the end of February. The demand at Belfast was very moderate.

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

Principal Ports.	Number of Seamen* shipped in			
	Feb., 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before.	Year before.	Two Months ended Feb., 1927.
ENGLAND & WALES:				
Liverpool ...	9,714	- 837	+ 478	20,265
Manchester ...	587	- 438	- 126	1,612
London ...	6,473	- 3,141	- 1,004	16,087
Southampton ...	6,068	- 2,059	- 606	14,195
Tyne Ports ...	2,239	- 498	+ 401	4,976
Sunderland ...	276	+ 39	- 41	513
Middlesbrough ...	210	- 235	- 239	655
Hull ...	1,211	- 371	- 73	2,793
Bristol ...	944	- 184	+ 267	2,072
Newport, Mon. ...	713	+ 55	- 61	1,370
Cardiff ...	2,486	- 991	- 405	5,963
Swansea ...	744	- 11	- 84	1,499
SCOTLAND:				
Leith ...	341	- 42	+ 155	724
Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth ...	230	+ 11	- 16	449
Glasgow ...	1,910	- 924	- 122	4,744
NORTHERN IRELAND:				
Belfast ...	195	- 64	+ 146	454
TOTAL for above Ports	34,341	- 9,689	- 520	78,371
				76,268

PRINCIPAL VARIATIONS IN NUMBERS OF INSURED PERSONS RECORDED AS UNEMPLOYED.

The following Table indicates for Great Britain and Northern Ireland the industries in which the numbers of insured persons recorded as unemployed at 21st February, 1927, differed from the figures for 24th January, 1927, to the extent of 1,000 or more. The Table shows the increases and decreases for males and females separately, together with the total net variation for all insured industries.

Industry.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Numbers recorded as Unemployed at 21st February, 1927, as compared with 24th January, 1927.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Building ...	- 20,428	+ 13	- 20,416
Cotton ...	- 8,372	- 12,219	- 20,591
Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing ...	- 11,367	+ 23	- 11,344
General Engineering, Engineers' Iron and Steel Founding ...	- 9,682	- 172	- 9,854
Tailoring ...	- 2,059	- 5,244	- 7,303
Steel Melting and Iron Puddling Furnaces, Iron and Steel Rolling Mills and Forges ...	- 6,747	- 28	- 6,775
Woolen and Worsted ...	- 2,705	- 3,348	- 6,053
Shipping Service ...	- 3,445	+ 44	- 3,401
Public Works Contracting, etc. ...	- 3,275	- 4	- 3,279
Linen ...	- 611	- 2,531	- 3,142
Coal Mining ...	- 2,613	- 138	- 2,751
Boot, Shoe, Slipper and Clog Trades ...	- 1,652	- 349	- 2,001
Distributive Trades ...	- 1,283	- 718	- 2,001
Railway Carriage, Wagon and Tramcar Building ...	- 1,967	- 3	- 1,970
Local Government ...	- 1,800	- 94	- 1,894
Dress and Mantle Making and Millinery ...	- 119	- 1,760	- 1,879
Construction and Repair of Motor Vehicles, Cycles, and Aircraft ...	- 1,859	- 13	- 1,872
Railway Service ...	- 1,613	- 31	- 1,644
"Other" Road Transport ...	- 1,615	+ 12	- 1,603
Marine Engineering, etc. ...	- 1,501	- 3	- 1,504
Hotel, Boarding House, Club Services ...	- 575	- 726	- 1,301
Brick, Tile, etc., Making ...	- 1,209	- 28	- 1,237
Iron Ore and Ironstone Mining and Quarrying ...	- 1,212	- 1	- 1,213
Stone Quarrying and Mining ...	- 1,140	+ 5	- 1,135
Constructional Engineering ...	- 1,106	- 7	- 1,113
Stove, Grate, Pipe, etc., and General Ironfoundry ...	- 1,108	+ 10	- 1,098
Pig Iron Manufacture (Blast Furnaces) ...	- 1,070	- 25	- 1,095
Pottery, Earthenware, etc. ...	- 879	- 127	- 1,006
Net variation for above industries	- 90,043	- 27,462	- 117,505
Total Net Variation for all insured industries ...	- 104,527	- 31,132	- 135,659

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

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED INDUSTRIES.

THE statistics here presented show, industry by industry, the estimated number of persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, the number and percentage of such persons who were unemployed on the 21st February, 1927, and the increase or decrease at that date in the total percentages unemployed compared with a month earlier, a year ago, and two years ago, respectively.

The Unemployment Insurance Acts provide, subject to certain exceptions, for the compulsory insurance against unemployment of substantially all employed persons. The principal classes of persons who are exempted from such compulsory insurance are juveniles under 16 years of age, 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 111 showing the total number of persons registered at Employment Exchanges. 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 statistics of unemployment in insured industries are presented in two separate Tables, one showing the numbers recorded as unemployed, and the other showing the estimated numbers insured and the percentages unemployed.

Each of these Tables gives an analysis of the figures, distinguishing between persons who are wholly unemployed (in the sense that they are definitely without a job) and those who are temporarily stopped or suspended from the service of an employer. The figures under the heading "temporary stoppages" include those persons recorded as unemployed on the date of the return who were either on short time or were otherwise stood off or suspended on the definite understanding that they were to return to their former employment within a period of six weeks from the date of suspension. In cases where there was no definite prospect of return within six weeks the individuals have been included in the statistics as "wholly unemployed." The only exception to this rule arises in the small number of cases where, although the expectation of resumption within the six weeks' period was not realised, a definite date for the resumption of work had nevertheless been fixed. In such cases the individuals concerned have been included under the heading "temporary stoppages." The figures given in the grand total columns in both Tables are strictly comparable with the corresponding figures published each month since July, 1923.

NUMBERS OF INSURED PERSONS RECORDED AS UNEMPLOYED AT 21ST FEBRUARY, 1927.

INDUSTRY.	GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.						GREAT BRITAIN ONLY.					
	WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED (INCLUDING CASUALS).			TEMPORARY STOPPAGES.			TOTAL.					
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.			
Fishing	4,305	126	4,431	24	19	43	4,329	145	4,474	4,290	145	4,435
Mining—	133,926	709	134,635	63,042	180	63,222	196,968	889	197,857	196,850	889	197,739
Coal Mining	1,759	...	1,759	216	1	217	1,975	1	1,976	1,965	1	1,966
Iron Ore and Ironstone Mining and Quarrying	628	3	631	63	...	63	691	3	694	691	3	694
Lead, Tin and Copper Mining	2,815	12	2,827	530	...	532	3,345	14	3,359	2,996	14	3,010
Stone Quarrying and Mining	167	...	167	7	...	7	174	...	174	173	...	173
Slate Quarrying and Mining	1,787	41	1,828	256	...	263	2,043	48	2,091	1,954	48	2,002
Other Mining and Quarrying ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Clay, Sand, Gravel and Chalk Pit Digging	767	15	782	34	9	43	801	24	825	768	24	792
Non-Metalliferous Mining Products—	1,521	8	1,529	291	...	291	1,812	8	1,820	1,811	8	1,819
Ooke Ovens and By-Product Works	1,785	56	1,841	294	6	300	2,079	62	2,141	2,065	61	2,126
Artificial Stone and Concrete Manufacture	1,025	32	1,057	121	2	123	1,146	34	1,180	1,107	34	1,141
Cement, Limekilns and Whiting Works	4,742	500	5,242	658	139	797	5,400	639	6,039	5,112	639	5,751
Brick, Tile, etc., Making	1,922	2,214	4,136	2,331	4,742	7,073	4,253	6,956	11,209	4,242	6,953	11,195
Pottery, Earthenware, etc. ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Glass Trades—	1,926	323	2,249	442	89	531	2,368	412	2,780	2,361	412	2,773
Glass (excluding Bottles and Scientific Glass) Manufacture	2,397	125	2,522	591	58	649	2,988	183	3,171	2,987	183	3,170
Glass Bottle Making ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ammunition Explosives, Chemicals, etc.—	5,333	823	6,156	596	267	863	5,929	1,090	7,019	5,851	1,085	6,936
Chemicals Manufacture	888	490	1,378	39	56	95	927	546	1,473	1,471	546	1,471
Explosives Manufacture	774	149	923	44	22	66	818	171	989	818	171	989
Paint, Varnish, Japan, Red and White Lead Manufacture	3,990	891	4,881	1,063	175	1,238	5,053	1,066	6,119	5,027	1,026	6,053
Oil, Grease, Glue, Soap, Ink, Match, etc., Manufacture ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Metal Manufacture—	3,048	19	3,067	804	1	805	3,852	20	3,872	3,848	20	3,868
Pig Iron Manufacture (Blast Furnaces)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Steel Melting and Iron Puddling Furnaces, Iron and Steel Rolling Mills and Forges	20,892	141	21,033	11,581	124	11,705	32,473	265	32,738	32,452	265	32,717
Manufacture of Brass, Copper, Zinc, Tin, Lead, etc.	3,543	225	3,768	934	51	985	4,477	276	4,753	4,456	276	4,732
Manufacture of Tin Plates	1,030	115	1,145	1,057	30	1,087	1,45	2,087	2,232	2,087	145	2,232
Iron and Steel Tube Making	2,022	94	2,116	1,341	20	1,361	3,363	114	3,477	3,362	114	3,476
Wire, Wire Netting, Wire Rope Manufacture	1,798	265	2,063	1,878	106	1,984	3,676	371	4,047	3,668	371	4,039
Engineering, etc.—	59,197	1,548	60,745	16,593	505	17,098	75,790	2,053	77,843	74,218	2,049	76,267
General Engineering: Engineers' Iron and Steel Founding	3,378	787	4,165	589	241	830	3,967	1,028	4,995	3,947	1,028	4,975
Electrical Engineering	12,243	47	12,290	661	2	663	12,909	49	12,958	10,745	49	10,794
Marine Engineering, etc.	3,413	49	3,462	365	8	373	3,778	57	3,835	3,773	57	3,830
Constructional Engineering ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Construction and Repair of Vehicles—	13,692	1,208	14,900	1,525	267	1,792	15,217	1,475	16,692	15,016	1,472	16,488
Construction and Repair of Motor Vehicles, Cycles and Aircraft	1,892	153	2,045	262	29	291	2,154	182	2,336	2,069	182	2,251
Construction and Repair of Carriages, Carts, etc.	3,317	46	3,363	1,513	7	1,520	4,830	53	4,883	4,819	53	4,872
Railway Carriage, Wagon and Tram-car Building ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

INDUSTRY.	GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.						GREAT BRITAIN ONLY.					
	WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED (INCLUDING CASUALS).			TEMPORARY STOPPAGES.			TOTAL.					
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.			
Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing	69,857	179	70,036	1,360	17	1,377	71,217	196	71,413	66,064	188	66,252
Metal Trades—	6,378	444	6,822	1,581	253	1,834	7,959	697	8,656	7,779	697	8,476
Iron Founding	1,119	27	1,146	90	1	91	1,209	28	1,237	1,178	28	1,206
Electrical Wiring and Contracting	4,061	2,495	6,556	410	629	1,039	4,471	3,124	7,595	4,455	3,124	7,579
Electrical Cable, Wire and Electric Lamp Manufacture	2,847	847	3,694	1,753	499	2,252	4,600	1,346	5,946	4,597	1,346	5,943
Hand Tool, Cutlery, Saw, File Making	1,419	905	2,324	722	296	1,018	2,141	1,201	3,342	2,141	1,201	3,342
Bolts, Nuts, Screws, Rivets, Nails, etc., Manufacture	1,807	879	2,686	421	296	717	2,228	1,175	3,403	2,217	1,175	3,392
Brass and Allied Metal Wares Manufacture	458	10	468	117	11	128	575	21	596	575	21	596
Heating and Ventilating Apparatus	2,195	1,399	3,594	790	880	1,670	2,985	2,279	5,264	2,953	2,279	5,232
Watches, Clocks, Plate, Jewellery, etc., Manufacture	8,782	5,016	13,798	2,586	2,045	4,631	11,368	7,061	18,429	11,229	7,058	18,287
Other Metal Industries ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Textile Trades—	8,048	11,770	19,818	9,406	18,501	27,907	17,454	30,271	47,725	17,449	30,269	47,718
Cotton	5,009	4,156	9,165	6,022	10,116	16,138	11,031	14,272	25,303	10,956	14,220	25,176
Woolen and Worsted	831	1,023	1,854	802	2,323	3,125	1,633	3,346	4,979	1,630	3,346	4,976
Silk	2,916	4,296	7,212	668	1,291	1,959	3,584	5,587	9,171	491	1,068	1,559
Linen	1,577	1,795	3,372	261	312	573	1,838	2,107	3,945	1,837	2,106	3,943
Jute	567	802	1,369	128	489	617	695	1,291	1,986	566	1,039	1,605
Hemp Spinning and Weaving, Rope, Cord, Twine, etc., Making	619	2,377	2,996	744	4,429	5,173	1,363	6,806	8,169	1,343	6,697	8,040
Footwear	539	460	999	643	747	1,390	1,182	1,207	2,389	1,182	1,207	2,389
Laces	446	449	895	326	798	1,124	772	2,019	2,790	770	2,019	2,790
Carpet Manufacture	866	2,133	2,999	299	1,068	1,367	1,165	3,201	4,366	1,037	2,697	3,734
Other Textile Industries	4,201	1,488	5,689	11,873	3,792	15,665	16,074	5,280	21,354	15,467	4,520	19,987
Textile, Bleaching, Printing, Dyeing, etc.	2,308	465	2,773	791	236	1,027	3,099	701	3,800	3,098	700	3,798
Leather and Leather Goods—	1,273	913	2,186	312	286	598	1,585	1,199	2,784	1,562	1,198	2,760
Tanning, Currying and Dressing ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Saddlery, Harness and other Leather Goods Manufacture	6,686	5,882	12,568	1,188	4,961	6,149	7,874	10,843	18,717	7,242	10,622	17,864
Woollen and Mantle Making and Millinery	780	4,436	5,216	43	1,860	1,903	823	6,296	7,119	800	6,032	6,832
Hat and Cap (including Straw Plait) Manufacture	667	607	1,274	328	351	679	995	958	1,953	993	954	1,947
Blouses, Shirts, Collars, Underclothing, etc., Making	449	2,318	2,767	94	1,434	1,458	473	3,752	4,225	367	2,192	2,559
Other Dress Industries	762	504	1,266	148	533	681	910	1,037	1,947	903	1,037	1,940
Boot, Shoe, Slipper and Clog Trades	6,053	1,645	7,698	2,933	1,727	4,660	8,986	3,372	12,358	8,782	3,576	12,358
Food, Drink and Tobacco—	8,285	3,094	11,379	322	416	738	8,607	3,510	12,117	7,997	3,462	11,459
Bread, Biscuit, Cake, etc., Making	1,915	144	2,059	362	55	417	2,275	199	2,474	2,148	196	2,344
Grain Milling	1,859	2,990	4,849	376	5,923	6,299	2,235	8,913	11,148	2,222	8,860	11,082
Confectionery	5,478	6,610	12,088	775	727	1,502	6,253	7,337	13,590	6,126	7,291	13,417
Other Food Industries	5,111	2,049	7,160	299	613	912	5,410	2,662	8,072	4,939	2,632	7,571
Drink Industries	628	1,200	1,828	12	252	264	640	1,452	2,			

NUMBERS INSURED AND PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED.

INDUSTRY.	GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.															GREAT BRITAIN ONLY. TOTAL PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 21ST FEB., 1927.
	ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AT JULY, 1923.			PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 21ST FEBRUARY, 1927.									INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN TOTAL PERCENTAGES AS COMPARED WITH			
				WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED (including Casuals).			TEMPORARY STOPPAGES.			TOTAL.						
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	24TH JAN., 1927.	22ND FEB., 1926.	23RD FEB., 1925.	
Fishing ...	26,090	880	26,970	16.5	14.3	16.4	0.1	2.2	0.2	16.6	16.5	16.6	-1.9	+2.0	+2.0	16.6
Mining ...	1,220,550	7,320	1,227,870	11.0	9.7	11.0	5.1	2.4	5.1	16.1	12.1	16.1	-0.2	+6.5	+5.7	16.1
Coal Mining ...	1,220,550	7,320	1,227,870	11.0	9.7	11.0	5.1	2.4	5.1	16.1	12.1	16.1	-0.2	+6.5	+5.7	16.1
Iron Ore and Ironstone Mining and Quarrying ...	15,280	40	15,320	11.5	...	11.5	1.4	2.5	1.4	12.9	2.5	12.9	-7.9	-5.8	-4.2	12.9
Lead, Tin and Copper Mining ...	5,250	40	5,290	12.0	...	12.0	1.2	...	1.2	13.2	7.5	13.1	-0.5	+0.9	-5.3	13.1
Stone Quarrying and Mining ...	40,820	330	41,150	6.9	7.6	7.2	0.6	1.3	0.6	8.2	4.2	8.2	-2.7	...	+2.5	7.5
Slate Quarrying and Mining ...	10,860	10	10,870	1.5	...	1.5	0.1	...	0.1	1.6	...	1.6	-0.5	-2.2	-0.4	1.6
Other Mining and Quarrying ...	17,920	1,630	19,550	10.0	2.5	9.4	1.4	0.4	1.3	11.4	2.9	10.7	-3.2	-3.8	+3.2	10.5
Clay, Sand, Gravel and Chalk Pit Digging ...	14,960	170	15,130	5.1	8.8	5.2	0.3	5.3	0.3	5.4	14.1	5.5	-1.0	+1.3	+0.8	5.3
Non-Metalliferous Mining Products—Ooke Ovens and By-Product Works	11,560	160	11,720	13.2	5.0	13.0	2.5	...	2.5	15.7	5.0	15.5	-6.0	+1.8	+5.6	15.5
Artificial Stone and Concrete Manufacture ...	15,230	1,230	16,460	11.7	4.6	11.2	2.0	0.4	1.8	13.7	5.0	13.0	-3.4	-3.5	-4.9	13.0
Cement, Limekilns and Whiting Works ...	17,970	950	18,920	5.7	3.4	5.6	0.7	0.2	0.6	6.4	3.6	6.2	+0.6	+0.1	...	6.2
Brick, Tile, etc., Making ...	75,230	7,680	82,910	6.3	6.5	6.3	0.9	1.8	1.0	7.2	8.3	7.3	-1.5	-0.2	+0.1	7.0
Pottery, Earthenware, etc. ...	35,220	38,590	73,810	5.5	5.7	5.6	6.6	12.3	9.6	12.1	18.0	15.2	-1.3	-0.5	...	15.2
Glass Trades—Glass (excluding Bottles and Scientific Glass) Manufacture ...	21,320	5,270	26,590	9.0	6.1	8.5	2.1	1.7	2.0	11.1	7.8	10.5	-0.5	-0.3	-2.5	10.4
Glass Bottle Making ...	15,910	2,100	18,010	15.1	6.0	14.0	3.7	2.7	3.6	18.8	8.7	17.6	-2.9	-0.7	-6.2	17.6
Ammunition Explosives, Chemicals, etc.—Chemicals Manufacture ...	72,680	21,850	94,530	7.3	3.8	6.5	0.9	1.2	0.9	8.2	5.0	7.4	-0.7	-1.0	-1.4	7.4
Explosives Manufacture ...	12,520	6,070	18,590	7.1	8.1	7.4	0.3	0.9	0.5	7.4	9.0	7.9	-0.6	+0.4	+0.1	7.9
Paint, Varnish, Japan, Red and White Lead Manufacture ...	13,450	3,900	17,350	5.8	3.8	5.3	0.3	0.6	0.4	6.1	4.4	5.7	-0.4	+0.4	+0.9	5.7
Oil, Grease, Glue, Soap, Ink, Match, etc., Manufacture ...	59,550	20,850	80,400	6.7	4.3	6.1	1.8	0.8	1.5	8.5	5.1	7.6	-0.4	-0.2	-0.2	7.6
Metal Manufacture—Pig Iron Manufacture (Blast Furnaces)	24,210	280	24,490	12.6	6.8	12.5	3.3	0.3	3.3	15.9	7.1	15.8	-4.5	-1.5	-2.4	15.8
Steel Melting and Iron Puddling Furnaces, Iron and Steel Rolling Mills and Forges ...	189,980	3,870	193,850	11.0	3.6	10.9	6.1	3.2	6.0	17.1	6.8	16.9	-3.5	-3.9	-5.9	16.9
Manufacture of Brass, Copper, Zinc, Tin, Lead, etc. ...	39,120	3,370	42,490	9.1	6.7	8.9	2.3	1.5	2.3	11.4	8.2	11.2	-1.7	+0.6	-0.5	11.2
Manufacture of Tin Plates ...	27,290	4,500	31,790	3.8	2.6	3.6	3.8	0.6	3.4	7.6	3.2	7.0	-1.7	-3.4	-38.4	7.0
Iron and Steel Tube Making ...	26,580	1,760	28,340	7.6	5.3	7.5	6.1	1.2	4.8	12.7	6.5	12.3	-0.8	-1.9	-7.5	12.3
Wire, Wire Netting, Wire Rope Manufacture ...	20,830	4,240	25,070	8.6	6.3	8.2	9.0	2.5	7.9	17.6	8.8	16.1	+0.7	+3.6	+3.8	16.1
Engineering, etc.—General Engineering: Engineers' Iron and Steel Founding ...	572,820	43,100	615,920	10.3	3.6	9.9	2.9	1.2	2.7	13.2	4.8	12.6	-1.6	+0.3	-0.7	12.5
Electrical Engineering ...	61,240	15,760	77,000	5.5	5.0	5.4	1.0	1.5	1.1	6.5	6.5	6.5	-0.3	-0.1	+1.0	6.5
Marine Engineering, etc. ...	57,370	1,000	58,370	21.3	4.7	21.1	1.2	0.2	1.1	22.5	4.9	22.2	-2.6	-1.4	+5.2	20.4
Constructional Engineering ...	26,370	1,060	27,430	12.9	4.6	12.6	1.4	0.8	1.4	14.3	5.4	14.0	-4.0	+1.6	-0.8	14.0
Construction and Repair of Vehicles—Construction and Repair of Motor Vehicles, Cycles and Aircraft ...	201,780	22,260	224,040	6.8	5.4	6.7	0.7	1.2	0.8	7.5	6.6	7.5	-0.8	+1.0	+0.3	7.4
Construction and Repair of Carriages, Carts, etc. ...	19,350	2,350	21,700	9.8	6.5	9.4	1.3	1.2	1.4	11.1	7.7	10.8	-1.5	+0.7	-0.9	10.5
Railway Carriage, Wagon and Tram-car Building ...	54,970	1,320	56,290	6.0	3.5	6.0	2.8	0.5	2.7	8.8	4.0	8.7	-3.5	+1.7	+1.6	8.7
Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing ...	220,820	3,300	224,120	31.6	5.4	31.2	0.7	0.5	0.7	32.3	5.9	31.9	-5.0	-4.2	-1.1	31.6
Metal Trades—Stove, Grate, Pipe, etc., and General Iron Founding ...	82,160	8,330	90,490	7.8	5.3	7.5	1.9	3.1	2.1	9.7	8.4	9.6	-1.2	-0.1	-1.4	9.4
Electrical Wiring and Contracting ...	12,740	1,170	13,910	8.8	2.3	8.2	0.7	2.0	1.0	9.5	2.4	9.9	+0.9	+0.3	+1.1	9.9
Electrical Cable, Wire and Electric Lamp Manufacture ...	56,030	87,910	143,940	7.2	7.8	7.5	0.8	2.0	1.1	8.0	9.8	8.6	+0.3	+0.8	+0.7	8.6
Hand Tool, Cutlery, Saw, File Making	24,620	10,520	35,140	11.6	8.1	10.5	7.1	4.7	6.4	18.7	12.8	16.9	+1.1	+1.8	+3.1	16.9
Bolts, Nuts, Screws, Rivets, Nails, etc., Manufacture ...	15,020	11,380	26,400	9.4	8.0	8.8	4.9	2.6	3.9	14.3	10.6	12.7	-0.5	+2.8	-3.3	12.7
Brass and Allied Metal Wares Manufacture ...	19,180	11,980	31,160	9.4	7.3	8.6	2.2	2.5	2.3	11.6	9.8	10.9	+0.2	+1.4	-2.8	10.9
Heating and Ventilating Apparatus	6,610	490	7,100	6.9	2.0	6.6	1.8	2.3	1.8	8.7	4.3	8.4	+0.4	+2.0	+0.2	8.4
Watches, Clocks, Plate, Jewellery, etc., Manufacture ...	25,400	20,070	45,470	7.6	7.0	7.9	3.2	4.4	3.7	11.8	11.4	11.6	-0.1	+1.1	-0.7	11.6
Other Metal Industries ...	68,450	186,420	254,870	8.4	7.3	7.4	2.2	3.0	2.5	9.6	10.3	9.9	-0.5	+1.2	-1.5	9.8
Textile Trades—Cotton ...	210,730	368,460	579,190	3.8	3.2	3.4	4.5	5.0	4.8	8.3	8.2	8.2	-3.1	-1.1	+1.4	8.2
Woolen and Worsted ...	106,380	148,370	254,750	4.7	2.8	3.6	5.7	6.8	6.3	10.4	9.6	9.9	-2.4	-1.2	-3.6	9.9
Silk ...	21,350	29,870	51,220	3.9	3.4	3.6	3.7	7.8	6.1	7.6	11.2	9.7	-0.8	-1.1	+1.0	9.7
Linen ...	28,000	61,590	89,590	10.4	7.0	8.1	2.4	2.1	2.1	12.8	9.1	10.2	-3.6	-15.7	-8.8	9.7
Jute ...	13,430	28,130	41,560	11.7	6.4	8.1	2.0	1.1	1.4	13.7	7.5	9.5	-1.5	-3.2	-1.3	9.5
Hemp Spinning and Weaving, Rope, Cord, Twine, etc., Making ...	7,490	12,250	19,740	7.6	6.5	6.9	1.7	4.0	3.2	9.3	10.5	10.1	-1.7	-2.2	-4.1	9.6
Hosiery ...	21,190	76,700	97,890	2.9	3.1	3.1	3.5	5.8	5.2	6.4	8.9	8.3	-0.5	+3.7	-1.0	8.3
Lace ...	8,110	10,890	19,000	6.6	4.2	5.3	8.0	6.9	7.3	14.6	11.1	12.6	-1.9	-3.9	-7.5	12.6
Carpet Manufacture ...	10,730	15,510	26,240	4.2	2.9	3.4	3.0	5.1	4.3	7.2	8.0	7.7	-0.7	-3.7	-0.3	7.7
Other Textile Industries ...	13,360	31,160	44,520	6.5	6.8	6.7	2.2	3.5	3.1	8.7	10.3	9.8	-1.4	-0.7	-3.7	9.2
Textile Bleaching, Printing, Dyeing, etc. ...	86,540	32,740	119,280	4.9	4.5	4.8	13.7	11.6	13.1	18.6	16.1	17.9	-0.6	+4.3	+5.7	18.2
Leather and Leather Goods—Tanning, Currying and Dressing ...	32,080	8,450	40,530	7.2	5.5	6.8	2.5	2.8	2.6	9.7	8.3	9.4	-1.1	-1.0	-1.0	9.4
Saddlery, Harness and other Leather Goods Manufacture ...	13,750	12,970	26,720	9.3	7.0	8.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	11.5	9.2	10.4	+0.5	+1.1	-0.9	10.4
Clothing Trades—Tailoring ...	66,830	126,930	193,760	10.0	4.6	6.5	1.8	3.9	3.2	11.8	8.5	9.7	-3.7	-0.2	-2.6	9.4
Dress and Mantle Making and Millinery ...	11,740	95,060	106,800	6.6	4.7	4.9	0.4	1.9	1.8	7.0	6.6	6.7	-1.7	-0.3	-3.2	6.5
Hat and Cap (including straw Plait) Manufacture ...	13,400	20,940	34,340	5.0	2.9	3.7	2.4	1.7	2.0	7.4	4.6	5.7	-1.7	+0.2	-2.9	5.7
Blouses, Shirts, Collars, Underclothing, etc., Making ...	7,240	65,750	72,990	6.2	3.5	3.8	0.3	2.2	2.0	6.5	5.7	5.8	-1.2	...	-2.2	6.9
Other Dress Industries ...	10,520	17,830	28,350	7.2	2.8	4.5	1.5	3.0	2.4	8.7	5.8	6.9	-0.1	-1.4	-6.0	6.9
Boot, Shoe, Slipper and Clog Trades	92,070	53,930	146,000	6.6	3.1	5.3	3.2	3.2	3.2	9.8	6.3	8.5	-1.3	+0.8	-1.0	8.4

INDUSTRY.	GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.															GREAT BRITAIN ONLY. TOTAL PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 21ST FEB., 1927.
	ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AT JULY, 1923.			PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 21ST FEBRUARY, 1927.									INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN TOTAL PERCENTAGES AS COMPARED WITH			
				WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED (including Casuals).			TEMPORARY STOPPAGES.			TOTAL.						
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	24TH JAN., 1927.	22ND FEB., 1926.	23RD FEB., 1925.	
Food, Drink and Tobacco—Bread, Biscuit, Cake, etc., Making ...	94,280	51,550	145,830	8.8	6.0	7.8	0.3	0.8	0.5	9.1	6.8	8.3	-0.5	-0.9	-2.3	8.2
Grain Milling ...	28,020	3,580	31,600	6.8	4.0	6.5	1.3									

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 on 28th February, 1927. In certain cases (e.g., Bristol, Birmingham, Sheffield, Liverpool, Glasgow etc.) the figures cover more than one Exchange area:—

Area.	Number of Persons on Registers at 28th February, 1927.				Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with 31st Jan., 1927.
	Men.	Women.	Juveniles.	Total.	
London Division ...	104,951	22,017	8,389	135,357	- 9,322
South-Eastern Division ...	35,070	5,948	4,028	45,044	- 5,435
Brighton ...	1,745	484	352	2,581	- 135
Chatham ...	1,640	218	595	2,453	- 355
Ipswich ...	1,834	241	123	2,198	- 383
Norwich ...	2,815	393	60	3,068	- 465
Rest of South-Eastern	27,236	4,610	2,868	34,714	-
South-Western Division ...	50,277	6,956	4,490	61,723	- 7,011
Bristol ...	10,997	1,772	804	13,573	- 399
Plymouth ...	4,209	585	500	5,295	- 949
Portsmouth ...	4,437	697	485	5,585	- 78
Reading ...	1,094	108	240	1,442	- 442
Southampton ...	4,115	354	653	5,122	- 731
Swindon ...	1,175	164	148	1,487	- 4,289
Rest of South-Western	24,194	3,365	1,660	29,219	-
Midlands Division ...	99,634	31,933	6,082	137,649	- 22,067
Birmingham ...	20,444	9,535	1,401	31,380	- 3,571
Coventry ...	1,760	414	37	2,211	- 304
Cradley Heath ...	1,876	508	40	2,424	- 357
Derby ...	2,084	708	226	3,018	- 610
Leicester ...	2,444	1,583	68	4,095	- 721
Northampton ...	1,527	290	76	1,893	- 140
Nottingham ...	5,961	1,300	335	7,596	- 1,408
Smethwick ...	2,479	798	140	3,417	- 211
Stoke-on-Trent ...	6,358	4,238	457	11,053	- 2,405
Walsall ...	3,842	845	276	4,963	- 295
West Bromwich ...	2,154	398	123	2,675	- 580
Wolverhampton ...	3,837	1,038	205	5,080	- 687
Rest of Midlands ...	45,068	10,278	2,698	58,044	- 10,778
North-Eastern Division ...	261,428	27,887	14,513	303,828	- 25,429
Barnsley ...	8,873	310	132	9,315	+ 626
Bradford ...	6,552	2,235	376	9,163	- 2,543
Darlington ...	3,103	171	217	3,491	- 136
Dewsbury ...	1,257	1,225	210	2,692	+ 14
Doncaster ...	9,435	224	362	10,021	- 261
Gateshead ...	9,163	809	925	10,897	- 140
Grimsby ...	3,372	178	324	3,874	+ 143
Halifax ...	2,107	986	69	3,162	- 1,880
Hartlepool ...	6,347	168	376	6,891	- 177
Huddersfield ...	2,174	911	178	3,263	- 1,379
Hull ...	11,439	798	895	13,132	- 519
Leeds ...	12,520	2,647	371	15,538	- 3,835
Lincoln ...	1,970	226	134	2,330	- 300
Middlesbrough ...	8,037	412	409	8,858	- 881
Newcastle-on-Tyne ...	15,452	1,325	1,052	17,829	- 881
Rotherham ...	2,581	181	353	3,095	+ 105
Sheffield ...	20,280	2,840	1,475	24,595	- 1,844
South Shields ...	7,208	343	464	8,015	- 964
Stockton-on-Tees ...	5,749	179	349	6,277	- 1,011
Sunderland ...	16,296	748	589	17,633	- 266
Wakefield ...	816	241	162	1,219	- 321
York ...	2,377	738	281	3,396	- 216
Rest of North-Eastern	105,340	9,932	4,800	120,072	- 7,259
North-Western Division ...	155,765	44,296	13,627	213,688	- 45,605
Accrington ...	2,394	369	106	2,869	- 962
Ashton-under-Lyne ...	2,067	1,134	123	3,324	- 1,066
Barrow ...	3,195	202	287	3,684	- 809
Birkenhead ...	5,655	299	293	6,247	- 1,355
Blackburn ...	2,562	1,305	114	3,981	- 3,727
Blackpool ...	1,129	629	196	1,954	- 604
Bolton ...	5,315	2,144	382	7,841	- 715
Burnley ...	2,241	849	85	3,175	- 2,764
Bury ...	1,259	928	113	2,300	- 624
Chorley ...	1,448	497	76	2,021	- 552
Liverpool ...	38,156	5,568	3,996	47,720	- 1,866
Manchester ...	19,275	6,180	2,028	27,483	- 3,902
Nelson ...	1,163	462	34	1,659	- 864
Oldham ...	5,467	1,848	217	7,532	- 1,514
Preston ...	3,595	2,464	190	6,249	- 1,724
Roche ...	2,437	806	58	3,301	- 2,498
St. Helens ...	3,494	210	468	4,172	- 599
Salford ...	7,205	2,472	880	10,557	- 1,566
Stockport ...	2,270	997	130	3,397	- 878
Warrington ...	1,853	327	255	2,435	- 300
Wigan ...	4,160	1,574	234	5,968	- 1,653
Rest of North-Western	39,425	13,032	3,362	55,819	- 17,332
Scotland Division ...	127,812	21,671	10,104	159,587	- 23,024
Aberdeen ...	4,437	823	317	5,577	- 752
Clydebank ...	2,489	268	172	2,929	- 627
Dundee ...	4,305	1,824	180	6,309	- 790
Edinburgh ...	11,074	2,303	913	14,290	- 1,356
Glasgow ...	49,682	7,774	4,556	62,012	- 6,032
Greenock ...	7,395	609	325	8,329	- 972
Motherwell ...	1,914	175	178	2,267	- 627
Paisley ...	2,900	417	310	3,627	- 410
Rest of Scotland	43,616	7,478	3,153	54,247	- 11,458
Wales Division ...	105,133	3,302	4,172	112,607	- 24,167
Cardiff ...	7,243	787	592	8,622	- 1,348
Llanelli ...	2,793	107	100	3,000	- 574
Newport ...	3,498	206	209	3,913	- 1,270
Swansea ...	4,759	258	526	5,543	- 1,113
Rest of Wales	86,840	1,944	2,745	91,529	- 19,862
Northern Ireland ...	29,607	8,094	759	38,460	- 5,396
Belfast ...	20,195	4,856	493	25,524	- 2,846
Londonderry ...	1,605	414	37	2,056	- 428
Lurgan ...	504	624	26	1,154	- 293
Lisburn ...	449	84	9	542	- 119
Newry ...	591	137	7	735	- 37
Rest of Northern Ireland	6,263	1,999	187	8,449	- 1,673
Great Britain and Northern Ireland ...	969,677	172,102	66,164	1,207,943	- 167,466

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE STATISTICS: GREAT BRITAIN.

COMPOSITION OF STATISTICS.

On page 108 an explanation is given of the unemployment statistics published weekly in the Press, and monthly in this GAZETTE. The following Table gives figures relating to the 21st February, 1927, for the total of each group included in these statistics. Lines 2 to 5 make up the number of persons on the register; while, by omitting the uninsured persons (line 5) and including lines 1 and 6, the number of books lodged, or, in other words, the number of insured persons recorded as unemployed, is obtained:—

	Men.	Boys.	Women.	Girls.	Total.
1. Unemployed — Special Schemes ...	1,873	12	199	5	2,089
2. Claims admitted or under consideration ...	837,909	13,454	156,196	9,626	1,017,185
3. Claimants disqualified, but maintaining registration ...	89,565	853	10,086	571	101,075
4. Insured non-claimants on main file ...	15,343	1,706	1,955	1,886	20,890
5. Uninsured persons on Register ...	12,531	17,078	3,409	23,891	56,909
6. Two months' file ...	75,505	4,650	44,623	5,035	129,813
Persons on Register (lines 2-5) ...	955,348	33,091	171,646	35,974	1,196,059
Books Lodged (lines 1-4 and 6) ...	1,020,195	20,675	213,059	17,123	1,271,052

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 to Local Committees, composed, in the main, of representatives of employers and workpeople.

The following Table gives an analysis of the recommendations of these Committees in Great Britain during the period 11th January to 14th February, 1927:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Applications considered by Committees during period ...	353,040	51,567	404,607
Applications admitted by Committees during period:—			
(a) For 12 weeks ...	54,260	4,163	58,423
(b) For less than 12 weeks ...	243,487	28,893	272,380
Applications definitely recommended for disallowance during period:—			
General Conditions:—			
Not normally insurable and not seeking to obtain a livelihood by means of insurable employment ...	2,678	1,535	4,213
Insurable employment not likely to be available ...	1,875	485	2,360
Not a reasonable period of insurable employment during the preceding two years ...	22,625	3,081	25,706
Not making every reasonable effort to obtain suitable employment or not willing to accept suitable employment ...	12,203	4,591	16,794
Special Conditions:—			
Single persons residing with relatives ...	7,482	3,759	11,241
Married women who could look for support from their husbands ...	...	2,951	2,951
Married men who could look for support from their wives ...	374	...	374
Working short time but earning sufficient for maintenance ...	6,088	1,456	7,544
Aliens ...	16	2	18
Total definitely recommended for disallowance ...	53,341	17,860	71,201
Applications during the period recommended for postponement for a definite time ...	1,952	651	2,603

UNEMPLOYMENT FUND.

During the four weeks ended 26th February, 1927, the receipts and payments of the Unemployment Fund were approximately as shown in the following Table:—

	Four weeks ended 26th Feb., 1927.	Five weeks ended 29th Jan., 1927.	Four weeks ended 27th Feb., 1926.
Contributions (Receipts):—			
By Employers ...	1,080,000	1,510,000	1,320,000
By Employed Persons ...	950,000	1,330,000	1,160,000
Service Departments (Admiralty, War Office and Air Ministry) ...	20,000	30,000	30,000
Exchequer ...	800,000	1,150,000	1,080,000
Total ...	2,850,000	4,020,000	3,590,000
Payments:—			
Benefit ...	3,450,000	4,890,000	3,180,000
Other Payments* ...	370,000	900,000	380,000
Total ...	3,820,000	5,790,000	3,560,000
Treasury Advances Outstanding ...	24,650,000	23,710,000	7,580,000

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

CHANGES IN RATES OF 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 February in Great Britain and Northern Ireland resulted in an aggregate increase of about £4,300 in the weekly full-time wages of about 44,000 workpeople and in a reduction of £9,000 in the weekly wages of 136,000 workpeople.

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 ...	350	33,000	£ 10	£ 2,000
Metal ...	12,500	64,000	680	4,000
Textile ...	300	18,500	10	1,550
Building and Allied Industries ...	17,500	...	2,350	...
Other ...	13,500	20,500	1,250	1,450
Total ...	44,150	136,000	4,300	9,000

The principal changes in the mining group were reductions in the wages of coal miners in the Cannock Chase and Forest of Dean areas; in the former district the percentage addition to basis rates was reduced by nearly 1½ per cent. on the previous wages, and in the latter district there was a reduction of over 6 per cent.

In the metal group there was a reduction of 2½ per cent. on the basis rates (generally equivalent to about 2 per cent. on the previous wages) of most classes of workpeople employed in steel-smelting shops and rolling mills in various districts in England and Scotland, with the exception of lower-paid men on basis rates up to 7s. per shift, in whose case wages remained unaltered. Siemens steel workers in South-West Wales, with the exception of boys and lower-paid men, sustained a reduction equivalent to about 1 per cent. on their previous wages. Electrical cable workers also had their wages reduced, by 1s. 6d. or 1s. 11½d. per week in the case of men and 1s. per week in the case of women. Steel sheet millmen and galvanisers in various districts in England and Wales received an increase equivalent to about 1½ per cent. on the previous rates.

The principal changes in the textile group were the result of an Order under the Trade Boards Acts by which the minimum rates were reduced for all classes of workpeople employed in the flax and hemp trade, the reduction varying from 1s. 7d. to 2s. 3d. per week in the case of adult male time-workers and being 1s. or 1s. 2d. per week in that of adult female time-workers. There were also reductions in this group in the wages of hosiery workers at Hawick, and machine calico printers.

In the building, etc. industries the principal change affected wiremen, fitters, etc. employed by electrical contractors in England and Wales, whose wages were increased by ½d. per hour in London and the principal industrial areas, and by ¼d. per hour in other districts.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING FEBRUARY, 1927.

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics.)
AGRICULTURE.				
Agriculture	Hampshire and Isle of Wight.	7 Feb.	Male agricultural labourers	Increase of 6d. per week for those 18 years and over, the rates for those under 18 remaining unchanged. Minimum rates after change for a week of 51 hours in summer and 48 hours in winter: 9s. at 14 years, increasing each year to 22s. at 18

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING FEBRUARY, 1927 (continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics.)
Pressed Glass Making.	Gateshead and Sunderland.	28 Feb.	CHEMICAL, GLASS, BRICK, POTTERY, ETC., INDUSTRIES. Pressed glass makers	Bonus of 25 per cent. previously paid on list prices reduced to 12½ per cent.
	West Cumberland and North Lancashire.	2nd full pay in February.	IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRIES. Workpeople (excluding skilled craftsmen and bricklayers on maintenance work, and also labourers) employed at blastfurnaces.	<i>Decreases in bonuses* of amounts varying according to base rates from 5s. 2d. to 1s. 2d. per week, leaving total amount of bonuses varying from 2s. 10s. 2d. to 7s. 3d. per week.</i>
Pig Iron Manufacture.	North Lincolnshire, and certain firms in the Leeds District.	6 Feb.	Blastfurnacemen	Increase† of 1½ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 35½ per cent. above the standard, plus 1s. 1d. per shift, and the percentage payable on output bonus earnings increased, under sliding scale, from 34 to 35½. <i>Additional bonuses previously paid to lower-paid men reduced by 1d. per shift to 2d. per shift on base rates of 4s. 1d. to 4s. 5d., and to 4d. per shift on base rates of 3s. 8d. to 4s. 0½d. per shift. Minimum rate after change for general labourers: 3s. 8d. per shift, plus 35½ per cent., plus 1s. 1d. per shift, plus 4d. per shift.</i>
	England and West of Scotland.	6 Feb.	Men employed in steel-melting shops:— Melters, pitmen, slagmen, ladle-men, furnace helpers, etc., and gas producermen and charge wheelers (excluding adult workers in receipt of base rates from 3s. 10d. to 7s. per shift). Semi-skilled workers and labourers (excluding adult workers in receipt of base rates from 3s. 10d. to 7s. per shift). Semi-skilled workers and labourers whose wages are based on a 47-hour week‡ (excluding adult workers in receipt of base rates from 3s. 10d. to 7s. per shift), also youths and boys under 21 years of age.	<i>Decrease† of 2½ per cent. on the standard of 1905, leaving wages 23½ per cent. above the standard (basic process) and 1½ per cent. below the standard (acid process).</i> <i>Decrease† of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 23½ per cent. above the standard.</i> <i>Decrease† of 2½ per cent. of the total war advances given between August, 1914, and 30th April, 1921, making a total net decrease since 1st May, 1921, of 1½ per cent. of such advance.</i>
Iron and Steel Manufacture.	North of England ...	6 Feb.	Semi-skilled workers, labourers, etc., employed at puddling furnaces and in rolling mills whose wages are based on a 47-hour week‡ (excluding those in receipt of base rates from 3s. 10d. to 6s. per shift), also youths and boys under 21 years of age.	<i>Decrease† of 1½ per cent. of the total advance in wages given between August, 1914, and 30th April, 1921, making a total net decrease since 1st May, 1921, of 1½ per cent. of such advance.</i>
	North-East Coast† Area (except certain men employed at Newburn, West Hartlepool and Gateshead). Certain districts in England and Wales.‡ Scunthorpe	6 Feb. 7 Feb. 6 Feb.	Men on direct production in steel-rolling mills (excluding those in receipt of base rates from 3s. 10d. to 7s. per shift). Steel-sheet millmen... .. Steel millmen, wagon builders and repairers, engineers, labourers and general labourers (excluding those in receipt of base rates from 3s. 10d. to 7s. per shift).	<i>Decrease† of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 23½ per cent. above the standard.</i> <i>Increase† of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 52½ per cent. above the standard.</i> <i>Decrease† of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 23½ per cent. above the standard.</i>
	South and West Wales.	6 Feb.	Workpeople (excluding maintenance men) employed in Siemens steel manufacture.	<i>Sliding-scale percentage on base rates decreased† from 16½ to 15. Bonuses paid to men on base rates up to 30s. per week, increased from 35½ to 35 for men and from 3½ to 5 for boys under 18, leaving total wages the same as previously for such workers, viz., 30s. per week, plus 50 per cent. for labourers, and 20 per cent. above base, plus 5d. per shift for boys. Bonuses paid to men rated over 30s. up to 50s. to remain as previously (6d. per shift for those at 30s. 1d. to 40s., and 4d. per shift for those at 40s. 1d. to 50s.), subject to the proviso that men on base rates from 30s. 1d. to 36s. 6d. are to have their bonus made up so that they receive the same gross earnings (viz., 45s.) as men with a base rate of 30s.</i>
	West of Scotland ...	6 Feb.	Men employed in steel-rolling mills (excluding adult workers in receipt of base rates of from 3s. 10d. to 7s. per shift):— Millmen, gas producermen, enginemakers, crane-men, firemen and mill labourers. Semi-skilled workers and general labourers and youths and boys under 21 years.	<i>Decrease† of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 23½ per cent. above the standard.</i> <i>Decrease† of 1½ per cent. of the total advance in wages given between August, 1914, and 30th April, 1921, making a total net decrease since 1st May, 1921, of 1½ per cent. of such advance.</i>
ENGINEERING AND OTHER METAL INDUSTRIES.				
Engineering	Barrow-in-Furness	1st pay after 31 Jan.	Bricklayers and masons, and labourers working with bricklayers, masons and plasterers employed in engineering departments.	<i>Decrease of ½d. per hour.† Rates after change: bricklayers and masons, 1s. 7d. per hour; labourers, 1s. 2½d.</i>
Galvanising	England and Wales**	7 Feb.	Workpeople employed in galvanising departments (excluding process of annealing).	Increase† of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 52½ per cent. above the standard.
Electrical Cable Manufacture.	Middlesex, Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Essex, Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Berkshire.	3rd pay day in Feb.	Workpeople employed in the electrical cable-making industry (except plumber-jointers, etc.)	<i>Decrease* of 1s. 1½d. per week for men 21 years of age and over, of 1s. 5½d. per week for youths 18 to 20 years, of 6d. per week for boys 15 years, of 5½d. per week for boys 14, 16 and 17 years, of 1s. per week for women 18 years and over, and of 6d. per week for girls 14 to 17 years; pieceworkers' wages correspondingly reduced. Rates after change: men 21 years and over, 54s. 10d. to 60s. 8½d.; women 18 years and over, 28s. 6d. to 32s. 6d.††</i>
	Greater London ...	2nd pay day in Feb.	Plumber-jointers and plumber-jointers' mates employed in the electrical cable-making industry.	<i>Decrease* of 1s. 6d. per week for men 18 years and over, of 1s. per week for women 18 years and over and of 6d. per week for boys and girls 14 to 17 years; pieceworkers' wages correspondingly reduced. Rates after change: men 21 years and over, 49s. 6d. to 55s. 6d.; women 18 years and over 28s. 6d. to 32s. 6d.††</i> <i>Increase of ¼d. per hour for plumber-jointers, and of 0.7d. per hour for plumber-jointers' mates. Rates after change: plumber-jointers, 1s. 10½d. per hour; plumber-jointers' mates 1s. 6.2d.</i>

* Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements.
† Under selling-price sliding-scale arrangements.
‡ Principally the North-East Coast, Cumberland, Lancashire, South and West Yorkshire, Lincolnshire and the Midlands.
§ The men on 8-hour shifts referred to are those who do not receive allowance hours and/or extra payment for night shift during the normal week. The men whose wages are based on a 47-hour week are mainly men employed in engineering shops or working with craftsmen, who receive the allowances or extra payments mentioned.
|| This change took effect under an arrangement made by the Sheet Trade (Conciliation) Board. The districts concerned are principally in Staffordshire, Cheshire, Tees-side, South Wales and Monmouthshire.
¶ The decrease is the second of four instalments of ¼d. per hour each. The first instalment operated from the 1st pay after 31st December, 1926, and the remaining instalments are due to operate from the beginning of the pay period immediately following 28th February and 28th March.
** Certain firms—members of the Galvanising Conciliation Board.
†† Excluding any service bonus that may be due.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING FEBRUARY, 1927 (continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics.)
Metallic Bedstead Manufacture.	Birmingham, Dudley, Bilston, Manchester, Warrington, Sowerby Bridge, Keighley and Glasgow.	4 Feb.	Workpeople employed in the metallic bedstead trade.	<i>Decrease* in flat rate bonus of 2s. per week for men 18 years and over; of 1s. per week for women 18 years and over, and of 6d. per week for boys under 18 years, and girls under 18 but over 16 years.</i>
	Hollow-ware Manufacture.	1 Jan.	Sheet-metal workers employed in the galvanised hollow-ware trade.	Adoption of a revised list of prices for Government contract work, resulting in increases of varying amounts.
Hosiery Manufacture.	Hawick	1st full pay day in Feb.	Men and women Apprentices	<i>Flat rate bonus of 9s. 9d. per week for men and 7s. 6d. per week for women reduced* to 6s. 5d. and 5s. per week respectively.</i> <i>Flat rate bonus of 3s. 4½d. per week reduced* to 2s. 5d. per week.</i>
	Flax and Hemp Manufacture.	Great Britain	Workpeople employed in the flax and hemp trade:— Male timeworkers 21 years and over in the occupations specified. Male apprentices and improvers to tenting and dressing. Male workers employed on weaving canvas. Male workers 16 years and over employed in learning canvas weaving during 1st six months' employment. Male hosepipe weavers employed on power or hand looms. All other male workers Female spinners, card-cutters, weavers, winders, reellers, and warpers 18 years and over, and female spinners under 18 who have completed two years' employment in certain operations. All other female timeworkers (except learners). Female learners Female pieceworkers	TEXTILE INDUSTRIES. <i>Decreases in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of the following amounts for the classes named respectively. (See page 84 of February GAZETTE):—</i> <i>Decreases in time rates of from 1s. 1d. to 2s. 3d. per week. Minimum rates after change: tenters, with recognised full charge, 54s. 5d.; under tenters—1st year, 37s. 4d.; 2nd and 3rd years, 41s. 11d.; after 3 years, 46s. 8d.; dressers, mounters, card-cutters and hacklers (hand-dressers), 50s. 7d.; hemp rollers on non-reciprocating machines or hemp breakers, 51s. 10d.</i> <i>Decreases in time rates of from 7d. to 1s. 2d. per week.</i> <i>Decrease in piecework rates of approximately 4 per cent.</i> <i>Decrease in time rates of from 7d. to 1s. 2d. per week.</i> <i>Decrease in piecework basis time rate of ¼d. per hour (1s. 1d. to 1s. 0½d.).</i> <i>Decreases in time rates of from 5d. to 1s. 9d. per week. Minimum rates after change: under 15 years, 9s. 7d., increasing to 29s. 7d. at 18 and under 19, and to 41s. 11d. at 21 and over.</i> <i>Decrease in time rate of 1s. 2d. per week (29s. to 27s. 10d.).</i> <i>Decreases in time rates of from 5d. to 1s. per week. Minimum rates after change: under 15 years, 9s. 7d., increasing to 24s. at 18 and over.</i> <i>Decreases in time rates of from 5d. to 7d. per week.</i> <i>Decrease in piecework basis time rate of ¼d. per hour (7½d. to 7d.).</i>
Elastic Web Weaving.	Leicester	1st pay day after 17 Feb.	Elastic web weavers (male workers)	<i>Bonus reduced* from 15s. to 14s. in the £.</i>
Textile Bleaching, Printing, Dyeing, etc.	Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	Pay preceding 1st pay day in March.	Machine calico printers	<i>Supplementary cost-of-living wage reduced* from 55-30 per cent. to 50-40 per cent. on basis wages, the flat-rate bonuses of 20s. per week for journeymen and 14s. per week for apprentices remaining unchanged.</i> <i>Decrease of approximately 4 per cent.</i>
	Dundee	28 Jan.	Workpeople employed in calendering and dyeing establishments. Workpeople employed in the silk dyeing and finishing trade:— Male workers Female workers 18 years and over.	<i>Increase* of 4d. per week for those 22½ years and over and of 3d. per week for those under 22½ years. Rates after change: 16s. at 14 years, increasing to 31s. 3d. at 18, 44s. 6d. at 21 and to 51s. 1d. at 22½ years, plus special advance of 2s. for those 21 and over.</i> <i>Increase* of 2d. per week. Rate after change: 27s. 10d., plus 1s. 3d.</i>
Linen and Cotton Handkerchief and Household Goods and Linen Piece Goods.	Northern Ireland ...	1 Feb.	Apprentices to lapping, measuring and sample making.	<i>Decrease in the minimum time rates fixed under the Trade Boards Act (Northern Ireland), 1923, of ¼d. per hour for those in their 4th and 5th years employed in all districts, and for those in their second year employed in districts other than the Belfast district. Minimum rates after change: 2½d., 2½d. during first year, increasing to 7½d., 6½d., during fifth year. (See page 41 of January GAZETTE.)</i>
Felt Hat Making	Atherstone and Bedworth.	Week ending 26 Feb.	Male pieceworkers	<i>Bonus of 32½ per cent. on piece price lists reduced* to 30 per cent.</i>
	Liverpool, Birkenhead and Wallasey.	21 Feb.	Bakers and confectioners	<i>Decrease* of 2s. per week for adult workers and of 1s. per week for juniors. Rates after change for daywork: adults—forehands and ovenmen, 70s., tablehands, 64s.; juniors—18 to 19 years, 26s.; 19 to 20, 31s.; 20 to 21, 41s.</i> <i>Decrease* of 1s. 3d. per week. Rate after change for tablehands, 62s. 3d.</i> <i>Decrease* of 1s. 3d. per week. Rate after change for tablehands, 61s. 6d.</i>
Baking and Confectionery.	Bristol	5 Feb.	Bakers and confectioners	<i>Decrease* of 1s. 3d. per week. Rate after change for tablehands, 61s. 6d.</i>
	Bath	5 Feb.	Bakers and confectioners	<i>Decrease* of 1s. 3d. per week. Rate after change for tablehands, 61s. 6d.</i>
	Edinburgh and Leith, Musselburgh, Gorebridge, Tranent, and Prestons, Vale of Leven, Dumbarton, and Helensburgh District.	21 Feb. 21 Feb.	Bakers and confectioners Bakers and confectioners employed by co-operative societies.	<i>Decrease* of 1s. 6d. per week. Minimum rate after change, 75s.</i>
				FOOD, DRINK AND TOBACCO INDUSTRIES.

* Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements.
† In the case of those engaged after 18th October, 1926, the decrease was 1s. per week at 18 to 20 years of age, and 1s. 6d. per week at 20 to 21.
‡ The first rate applies to workers employed in the County Borough of the City of Belfast and in districts situated not more than 30 miles by rail from Belfast, and the second rate to workers employed in other districts.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING FEBRUARY, 1927 (continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics.)
WOODWORKING AND FURNITURE INDUSTRIES.				
Furniture Manufacture.	Manchester, Salford, Altrincham, Bolton and Stockport.	1 Feb.	Furniture trade operatives ...	Increase* of 1/4d. per hour for male workers, 1/4d. per hour for female workers, and of proportionate amounts for apprentices and improvers. Rates after change: cabinet makers, chair-makers, carvers, machinists (after 4 years on machines), upholsterers, polishers and mattress makers, 1s. 8 1/2d.; labourers, 1s. 3 1/2d.; upholstresses and women polishers, 1s. 6 1/2d.; glass workers—bevelers, silverers and cutters, 1s. 8 1/2d.; brilliant cutters, 1s. 9 1/2d.; fitters, 1s. 6 1/2d.; packers, 1s. 5 1/2d.
	Wigan	Feb.	Cabinet makers, machinists, french polishers and upholsterers.	Increase* of 1/4d. per hour (1s. 8d. to 1s. 8 1/2d.).
BUILDING AND ALLIED INDUSTRIES.				
Building	Swadlincote and District.	1 Feb.	Building trade operatives ...	Increase of 1d. per hour for craftsmen (1s. 7d. to 1s. 8d.), and of 1/4d. per hour for labourers (1s. 2 1/2d. to 1s. 3 1/4d.).
	Glasgow and West of Scotland District.†	1 Feb.	Bricklayers ...	Increase of 1/4d. per hour (1s. 8d. to 1s. 8 1/2d.).
Electrical Contracting.	England and Wales and Northern Ireland.	Pay period preceding 2nd pay day in Feb.	Men employed by electrical contractors.	Increase* of 2 1/2 per cent. on rates paid in April 1921, leaving wages 24 1/2 per cent. below those rates. Net hourly rates after change for qualified men: Grade A districts, 1s. 10 1/2d.; Grade B, 1s. 8 1/2d.; Grade C, 1s. 7d.; Grade D, 1s. 5 1/2d.†
TRANSPORT.				
Tramways Undertakings.	Great Britain ...	1st full pay in Feb.	Youths under 19 years of age employed as parcels' messengers, point and trolley boys.	Increase* of 3d. per week. Rates after change: 14 years, 13s. 9d. per week; 15, 15s. 9d.; 16, 17s. 9d.; 17, 22s. 3d.; 18, 27s. 9d.
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.				
Non-Trading Services of Local Authorities.	Hartlepool	1 Feb.	Manual workers ...	Increase* of 1/4d. per hour. Rates after change: general labourers, 1s. 2 1/4d. per hour; roadmen, 1s. 4 1/4d.; refuse collectors, 1s. 3 1/4d.; street sweepers, 1s. 1 1/4d.
	Certain Authorities in the West Riding of Yorkshire.‡	1st full pay in Feb.	Manual workers ...	Increase* of 1/4d. per hour. Minimum hourly rates after change: Grade A areas—destructor stokers, steam wagon and roller drivers, 1s. 3d.; petrol vehicle drivers (over 1 ton), 1s. 2 1/2d.; petrol vehicle drivers (1 ton and under), sewage flushers, sewage works foremen, pump men, press-house men, goux tub men, scavenger foremen, throwers out, scarifiers, working gangers, tar-mixers, grave diggers and fumigators, 1s. 2d.; dry ashmen and horse drivers or carters, 1s. 1 1/4d.; gully cleaners, sweepers, drivers' helpers, yard labourers, dustmen, sewage works attendants and labourers, store keepers, labourers, 1s. 1d.; Grade B1 areas—1d. per hour less; Grade B2 areas—1d. per hour less; Grade C1 areas—1 1/4d. per hour less; Grade C2 areas—2d. per hour less; Grade D1 areas—2 1/4d. per hour less; and Grade D2 areas, 3d. per hour less than rates quoted for Grade A areas.§
	York	3 Feb.	Manual workers ...	Increase* of 1/4d. per hour. Rates after change: labourers, carters and refuse collectors, 1s. 3 1/4d. per hour; day scavengers, 1s. 2 1/4d.; night scavengers and carters, 1s. 4 1/4d.
Leather Belt Manufacture.	Fulham, Greenwich, Hammersmith, Kensington, Lambeth, Southwark, and Stoke Newington.	1 Jan.	Masons, paviors, road labourers (not on permanent staff), etc.	Increase* of 1/4d. per hour. Rates after change: masons and paviors, 1s. 8 1/2d. per hour; labourers, 1s. 4d.
	Deptford	Week ended 28 Jan.	Manual workers whose wages are regulated by the District Joint Industrial Council for Local Authorities.	Increase of 2s. per week for women, of 3s. 3d. for scavengers, and of 2s. 6d. for other men. Rates after change: scavengers, 65s. per week; general labourers, refuse collectors and carters, 67s. 1d.; female bath and lavatory attendants, 50s. 4d.
MISCELLANEOUS INDUSTRIES.				
Leather Belt Manufacture.	Great Britain ...	1st pay day in Feb.	Pieceworkers and cutters on day-work.	Percentage payable on base rates embodied in agreement of November, 1922, increased* from 74 to 75.
Roller Leather Manufacture.	Lancashire, Cheshire and North Wales.	1st pay day in Feb.	Workpeople employed in roller leather manufacture.	Cost-of-living wage reduced* from 80 per cent. to 75 per cent. on basic rates. Minimum rates after change: men—skilled, 9d., semi-skilled, 6d. to 7 1/2d.; women, 5d.; plus, in each case, 75 per cent.
Saddlery	London (Metropolitan Police Area).	Last pay day in Jan.	Black saddle and harness makers... Brown saddle and harness makers	Decrease* of 1d. per hour for timeworkers (1s. 6d. to 1s. 5d.), and of 7 1/2 per cent. in percentage payable on piece price lists for pieceworkers, leaving wages 82 1/2 per cent. and 67 1/2 per cent. above the list for heavy and light work respectively. Decrease* of 1d. per hour for timeworkers (1s. 6d. to 1s. 5d.) and of 7 1/2 per cent. in percentage payable on piece price list, leaving wages 67 1/2 per cent. above the list.

* Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements.
 † The change took effect under an arrangement made between the Scottish Building Contractors' Association and the Amalgamated Union of Building Trade Workers. The principal districts affected are:—Glasgow, Ayr, Blantyre, Bothwell, Coatbridge, Dumbarton, Greenock, Hamilton, Helensburgh, Johnstone, Lanark, Larbert, Larkhall, Motherwell, Paisley, Port Glasgow, Strathaven, and Wishaw.
 ‡ The increases were equivalent to 1/4d. per hour for Grades A, B and C districts, and 1/4d. per hour for Grade D. The districts included in the Grades are as follows:—
 Grade A.—London district (within a 12-mile radius of Charing Cross) and Watford.
 Grade B.—Mersey district (including Liverpool, Birkenhead, and Wallasey), Chester, Shotton, and Wrexham, Southport, Manchester district (including Ashton, Atherton, Bolton, Bury, Dukinfield, Hyde, Leigh, Northwich, Oldham, Preston, Rochdale, Stockport, Warrington, and Wigan), South Wales and Monmouthshire (including Bargoed, Barry, Cardiff, Chepstow, Llanelli, Newport, Penarth and Swansea), Tyneside, Hartlepool, Sunderland, Stockton, Darlington, Middlesbrough, West Riding of Yorkshire districts (including Barnsley, Batley, Bradford, Castleford, Dewsbury, Doncaster, Halifax, Harrogate, Ilkley, Keighley, Leeds, Morley, Normanton, Pontefract, Selby, Shipley, Wakefield, and York), Sheffield district, Hull, Birmingham, Coventry, Wolverhampton and Bristol.
 Grade C.—Bath, Bourne-mouth, Cambridge, Carlisle, Chatham, Crayford, Dartford, Devonport, Faversham, Gravesend, Luton, Maidstone, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Rochester, Sheerness, Sittingbourne, Southampton, Belfast, towns and districts (other than those already specified) in the Counties of Northumberland, Durham, Yorkshire, Lancashire, Cheshire, Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, and Hertfordshire (outside London Area), Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, Derbyshire, Northamptonshire, Staffordshire, Surrey, and Middlesex (outside London Area), Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Berkshire, and Oxfordshire.
 Grade D.—Other towns and counties in England and Wales.
 § The Authorities affected are those which follow the wages agreements of the West Riding of Yorkshire Provincial Joint Industrial Council for Local Authorities' Non-Trading Services, and include:—Grade A areas: Batley, Bolton-upon-Deane, Conisbrough, Darfield, Golcar, Halifax, Harrogate, Holmfirth, Kirkheaton, Leeds, Lepton, Linthwaite, Marsden, Meltham, Oxenhope, Rotherham, Saddleworth, South Crosland, Stanley, Wakefield, Yeadon, West Riding C.C. (urban areas). Grade B1 areas: Adwick-le-Street, Bingley, Brighouse, Castleford, Doncaster, Keighley, Maltby, Pontefract, Rawmarsh, Spenborough, Todmorden, Whitwood, West Riding C.C. (rural and urban areas, partly industrial), Rotherham R.D.C. Grade B2 areas: Alton, Barnoldswick, Featherstone, Midgley, Mirfield, Normanton, Ossett, Otley, Selby, Skipton, Sowerby, Wath-upon-Deane. Grade C1 areas: Denby and Cumberworth, Horbury, Horsforth, Hunsworth, Stocksbridge. Grade C2 areas: Clayton, Farsley, Garforth, Gildersome, Greasborough, Haworth, Hebdon Bridge, Oakworth, Penistone, Royston, West Riding C.C. (rural areas). Grade D1 areas: Pontefract R.D.C. Grade D2 areas: Doncaster R.D.C., Halifax R.D.C., Todmorden R.D.C. The rates paid by some of the Authorities differ slightly from the minimum rates shown.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING FEBRUARY, 1927 (continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics.)
MISCELLANEOUS INDUSTRIES (continued).				
Brush and Broom Manufacture.	Great Britain ...	1 Feb.	Workpeople employed in the brush and broom trade:— Certain classes of male timeworkers 21 years and over.† All other male timeworkers ...	Decrease* in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of the following amounts for the classes named respectively.† Decrease* of 1/4d. per hour (1s. 2 1/4d. to 1s. 2 1/2d.). Decrease* of 1/4d. per hour for those 16 1/2 and under 17, 17 1/2 and under 18, and 19 and under 21 years, the rates for those of other ages remaining unchanged. Decrease* of 1/4d. per hour for certain classes.
			Female pan hands Female workers (other than pan hands and learners). Female learners (other than pan-setting learners). Male and female pieceworkers Apprentices	Decrease* of 1/4d. per hour for those 16 1/2 and under 17, and 17 1/2 and under 18, the time rates for those of other ages and the piecework basis time rate for those of all ages remaining unchanged. Decrease* of 1/4d. per hour during the 3rd and 4th six months of employment for those starting at 16 and under 21 years and during the 1st, 2nd, and 4th three months for those starting at 21 years and over, the rates for other periods remaining unchanged. Decrease* in the minimum piece rates of 1 1/2 per cent., making wages 17 1/2 per cent. below the list. Decreases* proportionate to the above.
Basket Making	Lancashire and Cheshire.	7 Feb.	Skip and basket makers	Decrease* of 5 per cent. on Lancashire price list, making wages 95 per cent. and 85 per cent. above list for timeworkers and pieceworkers respectively.
Coffin Furniture Manufacture.	Great Britain ...	1 Feb.	Male timeworkers: Dressers, stampers, polishers and planishers (including wheelers).	Decrease* in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of 3s. 11d. per week for those 21 and over, and of 1s. 1s. 6d., or 2s. per week for those under 21. Minimum rates after change at 21 and over:—dressers and stampers—Grade I, 57s. 6d.; Grade II, 65s.; Grade III, 71s.; polishers and planishers (including wheelers), Grade I, 59s.; Grade II, 68s.; Grade III, 73s.†
			Packers, rough warehousemen and despatchers. Male pieceworkers	Decrease* in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of 1s., 1s. 6d., or 2s. per week.† Minimum piecework basis time rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts at 15 per cent. above the appropriate minimum time rate.†

* Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements.
 † See page 84 of February GAZETTE.
 ‡ Viz., men with three years' experience in certain operations and those of all ages who have served at least five years' apprenticeship in one or more of such operations.

TRADE DISPUTES IN FEBRUARY.*

Number, Magnitude, and Duration.—The number of trade disputes involving a stoppage of work, reported to the Department as beginning in February in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was 15, as compared with 28 in the previous month and 36 in February, 1926. The total number of workpeople involved in these disputes (including those thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, though not themselves parties to the disputes) was approximately 2,100. In addition, about 3,600 were involved, either directly or indirectly, in 13 disputes which began before February and were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The number of new and old disputes was thus 28, involving about 5,700 workpeople, and resulting in a loss of approximately 65,000 working days. The number of workpeople involved in disputes in February was smaller than in any month since December, 1914.

Causes.—Of the 15 disputes beginning in February, 7, directly involving 500 workpeople, arose out of questions as to wages; 4, directly involving 900 workpeople, on questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons; and 4, directly involving 400 workpeople, on other questions.

Results.—Settlements were effected in the case of 8 new disputes, directly involving 1,100 workpeople, and 5 old disputes, directly involving 1,700 workpeople. Of these new and old disputes, 4, directly involving 600 workpeople, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 4, directly involving 300 workpeople, in favour of the

employers; and 5, directly involving 1,900 workpeople, were compromised. In the case of 3 other disputes, directly involving 600 workpeople, work was resumed pending negotiations.

The following Table analyses the disputes in progress in February 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 Month.			Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress in Month.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress in Month. ‡
	Started before beginning of Month.	Started in Month.	Total		
Mining and Quarrying...	7	3	10	3,800	52,000
Metal Engineering and Shipbuilding ...	1	4	5	1,100	8,000
Other	5	8	13	800	5,000
Total, Feb., 1927 ...	13	15	28	5,700	65,000
Total, Jan., 1927 ...	8	28	36	15,300	130,000
Total, Feb., 1926 ...	26	36	62	22,000	366,000

PRINCIPAL DISPUTES INVOLVING STOPPAGES OF WORK DURING FEBRUARY, 1927.

Occupations and Locality.	Approximate Number of Workpeople Involved.		Date when Dispute Began, Ended.		Cause or Object.†	Result.†
	Directly.	Indirectly.†	Began.	Ended.		
Sunderland	1,705	...	1926. 1 Dec.	1927. ...	Against local reduction in piecework rates of wages offered on termination of national stoppage.	No settlement reported.
Coal miners, etc. Gwaun - cae - Gurwen, Glam.	1,500	...	1927. 27 Jan.	11 Feb.	Dispute arising out of employers' proposal to revise the piecework rates of wages of certain hauliers.	Amicable settlement effected.
Tin box workers—London, S.E. ...	435	14	21 Feb.	28 Feb.	Disatisfaction with methods of working introduced by a forewoman, and demand for her dismissal and for the reinstatement of a dismissed shop steward.	Shop resumed reinstated and work resumed pending inquiry by a joint committee into the circumstances which led to the stoppage.
Wholesale clothing workers—Nun-eaton.	250	...	17 Feb.	17 Feb.	Against proposal to charge workpeople the cost of sewings, etc., employers offering an increase in piece-work rates of wages.	Work resumed on old conditions.

* 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.
 † 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.

PRICES AND WAGES IN THE IRON AND STEEL TRADE.

The following Table shows the results of recent ascertainment of selling prices of pig iron and manufactured iron and steel:—

Table with columns: Product and District, Price according to last Audit, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) of last Audit, Average selling price per ton, Previous Audit, A year ago.

The variations in the price of Cumberland pig iron resulted in decreases in the wages of iron ore miners in Cumberland in December. There was also a decrease in the wages of West Cumberland limestone quarrymen in December and a decrease for iron ore miners in Furness in January.

As regards manufactured iron there was a decrease in January of 10 per cent. on standard rates for iron puddlers and millmen in the North of England, and a decrease of 2½ per cent. on standard rates for iron puddlers and millmen and iron and steel sheet millmen in the West of Scotland.

ASSISTED PASSAGES UNDER THE EMPIRE SETTLEMENT ACT, 1922.

The number of assisted passages from Great Britain and Northern Ireland granted during February, 1927, 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:—

Table with columns: Assisted Passage Schemes, Assisted Passages Granted, Departures, Total Assisted Passages Granted, Total Departures.

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

* Stated to the nearest farthing. † No ascertainment was made. ‡ Revised figures.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.

The total number of cases* of poisoning, anthrax, and epitheliomatous and chrome ulceration in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, reported during February, 1927, under the Factory and Workshop Act or under the Lead Paint (Protection against Poisoning) Act, 1926, was 48.

Table with columns: (a) CASES OF LEAD POISONING, (b) CASES OF OTHER FORMS OF POISONING, (c) CASES OF ANTHRAX, (d) CASES OF EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCERATION, (e) CASES OF CHROME ULCERATION.

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 February, 1927, was 206, as compared with 208 in the previous month and with 227 in February, 1926.

Table with columns: RAILWAY SERVICE, FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS, MINES, QUARRIES OVER 20 feet deep, SEAMEN.

* Cases include all attacks reported during the month, and not previously reported, so far as is known, during the preceding 12 months. Deaths include all fatal cases reported during the month, whether included (as cases) in previous returns or not.

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 February, 1927, in the thirty-one selected areas named below was 849,361, or 1.3 per cent. less than in the previous month, but 3.7 per cent. more than in February, 1926.

In the twenty-five selected areas in England and Wales the number of persons relieved in February, 1927, was 702,598, a decrease of 1.3 per cent. as compared with January, but an increase of 3.9 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Recipients of indoor relief in the thirty-one districts in February numbered 133,863 or 0.1 per cent. less than in the previous month, but 3.0 per cent. more than in February, 1926.

Recipients of outdoor relief numbered 715,498, or 1.5 per cent. less than in the previous month, but 3.8½ per cent. more than a year ago.

Twenty-three areas showed decreases in the number per 10,000 relieved in February, as compared with the previous month, the chief being Newcastle (45 per 10,000) and Coatbridge and Airdrie (39 per 10,000); while six areas showed small increases.

Table with columns: Selected Urban Areas, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with a year ago.

* The figures include dependants, but exclude casuals, lunatics in asylums, registered hospitals and licensed houses, and persons receiving outdoor relief 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.

I.—FOOD.

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

Table with columns: Country, July, 1923, July, 1924, July, 1925, July, 1926, Latest figures available.

II.—ALL ITEMS.

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

Table with columns: Country, Items on which Computations based, July, 1923, July, 1924, July, 1925, July, 1926, Latest figures available.

* Exceptions to this are: France (other towns), August, 1914; The Hague, January to July, 1914; Rome and Milan, January to June, 1914; Switzerland, June, 1914; Amsterdam, Spain, South Africa, average, 1914; Germany, average, 1913-1914. † Figure for June. ‡ Fuel and light are also included in these figures.

EMPLOYMENT OVERSEAS.

[N.B.—The following paragraphs include an abstract of such official information as is available with regard to the state of employment abroad, in order to indicate, as far as possible, the fluctuations in employment in each country from period to period. The bases of the official statistics published in the various countries are, however, not the same as those of the United Kingdom statistics; and therefore the figures quoted below cannot properly be used with those on pp. 99-100 to compare the actual level of employment in the United Kingdom with that of other countries. For details of the bases of the unemployment statistics of the various countries, reference should be made to the Reports on Statistics of Unemployment issued by the International Labour Office (Studies and Reports, Series C., No. 7, and Series N., No. 7.)]

FRANCE.*

Unemployment in February.—There was a further decline in employment during February. The total number of unemployed persons remaining on the "live register" of the Exchanges on 26th February was 95,362 (67,568 men and 27,794 women). At the end of January the corresponding total was 73,074 and in February, 1926, 11,320. The total number of vacancies remaining unfilled on the same date was 6,252 (3,649 for men and 2,603 for women), as compared with 4,620 at the end of January and 10,047 in February, 1926. During the last week of February the Exchanges succeeded in placing 20,142 persons in situations, including 5,780 dock workers at seaports, and in addition found employment for 5 foreign immigrants, of whom 4 were introduced for 3 months only.

GERMANY.†

Employment in January.—The Reichsarbeitsblatt states that the first month of the year is that in which, according to past experience, the seasonal causes tending to depress the labour market have their maximum effect. Nevertheless, in the second half of the month under review, a slight reduction was reported in the number of totally unemployed persons receiving benefit; among trade unionists, a very slight increase in unemployment was compensated by a slight decrease in short-time working; while, according to reports from the employment exchanges, the relative number of offers of employment to applications was somewhat higher. Hence, the movement, during January, of the labour market as a whole cannot be described as unsatisfactory.

According to returns from employers, relating to representative establishments, employment in general continued at the same level. Partial improvements were counteracted by a decline here and there. Compared with December, establishments with poor employment decreased in number, while those with satisfactory employment increased.

The "rationalising" of industrial establishments appears to have reached a point at which it no longer has any effect on the labour market. In spite of considerable differences in the level of employment in the various industries and districts, it appears that there is an increasing tendency to reduce short-time working in industry rather than to take on fresh workpeople.

Statistical returns to the number of 4,020 from representative establishments in various industries, covering the period from 15th December, 1926, to 15th January, 1927, show only a slight reduction in the total number of workers employed (from 1,479,000 to 1,477,000). Establishments with satisfactory employment had 41 per cent. of the total workers, those with good employment 25 per cent., and those with bad 34 per cent. (The first percentage is slightly higher and the last slightly lower than in the preceding month.)

Returns relating to 3,393,227 organised workers were submitted by 38 national trade unions. Of these, 581,108, or 17.1 per cent., were totally unemployed on 29th January, as compared with 16.7 per cent. on 31st December, and 22.6 per cent. at the end of January, 1926. In addition, 233,529, or 6.9 per cent., were working short time, as against 7.3 per cent. on 31st December, and 22.6 per cent. at the end of January, 1926.

The following Table gives particulars of total unemployment among the principal Unions represented in the above totals:—

UNIONS.	Membership reported on at end of January, 1927.	Percentage Unemployed at end of Month.		
		Jan., 1927.	Dec., 1926.	Jan., 1926.
All Unions making Returns ...	3,393,227	17.1	16.7	22.6
Porcelain (S.D.) ...	35,300	8.8	8.9	14.3
Glass (S.D.) ...	41,900	14.1	14.0	16.9
Metal (S.D.) ...	665,600	15.7	16.0	18.8
.. (H.D.) ...	75,500	10.4	10.4	18.0
Textile (S.D.) ...	275,000	9.0	10.0	13.1
.. (C.) ...	71,200	3.1	4.0	19.2
Clothing (S.D.) ...	65,400	25.7	24.3	32.9
Foot and shoe (S.D.) ...	60,700	15.1	17.1	37.7
Food, tobacco, etc. (S.D.) ...	51,400	14.8	16.4	19.2
Food and drink (S.D.) ...	63,300	6.8	6.5	6.2
Tobacco (S.D.) ...	56,100	12.0	12.3	27.8
Woodworking (S.D.) ...	230,900	22.5	22.4	32.3
Printing (S.D.) ...	75,900	4.1	4.5	6.3
Bookbinding (S.D.) ...	51,000	10.7	11.1	13.6
Building (S.D.) ...	324,700	43.5	41.1	52.1
Carpenters (S.D.) ...	85,500	39.0	28.9	48.6
Transport (S.D.) ...	235,000	8.9	8.8	10.1
Factory workers (trades not distinguished) (S.D.) ...	345,900	14.5	15.2	26.6
Engine drivers and firemen (S.D.) ...	45,600	10.7	11.3	12.3
Factory and transport (S.D.) ...	50,600	11.5	7.8	25.2
Municipal and State workers (S.D.) ...	191,700	3.0	2.7	2.4

* Bulletin du Marché du Travail, 4th March, 1927. Paris.

† Reichsarbeitsblatt, 20th February, 1927. Berlin.

Figures showing the number of persons in receipt of benefit in respect of total unemployment are available for 1st February, 1927, on which date the total was 1,825,931. On 15th January the corresponding total was 1,838,289 and on 1st January, 1,748,597.

On 31st January the Employment Exchanges making returns reported 2,534,568 persons on the "live register," as against 2,390,029 at the end of December, and 2,495,257 on 31st January, 1926. The number of vacant situations at the end of January was 33,524, as compared with 21,380 at the end of December and 27,211 on 31st January, 1926.

AUSTRIA.

Unemployment in January.—According to the issue of *Statistische Nachrichten* (the journal of the Austrian Department of Statistics) for 25th February, 1927, the number of persons in receipt of unemployment benefit in Austria was 235,464 at the end of January, as compared with 205,350 at the end of the preceding month and 231,361 at the end of January, 1926. In Vienna alone there were 116,244 persons in receipt of benefit at the middle of February and 113,676 at the end of January.

HOLLAND.*

Unemployment in December.—The journal of the Dutch Statistical Office contains preliminary figures compiled by the State Department of Unemployment Insurance and Employment Exchanges, which show that out of 289,349 members of subsidised unemployment funds making returns for the week ended 25th December, 1926, 29,787 (10.3 per cent.) were unemployed during the whole week, and 7,684 (2.7 per cent.) for less than six days. In the corresponding week of the preceding month (ended 27th November) the percentages were respectively 7.7 and 1.8.

SWITZERLAND.†

Unemployment in January.—On 31st January, 1927, the number of applications remaining on the "live register" of Employment Exchanges making returns to the Federal Labour Department was 19,370 (or 14.7 per thousand of the employed population according to the Census of 1920), as compared with 17,900 (13.6 per thousand) at the end of December, 1926, and 20,525 at the end of January, 1926. Offers of situations made by employers on these dates numbered 1,655, 1,303 and 1,785 respectively.

Unemployment among Insured Workers, 31st December.—Returns from 91 subsidised unemployment funds show that, out of an aggregate of 178,975 members, 10,043, or 5.6 per cent., were totally unemployed and 8,148, or 4.6 per cent. partially so at the end of December, 1926. On 30th September the corresponding percentages were 2.8 and 4.5 respectively. (Owing to an increase in the number of funds making returns for 31st December, the figures for the two dates are not strictly comparable.)

DENMARK.‡

Unemployment in January.—Employment continued very bad in Denmark during February. Returns supplied to the Danish Statistical Department by trade unions and by the Central Employment Exchange show that out of 271,287 workpeople, 32.1 per cent. were unemployed on 28th January, 1927, as against 32.7 per cent. at the end of the preceding month, and 30.1 per cent. at the end of January, 1926.

SWEDEN.§

Unemployment in January.—The percentage of members of trade unions making returns who were unemployed on 31st January, 1927, was 16.1, as compared with 19.1 on 31st December, 1926, and 15.9 on 31st January, 1926.

UNITED STATES.||

Employment in January.—Figures relating to the volume of employment in January, 1927, based on returns from 10,318 establishments in 54 industries, are published by the Federal Bureau of Labour Statistics. These establishments reported 2,930,842 persons employed in January, as against 2,975,911 in December. The aggregate wages paid for January show a decrease of 4.9 per cent. as compared with December.

Index Number of Employment, January.—If the monthly average index number of employment in manufacturing industries in 1923 be taken as 100, the corresponding figure for January, 1927, is 89.4, as compared with 90.9 on December and 92.3 in January, 1926.

CANADA.

Employment in February.—For 1st February, 1927, returns were received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from 5,817 firms, with an aggregate of 788,887 upon their pay rolls. On 1st January the same firms reported 784,484 employed and the total for February thus shows an increase of 4,403 persons. If employment in the week ended 17th January, 1926, be represented by 100, the index number of employment for 1st February, 1927, is 95.4, as compared with 94.8 at the beginning of the preceding month and 90.7 on 1st February, 1926.

Trade Union Unemployment in January.—On 31st January, 1927, 6.4 per cent. of the aggregate membership of trade unions making returns were unemployed, as compared with 5.9 at the end of December, 1926, and 8.1 per cent. in January, 1926.

* Maandschrift van het Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek, 31st January, 1927. The Hague.

† Sozialstatistische Mitteilungen, February, 1927. Berne.

‡ Statistiske Efterretninger, 15th February, 1927. Copenhagen.

§ Information supplied by the Swedish Department of Social Affairs.

|| Employment in Selected Industries, January, 1927. Washington.

¶ The February Employment Situation, 1927. Ottawa.

** Information supplied by the Canadian Department of Labour, Ottawa.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTS, 1920-26.

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. 489/27. (1/2/27.) Section 8 (1) of Principal Act—Trade Dispute.

MINERS' DISPUTE—CONTINUATION OF STOPPAGE AFTER SETTLEMENT—QUESTION OF REMOVAL OF DISQUALIFICATION IN INDIVIDUAL CASES IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.

The applicant, a collier, made a claim for unemployment benefit on the 3rd December, 1926, which was treated as a test case and disallowed in accordance with the provisions of Section 8 (1) of the Principal Act.

It appeared that, following the national mining stoppage, the colliery re-opened for the resumption of work two weeks before the general settlement on the 30th November. Prior to the stoppage 1,000 men had been employed, but upon resumption of work only 500 were immediately re-engaged, the remainder being absorbed in dribbles as the conditions due to the stoppage were rendered normal.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim should be allowed. The Court were of the opinion that:—

(i) All matters in dispute ended on the 30th November.
(ii) The claims of all workmen who had not resumed work by the 22nd December by reason of physical difficulties caused through the stoppage should be disallowed up to that date.
(iii) In all cases where the difficulties were removed on various dates between the 2nd and 22nd December, the workmen's claims should be allowed from the date of clearance as certified by the employers.

(iv) The claims of all workers who were declared by the employers to be surplus to requirements should be allowed as from the 2nd December, also those of workmen who had not resumed because the employers did not propose to re-open the districts where they had previously been employed.

The Insurance Officer agreed that the stoppage of work due to the dispute did not cease until after the 22nd December, but in his opinion all men who were originally disqualified under Section 8 (1) should so remain until that date, and not in some cases be allowed benefit from an earlier date as recommended by the Court. He referred the case to the Umpire, who gave the following decision:—

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

"I agree with the Court of Referees that the stoppage of work at this colliery was still continuing on the 3rd December, and I see no reason for thinking that it had ceased before December 22nd. But I do not agree with the third and fourth recommendations of the Court of Referees. The statutory disqualification for receipt of benefit lasts so long as the stoppage of work continues, and is not removed in the case of individual men by the fact that the employers do not propose to re-open particular districts, or by other special circumstances other than those mentioned in Section 8 (1) of the Act of 1920."

Case No. 701/27. (24/2/27.) Section 7 (1) (iv) of Principal Act (as amended)—Unable to Obtain Suitable Employment.

APPLICANT, WHO REGISTERED AS AN A.B., REFUSED AN OFFER OF EMPLOYMENT AS SUCH—HAD COMPLETED 4 YEARS' APPRENTICESHIP AND WAS ATTENDING NAUTICAL SCHOOL TO QUALIFY FOR SECOND MATE'S CERTIFICATE—HAD SERVED APPRENTICESHIP TO QUALIFY AS OFFICER, NOT AS A.B.—EMPLOYMENT AS A.B. NOT SUITABLE.

The applicant made a claim for unemployment benefit on the 1st December, 1926, and registered for employment as an able seaman. Subsequently, in accordance with a local arrangement regarding the engagement of seamen, the Port Consultant notified certain vacancies and requested the Employment Exchange to send a selection of suitable men on the 31st December, 1926, and the 1st January, 1927. The applicant was instructed to report, but refused, stating that he was not available for work, as he was attending a nautical school of instruction. His claim was accordingly disallowed for six weeks from the 31st December, on the ground that he was not unable to obtain suitable employment.

It appeared that the applicant had not previously reported that he was undergoing a course of instruction. He maintained that the work offered as an A.B. was not suitable employment, since he had just completed a four years' apprenticeship at sea with the object of qualifying for a post as a ship's officer. He was undergoing a course of instruction preparatory to taking a Board of Trade examination for

* Volumes containing selected decisions of the Umpire are published by H.M. Stationery Office. Decisions given prior to 31st December, 1925, have been published in pamphlet form and later embodied in bound volumes, the latest being a volume of selected decisions given during the year 1925 (H.M. Stationery Office: price 7s. 6d. net). Decisions given subsequent to December, 1925, are printed in pamphlet form and may be obtained as and when issued, on payment of an annual subscription. All inquiries and applications should be made to H.M. Stationery Office at any of the addresses shown on the front cover of this GAZETTE.

a second mate's certificate, and considered that suitable employment would be as a third or fourth uncertificated officer, or at least as a quartermaster. He stated that he had made a mistake in registering for employment as an A.B.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim should be allowed.

The Insurance Officer did not agree with the Court's recommendation. In his view the applicant was not by certificate qualified for work other than as an A.B. He referred the case to the Umpire, who gave the following decision:—

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

"The applicant, who has served 4 years at sea as an apprentice to the sea service, was offered employment as an A.B. He had not been employed as an A.B., and I am not satisfied that such employment would be suitable employment for him. He had served his time as an apprentice to qualify himself for employment as an officer, not as an A.B."

"Until he had obtained a certificate he would find it difficult, but not impossible, to obtain employment as an officer. Though certain ships are required to be provided with certificated officers there is nothing to prevent an uncertificated man being employed as an officer, and some uncertificated men are so employed."

"Accordingly I agree with the recommendation of the Court of Referees."

Case No. 711/27. (22/2/27.) Section 7 (1) (iv) of Principal Act (as amended)—Unable to Obtain Suitable Employment.

PROVISO B—FIRM OF BOTTLEMAKERS CLOSED DOWN IN MAY, 1926, OWING TO GENERAL STRIKE—PURPOSED RE-OPENING IN JANUARY, 1927, ON NEW RATES OF WAGES AND CONDITIONS OF WORK—NEW TERMS NOT ACCEPTED.

The applicant, who had been a finisher at a Portobello bottle-works, had terminated his employment on the 7th May, 1926, when his firm closed down in consequence of the General Strike. His claim for unemployment benefit, made on the 21st September, was subsequently disallowed for six weeks from the 20th January, 1927, on the ground that he was not unable to obtain suitable employment.

A representative of the applicant's association explained that there were two firms of bottlemakers in Portobello, both of which had been closed since May, 1926, owing to the General Strike, and subsequently to the shortage of coal due to the national mining stoppage. In January, 1927, the applicant's firm proposed re-opening their works, and offered employment on revised rates of wages and conditions. The basic rate of wages and the "over-work" rates paid prior to the stoppage were to remain unaltered; but the additional percentage of 58½ was to be reduced to 46, and the working day of 9 hours was to be increased to 9½ hours. The applicant's union, on behalf of the applicant and his fellow workmen, declined employment on the new terms, contending that the conditions were much less favourable than those existing before the stoppage. The rates and conditions then operating had obtained for about five years and had become the habitual conditions of the district. Had it not been for the General Strike these conditions would have remained unaltered. The representative estimated that the proposed revisions would result in a reduction in a man's wages of 6s. 8d. a week.

The employers maintained that the new terms were reasonable having regard to the lengthy stoppage and the condition of the industry.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim should be allowed. The Court were of the opinion that the new conditions were less favourable than those which had habitually obtained in the district.

The Insurance Officer did not agree with the Court's recommendation, and referred the case to the Umpire. There was a hearing before the Umpire on the 21st February, 1927.

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

"I agree with the recommendation of the Court of Referees. The rate offered was undoubtedly less than the applicant had obtained when he was last ordinarily employed in the same district, and less than was paid in other districts in accordance with the terms of a National Agreement which was then in force."

"It was probably less than he had habitually obtained, but whether it was less than he would have obtained had he continued to be employed in his usual employment in the district no one can say."

"It is suggested that the latter is not less than the applicant can reasonably expect to obtain having regard to the rate which he has habitually obtained. I cannot decide this without deciding the question in dispute between the employers and the association to which the applicant belongs."

"I cannot decide that the employment offered was on suitable terms without constituting myself a wages tribunal, and there is no evidence before me on which I could properly act as such even if I were competent to do it."

Case No. 754/27. (26/2/27.) Section 7 (1) (iv) of Principal Act (as amended)—Unable to Obtain Suitable Employment.

PROVISO C—CARPENTER REFUSED OFFER OF EMPLOYMENT, ALLEGING HOURS OF WORK NOT IN ACCORD WITH NATIONAL AGREEMENT—GENERAL QUESTION WHETHER EMPLOYMENT ON CONDITIONS CONTRARY TO THOSE RECOGNISED BY NATIONAL AGREEMENT IS SUITABLE OR OTHERWISE.

The applicant, a carpenter resident in Yeovil, lost his employment on the 12th October, 1926, and made a claim for unemployment

benefit on the following day. On the 10th November he refused an offer of apparently suitable employment at Devizes, 46 miles from his home, at the district standard rate of wages. His claim was accordingly disallowed for six weeks from the 11th November, on the ground that he was not unable to obtain suitable employment.

The principal reason for the applicant's refusal of the offer appeared to be that, whereas he would have been required to work 46½ hours a week, a national agreement to which his trade union were parties limited the number of working hours during the winter months to 44 a week. Had he accepted the job he would have incurred the risk of being fined and suspended from his union.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim should be disallowed. The Court were of the opinion that the employment was suitable.

The applicant's association appealed to the Umpire against the disallowance, and after an oral hearing the Umpire gave the following decision:—

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

"The applicant, a carpenter, living at Yeovil, was offered employment at Devizes in November. His only substantial objection to the employment was that the employer's working hours were 46½ hours per week, whereas in accordance with the national working rules of the National Joint Council for the Building Industry the working hours at that season would be 44 hours per week.

"The working rules are embodied in an agreement made between the National Federation of Building Trades Employers (and other associations of employers) and a number of operatives' trade unions, including the association of which the applicant is a member; and they are generally observed throughout the country by federated employers and members of operatives' unions in the building trade. But there is a considerable number of non-federated employers in various districts, some of whom do not comply with these rules.

"In the Devizes district there appear to be but few, if any, federated employers, and the hours usually worked in that district are stated to be 46½ in winter, although presumably, if a federated employer had a contract in that district, he would follow the national working rules.

"The first question which arises is whether the employment offered was unsuitable, having regard to Section 7 (1) (c) of the Act of 1920, as being employment on conditions less favourable than those generally observed in the district by agreement between associations of employers and employees, or, failing such agreement, than those generally recognised in the district by good employers. No working hours are generally observed in the district by agreement between associations of employers and of employees, but it appears that the hours of working generally recognised by good employers in the district are 46½.

"Section 7 (1) of the Act of 1920 does not profess to provide a complete test of suitability of employment. The Act does not say that employment at the rate of wages and on conditions generally recognised in the district by good employers is necessarily suitable; and it is argued that, independently of that Section, employment is unsuitable if it is not in accordance with the terms and conditions agreed to between representative bodies of employers and employees as the terms and conditions to be recognised and accepted throughout the country.

"It is said, on the one hand, that such agreements are made in the general interests of the industry, and provide what by common consent of employers and employees in the industry are fair conditions of employment; and I am asked to infer that employment on other terms must necessarily be unsuitable. It is said, on the other hand, that it does not follow that employment on other terms or conditions is necessarily unsuitable, and that in deciding what is suitable employment regard must be had not only to the interests of the parties to such an agreement, but also to the interests of employers who are not parties to it, and to those of the public at large. These considerations raise questions of policy upon which opinions may differ, and it seems to me the only safe course is to follow strictly the words of the Act of Parliament. As Lord Sumner said in a recent case in the House of Lords: 'Just as we are bound absolutely by the language of the Legislature, so we must abstain from putting upon the Legislature anything that is not clearly what it has said, and for this very good reason, that it is so extremely apt to make judicial ideas as to what is good for the public or within the vague confines of public policy, do duty instead of a literal and unimaginative interpretation of the Legislature's own words.'

"To say that an offer of employment is unsuitable merely because it is on terms other than those recognised by a national agreement between bodies of employers and employees would be in effect to add a new and very far-reaching clause to the proviso to Section 7 (1) of the Act of 1920.

"The question has been considered by the Umpire in several cases, and in accordance with the views above expressed it was held in decisions 2263, 4268, and 6747 (1920), and 509/25, that employment is not unsuitable merely because it is not in accordance with the conditions agreed to by representative bodies of employers and employees.

"A different view, however, was held in three early cases, 1262/1911, 2155/20, and 5811/20, and these cases were (without sufficient consideration as it now seems) followed by me in decision 3421/26. These cases must now be held to have been erroneously decided.

"Decision 240/27 has no bearing on this question, as in that case no question of suitability of employment arose for decision.

The only question was whether the applicant was guilty of misconduct in refusing to do certain work which in accordance with the implied terms of his contract of service he could not be required to do.

"For these reasons, and following the principle of the group of cases first above referred to, I must hold that the employment offered to the applicant is not shown to have been unsuitable."

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

Recent Proceedings.

(A.)—INDUSTRIAL COURT DECISIONS.

CLERKS (GRADES I, II AND III), WAR OFFICE OUTSTATIONS.—Civil Service Clerical Association v. War Office. *Difference.*—Assimilation terms. *Decision.*—The Court awarded, subject to certain conditions, assimilation increases on basic salaries, as follows:—

To Grade I Clerks	£15
„ Grades II and III Clerks	£10

Effective as from 1st December, 1926. Issued 2nd February, 1927. (1275.)

FOREMEN OF TRADES, ADMIRALTY.—Staff Side v. Official Side, Admiralty Administrative Whitley Council. *Difference.*—Salary scales—Claim for increased increment. *Decision.*—The Court decided that the amount of the annual increment provided for in the salary scales of the men concerned should be increased by £5 to £15 per annum. Effective as from 1st January, 1927. Issued 2nd February, 1927. (1276.)

MEDICAL OFFICERS, SCOTTISH BOARD OF HEALTH.—Institution of Professional Civil Servants v. Scottish Board of Health. *Difference.*—Salary scales—Claim for increase. *Decision.*—The Court decided that the annual basic salary scale of the Medical Officers at Headquarters should be £600-25-850-50-1,000. Operative as from 1st January, 1927. Issued 12th February, 1927. (1277.)

ASSISTANT SOLICITOR AND LEGAL ASSISTANT, SCOTTISH BOARD OF HEALTH.—Institution of Professional Civil Servants v. Scottish Board of Health. *Difference.*—Salary scales—Claim for increase. *Decision.*—The Court decided against the claim. Issued 12th February, 1927. (1278.)

EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGE CLERKS, MINISTRY OF LABOUR.—Staff Side v. Official Side of the Ministry of Labour Departmental Whitley Council. *Difference.*—Clerks entering Employment Exchange Service by Reconstruction Examinations—Assimilation terms—Application for revision. *Decision.*—The Court awarded that the Clerks concerned should be placed on that point in the salary scale which they would have reached if the words "age of 18" were substituted for the words "age of 19," in Clause 11 (i) of the agreement of 10th March, 1921. Effective as from 1st January, 1927. Issued 15th February, 1927. (1279.)

TRADE BOARDS ACTS.

Orders, Notices, etc., Recently Issued.

I.—CONFIRMING ORDERS.

Flax and Hemp Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order F.H. (27) and (28), dated 10th February, 1927, confirming the variation of minimum rates of wages for male and female workers and specifying the 14th February, 1927, as the date from which such rates should become effective.

II.—ALTERATION IN THE COST-OF-LIVING INDEX FIGURE.

Lower wage rates have become operative as from the 1st March, 1927, in the undermentioned trades. The minimum rates of wages now applicable are those appropriate to the cost-of-living figure of 72, and are set out in the confirming Orders quoted below:—

Chain Trade Board (Great Britain), C (17), C (21) and C (25), col. 9.

Coffin Furniture and Cerement Making Trade Board (Great Britain), female workers in the Cerement Making section of the trade, U (16), col. 2.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.

Woodworking Machinery (Amendment) Regulation, 1927.

The Home Secretary has issued a notice, in pursuance of Section 86 (1) of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, that on the 3rd March, 1927, he made a Regulation, under Section 79 of the said Act, amending the Woodworking Machinery Regulations, 1922, made under the said section on the 2nd November, 1922.

The Regulation, which may be cited as the Woodworking Machinery (Amendment) Regulation, 1927, will come into force on 1st April, 1927.

Copies of the Regulation can be purchased, either directly or through any bookseller, from H.M. Stationery Office, at any of the addresses set out on the front cover of this GAZETTE.

WELFARE ORDER FOR BAKEHOUSES.

The Home Secretary has made an Order, dated 26th February, 1927, under Section 7 of the Police, Factories, &c. (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1916, for securing the welfare of the workers employed in factories and workshops or parts thereof in which is carried on the baking of bread or flour confectionery.

The Order, which may be cited as the Bakehouses Welfare Order, 1927, will come into force on the 1st May, 1927.

Copies of the Order can be purchased, either directly or through any bookseller, from H.M. Stationery Office, at the addresses set out on the front cover of this GAZETTE.

COAL MINES ACT, 1911, AND MINING INDUSTRY ACT, 1920.

Examinations for Certificates of Competency as Managers and Under-Managers of Mines and for Certificates of Qualification as Surveyors of Mines.

EXAMINATIONS for First and Second Class Certificates of Competency as Managers and Under-Managers of Mines will be held on the 25th and 26th May, 1927, at Edinburgh; Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Sheffield; Wigan; Cardiff and Birmingham.

The written part of an Examination for Certificates of Qualification as Surveyors of Mines will be held at the same Centres on the 26th May, 1927.

Applications for the necessary Forms should be made not later than the 11th April, 1927. In order that the appropriate Forms may be sent, it is important that Candidates should state whether they have sat at one or more of the Board's Examinations.

Letters should be addressed to the Secretary, Board for Mining Examinations, Mines Department, Dean Stanley Street, Millbank, London, S.W. 1.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

AGRICULTURAL WAGES.—*Report of proceedings under the Agricultural Wages (Regulation) Act for the year ending 30th September, 1926.* Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. (S.O. publication; price 1s.) (See page 94.)

BLIND WORKERS.—*Third Report of the Scottish Advisory Committee on the Welfare of the Blind, 1925-26.* Scottish Board of Health. (S.O. publication; price 6d.)

CENSUS OF PRODUCTION.—*Third Census of Production, 1924. Preliminary Reports on (i) iron and steel trades; (ii) cotton spinning and weaving, boot and shoe trades, rubber trade, paint, colour and varnish trades; (iii) grain milling trades, sugar and glucose trades, spirit distilling trade, spirit compounding, rectifying and methylating trade, tobacco trade; (iv) coal mining, coke and bye-products, manufactured fuel, railway carriage and wagon building trades.* (S.O. publications; price 6d. each.)

DEVELOPMENT FUND.—*Development Fund Accounts, 1925-26.* (H.C. 12; price 3d.) Includes advances for agricultural co-operation and for the training of ex-service men.

INDUSTRIAL FATIGUE.—*The effect of eyestrain on the output of linkers in the hosiery industry.* Report No. 40. Industrial Fatigue Research Board. (S.O. publication; price 1s.)

JUVENILE EMPLOYMENT.—*Committee on Education and Industry in Scotland. First Report.* Scottish Office. (S.O. publication; price 1s.) (See page 91.)

MINING.—(a) *Reports of H.M. Inspectors of Mines for the year 1925-4. North Midland Division. 5. Lancashire and North Wales Division. 6. Cardiff and Newport Division.* Board of Trade, Mines Department. (S.O. publications; price 1s. each.) (b) *Miners' Welfare Fund. Fifth Report of the Committee appointed by the Board of Trade to allocate the Fund.* (S.O. publication; price 1s. 6d.) (See page 91.)

POOR LAW RELIEF.—(1) *Statement showing the number of persons in receipt of poor law relief in England and Wales in the quarter ending in December, 1926, with some particulars as to the number of "unemployed" persons in receipt of such relief.* Ministry of Health. (S.O. publication; price 4d.) (See page 95.) (2) *Chester-le-Street Union. Report of the Board of Guardians on the administration for the period 30th August, 1926, to 31st December, 1926.* Ministry of Health. (Cmd. 2818; price 3d.)

ROAD FUND.—*Road Fund accounts, 1925-26.* (H.C. 15; price 3d.) Includes expenditure on special programme in "unemployment" areas.

TAXATION.—(i) *Report of the Committee on National Debt and Taxation.* (Cmd. 2800; price 7s. 6d.) (See page 94.) (ii) *Appendices to above Report.* (S.O. publication; price 5s. 6d.)

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.—*Report of the Unemployment Insurance Committee. Second volume. Minutes of evidence.* Ministry of Labour. (S.O. publication; price 10s. 6d.)

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.

LIST OF NEW CONTRACTS, FEBRUARY, 1927.

ADMIRALTY.

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

Devonport: **Steel Cylinders**: The Cargo Fleet & Iron Co., Ltd., Middlesbrough.—**Portland Cement**: T. Beynon & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; The Cement Marketing Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Timber**: The Plymouth & Oreston Timber Co., Ltd., Plymouth.—**Steel Rods, &c.**: H. J. Skelton & Co., Ltd., London, E.C. **Pembroke**: **Limestone Rubble**: J. & A. Stephens, Ltd., Pembroke. **Portsmouth**: **Steel Supports**: J. Lysaght, Ltd., Bristol. **H.M. Naval Establishments Abroad**: **Dredging Crane**: J. H. Wilson & Co., Ltd., Seacombe, Birkenhead.

(Contract and Purchase Department.)

Alternators, Motor: Newton Bros. (Derby), Ltd., Derby.—**Alternators, Motor, & Brackets**: Mackie & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Alternators, Oil-driven**: W. H. Allen Sons & Co., Ltd., Bedford.—**Aluminium Ingots**: British Aluminium Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Armature, Repairs to**: English Electric Co., Ltd., Rugby.—**Batteries and Spare Parts**: Chloride Electrical Storage Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Battery Spares**: D.P. Battery Co., Ltd., Bakewell, Derbyshire.—**Bells, &c., Electric**: Walters Electrical Mfg. Co., Ltd., London; Wm. McGeoch & Co., Ltd., Birmingham; A. Graham & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Engineering & Lighting Co., Ltd., St. Albans; Bonella Bros., London, W.C.—**Belting, Leather**: S. E. Norris Co., Ltd., London, E.; Spartan Manufacturing Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Bituros and Rosbonite**: Wailes Dove Bitumastic, Ltd., Newcastle; Pinchin, Johnson & Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—**Blocks, Wrought Iron**: Fellows Bros, Ltd., Cradley Heath; Ruston & Hornsby, Ltd., Grantham.—**Boilers, Cylindrical**: R. & W. Hawthorn, Leslie & Co., Ltd., Newcastle.—**Branch Breakers, &c.**: Whipp & Bourne, Ltd., Manchester.—**Britannia Metal, Nickel Silver and White Metal Articles**: Wm. Hutton & Sons, Ltd., Sheffield; Sheffield Steel Products, Ltd., Sheffield; T. Wilkinson & Sons, Birmingham.—**Brooms and Brushes**: Chesnutt, Cooper & Co., London, E.C.; C. H. Leng & Sons, Birmingham; A. Reid & Sons, Ltd., London, S.E.; Vale & Bradnack, Walsall; W. H. Vowles & Sons, Ltd., Stonehouse, Glos.—**Brushes**: Beechwood, Ltd., Chesham, Bucks; C. H. Leng & Sons, Birmingham; John Palmer, Ltd., Portsmouth; Star Brush Co., Ltd., London, N.; Vale & Bradnack, Walsall.—**Brushes, Painters**: Chadwick & Shapcott, Ltd., London, W.C.; C. H. Leng & Sons, Birmingham; A. Reid & Sons, Ltd., London, S.E.; J. Root & Son, London, N.—**Bunting**: Wm. Bancroft & Sons of Halifax, Ltd., Halifax; J. Clough & Son, Shipley; C. B. Brook & Co., Ltd., Bradford.—**Cables, Electric**: Enfield Cable Works, Ltd., Brimsdown; General Electric Co., Ltd., Southampton; Anchor Cable Co., Ltd., Leigh, Lancs.; Edison Swan Cables, Ltd., Lydbrook; Henley's Telegraph Works Co., Ltd., London, E.; Hoopers Telegraph and I.R. Works, Ltd., London, E.; Johnson & Phillips, Ltd., London, S.E.; Macintosh Cable Co., Ltd., Derby and Liverpool; Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; St. Helens Cable and Rubber Co., Ltd., Slough; Greenwich Cable Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Standard Telephones and Cables, Ltd., London, E.—**Calico**: G. I. Sidebottom & Co., Manchester; A. & S. Henry & Co., Ltd., Manchester; Joshua Hoyle & Sons, Ltd., Manchester; J. H. Greenhow & Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Candles**: J. C. & J. Field, Ltd., London, S.E.; Price's Patent Candle Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Caps, Blue Cloth**: Hobson & Sons (London), Ltd., London, S.E.; Zeffert & Son, Portsmouth.—**Cases, Suit**: Frenchs Ltd., London, N.—**Channel Bar, &c., Aluminium**: British Aluminium Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Chests of Drawers, Dressing Tables, &c.**: Hampton & Sons, Ltd., London, S.W.; Hoskins & Son, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Clips for Electric Cables**: Freckleton & Co., Glasgow; Hawks, Ltd., Birmingham; R. & F. Keates, Willenhall; E. Showell & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Cloth, Blue**: S. Salter & Co., Ltd., Trowbridge.—**Cloth, Woollen, for Table Covers**: J. Raistrick & Sons, Thackley; J. Harper & Sons, Bradford.—**Compressors, H.P. Air**: Peter Brotherhood, Ltd., Peterborough.—**Condenser Units (Die-cast)**: Sparklets, Ltd., London, N.—**Cotton Waste**: A. Smart & Sons, Ltd., Manchester; Porter Bros., Ltd., Liverpool; C. E. Austin & Sons, Ltd., Manchester; H. Yates & Sons, Ltd., Darwen, Lancs.—**Covers, Mattress and Pillow**: Frank Lane, Ltd., London, E.C.; E. H. Price, London, E.C.—**Cranes, Electric Overhead Travelling**: Herbert Morris, Ltd., Loughborough.—**Cruiser**: Fairfield Shipbuilding and Engineering Co., Ltd., Govan.—**Davits, Tubular**: J. Rogerson & Co., Ltd., Wolsingham S.O., Co. Durham.—**Drawers, Brown Cotton**: Simpkin, Son & Emery, Hincley.—**Drill, White Cotton**: Joshua Hoyle & Sons, Ltd., Manchester; E. Lane & Sons, Walkden.—**Drums, Iron**: Steel Barrel Co., Ltd., Uxbridge.—**Fans, Electric Table**: General Electric Co., Ltd., Witton.—**Fenders, Hazel Rod**: T. Black & Sons (Greenock), Ltd., Greenock.—**Firebricks, Tiles, etc.**: Burn Fireclay Co., Newcastle; J. Dougall & Sons, Ltd., Bonnybridge; H. Foster & Co., Ltd., Newcastle; Glenboig Union Fireclay Co., Ltd., Glasgow; J. T. Price & Co., Ltd., Stourbridge.—**Fireclay**: J. T. Price & Co., Ltd., Stourbridge.—**Flags**: Kirk, Hall & Co., Leeds; J. W. Plant & Co., Leeds; Adam & Lane & Neeve, Ltd., London, E.; W. Cockshaw, Ltd., Leeds; Porter Bros., Ltd., Liverpool.—**Generators, Motor**: Newton Bros. (Derby), Ltd., Derby.—**Gloves, Leather**: E. & W. C. French, Ltd., Taunton; Chas. Ockwell & Co., Cricklade; Goodman & Wagstaff, Woodley, nr. Stockport.—**Glycerine**: J. Crosfield & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Gromets**: H. Hipkiss & Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Bodill, Parker

(1922), Ltd., Birmingham.—**Gymnastic Apparatus**: G. G. Bussey & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; F. Bryan, Ltd., London, S.E.; Spencer, Heath & George, Ltd., Ponders End; T. Smith, London, W.C.; J. Wisden & Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Handkerchiefs, White Cotton**: J. H. Greenhow & Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Heaters, Feed Water**: G. & J. Weir, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Hides, etc., Buffalo**: Bryant & Co., London, S.E.; Thos. Cundall, London, S.E.; J. T. Hart & Sons, London, S.E.; Geo. MacLellan & Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Hoists**: Brown Bros. & Co., Ltd., Edinburgh.—**Installations, Electric Light**: G. E. Taylor & Co., London, E.C.; Johnson & Phillips, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Jars, Glass Preserve**: Jas. A. Jobling & Co., Ltd., Sunderland.—**Jean, Brown**: Dyson & Co., Kearsley & W. A. Rothwell, Walkden.—**Jute Goods**: Baxter Bros. & Co., Ltd., Dundee; Jute Industries, Ltd., Dundee.—**Kites**: W. Brooke & Co., London, W.—**Klaxon Horns**: Klaxon, Ltd., London, W.—**Knives, Glass**: J. Allen & Sons, Ltd., Sheffield.—**Lampholders**: Wm. McGeoch & Co., Ltd., Birmingham; General Electric Co., Ltd., Wotton and Wembley; Rainsford and Lynes, Birmingham; Edison Swan Electric Co., Ltd., Ponders End.—**Lamps and Parts, Projector**: Sperry Gyroscope Co., Ltd., London, W.—**Lanterns, etc.**: W. McGeoch & Co., Ltd., Birmingham; London Electric Firm, Croydon; Engineering and Lighting Equipment Co., Ltd., St. Albans; Hawkers, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Lanterns and Fittings, Navigation**: Chance Bros. & Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Eli Griffiths & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham; Molineaux, Webb & Co., Ltd., Manchester; Telford, Grier & Mackay, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Lanyards, Knife**: W. Coombs, Devonport.—**Lathe, Precision Screwcutting**: Bryant, Symons & Co., London, E.C.—**Lead Sheet and Pipe, and Leads**: Locke, Lancaster and W. W. & R. Johnson & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.; Walkers Parker & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Linen, Damask Table**: Murphy & Stevenson, Ltd., Belfast; Ulster Weaving Co., Ltd., Belfast; Wm. Ewart & Son, Ltd., Belfast; M'Crum, Watson and Mercer, Ltd., Belfast.—**Linoleum**: Fife Linoleum Co., Ltd., Kirkcaldy.—**Machinery for a Cruiser**: Cammell Laird & Co., Ltd., Birkenhead.—**Motor Barge, 36 ft.**: Harland & Wolff, Ltd., Bootle.—**Motor Boats, 35 ft.**: Harland & Wolff, Ltd., Bootle.—**Nails, etc., Copper**: Cooper & Turner, Ltd., Sheffield; Harrison & Cook, Birmingham; D. Powis & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham; J. Stone & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Tower Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Worcester.—**Note Magnifiers and Tuners**: Radio Instruments, Ltd., London, W.—**Pinnaces, 36 ft., with Auxiliary Motors**: A. Rutherford & Co., Ltd., Birkenhead.—**Plates, Chequered Steel**: Park Gate Iron & Steel Co., Ltd., Rotherham; South Durham Co., West Hartlepool.—**Plates, Mild Steel**: D. Colville & Sons, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Pump, Hydraulic**: Fullerton, Hodgart & Barclay, Ltd., Paisley.—**Pumps, Pressure Chamber**: Rees Roturbo Mfg. Co., Ltd., Wolverhampton.—**Rations, Meat and Vegetable**: C. & T. Harris (Calne) Ltd., Calne.—**Razors, Hollow Ground, Hand Forged**: J. Allen & Sons, Ltd., Sheffield.—**Repair Ship**: Vickers, Ltd., Barrow-in-Furness.—**Ribbons, Hat, Lettered**: G. Kenning & Son, Coventry; W. H. Grant & Co., Coventry; T. Stevens (Coventry), Ltd., Coventry.—**Rosin**: Gregory Reeves & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Langley-Smith & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Screws**: Butler, Spragg & Co., Ltd., Birmingham; H. Cox Screw Co., Ltd., Birmingham; T. Eaves, Ltd., Birmingham; Guest, Keen & Nettlefolds, Ltd., Birmingham; T. Haddon & Co., Ltd., Birmingham; A. Stokes & Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Sections, Steel**: Dorman, Long & Co., Ltd., Middlesbrough; D. Colville & Sons, Ltd., Glasgow; Frodington Iron and Steel Co., Ltd., Scunthorpe; Pease & Partners, Ltd., Saltburn; Port Talbot Steel Co., Ltd., Port Talbot.—**Shirts, Soft, White**: John Desmond & Co., Ltd., Londonderry; John James & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; The Salisbury Manufacturing Co., London, E.—**Shirts, Cellular**: Johnson & Sons, Ltd., Great Yarmouth; Frank Lane, Ltd., London, E.C.; Salisbury Manufacturing Co., London, E.—**Steel, High Speed Tool**: J. Vessey & Sons, Ltd., Sheffield; T. Andrews & Co., Ltd., Sheffield; Wm. Oxley & Co., Ltd., Sheffield; T. Firth & Sons, Ltd., Sheffield; S. Osborne & Co., Ltd., Sheffield; Cammell Laird & Co., Ltd., Sheffield; Sanderson Bros. & Newbould, Ltd., Sheffield; J. J. Saville & Co., Ltd., Sheffield; Vickers, Ltd., Sheffield; H. Rossell & Co., Ltd., Sheffield.—**Stoneware Troughing and Tiles**: Doulton & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Switches, Change-over, etc.**: McGeoch & Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Switches, Fuse Release, etc.**: Bertram Thomas, Manchester.—**Switches, Plugs and Sockets**: Edison Swan Electric Co., Ltd., Ponders End; Wm. McGeoch & Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Player & Mitchell, Birmingham; Edwards Bros., Ltd., Birmingham; Gabriel & Co., Birmingham; Park Royal Engineering Co., Ltd., London, N.W.; Hawkers, Ltd., Birmingham; D. H. Bonnella & Son, London, W.—**Switches, Rotary**: Tok Switches, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Telephone Receivers**: S. G. Brown, Ltd., London, W.—**Threads**: Henry Campbell & Co., Ltd., Belfast; Lindsay, Thompson & Co., Ltd., Belfast.—**Ties, Black Silk**: Toms, Steer & Toms, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Tiles**: Campbell Tile Co., Ltd., Stoke-on-Trent; Malkin Tile Works Co., Ltd., Burslem; Henry Richards Tile Co., Ltd., Tunstall.—**Tin and Japanned Wares**: Ash Bros. & Heaton, Ltd., Birmingham; T. E. Bladon & Son, Ltd., Birmingham; T. G. Blood, Birmingham; Bulpitt & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham; Farmer & Chapman, Ltd., Bilston; J. F. Farwig & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; F. Francis & Sons, Ltd., London, S.E.; Froggat & Tyler, Ltd., Bilston; M. J. Hart & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham; Lawden & Poole, Birmingham; Orme, Evans & Co., Ltd., Wolverhampton; J. Robertson, Aberdeen; Welsh Tinsplate and Metal Stamping Co., Ltd., Llanelly; T. Wilkes & Sons, Wolverhampton.—**Tin Containers**: Excoel Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Tubes, Brass and Copper**: The Birmingham Battery and Metal Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Allen, Everitt & Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Grice, Grice & Son, Ltd., Birmingham; Muntz's Metal Co., Ltd., Birmingham; H. H. Vivian & Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Hudson & Wright, Ltd., Birmingham; J. Wilkes, Sons & Mapplebeck, Ltd., Birmingham; Thos Bolton & Sons, Ltd., Oakamoor, North Staffs;

The Broughton Copper Co., Ltd., Manchester; The Yorkshire Copper Works, Ltd., Leeds.—**Tubing, Canvas Hose**: G. Angus & Co., Ltd., Newcastle.—**Valves, Liners and Pistons**: English Electric Co., Ltd., Rugby.—**Vests, Cellular**: Johnson & Sons, Ltd., Great Yarmouth; Frank Lane, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Vests, Winter**: J. B. Lewis & Sons, Ltd., Nottingham.—**Waistbelts**: Barrow, Hepburn & Gale, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Water Closets and Gear**: Doulton & Co., Ltd., Paisley; R. Brown & Sons, Ltd., Paisley.—**Wax Tapers and Paraffin Candles**: Palmer & Co., Ltd., London, E.; Price's Patent Candle Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Wire, Aerial**: Connollys (Blackley), Ltd., Manchester.—**Wire, Copper**: Henleys Telegraph Works Co., Ltd., London, E.; St. Helens Cable & Rubber Co., Ltd., Slough; Ward & Goldstone, Manchester; General Electric Co., Ltd., Southampton.—**Wood Goods, Manufactured**: W. H. Aston (Worcester), Ltd., Diglis Dock; J. Brown & Sons, Ltd., Thatcham, Berks; Burley & Sons, Ltd., Liverpool; R. Charnley & Sons, Ulverston; C. W. Clinch & Sons, Newbury; Dyne & Evens, London, E.; J. H. Ellis & Sons, Ltd., Sheffield; East & Sons, Ltd., Berkhamsted; Fosters, Ltd., Boxmoor, Herts; R. Groom, Sons & Co., Ltd., Wellington, Salop; J. B. Latham & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; G. P. Lloyd & Penhale, Ltd., Cardiff; S. Pinnock, Thatcham, Berks; J. Reynolds, Chesham; Rudders & Paynes, Ltd., Birmingham; Staveley Wood Turning Co., Staveley, near Kendal; H. Wells, Bucklebury Common, near Reading; C. White, London, E.; G. Wingrove & Son, Birmingham.

WAR OFFICE.

Activated Charcoal: Sutcliffe, Speakman & Co., Ltd., Leigh, Lancs.—**Air Compressor**: Broom & Wade, Ltd., High Wycombe.—**Balls, Spherical**: Walkers, Parker & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Bags, for Camp Equipment**: C. Groom, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Belting, Rubber and Canvas**: India Rubber, Gutta Percha & Tel. Works, Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Boilers, Steam, Inspection of**: Manchester Steam Users Assn., Manchester.—**Brooms, Bass**: Geo. Tyrie, London, E.C.—**Brushes, Brass**: C. H. Leng & Sons, Birmingham.—**Brushes, Paint and Whitewash**: Webb & Foulger (Brush Mfrs.), Ltd., London, S.E.—**Brushes, Sweeping, Long, Heads**: Geo. Tyrie, London, E.C.—**Caps, Forage, Foot Guards**: L. Silbertson, London, E.—**Caps, R.T.C.**: M. & A. Currie, Ltd., Kilmarnock.—**Cement, Portland**: Cement Marketing Co., Ltd., London, S.W. Aberthaw & Bristol Channel P.C. Co., Ltd., Aberthaw and Rhosce. Warren Cement Works, Ltd., Hartlepool. Tunnel P.C. Co., Ltd., Grays, Essex. Ship Canal P.C. Mfrs., Ltd., Ellesmere Port. Oxford P.C. Co., Ltd., Kirtlington. Kaye & Co., Ltd., Rugby. J. & W. Henderson, Ltd., Edinburgh. Gillingham P.C. Co., Ltd., Gillingham. British Standard Cement Co., Rainham. J. Board & Co., Ltd., Bridgewater.—**Chairs, Windsor**: Thos. Glenister, Ltd., High Wycombe.—**Chemical Apparatus, &c.**: A. Gallenkamp, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Cloth, Blue-Grey W.P.**: J. Watkinson & Sons, Ltd., Holmfirth. J. Hainsworth & Sons, Farsley.—**Copper Rings**: Thomas Bolton & Sons, Ltd., Oakmoor, Stoke-on-Trent.—**Countershafts**: Yeardon, Admitt & Co., Bristol.—**Cresoli**: Roxburgh, Morgan & Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Curtains, Mosquito, G.S.**: Frank Lane, Ltd., London, E.C. Thos. Briggs (London), Ltd., London, E.C. Waring & Gillow, Ltd., London, W. Maple & Co., Ltd., London, W.—**Curtains, Sandfly**: Thos. Briggs (London), Ltd., London, E.C. E. Cope & Co., Ltd., Nottingham.—**Cushions**: County Screen Co., Ltd., London, N.W.—**Dishes, Baking**: Star Metal Stamping Co., Ltd., Bilston.—**Earthenware (Plates, Basins, &c.)**: G. M. Creyke & Sons, Ltd., Hanley. Grimwades, Ltd., Stoke-on-Trent. Minton, Ltd., Stoke-on-Trent. Doulton & Co., Ltd., Burslem. Dunn, Bennett & Co., Ltd., Burslem.—**Enamelware (Plates, Pails, &c.)**: Orme, Evans & Co., Ltd., Wolverhampton. Welsh Tinsplate and Metal Stamping Co., Ltd., Llanelly.—**Engines, 80 H.P.**: Armstrong Siddeley Motors Ltd., Coventry.—**Fencing, Corrugated Steel**: Wm. Bain & Co., Ltd., Coatbridge.—**Friction Rings**: J. & F. Howard, Bedford.—**Glycerine**: Lever Bros., Ltd., Port Sunlight. J. Crossfield & Sons, Ltd., Warrington.—**Grinding Machine**: Churchill Machine Tool Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Iron, Wrought**: S. H. Burrows & Sons, Ltd., Sheffield.—**Lamps, Searchlight, 90 c/m.**: Park Royal Engg. Co., Ltd., London, N.W.—**Lathe**: Pollock & Macnab (1919), Ltd., Bredbury, Nr. Stockport. Dean, Smith & Grace, Ltd., Keighley.—**Medicines and Drugs**: Burgoyne Burdidges & Co., Ltd., East Ham.—**Motor Spares**: Karriers Motors, Ltd., Huddersfield.—**Pipes, Hose, Canvas**: The Wm. Rose Hose Co., Ltd., Salford.—**Poles, Screen**: Jones & Leach, Ltd., Newtown, N. Wales.—**Press for Blanking-out Discs**: Taylor & Challen, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Rugs, Axminster**: J. Templeton & Co., Glasgow.—**Sandbags**: Low & Bonar, Ltd., Dundee. Malcolm, Ogilvie & Co., Ltd., Dundee.—**Screws, Wood**: British Screw Co., Ltd., Leeds.—**Sleepers**: Wm. Christie & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Socks, Worsted**: G. Padmore, Ltd., Leicester. A. Yates & Co., Sibley. Hall & Son, Stoke Golding.—**Sodium Nitrate**: F. W. Berk & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Stable Fittings**: Wilmer & Sons, Ltd., London, E. & Wolverhampton.—**Stair Treads, &c.**: Safety Tread Syndicate, Ltd., London, E.—**Steel, Mild, Bars**: The Whitehead Iron & Steel Co., Ltd., Tredegar and Newport (Mon.).—**Steel, Round**: Cammell Laird & Co., Ltd., Sheffield.—**Steel, Shell**: Cammell Laird & Co., Ltd., Sheffield.—**Stoves, Soyers**: S. J. & E. Fellows, Ltd., Wolverhampton.—**Tables, Soldiers, Tops and Trestles**: W. H. Beal, Ltd., Hull. Lawson & Co., Glasgow. W. D. Tucker & Sons, Ltd., London, N.—**Touring Cars, 6-wheeled**: Morris Commercial Cars, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Tyres**: Dunlop Rubber Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Tyres, Bicycle**: D. Moseley & Sons, Ltd., Manchester.—**Vehicles ½-tracked**:—**Burford-Kegresse Spares**: H. G. Burford & Co., London, S.W.; Citroen-Kegresse Spares: Citroen-Kegresse, Ltd., London, W.—**X-Ray Films, &c.**: Ilford, Ltd., Ilford.—**Works Services**: Building Works and Services: Feltham, R.A.S.C. M.T. Depot—Converting shed into Mobilization Store: H. Burfoot &

Son, Eton Wick. Woolwich, Royal Arsenal—**Drainage**: L. J. Speight, Ltd., London, W.C. Woolwich, Royal Arsenal—**Supply and Erection of Steelwork**: W. Bain & Co., Ltd., Coatbridge. Dicoat—**Erection of Married Quarters**: Boshes (Cholsey), Ltd., Cholsey. Plymouth, Crownhill Hutments—**Officers Quarters**: J. Stanbury, Plymouth. Bulford and Tidworth—**Sheds for Mechanised Vehicles**: T. W. Palmer & Co., Merton Abbey. Edinburgh, Redford Bks.—**Reconstruction of 2 Association Football Pitches**: M. Hart, Glasgow. Glasgow, Maryhill Bks.—**Resurfacing Parade Ground**: Stark & Dobbie, Glasgow.

AIR MINISTRY.

Accumulators: Peto & Radford, London, S.W.—**Aircraft**: Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Bristol; Handley Page, Ltd., London, N.W.; H. G. Hawker Engineering Co., Ltd., Kingston-on-Thames; A. V. Roe & Co., Ltd., Newton Heath, Manchester; Westland Aircraft Works, Yeovil.—**Aircraft, Cockpits for**: Blackburn Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Leeds.—**Aircraft, Metal Floats for**: Fairey Aviation Co., Ltd., Hayes, Middlesex.—**Aircraft, Modifications to**: Fairey Aviation Co., Ltd., Hayes, Middlesex; Handley Page, Ltd., London, N.W.; A. V. Roe & Co., Ltd., Newton Heath, Manchester.—**Aircraft, Reconditioning of**: Sir W. G. Armstrong Whitworth Aircraft, Ltd., Coventry; Blackburn Aeroplane & Motor Co., Ltd., Leeds; Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Bristol; H. G. Hawker Engineering Co., Ltd., Kingston-on-Thames; A. V. Roe & Co., Ltd., Newton Heath, Manchester; Short Bros. (Rochester and Bedford), Ltd., Rochester.—**Aircraft Spares**: Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Bristol; Fairey Aviation Co., Ltd., Hayes, Middlesex; Gloster Aircraft Co., Ltd., Cheltenham; H. G. Hawker Engineering Co., Ltd., Kingston-on-Thames; Supermarine Aviation Works, Ltd., Woolston, Southampton.—**Aircraft, Spares, and Repair of Spares**: Fairey Aviation Co., Ltd., Hayes, Middlesex.—**Buildings and Works Services**: Artificers' Work (Duxford), A. Negus & Sons, Cambridge. Artificers' Work (Turnhouse), W. & J. R. Watson, Ltd., Edinburgh. Milling Machine (Kidbrooke), J. Parkinson & Son, Shipley. Motor Generator Set (Kidbrooke and Andover): Electric Construction Co., Ltd., Wolverhampton. Railway Sleepers (Manton): Christie & Co., Ltd., London, S.E. Re-roofing (Henlow): M. & F. O. Foster & Co., Ltd., Hitchin, Herts.—**Canvas, packing, Hessian**: Jute Industries, Ltd., Dundee.—**Cases, Carrying**: The Houghton-Butcher Mfg. Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Combined Air Bottles and Tanks**: Armstrong Whitworth & Co., Ltd., Newcastle-upon-Tyne.—**Direction Finding Receiver**: Marconi's W/T Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—**Engines, Aircraft**: Armstrong Siddeley Motors, Ltd., Coventry; Ricardo & Co., Ltd., London, S.W.; **Engines, Aircraft**: Crankshaft Dies for: Vickers, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Engines, Aircraft, Modification of**: W. Beardmore & Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Engines, Aircraft, Overhaul of, and Spares**: Rolls Royce, Ltd., Derby.—**Engine, Aircraft, Reconditioning of**: Rolls Royce, Ltd., Derby.—**Engines, Aircraft, Spares**: Gillett, Stephen & Co., Ltd., Bookham.—**Engines, Aircraft, Special Jigs and Tools for**: D. Napier & Son, Ltd., London, W.—**Engines, Aircraft, Type Test on**: W. Beardmore & Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Generators**: W. Mackie & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Newton Bros. (Derby), Ltd., Derby.—**Magnets and Spares**: British Thomson-Houston Co., Ltd., Coventry.—**Receivers**: H. W. Sullivan, Ltd., London, E.C.—**S.D. Freighters**: Shelvoke & Drewry, Ltd., Letchworth.—**Shelves, Rack, Steel Storage**: W. E. Chivers & Sons, Ltd., Devises.—**Sights, Norman**: B.S.A. Guns, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Slats for Racks, Steel Storage**: Hobbies, Ltd., Dereham.—**Slips, Release**: Vickers, Ltd., Weybridge.—**Trailers**: Shelvoke & Drewry, Ltd., Letchworth, Herts.—**Valves**: General Electric Co., Ltd., London, W.C.

POST OFFICE.

Apparatus, Telegraphic: Creed & Co., Ltd., Croydon, Surrey.—**Apparatus, Telephonic**: Phoenix Telephone & Electric Works, Ltd., London, N.W.; Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Standard Telephones & Cables, Ltd., London, N.; Sterling Telephone & Electric Co., Ltd., Dagenham, Essex.—**Apparatus, Testing and Protective**: Evershed & Vignoles, Ltd., London, W.; Phoenix Telephone & Electric Works, Ltd., London, N.W.; Power Equipment Co., Ltd., London, N.W.—**Arms, Wood**: Neil Small & Sons, Kilwinning, Ayrshire.—**Battery Stores**: C. A. Vandervell & Co., Ltd., London, W.—**Boots**: Adams Bros. (Raunds), Raunds; R. Coggins & Sons, Ltd., Raunds; Stephen Walker, Walgrave, Northants.—**Cable, Various**: British Insulated Cables, Ltd., Prescott, Lancs.; Callenders Cable & Construction Co., Ltd., Belvedere, Kent; Connollys (Blackley), Ltd., Blackley, Manchester; Enfield Cable Works, Ltd., Brimsdown, Middlesex; W. T. Glover & Co., Ltd., Trafford Park, Manchester; Hackbridge Cable Co., Ltd., Hackbridge, Surrey; W. T. Henley's Telegraph Works Co., Ltd., Gravesend; Johnson & Phillips, Ltd., London, S.E.; Macintosh Cable Co., Ltd., Derby; Pirelli General Cable Works, Ltd., Southampton; Standard Telephones & Cables, Ltd., London, E.; Union Cable Co., Ltd., Dagenham Dock, Essex.—**Canvas**: Richards, Ltd., Aberdeen.—**Castings, Iron**: Britannia Lathe & Oil Engine Co., Ltd., Colchester; United Steel Companies, Ltd. (Thos. Butlin & Co.), Wellingborough.—**Cells, Dry**: Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Chassis**: Morris Commercial Cars, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Coils, Loading**: General Electric Co., Ltd., Salford, Manchester; Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Cords for Telephones**: British Insulated Cables, Ltd., Helsby; Phoenix Telephone & Electric Works, Ltd., London, N.W.; Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Standard Telephones & Cables, Ltd., London, E.—

Ironwork, Telegraphic: Bayliss, Jones & Bayliss, Ltd., Wolverhampton; Bullers, Ltd., Tipton, Staffs.; T. W. Lench, Ltd., Blackheath, Birmingham; Wilkes, Ltd., Darlington, Staffs.—**Jars, Stone-ware**: J. Bourne & Son, Ltd., Denby, Derbyshire; Geo. Skeay & Co., Ltd., Tamworth, Leicestershire.—**Sleeves, Lead**: J. D. Stoward & Co., Ltd., Salford, Manchester.—**Sleeves, Jointing**: C. M. Powell Bros., Birmingham.—**Staybolts**: Burt, Boulton & Haywood, Ltd., Eling, Southampton and Newport, Mon.; Gabriel, Wade & English, Ltd., Ellesmere Port, Cheshire and Staddlethorpe, Yorks.—**Vans, Motor**: A. E. Gould, Ltd., London, W.; W. H. Perry, Ltd., London, N.—**Wallboards**: Venesta, Ltd., London, E.—**Wire, Bronze**: Thos. Bolton & Sons, Ltd., Oakamoor, Staffs.; Elliotts Metal Co., Ltd., Selly Oak, Birmingham; Richard Johnson & Nephew, Ltd., Beswick, Manchester; Shropshire Iron Co., Ltd., Hadley, Salop; Frederick Smith & Co., incorporated in the London Electric Wire Co. & Smiths, Ltd., Manchester.—**Conveyance of Mails**: The Southern Transport Co., Ltd., Brighton.—**Oxted P.O. Alterations**: Messrs. K. N. Williams & Yates, Oxted.

Conduits—Laying: Molesey (Surrey) (Scheme I): J. E. Billings & Co., Ltd., London, S.W. Muirend (Glasgow); Askern, Rossington and Stainforth (Doncaster); Darlington-Croft; Haxby, Green Hammerton, Poppleton, Stamford Bridge and Strensall; Horley (Surrey); Hodge Bros. (Contractors), Ltd., Northfield, Birmingham. Gateshead (Co. Durham): J. McLaren, Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne. Birkenhead (Cloughton and Caroline Place): Longson & Darnley, Portwood, Stockport. Hammersmith, etc.; Edgware (New Exchange); Winchmore Hill, N. (The Green); Cricklewood (New Exchange); Stepney, etc.: O. C. Summers, London, N. Putney-Wandsworth, S.W.; Bermondsey, S.E.: Whittaker Ellis, Ltd., London, S.W. East Barnet, N.; Wealdstone (Middlesex): H. Farrow, Ltd., London, N.W. East Finchley, N.; Byfleet (Surrey); City of London: J. Mowlem & Co., Ltd., London, S.W. Rothley (Leicestershire): W. P. & P. G. Hayes, Ltd., Grappenhall, Warrington. Kearsney, Eastling, Fritenden and Cheriton (Kent): Fordyce Bros., Middlesbrough. Buxton-Chapel-Chinley (Derbyshire): Cleveleys (Blackpool): W. Pollitt & Co., Ltd., Bolton. Dumfries: Peter Drummond & Son, Dumfries. Wellington and Dawley (Salop): S. F. Hopley, Prestatyn (N. Wales). Malvern and Droitwich (Worcestershire): Norwest Construction Co., Ltd., Liverpool. Bridgend, Briton Ferry and Neath (Glam.): G. F. Leadbeter, Newport (Mon.). Buxted and Lindfield; Chislet and Sandgate (Kent): W. Dobson (Edinburgh), Ltd., Edinburgh. Paignton (Haytor Vale) and Torquay (Albert Road and Wellwood); Devises: J. F. Hodge, Rednal, Birmingham. Newport (Mon.)—New Bridge: H. Smith, Newport (Mon.).—**Electric Lighting**: Langham New Telephone Exchange: Electric Power Installation Co., London, S.W.—**Telephone Exchange Equipment**: Carpet Manufacturing Co., Ltd. (Kidderminster); Borough of Hove Town Council; Newcastle-upon-Tyne Corporation; Middlesbrough Co-operative Society, Ltd.; Relay Automatic Telephone Co., Ltd., London, S.W. Midland Bank, Ltd. (Poultry, E.C.): General Electric Co., Ltd., Stoke, Coventry. Sub-Contractor: W. Jones & Co., Sydenham, S.E.26, for Ringing Machines. Kensington; General Electric Co., Ltd., Stoke, Coventry. Sub-Contractors: Newton Bros. (Derby), Ltd., Derby, for Charging Machines; Crompton & Co., Ltd., Chelmsford, for Ringing Machines; D. P. Battery Co., Ltd., Bakewell, Derbyshire, for Batteries, Epsom (Surrey); Automatic Telephone Manufacturing Co., Ltd., London, W.C. Beckenham (Kent); Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E. Sub-Contractors: English Electric Co., Ltd., Kingsway, W.C.2, for Charging Machines; Crompton & Co., Ltd., Chelmsford, for Ringing Machines; Hart Accumulator Co., Ltd., Stratford, E.15, for Batteries. Fleet (Hants); East Grinstead (Sussex); Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E. Riverside (Hammersmith); Finchley; East London; Clissold; Standard Telephones & Cables, Ltd., London, W.C.—**Telephonic Repeater Station-Power Plant**: Halesworth (Suffolk); Newton Bros. (Derby), Ltd., Derby. Sub-Contractors: Hart Accumulator Co., Ltd., London, E., for Batteries; Ruston & Hornsby, Ltd., Lincoln, for Engines. Taunton; Newton Bros. (Derby), Ltd., Derby. Sub-Contractors: Premier Accumulator Co. (1921), Ltd., London, S.W., for Batteries; Ruston & Hornsby, Ltd., Lincoln, for Engines.

H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE.

Cardboards: Wiggins, Teape & A. Pirie (Sales), Ltd., Stoneywood, Aberdeen.—**Carbons**: Waterlow & Sons, Ltd., Dunstable, Beds.—**Cord**: Belfast Ropeworks Co., Ltd., Belfast; J. & E. Wright, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Copier Composition**: Edwardson & Co., Enfield Highway, Middlesex.—**Cloth, Tracing**: Cousins & Co., Lancashire; B. J. Hall & Co., Ltd., Chaddle; Winterbottom Book Cloth Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Envelopes**: Pirie, Appleton & Co., Ltd., Aberdeen.—**Ink, Duplicating**: Ellams Duplicator Co., Ltd., Bushey.—**Paper of various descriptions**: Alders Paper Mills, Ltd., Tamworth, Staffs.; J. Brown & Co., Ltd., Penicuik, Midlothian; R. Craig & Sons, Ltd., Caldercruix, Lanarkshire; Culter Paper Mills Co., Ltd., Peterculter, Aberdeen; Caldwell's Paper Mill Co., Ltd., Inverkeithing; Dalton & Morgan, London, S.E.; Fisher & Co., Ltd., Tamworth Staffs.; New Northfleet Paper Mills, Ltd., Northfleet; Ryburndale Paper Mills Co., Ltd., Ripponden, nr. Halifax; E. Towgood & Sons, Ltd., Sawston, Cambs.; Y. Trotter & Sons, Ltd., Chirside, Berwick; Waterside Paper Mills Co., Ltd., Darwen.—**Pencils**: F. Chambers & Co., Ltd., Stapleford; British Pens, Ltd., Keswick.—**Printing, Ruling, Binding, etc.**: Group 116 (1927), General Register Office, etc., specified Items (S and N): Barclay & Fry, Ltd., London, S.E.1. Printing 500,000 Rope Manila Labels: Cooper, Dennison & Walkden, Ltd., London, S.E. Group 203 (1927), Manila Labels, specified Items: Fisher, Clark & Co., Ltd.,

Boston, Lincs. Printing 11,920,000 Unemployment Books: John Heywood, Ltd., Manchester. Printing 38,850 Tax Receipt Books: H.M. Stationery Office Press, Harrow. *Wales*—Group 1 (1927) Bookwork Printing: Wm. Lewis (Printers), Ltd., Cardiff. Printing 20,000 each of 2 Reproductions (Empire Marketing Board): Vincent Brooks, Day & Co., Ltd., London, W.C. Printing 20,000 each of 2 sorts Posters, "Map of World" (Empire Marketing Board): Waterlow & Sons, Ltd., Watford.

CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

Axlebox Brasses: Wota, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Boiler:** Cochran & Co. (Annan), Ltd., Annan, Scotland.—**Boots:** Wilkins & Denton, Ltd., London, E.C.; Adams Bros., Ltd., Raunds.—**Brake Spares:** Westinghouse Brake & Saxby Signal Co., London, N.—**Bridges:** J. Butler & Co., Ltd., Leeds.—**Cable:** Shropshire Iron Co., Ltd., Hadley, nr. Wellington, Salop.—**Canvas:** Waterproofing Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Carbons:** Kolok Manufacturing Co., Ltd., London, N.—**Cars:** Sentinel Waggon Works, Ltd., London, S.W.; Drewry Car Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Clayton Wagons, Ltd., Lincoln.—**Carts:** Eagle Engineering Co., Ltd., Warwick.—**Casing and Tubing:** British Mannesman Tube Co., London, E.C.—**Cement:** Cement Marketing Co., Ltd., London, S.W.; T. Beynon & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Chassis:** Morris Commercial Cars, Ltd., Soho, Birmingham.—**Clothing:** Chamberlins, Ltd., London, S.W.; Hobson & Sons, Ltd., London, S.W.; T. Briggs, Ltd., London, E.C.; Milns, Cartwright Reynolds, Ltd., London, S.W.; H. Lotery & Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Coal:** A. & G. Anderson, Glasgow.—**Couplings:** Cammell, Laird & Co., Ltd., Sheffield.—**Covers and Tubes:** Dunlop Rubber Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Cupola:** New Alldays & Onions, Ltd., Small Heath, Birmingham.—**Drill:** J. H. Greenhow & Co., Manchester; E. Spinner & Co., Manchester; Howe & Coates, Manchester.—**Drugs:** May & Baker, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Engine:** Goodwin, Barsby & Co., Ltd., Leicester.—**Fire Extinguishers:** General Fire Appliance Co., London, E.C.—**Fuse:** Bickford, Smith & Co., London, S.W.—**Instruments:** Tyer & Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Ironwork:** Bullers, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Lathe:** A. Herbert, Ltd., Coventry.—**Locos:** Motor Rail and Tramcar Co., Bedford; Beyer, Peacock, Ltd., Manchester.—**Loco Spares:** Kitson & Co., Ltd., Leeds.—**Log Frame:** A. Ransome & Co., Ltd., Newark-on-Trent.—**Lorries:** Albion Motor Car Co., Ltd., Scotstoun, Glasgow.—**Machines:** Ward, Haggas & Smith, Ltd., London, S.W.; H. R. Marsden, Ltd., Leeds; Geo. Richards & Co., Ltd., Broad Heath, nr. Manchester; Oil Well Supply Co., London, E.C.; J. Parkinson & Sons, Shipley, Yorks.—**Machinery:** D. & J. Tullis, Ltd., Clydebank.—**Metal:** Phosphor Bronze Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Oil:** C. C. Wakefield & Co., London, E.C.; Vacuum Oil Co., London, S.W.—**Paint:** Wilkinson, Haywood & Clark, London, W.C.—**Petrol:** F. & A. Swanzy, Ltd., London, W.C.—**Pipes:** Cochran & Co., Ltd., Middlesbrough-on-Tees; Bell's Poilite and Everite Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Plant:** Mirrless, Bickerton & Day, Ltd., Hazel Grove, nr. Stockport; British Thomson-Houston Co., London, W.C.—**Plates:** J. Westwood & Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Poles:** Bromford Tube Co., Ltd., Aston, Birmingham.—**Portable Installation:** Clayton Installations, Ltd., London, W.C.—**Pumps:** F. Pearn & Co., Ltd., West Gorton, Manchester.—**Quinine:** Howards & Sons, Ltd., Ilford.—**Rails and Fishplates:** United Steel Co., Ltd., Workington; H. J. Skelton & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Roller:** Marshall, Sons & Co., Ltd., Gainsborough.—**Rope:** Bullivant & Co., Ltd., Dagenham Dock, Essex.—**Scales:** De Grave, Short & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Sleepers:** Guest, Keen & Nettlefolds, London, E.C.—**Sheets:** Wolverhampton Corr. Iron Co., Ltd., Ellesmere Port, nr. Birkenhead.—**Steelwork:** P. & W. McLellan, Ltd., Glasgow; Brown, Lenox & Co. (London), London, E.; A. & J. Main & Co., Ltd., London, W.C.; Tees Side Bridge & Engineering Works, Ltd., Middlesbrough; Hall & Pickles, Ltd., Manchester.—**Superheater Headers:** Superheater Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—**Surgical Instruments:** Down Bros., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Telephone and Telegraph Materials:** Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Ericsson Telephones, Ltd., London, W.C.; Standard Telephones & Cables, Ltd., London, W.C.—**Timber:** C. Leary & Co., London, E.C.—**Train Lighting Materials:** J. Stone & Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Tubes:** Stewarts & Lloyds, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Turbine Spares:** Brush Electrical Engineering Co., Loughborough.—**Turntable:** Ransomes & Rapier, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Tyres:** Brown Bayley's Steel Works, Ltd., Sheffield.—**Underframes:** Head, Wrightson & Co., Ltd., Thornaby-on-Tees; Hurst, Nelson & Co., Ltd., Motherwell, N.B.—**Wagons:** R. Hudson, Ltd., Leeds.—**Waste:** E. S. Pettitt & Co., Ltd., Salford, Manchester; Redmayne & Isherwood, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Wireless Apparatus:** Marconi's Wireless Tele. Co., London, W.C.—**Wrenches:** Vickers, Ltd., London, S.W.

H.M. OFFICE OF WORKS.

Building Works: Aberdeen, Maintenance Work—Excavator, etc.: R. S. Pringle, Aberdeen. Batley Telephone Exchange—Painter: Chas. Fenton & Sons, Leeds; Plasterer: Cowling & Hobson, Leeds;

Steelwork: Geo. Depledge & Co., Ltd., Leeds. Bloxwich, Walsall, Telephone Exchange—Erection: Letts & Airston, Walsall. Bury Employment Exchange—Painter: Daniel Lea, Manchester; Plumber, etc.: George Brown & Son, Bury; Slater: W. Royle & Co., Manchester. Caversham, Reading, P.O. Garage—Erection: McCarthy E. Fitt, Reading. Coatbridge Employment Exchange—Erection: L. B. White, Bellshill. Dagenham Post Office—Joiner: A. E. Lindsey & Son, Ltd., London, N. Darlaston Employment Exchange—Asphalter: Engert & Rolfe, Ltd., London, E. Durham Post Office, etc.—Erection: J. W. White, Sunderland. Edgware Telephone Exchange—Asphalter: The Ragusa Asphalte Paving Co., Ltd., London, W.; Steelwork: Dorman, Long & Co., Ltd., London, S.W. Grantham Employment Exchange—Plumber, etc.: H. Braithwaite & Co., Ltd., Leeds; Tiler, etc.: Pattinson & Co., Ltd., Sleaford. Headington, Oxford, Telephone Exchange—Erection: Boshers (Cholsey) Ltd., Cholsey. Heaton Moor, Stockport, Telephone Exchange—Erection: Mark Lane & Co., Ltd., Stockport. Hitchin Sorting Office—Bituminous Roofing: Field & Palmer, Ltd., London, N. Linthorpe, Middlesbrough, Telephone Exchange—Asphalter: Val de Travers Asphalte Paving Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Painter: E. Turner, Ltd., Middlesbrough; Plasterer: Austin & Gibson, Middlesbrough; Plumber: J. Tennick, Yarm-on-Tees. Lowestoft, Blenheim House, etc.—Repairs, etc.: W. J. Croft, Lowestoft. Middlesbrough Employment Exchange—Adaptations: N. Thompson, Middlesbrough. Milnrow, Rochdale, Telephone Exchange—Erection: Ogden Bros., Oldham; Carpenter, etc.: Charles Scholfield & Co., Ltd., Oldham; Plumber, etc.: Hill & Gibson, Oldham; Slater, etc.: Isaac Pogson, Shaw. Molesey Telephone Exchange—Erection: E. D. Winn & Co., Ltd., London, S.W.; Steelwork: Drew-Bear, Perks & Co., Ltd., London, S.W. Mount Pleasant Parcel Office, E.C.—Glazier: The Standard Patent Glazing Co., Ltd., London, S.W. Old Colwyn, Colwyn Bay, Telephone Exchange—Erection: T. G. Huxley & Co., Chester. Plymouth Station Sorting Office—Slater: Henry Ede & Son, Ltd., Plymouth. Regent's Park, N.W.—Extension of Convenience: A. S. Wells, London, S.E. St. Mary Church, Torquay, Telephone Exchange—Erection: Stephens & Son, Ltd., Exeter. Southend Main Telephone Exchange—Asphalter: Noller & Pasini, Ipswich. South Kensington, S.W., Science Museum—Pavement Lights: British Luxfer Prism Syndicate, Ltd., London, E.C. Southport Employment Exchange—Asphalter: Penmaenmawr & Trinidad Lake Asphalte Co., Ltd., Liverpool; Painter: Joseph Foulds, Southport; Plasterer, etc.: Thomas Southworth & Sons, Ltd., Southport. Southwick, Brighton, Telephone Exchange—Erection: H. Elliott, Hove. Stanningley, Leeds, Employment Exchange—Erection: Appleyard Bros. (Bramley) Ltd., Bramley. Stockton-on-Tees Employment Exchange—Steelwork: Bolekow, Vaughan & Co., Ltd., Middlesbrough. Stockton-on-Tees Maintenance Work—Painter: G. F. Allan & Sons, Ltd., Stockton-on-Tees; Plumber: J. M. Guthrie, Stockton-on-Tees. Summertown, Oxford, Telephone Exchange—Erection: E. Organ & Son, Oxford. Sutton Telephone Exchange—Steelwork: Rubery, Owen & Co., Darlaston. Tilbury Dock—Hut: William Harbrow, Ltd., London, S.E. Totnes P.O.—Erection: Harris Bros., Exmouth. Wallsend, Northumberland, Telephone Exchange—Erection: Stephen Buy, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Warrington—Maintenance Work: S. Norbury & Son, Warrington.—**Engineering Services:** Princes Risborough Laboratory—Heating E. Deane & Beal, Ltd., London, E.C.; Machinery: T. White & Sons, Ltd., Paisley.—**Painting:** W. G. Beaumont & Son, London, E.—**Miscellaneous:** Casements (Steel), etc.: Humphries, Jackson & Ambler, Ltd., Manchester; William Morris & Co. (Westminster), Ltd., London, S.W. Furniture: Owen Haines, High Wycombe; J. H. Sutcliffe, Todmorden; Wake & Dean, Ltd., Yatton. Tar: The Gas Light & Coke Co., London, E.C.; The South Metropolitan Gas Co., London, S.E. Window Cleaning: The Great Metropolitan Cleaning Co., Ltd., London, S.W.

NOTICE.

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