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THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE

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SUMMARY OF PRINCIPAL STATISTICS.

EMPLOYMENT.

The following is a summary of the employment statistics for November, 1946, compared with those for mid-1939, mid-1945 and October, 1946:—

	Mid-1939.	Mid-1945.	Oct., 1946.	Nov., 1946.
Numbers employed in Industry:—				
Manufacture of Equipment and Supplies for the Forces ..	1,270,000	3,830,000	491,000	474,000
Manufacture for Home Market:—				
Metal and Chemical Industries ..	1,586,000	1,014,000	2,495,000	2,520,000
Other Manufactures ..	2,969,000	1,566,000	2,492,000	2,520,000
Manufacture for Export ..	990,000	410,000	1,423,000	1,440,000
Basic Industries and Services ..	4,683,000	5,191,000	5,546,000	5,547,000
Building and Civil Engineering ..	1,310,000	722,000	1,250,000	1,250,000
Distributive Trades ..	2,887,000	1,938,000	2,272,000	2,304,000
Other Services ..	2,225,000	1,598,000	1,948,000	1,960,000
Total ..	17,920,000	16,289,000	17,917,000	18,015,000
Civil Defence, N.F.S. and Police ..	80,000	127,000	88,000	88,000
Armed Forces and Auxiliary Services ..	480,000	5,090,000	1,567,000	1,510,000
Ex-H.M. Forces who have not yet taken up Employment ..	—	40,000	415,000	345,000
Insured persons registered as Unemployed ..	1,270,000	103,000	366,000	366,000
Total Working Population (excluding Indoor Private Domestic Service) ..	19,750,000	21,649,000	20,353,000	20,324,000

The total number employed in industry in November, 1946, included 12,394,000 males and 5,621,000 females. Compared with mid-1939, the number of males showed a decrease of 689,000 and the number of females an increase of 784,000.

The above figures are analysed in greater detail on pages 18 to 20. Changes in employment during 1946 are reviewed on page 2.

UNEMPLOYMENT.

The numbers of insured persons registered as unemployed in Great Britain at 9th December, 1946, are given below, together with corresponding figures for the previous month and for mid-1939.

	Mid-1939.	11th Nov., 1946.	9th Dec., 1946.	Increase (+) or Decrease (—) at December compared with November.
Men (18 and under 65) ..	992,000	260,296	261,729	+ 1,433
Boys (14 to 17) ..	20,000	8,978	7,931	— 1,047
Women (18 and under 60) ..	239,000	90,975	88,001	— 2,974
Girls (14 to 17) ..	19,000	6,282	5,315	— 967

The numbers unemployed at 9th December, 1946, represent 2½ per cent. of the estimated total number of insured persons, the corresponding percentages for males and females being 2½ and 2, respectively.

Of the total of 362,976 persons unemployed, 358,645 were wholly unemployed and 4,331 were temporarily stopped. Of the former, 79,289 had been out of work for not more than two weeks, 98,896 for more than two but not more than eight weeks, and 180,460 for more than eight weeks.

The figures for December, 1946, are analysed in greater detail on pages 21 to 24, on which statistics are given for each of the Regions and for a number of the larger towns and also for the separate industries. Changes in unemployment during 1946 are reviewed on pages 2 and 3.

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 the United Kingdom in December, 1946, resulted in an aggregate increase estimated at £38,000 in the weekly full-time wages of about 145,000 workpeople. No decreases in wages were reported.

The principal industries in which wage rates were increased were rayon yarn production, the non-trading services of local authorities in the administrative county of London and in Kent, Surrey and Sussex, stamped or pressed metal wares manufacture, the retail meat trade in England and Wales and aerated waters manufacture.

It is estimated that weekly wage rates at the end of December, 1946, were about 65 per cent. higher than at September, 1939, as compared with the same figure at the end of November, 1946.

The number of workpeople whose hours were reduced in December was over 200,000, the average reduction being about 3 hours a week.

The principal reduction in weekly hours of labour in December affected workpeople employed in cotton spinning and weaving.

Full particulars of the changes in rates of wages and hours of labour in December are given on pages 27 to 29.

The changes reported to have come into operation during 1946 have resulted in total net increases estimated at over £2¼ million in the weekly full-time wages of over 7¼ million workpeople, and in an average decrease of about 2½ hours a week in the normal hours of labour of over 2 million workpeople. Further particulars are given on pages 3 to 6.

TRADE DISPUTES.

The number of industrial disputes involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as beginning in December, was 79. In addition, 9 stoppages which began before December were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The approximate number of workers involved, during December, in these 88 stoppages (including workers thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred) was 18,000 and the aggregate number of working days lost at the establishments concerned, during December, was 49,000.

The aggregate duration of all stoppages in progress during 1946 was nearly 2,160,000 working days, and the total number of workers involved in these stoppages was nearly 530,000.

Further particulars of disputes involving stoppages of work during December and throughout 1946 are given on pages 30 and 7, respectively.

COST OF LIVING.

At 1st January the official cost-of-living index figure was 104 per cent. above the level of July, 1914, showing no change as compared with 30th November. The index figure of food prices also remained unchanged at 68 per cent. above the level of July, 1914. The rise in the index since the beginning of September, 1939, is equivalent to nearly 32 per cent. for all items and about 22 per cent. for food.

Further particulars with regard to retail prices at 1st January are given on page 31. Particulars relating to the year 1946 are given on pages 6 and 7.

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT, WAGES, HOURS OF LABOUR, COST OF LIVING AND TRADE DISPUTES IN 1946.

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

The redistribution of manpower, which had already made considerable progress during the second half of 1945, continued throughout 1946. Releases from the Forces and Auxiliary Services carried into effect the programme laid down by the Government, and during the eleven months January to November the total numbers released amounted to about 2,500,000 men and 230,000 women. (These releases were partly offset by an intake of about 330,000 into the Forces during the same period). The numbers employed on the manufacture of equipment and supplies for the Forces were also reduced according to plan, and the number in this category was only 474,000 at the end of November, as compared with 1,771,000 at the beginning of the year. In the Forces, Auxiliary Services, Police and National Fire Service, and the section of industry manufacturing directly for the Forces, taken together, the reduction in manpower during the period January to November amounted to nearly 3,700,000 (following a reduction of about 3,300,000 in the second half of 1945). This large reduction was accompanied by a substantial net loss in the working population; some demobilised members of the Forces returned to their homes in Ireland and other countries overseas, and others entered universities and other educational institutions; and considerable numbers of men and women retired from industry when the "war effort" no longer required their services. The departure of women to join their husbands in the Dominions, the United States and other countries was another contributory cause. The net result was that the working population (including males aged 14 and under 65 and females aged 14 and under 60) was estimated to have been 824,000 less at the end of November than it was at the beginning of the year, the fall being 347,000 among males and 477,000 among females. There was some increase in unemployment during the year, but there was a substantial reduction in the number of ex-members of the Forces on demobilisation leave. The net result of all the afore-mentioned changes, was an increase of about 3,160,000 in the numbers on work for export and in home civilian industries and services, viz., agriculture, mining, National and Local Government, public utilities, transport, building and civil engineering, the distributive trades and other consumer services and manufactures for the home market.

The greater part of the changes indicated above occurred in the first half of the year, as the following figures show:—

	January-June.	July-November.	Strength at end November.	
			Number.	Per cent. of Mid-1939.
Forces and Auxiliary Services	-1,825,000	-522,000	1,510,000	315
Police and National Fire Service	-19,000		88,000	110
Manufacturing Industries:—				
Metals, Chemicals, Explosives, etc., Industries—				
Equipment and Supplies for Forces	-812,000	-128,000	364,000	34
Manufacture for Export	+289,000	+64,000	915,000	203
Manufacture for Home Market	+517,000	+228,000	2,520,000	159
Total, Metals, Chemicals, etc., Industries	+6,000	+164,000	3,799,000	122
Other Manufacturing Industries—				
Equipment and Supplies for Forces	-244,000	-113,000	110,000	55
Manufacture for Export	+144,000	+66,000	525,000	97
Manufacture for Home Market	+404,000	+250,000	2,520,000	85
Total, other Manufacturing Industries	+304,000	+203,000	3,155,000	85
All Manufacturing Industries—				
Equipment and Supplies for Forces	-1,056,000	-241,000	474,000	37
Manufacture for Export	+433,000	+130,000	1,440,000	146
Manufacture for Home Market	+921,000	+478,000	5,040,000	111
Total all Manufacturing Industries	+298,000	+367,000	6,954,000	102
Other Industries and Services	+880,000	+321,000	11,061,000	100
Insured persons unemployed	+91,000	-10,000	366,000	29
Ex-members of Forces on demobilisation leave	-50,000	-355,000	345,000	—
Total Working Population	-625,000	-199,000	20,324,000	103

In the metals, chemicals and explosives group the reduction in employment on the manufacture of equipment and supplies for the Forces was readily taken up by manufacture for export and the home market. Furthermore, new intake (including men from the Forces) more than offset retirements, transfers and other wastage from these industries and thus led to a further net increase by the end of November of 158,000. The total number employed is still nearly 700,000 greater than the number at mid-1939. Employment in other manufacturing industries (including the textile, clothing, food and drink, woodworking, building materials, and paper and printing industries) increased during the period January to November by 507,000 (men by 415,000 and women by 92,000), but at the end of November the number in those industries was still 554,000 less than in 1939. The number employed on the manufacture of equipment and supplies for the Forces in November was only 37 per cent. of

the number so employed at mid-1939. Employment on orders for export, on the other hand, was 45 per cent. higher than in 1939, and employment on manufactures for the home market was 11 per cent. higher.

In the group described as "Other industries and services" in the Table above, the changes in the various components during the period January to November, 1946, were as follows:—

			Strength at end of November.	
	Males.	Females.	Number.	Per cent. of Mid-1939.
Agriculture and Fishing	+68,000	-13,000	1,082,000	114
Mining and Quarrying	+17,000	-2,000	801,000	92
National and Local Government	+175,000	-78,000	2,032,000	147
Gas, Water and Electricity Supply	+54,000	-7,000	257,000	106
Transport	+159,000	-66,000	1,375,000	112
Building and Civil Engineering	+261,000	-7,000	2,304,000	80
Distributive Trades	+30,000	+15,000	1,960,000	114
Entertainments, Sport, etc.	+59,000	+12,000	573,000	89
Hotel, Boarding-house, Catering, etc., Services	+6,000	-6,000	175,000	83
Laundries and Dry-cleaning	+187,000	-18,000	1,016,000	85
Commerce, Banking, Insurance, etc., Professional and other Personal Services				

There were substantial increases in the numbers of males in all industries in the group, except mining and quarrying, which had a relatively small increase of 17,000, and the laundry and dry-cleaning industry, which increased by 6,000. The building and civil engineering industries had the largest increase (353,000), which brought their strength very nearly up to the 1939 level. The increases of 261,000 in the number of males in the distributive trades and of 187,000 in the commerce, banking, insurance and professional and personal services group still left the male strength of the two categories at 70 per cent. of the corresponding numbers in 1939. In agriculture and fishing, gas, water and electricity supply, transport and National and Local Government Services the male strength is now above the pre-war level.

Among females there were decreases in 1946 in most of the industries represented in the foregoing Table, the only substantial exceptions being the increases of 15,000 in entertainments, sport, etc., and 12,000 in the hotel, boarding-house, catering, etc., services.

The total strength of each industry in November and the proportion that it represents of the 1939 total are shown in the last two columns of the foregoing Table. In National and Local Government service the total is still 47 per cent. above the pre-war level, and that level was also exceeded in agriculture and fishing (+14 per cent.), transport (+12 per cent.), entertainments, sport, etc. (+14 per cent.), and gas, water and electricity supply (+6 per cent.). As has already been noted, the pre-war level has also very nearly been reached in the building and civil engineering industries. On the other hand, the numbers in November were still below the pre-war total in mining and quarrying (-8 per cent.), the distributive trades (-20 per cent.), hotel, boarding-house and catering services (-11 per cent.), laundries and dry-cleaning (-17 per cent.), and commerce, banking, insurance, etc., and professional and personal services (-15 per cent.).

There was some increase during 1946 in the numbers of insured persons registered as unemployed, a decrease among women and girls (from 121,449 in December, 1945, to 93,316 in December, 1946) being more than offset by an increase among men and boys (from 163,307 to 269,660). The decrease among women was largely due to a reduction from 61,037 to 45,019 in the number of married women on the registers, some of whom no doubt retired from the employment field on the termination of the unemployment benefit to which they became entitled when their war work ceased. Unemployment among men and boys increased month by month during the first half of the year, but thereafter showed little change. The principal elements in the additional unemployment among men at the end compared with the beginning of the year were (a) an increase, following the progress of the demobilisation scheme, in the number of ex-members of the Forces registered at Employment Exchanges for employment; (b) some increase in unemployment, simultaneously with a large increase in employment, in the building and civil engineering industries, mainly among labourers who had been engaged on the preparatory stages of building work; (c) the termination of war-time employment, which resulted in increased unemployment in National and Local Government service and no doubt accounted for part of the increase in other industries; and (d) an increase in unemployment in the transport and distributive services, which was probably due in part to the reinstatement of previous employees returning from the Forces.

The numbers of insured persons registered as unemployed in each month from December, 1945, to December, 1946, are shown in the first Table on the next page.

In addition there were some uninsured persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges. These numbered 8,539 in December, 1945, and 7,132 in December, 1946, and included 3,231 boys and girls under 16 who had not yet entered industry in December, 1945, and 2,171 in December, 1946.

Date.	Numbers of Insured Persons on the Registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain.				Total.
	Men 18 years and under 65.	Boys 14 and under 18.	Men 18 years and under 60.	Girls 14 and under 18.	
1945.					
10th December 1946	156,126	7,181	114,686	6,763	284,756
14th January 1946	190,182	8,915	122,257	8,100	329,454
11th February	214,612	9,415	123,801	7,750	355,578
11th March	230,526	8,901	123,101	7,388	371,916
8th April	238,846	8,282	118,172	6,110	371,410
13th May	248,441	9,126	111,395	5,914	374,876
17th June	261,302	9,101	100,249	5,515	376,167
15th July	255,436	8,319	90,719	4,860	359,334
12th August	261,803	9,176	87,441	5,301	363,721
16th September	258,317	9,578	85,325	5,986	359,206
14th October	259,528	9,396	90,192	6,542	365,658
11th November	260,296	8,978	90,975	6,282	366,531
9th December	261,729	7,931	88,001	5,315	362,976

The numbers of insured unemployed persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges in each Administrative Region in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 10th December, 1945, and 9th December, 1946, were as shown below:—

Region.	Males aged 14 and under 65.		Females aged 14 and under 60.		Total number unemployed at 9th Dec., 1946, expressed as percentage of estimated total number of insured persons.
	10th Dec., 1945.	9th Dec., 1946.	10th Dec., 1945.	9th Dec., 1946.	
London and South-Eastern	12,545	30,964	6,581	7,442	1
Eastern	3,211	8,244	2,097	2,765	1½
Southern	4,117	5,675	2,090	2,296	1
South-Western	5,222	8,292	1,948	2,761	1½
Midland	16,733	10,646	6,415	2,127	1
North-Midland	3,894	7,643	3,628	3,110	1
East and West Ridings	8,375	15,978	6,845	4,531	1½
North-Western	24,584	52,005	14,667	13,019	3
Northern	21,294	32,498	21,078	16,281	5
Scotland	31,880	59,104	22,872	19,658	5
Wales	31,115	37,385	32,498	15,781	7½
Special Schemes	337	1,226	730	3,545	2½
Great Britain	163,307	269,660	121,449	93,316	2½
Northern Ireland	21,469	29,239	6,132	3,737	9
United Kingdom	184,776	298,899	127,581	97,053	2½

There were increases in the numbers unemployed in all Regions except the Midland Region and Wales. In the former Region there was a decrease of about 6,000 among men and 4,000 among women, while in Wales an increase of 6,000 among men was heavily outweighed by a decrease of 17,000 among women. Northern Ireland had the highest rate of unemployment in December, 1946 (9 per cent.), followed by Wales with 7½ per cent., the Northern Region and Scotland with 5 per cent., and the North-Western Region with 3 per cent. In all other Regions the rate of unemployment was under 2 per cent.

RATES OF WAGES.

The upward movement in the general level of wage rates which had occurred during the war became more marked in the first half of 1946. From July onwards the position has been virtually stable.

In the industries for which statistics as to changes in rates of wages are regularly compiled by the Department*, the changes reported up to the end of July resulted in an aggregate net increase in weekly full-time rates of wages of about £2½ million. The increase in the last five months of the year was nearly £600,000. In the whole year the aggregate net increase was thus nearly £2,850,000 in the weekly rates of wages of nearly 7,850,000 workpeople. While there have been variations in the amounts of increase granted in different industries, it is estimated that, at the end of 1946, the average level of full-time weekly rates of wages in all the industries for which information is available was rather over 8 per cent. higher than at the end of 1945, and about 65 per cent. higher than at the beginning of the war. Of the increase of over 8 per cent., nearly 7 per cent. was granted in the first seven months of the year. In many industries the length of the normal week was reduced during the year without any corresponding reduction in weekly rates of wages. It is estimated that the increase in hourly rates of wages was about 10 per cent. on average, making a total increase since September, 1939, of 68 to 69 per cent. These percentage increases in weekly and hourly rates of wages take no account of the marked increases in average earnings which resulted during the war from the operation of other factors such as fuller employment, overtime working and the extension of systems of payment by results.†

The next Table shows the approximate numbers of workpeople affected by the changes in rates of wages reported to the

* The statistics are exclusive of changes affecting Government employees, domestic servants, shop assistants and clerks. They relate to rates of wages for a full week, and do not take account of variations in actual earnings resulting from other factors, such as changes in the state of employment or in weekly working hours. The changes reported are mainly those arranged by organisations of employers and workers. Changes arranged by individual employers and affecting unorganised groups of workpeople are not, in most cases, reported to the Department.

† Some particulars of the increases in average earnings between October, 1938, and July, 1946, with figures for certain intermediate periods, were given in the issue of this GAZETTE for October, 1946.

Department in 1946, and the net amount of the change in their weekly rates of wages, in each of the principal groups of industries for which detailed statistics are available.* Corresponding figures are also given for 1945.

Industry Group.	Approximate Number of separate Individuals reported as affected by Net Increases in Weekly Rates of Wages.		Estimated Net Weekly Increases in the Rates of Wages of all workpeople affected.	
	1946.†	1945.	£	£
Agriculture	820,000	515,000	381,300	129,000
Mining and Quarrying	69,000	82,900	31,000	15,300
Brick, Pottery, Glass, Chemical, etc.	338,000	225,100	126,600	43,800
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding	2,289,000	2,866,600	648,000	627,900
Textiles	547,000	491,000	120,500	135,000
Clothing	511,500	209,300	180,400	37,600
Food, Drink and Tobacco	352,500	283,700	103,100	46,400
Woodworking, Furniture, etc.	174,500	185,500	68,900	27,500
Paper, Printing, etc.	229,000	24,200	143,400	4,900
Building, Public Works Contracting, etc.	857,500	628,800	483,200	141,400
Gas, Water and Electricity Supply	186,000	157,700	52,200	39,200
Transport	369,000	647,000	140,000	264,700
Public Administration Services	290,500	400,500	123,300	184,800
Others	800,500	590,500	234,000	108,700
Total	7,834,000	7,308,100	2,835,900	1,806,200

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN 1946.

Rates of wages were increased during 1946 in most of the industries for which information is available. Particulars are given below of the changes in the principal industries and services.

Agriculture.—The minimum rates of wages fixed under the Agricultural Wages Regulation Acts were increased by 10s. a week in July for men employed in England and Wales and by 10s. to 11s. 6d. a week, according to district or occupation, in October for men employed in Scotland, making the minimum rate for ordinary labourers 80s. a week. The minimum rates for women were increased by 12s. a week in England and Wales and by 13s. or 14s. a week in Scotland. In Northern Ireland, the statutory minimum rates for men were raised by 9s. 9d., 10s. or 10s. 3d. a week, according to district. In each case there were proportional increases for juvenile workers.

Mining and Quarrying.—In the coal mining industry there were no general changes in the rates of wages established under the four-years' agreement made in April, 1944. There was a net increase during the year of 1s. 2d., or approximately, per shift for workers engaged in iron mining in most districts. In road-stone quarrying the basic rates of adult workers were increased by 2d. to 3½d. an hour, according to district. Workers employed in chalk quarrying received a general increase of 2d. an hour, with an additional increase of ½d. an hour in the lowest-rated areas, and those in ballast and sand production an increase of 2½d. an hour.

Brick, Chemical, etc., Industries.—In the building brick and allied industries in England and Wales and at certain works in Scotland, national minimum rates of wages were adopted, resulting in general increases of 2½d. an hour for men and of 2½d. for women 18 years or over, with larger increases for workers engaged in the manufacture of certain products. In the pottery industry a new system of wage rates was adopted in November, which resulted in considerable increases of varying amounts for most classes of workpeople. Increases in rates of wages in the heavy chemical industry varied at different establishments. In one group there were increases in time rates of 1½d. an hour for men and ¾d. for other workers. In another group time rates were increased by 2d. an hour for men and by 1½d. for women. In the drug and fine chemical industry weekly minimum time rates of wages were increased in May by 6s. for both men and women, while in the Greater London area there were further increases early in January, 1947, of 4s. for men and 2s. for women. In paint, varnish and lacquer manufacture minimum rates were increased by 8s. 6d. a week for men, by 5s. 9d. to 6s. 9d. for women wholly employed in place of men, and by 5s. 6d. for other women. Weekly time rates of wages in the soap, candle and edible fat industry were advanced by 6s. for men employed by certain firms and 4s. by other firms, and by 6s. for women, with additional increases of ½d. or 1d. an hour for shift workers. In glass container manufacture there were increases in minimum basic time rates of 2d. an hour for men and of 1½d. for women.

Metal, Engineering, etc., Industries.—In the iron and steel industry there were fluctuations in wage rates during the year under the operation of sliding-scale arrangements under which rates of wages are adjusted periodically in accordance with movements in the official cost-of-living index figure, and an increase in June due to a revision in the basis of these arrangements. In the whole year there were net increases of 1s. 1d. to about 1s. 3½d. a shift for men, according to district. In the engineering and allied industries the national bonus was increased by 6s. a week in April for men and by 4s. 6d. in May for women 18 years and over, with consequential increases for younger workers and for women engaged on men's work. In addition to this general increase, there were increases in the

* See footnote in previous column.

† The figures given for 1946 are preliminary and subject to revision.

basic rates of foundry workers, ranging from 2s. to 3s. 6d. a week for men in different occupations. The bonus in the shipbuilding and ship-repairing industry was increased in April by 6s. a week for men and by varying amounts for women and younger workers.

Textiles.—In the spinning section of the cotton industry there were increases of 10s. in February for mule spinners, spinner assistants and twiner minders as an addition to the existing flat-rate payment, and of varying amounts in September for assistant spinners, mule assistants and ancillary staff in the mule rooms when new inclusive minimum rates were fixed for a 48-hour week. For all occupations in the weaving section there was an increase in February of 10 per cent. on the rates operative in September, 1939, equivalent to an increase of 7.4 per cent. on the current rates, excluding the flat-rate of 16s. a week payable to adults and the smaller payments made to juveniles. In both sections of the industry *pro rata* increases in hourly rates and in piece rates were made in December to compensate for a reduction in weekly hours from 48 to 45. In the woollen and worsted industry in Yorkshire consolidated wage rates for timeworkers were adopted for a 45-hour week, comprising an increase of 6.67 per cent. in hourly rates to compensate for the reduction in weekly hours and further increases of approximately 5½ to 8 per cent.; pieceworkers had an increase of 10 per cent., of which 5 per cent. was regarded as compensation for the reduction in weekly working hours. In the textile bleaching, dyeing and finishing industry in Lancashire, Yorkshire and Scotland there were small increases in August under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements. In November cost-of-living wages were discontinued and all-in minimum time rates were adopted for a 45-hour week, resulting in increases of 3s. a week for men and of 2s. 8d. or 2s. 9d. for women; pieceworkers had an increase of 6.67 per cent. on consolidated rates as compensation for reduced hours of working and a further over-all increase of 2.5 per cent.

Clothing Industries.—Workpeople in the boot and shoe manufacturing industry received increases in their minimum time rates in January of 8s. a week for men and 10s. for women; for pieceworkers there were increases of 5 per cent. on the basic statement prices for male workers and of 10 per cent. for female workers. In ready-made and wholesale bespoke tailoring, wholesale mantle and costume manufacture, shirtmaking and corset making in Great Britain, the general minimum time rates fixed under the Wages Councils Act were increased by 3½d. or 4d. an hour for men and women at the same time as the normal weekly working hours beyond which overtime rates become payable were reduced from 48 to 44. In retail bespoke tailoring the minimum rates fixed under the Wages Councils Acts were increased in England and Wales by approximately 11 per cent., in Scotland by about 9 per cent. (with an additional ½d. an hour for women), and in Northern Ireland by 10 per cent. The statutory general minimum time rates for workers employed in dressmaking and women's light clothing manufacture in England and Wales were increased in February by 2½d. an hour for men and by 2d. to 2½d. for women, according to occupation; in November normal weekly hours were reduced from 48 to 44 and hourly time rates were increased by 1½d. or 2½d. for men and by ½d. to 3d. for women. The minimum time rates fixed under the Wages Councils Act for laundry workers in Great Britain were raised by 7s. a week for men, and by 5s. or 7s. for women, or by varying amounts, according to the work performed, for those employed as war-time substitutes for male workers, and at the same time hours were reduced from 48 to 45 a week.

Food, Drink and Tobacco Industries.—In the flour milling industry additional payments were granted of 6s. a week for men, of 4s. 6d. for women and of varying amounts for younger workers. The statutory minimum rates of wages in the baking industry in England and Wales fixed under the Wages Councils Act were increased in April by 1½d. to 2d. an hour for men and women in the Greater London area and by ½d. to 2½d. in other areas. In Scotland the national agreed rates were increased in November by 2s. to 5s. a week for men, according to occupation and time of starting work, and by 2s. for women. In sugar confectionery, cocoa and chocolate manufacture and food preserving in Great Britain, the minimum time rates for men and women fixed under the Wages Councils Act were increased by 1½d. an hour. There were corresponding increases in the rates of wages agreed by the Interim Industrial Reconstruction Committee for these industries, with additional increases for night workers and shift workers.

Woodworking.—In the home-grown timber trade in England and Wales there were increases of 2d. an hour for sawyers and machinists, of 1½d. for labourers, crane drivers and transport men, and of 1d. for women and juveniles. The rates of wages of woodcutting machinists and sawyers employed in sawmills connected with the imported timber trade in England and Wales were increased by 3d. an hour, with proportional increases for apprentices and female workers; male labourers received an increase of 2½d. and female labourers 1½d. In Scotland there were increases of 3½d. an hour for men and of 1½d. or 2d. for female dilutees. Workers engaged in the manufacture of wood boxes, packing cases and wooden containers received a general increase in England and Wales amounting to 2½d. an hour for skilled men, 2d. for labourers, and 1d. for women; in Scotland men received an increase of 3½d. an hour. In the furniture manufacturing industry a national agreement was made in March which involved reductions in working hours and increases of 3d. an hour in minimum rates for journeymen in the London district, of 2d. to 3½d. for those employed elsewhere, and of varying amounts for other male workers; for women there were increases ranging up to 4d. an hour.

Paper, Printing, etc., Industries.—In paper making there were increases in January and July totalling 3d. an hour for men on daywork and 4d. an hour on shiftwork. In the general printing industry, and in newspaper printing in the provinces, there were increases in January and November amounting to 16s. 6d. or 18s. 6d. a week, according to occupation, for men on time rates and for women in receipt of men's full rates, and of 15s. a week for other women, with corresponding increases for workpeople employed on piece rates. Workpeople employed on the production of London and national morning, evening and Sunday newspapers received increases in August of 8s. 6d. a week for men and women in receipt of men's basic rates and of 7s. 6d. for other women.

Building and Contracting.—In January the rates of wages of craftsmen in the building industry were increased by 4d. an hour and those of labourers by 3d. or 3½d., according to locality, in all districts of England and Wales, except the Liverpool, Birkenhead and Wirral districts where certain craftsmen had increases of 6½d. In Scotland the rates of craftsmen were increased by 3½d. and those of labourers by 2½d. or 3d. Later in the year there were increases of ½d. to 2½d. an hour in the rates of wages of craftsmen and labourers in many districts in Scotland as a result of the establishment of uniform rates in place of separate rates for five grades of districts. In England and Wales all localities in the lowest-rated grade, and certain other localities in intermediate grades, were upgraded in October, with consequential increases of ½d. to 2d. an hour for craftsmen and ½d. to 1½d. for labourers employed in these localities. The rates of wages of civil engineering construction workers in Great Britain were increased in January by 3½d. an hour. In July there were increases of ½d. to 2d. an hour for men in various districts following the reclassification of these districts for wages purposes. In Northern Ireland increases of 4d. an hour for craftsmen and 3d. for labourers were granted in January to workers employed in the building and civil engineering construction industries. In the electrical contracting industry in England and Wales and in Northern Ireland there were increases of 1d. an hour in the rates of skilled electricians in the lowest-graded districts and of ½d. in other districts, with proportional increases for other men, and a general increase of ½d. an hour for all classes of men. In Scotland the rates of journeymen electricians were advanced by 2½d. an hour.

Gas, Electricity and Water Supply.—The war advance in the gas supply industry was increased by 2d. an hour for dayworkers and by 1s. 4d. a shift for shiftworkers, with corresponding increases for pieceworkers. In the electricity supply industry there was an increase in March of 1d. an hour in war bonus for men, and an additional increase in all areas except the London area of ½d. or 1d. an hour for shiftworkers. For workpeople employed in waterworks undertakings in England there was an increase in the national war wage addition for men of 4s. a week or 1d. an hour.

Transport Industries.—The statutory minimum rates of wages of workpeople employed in the road haulage of goods were raised in February by 6s. a week; for certain workers under 18 years of age the increase was 3s. 6d. In July, areas formerly classified as Grade 3 for wages purposes were reclassified as Grade 2, involving increases of 4s. or 3s. a week, according to occupation, for men employed in these areas. Workpeople employed by municipal tram, trolley bus and omnibus undertakings in Great Britain (excluding the metropolitan area) and Belfast received increases in February of 7s. or 7s. 6d. a week; those employed by the London Passenger Transport Board had increases of 7s. to 9s. 6d., according to occupation. Workpeople employed by company-owned omnibus undertakings had increases of various amounts resulting from the adoption of rates of wages recommended by a Court of Inquiry.

Distributive Trades.—The minimum rates of wages agreed upon by the National Joint Industrial Councils for different classes of workpeople employed in the retail distribution of groceries, provisions and other foods, furniture, etc., drapery, clothing and footwear, and meat were increased by varying amounts, according to area, occupation and age. For example, shop assistants, van salesmen, cashiers, clerks and central warehouse staff in the retail grocery trade had increases varying up to 12s. a week for males and 7s. for females in London and certain provincial towns, and up to 11s. for males and 6s. for females in other districts in England and Wales. General distributive and clerical, etc., workers employed by retail co-operative societies in Great Britain were granted in April special advances of 4s. a week for workers 21 years and over, of 3s. for those 18 and under 21, and of 2s. for those under 18; in November national rates were adopted to replace local and area rates previously in operation, resulting in increases of varying amounts. In the milk distributive trade in England and Wales the statutory minimum time rates of wages were increased by 7s. or 8s. 6d. a week, according to area, for men, by 5s. or 6s. for women employed as roundswomen or clerks, and by 5s. to 12s. 6d., according to occupation and area, for other women; in Scotland there were increases of 7s. for foremen, 6s. for forewomen, 5s. 9d. for other men, and 5s. 9d. or 4s., according to occupation, for other women.

Central and Local Government Services.—In Government engineering and shipbuilding establishments there were increases in the rates of national bonus similar to those paid in the engineering industry generally. Workers employed by the Post Office in manipulative grades (postmen, telegraphists, telephonists, etc.) received varying increases as a result of the introduction of new consolidated scales of pay on 1st June, and similar increases were granted to the lower Post Office engineering grades (e.g.,

labourers and skilled workmen) as from 1st August. Manual workers in non-trading services of local authorities in Scotland received in February* an increase in war wage of 6s. a week; in England and Wales there were no general increases during 1946, but in some areas there were increases in basic rates. Clerical workers employed by local authorities received varying increases following the adoption in 1946 of national scales of salaries in England and Wales and Scotland respectively. Roadmen employed by most county councils in England and Wales received an increase of 12s. a week.

INDUSTRIES IN WHICH THERE WAS NO GENERAL CHANGE IN 1946.

The principal industries in which no general changes in rates of wages were reported during 1946 were coal mining, the port transport industry and merchant shipping. There were no changes also in a number of smaller industries, including, among others, the gold, silver, jewellery, etc., trades in London and Birmingham, chain making, lace making, linen and cotton handkerchief and household goods and linen piece goods manufacture in Great Britain, dressmaking in Scotland, and boot and shoe repairing. In the railway service the only change was the consolidation of war advances into the standard rates.

In the case of about 48,000 workpeople, there were two or more movements in wages during the year which left the general level of wages the same at the end as at the beginning of the year.

METHODS BY WHICH CHANGES IN WAGES WERE ARRANGED.

In the case of those workpeople who received increases at certain dates and sustained reductions at other dates in 1946, the figures in the Table in the second column of page 3 relate to the net amount of the change in the year. The gross total of all the increases granted was £2,859,500 and that of all the decreases was £23,600 a week, the net effect being an increase, as shown, of £2,835,900 a week. The following Table gives the aggregate amounts of the total increases and total decreases which were effected by various methods during 1946, together with percentages showing to what extent each method contributed to the total.

Method.	Aggregate Weekly Amount of Change in Rates of Wages effected by the Methods shown in first column.			
	Increases.		Decreases.	
	Amount.	Percentage of Total.	Amount.	Percentage of Total.
	£	Per cent.	£	Per cent.
Under Sliding Scales† based on the Cost of Living ..	21,500	0.8	14,600	61.9
Arbitration and Mediation ..	107,200	3.7	—	—
By Other Methods:—				
Direct Negotiation, etc. ..	1,399,100	49.0	—	—
Joint Industrial Councils‡	546,700	19.1	—	—
Other Standing Joint Councils, Conciliation Boards, etc., established by voluntary agreement††	497,500	17.4	9,000	38.1
Wages Councils and other Statutory Wages Boards	287,500	10.0	—	—
Total	2,859,500	100.0	23,600	100.0

It will be seen that over 85 per cent. of the increases were arranged by agreement between organisations of employers and workpeople, either directly or through Joint Industrial Councils or other joint organisations. The workpeople affected by decreases received increases at other dates in the year.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES IN THE YEARS 1939–1946.

The following Table shows the approximate numbers of workpeople, in the industries and services for which detailed statistics are available,‡ whose rates of wages were increased or reduced (so far as reported) in each of the years 1939 to 1946, and the net amount of increase or decrease in their weekly rates of wages:—

Year.	Approximate number of separate individuals§ reported as affected by		Estimated Net Weekly Amount of Change in Rates of Wages.		Estimated Net Weekly Increase in Rates of Wages of the Workpeople affected.
	Net Increases.	Net Decreases.	Increases.	Decreases.	
1939 ..	6,150,000	65,800	980,900	8,500	972,400
1940 ..	8,780,000	—	2,633,000	—	2,633,000
1941||	8,865,000	—	2,490,000	—	2,490,000
1942||	6,707,000	400	1,708,000	50	1,707,950
1943||	7,237,000	152,100	1,630,900	2,900	1,628,000
1944||	8,587,000	300	1,958,000	500	1,957,500
1945||	7,308,000	400	1,806,100	50	1,806,050
1946¶	7,834,000	—	2,835,900	—	2,835,900

* A corresponding increase in England and Wales had taken effect at the end of December, 1945.

† Changes taking effect under sliding scales arranged by Joint Industrial Councils, other Standing Joint Councils, Conciliation Boards, or Wages Councils, etc., are included under "Sliding Scales."

‡ See footnote * in first column on page 3.

§ In addition to the workpeople for whom figures are given in this Table there were 8,000 workpeople in 1939, 214,000 in 1942, 33,000 in 1943, 12,500 in 1945, and 48,000 in 1946, who were affected by increases and also by reductions of equal amount, within the same year.

|| The figures previously published for these years have been revised.

¶ The figures for 1946 are preliminary and subject to revision.

In view of the limitations to which attention has been drawn above,* and especially of the fact that certain large groups of workpeople are not covered by the statistics, the figures in the Table should not be regarded as affording more than a general indication of the movement in rates of wages in any year in comparison with that in other years, and special significance should not be attached to small differences in the amount of change as between one year and another.

HOURS OF LABOUR.

Since the widespread reduction in hours of labour in the years 1919 and 1920, there was comparatively little movement in working hours until the year 1946. During this year it is estimated that, in the industries for which statistics are available,* nearly 2,100,000 workpeople had their normal weekly hours of labour reduced by about 2½ hours a week on the average. The principal industries in which such reductions in hours were made included agriculture, cotton, wool textile, hosiery, silk spinning and weaving, linen in Northern Ireland, textile bleaching, dyeing and finishing, ready-made and wholesale bespoke tailoring, wholesale mantle and costume manufacture, dressmaking, hat, cap and millinery, laundering, the road vehicle retail and repairing trade, printing, building and civil engineering in Northern Ireland, furniture manufacture, biscuit making, seed crushing, bacon curing, brewing at Burton-on-Trent, glass processing, gas supply (shiftworkers only), retail distribution by co-operative societies, and cinema theatres. In most of these industries the shorter working week consists of 44 or 45 hours. In some other industries, including the engineering industry, it has been agreed that reduced working hours should operate early in 1947.

The following Table shows the number of workpeople, in the industries for which statistics are regularly compiled by the Department,* whose hours were reported as changed in each of the years 1939 to 1946, and the aggregate net amount of the change.

Year.	Approximate Number of Workpeople whose Normal Hours of Labour were		Aggregate Net Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in Weekly Hours.
	Increased.	Reduced.	
1939	—	396,000	— 1,412,000
1940	54,000	193,000	— 633,000
1941	16,000	10,000	— 2,500
1942	4,000	10,000	+ 5,000
1943†	8,000	141,000	+ 256,000
1944†	3,000	—	+ 4,400
1945	—	22,000	+ 42,000
1946‡	—	2,085,000	— 5,615,000

The number affected in 1939 consisted mainly of juvenile workers under 16 years of age employed in a large number of industries. Those affected in 1940 were chiefly juveniles in some other industries, and agricultural workers in areas in which there were changes in the number of hours beyond which overtime rates were paid. In 1943 the workpeople affected were mostly agricultural workers.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN 1946.

For agricultural workers in England and Wales (other than female workers in a few areas with a shorter working week and certain classes of men in some areas for whom special weekly rates are in operation which are inclusive of additional time involved in the performance of their particular duties), the weekly hours to which the statutory minimum rates of wages apply, and beyond which overtime rates are payable, were fixed in April at 48 all the year round; previously the minimum rates of wages had applied to weekly hours ranging from 48 to 52, according to area and time of year. Weekly hours were also reduced in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

In the cotton industry, the woollen and worsted industry, the silk industry, the linen industry in Northern Ireland, and the textile bleaching, dyeing and finishing industry, weekly hours were reduced in November or December from 48 to 45. In the hosiery industry in the Midlands it was agreed to reduce the normal weekly working hours from 48 to 43½ for single and double shifts, and to reduce the standard working week for workers employed on the 3-shift system to 39½ hours, averaged over 3 weeks. In ready-made and wholesale bespoke tailoring, wholesale mantle and costume manufacture, shirtmaking and corset making in Great Britain, the number of weekly hours beyond which overtime rates become payable under Orders issued under the Wages Councils Act was reduced in May from 48 to 44. A similar reduction in hours took place in November for workpeople employed in England and Wales in dressmaking and women's light clothing manufacture, and in hat and cap making and millinery.

In the printing and bookbinding industry normal weekly hours were reduced in November from 45 to 43½ for dayworkers employed in general and jobbing offices and in provincial weekly newspaper offices; where normal working hours were less than 45, there was a reduction of 1½ hours provided that the reduced hours did not fall below 42½; night workers generally had a reduction of 1½ hours. For dayworkers employed in provincial morning and evening newspaper offices in England and Wales, the normal weekly hours were reduced from 44, averaged over an 11-day fortnight, to 42, averaged over 4 weeks, and for night workers from 41½ to 39½.

* See footnote * in the first column on page 3.

† The figures previously published for these years have been revised.

‡ The figures for 1946 are preliminary and subject to revision.

For laundry workers the statutory number of weekly hours beyond which overtime rates become payable was reduced in July from 48 to 45. In the furniture manufacturing industry normal weekly hours were reduced in March from 47 or 46½ to 44, except in certain districts where a 44-hour week was already in operation. Workpeople employed in road vehicle repairing in public repair workshops, petrol stations and garages had their normal weekly hours reduced in May from 48 to 47. Operators, usherettes, attendants and other workers, excepting managerial grades, employed in cinemas had their normal working hours reduced in September to 48 a week, including Sunday work; previously working hours had varied in different districts from 48 to 60 a week. The normal working week of shop assistants, transport workers, milk workers and other distributive workers employed by retail co-operative societies was reduced in October from 48 to 44 hours.

Reductions in weekly hours have generally been associated with adjustments in wage rates. For workers paid by the hour the rates have in some cases been enhanced in the proportion by which the weekly hours have been reduced, but in most cases increases in hourly rates have been given which have resulted in a net increase in weekly wages. Workers paid at weekly time rates of wages have either had these rates maintained unchanged or have received increased weekly rates. As regards pieceworkers, in some cases the piece rates have been enhanced in proportion to the reduction in hours; in some cases percentage increases have been given more than equivalent to the reduction in hours; in some cases no change has been made in piece rates, but pieceworkers have received a flat-rate weekly increase; while in those cases in which piece rates are governed by a requirement that they should yield to an average worker earnings which bear some specified relationship to the time rates, the enhancement of the hourly or weekly time rates or of the piecework basis time rates has involved adjustments in individual piece rates. On the whole, in the majority of industries concerned, the introduction of the shorter week has accompanied an increase in rates of wages which has more than compensated for the reduction in working hours.

COST OF LIVING.

There was no marked change in the average level of working-class cost of living in the United Kingdom in 1946, compared with 1945. The official index figure, which was 103 per cent. above the level of July, 1914, at 1st January, 1946, fluctuated between 103 and 105 during the rest of the year, and was 104 per cent. above the level of July, 1914, at the close of the year. The average for the year 1946 was about 103½ per cent. above the July, 1914, level compared with an average of about 103 per cent. for 1945.

In his Budget statement in April, 1946, the Chancellor of the Exchequer reiterated the Government's intention to continue, as far as possible, the policy of holding the cost of living steady, apart from minor fluctuations, during the rest of the year 1946, although he indicated that it might not prove possible to maintain this position indefinitely in the face of the rising cost of the necessary subsidies. At the time when this statement was made, the index figure was about 31 per cent. above the pre-war level, and it remained substantially at that level during the rest of 1946.

The following Table shows, for 1st September, 1939, and for each month in 1946, the figures for each of the five main groups of items included within the scope of the cost-of-living index:

Average Percentage Increases in Retail Prices, Rents, etc., over the level of July, 1914.—United Kingdom.

Date.	Food.	Rent (including Rates).	Clothing.	Fuel and Light.	Other Items included.	All Items included.
1939						
1st September ..	38	62	108	82	79	55
1946						
1st January ..	69	66	245	175	193	103
1st February ..	69	66	245	175	193	103
1st March ..	69	66	245	175	193	103
1st April ..	69	66	245	175	193	103
1st May ..	69	68	245	176	191	104
1st June ..	69	68	245	176	190	103
1st July ..	71	68	245-250	176	194	105
1st August ..	71	68	245-250	178	196	105
31st August ..	68	68	245-250	178	196	103
1st October ..	68	68	245-250	178	197	103
1st November ..	68	68	245-250	178	197	103
30th November ..	68	68	245-250	179	197	104
1947						
1st January ..	68	68	245-250	179	497	104

The relatively slight changes in the "all items" index during 1946 resulted principally from movements in the food index brought about by seasonal changes in the prices of potatoes. Other factors contributing to changes in the "all items" index were a slight increase in the average level of rents arising from increases in local rates, increases in railway fares, higher charges for gas in certain towns, and a decline in the average level of prices of domestic ironmongery and pottery following the remission of Purchase Tax on such goods.

Of the rise of 49 points in the index between 1st September, 1939, and 1st January, 1947, the increases in the taxes on sugar, tobacco and cigarettes, and matches account for about 4½ points; and rather more than one-half of a point is due to increases resulting from the Purchase Tax.*

Food.—From 1st January to 1st June, inclusive, the average level of retail prices of the articles of food included within the scope of the statistics was 69 per cent. above the level of July, 1914.

* The commodities of which account is taken in the cost-of-living index which are still subject to Purchase Tax are mainly non-utility clothing (including clothing materials and adults' footwear).

1914, as compared with 38 per cent. at 1st September, 1939. During May the effective price of bread was raised as a result of a reduction in the size of the loaf by one-eighth, but this increase was offset by general reductions of 2d. per lb. in the price of butter and nearly 1½d. per 7 lb. in the price of potatoes. The food percentage rose to 71 at 1st July, owing to a substantial increase in the average price of potatoes due to the partial replacement of old potatoes by the new crop at higher prices. Seasonal reductions in the prices of potatoes reduced the food index to 68 per cent. above the July, 1914, level at 31st August, and it remained at that level for the rest of the year. In addition to the changes referred to above, there were decreases in April, June and October in the average prices of some kinds of fish.

The following Table shows the average retail prices in the United Kingdom at 1st January, 1947, in comparison with those a year earlier and at 1st September, 1939:—

Article.	Average Price (per lb. unless otherwise indicated) to the nearest ¼d. at—			Average Percentage Increase or Decrease (—) at 1st Jan., 1947, compared with—	
	1st Jan., 1947.	1st Jan., 1946.	1st Sept., 1939.	1st Jan., 1946.	1st Sept., 1939.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Beef, British—					
Ribs ..	1 3½	1 3½	1 2½	..	11
Thin Flank ..	0 9½	0 9½	0 7½	..	27
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—					
Ribs ..	1 1	1 1	0 9½	..	35
Thin Flank ..	0 6	0 6	0 4½	..	23
Mutton, British—					
Legs ..	1 5½	1 5½	1 3½	..	13
Breast ..	0 8	0 8	0 7½	..	8
Mutton, Frozen—					
Legs ..	1 0	1 0	0 10½	..	16
Breast ..	0 4	0 4	0 4	..	..
Bacon* ..	1 10½	1 10½	1 3	..	50
Fish ..				-11	10
per 6 lb. ..	1 3	1 3	0 11½	..	31
Bread .. per 3½ lb.	0 9	0 8	0 7½	..	25
Tea ..	2 10	2 10	2 4	..	21
Sugar (granulated) ..	0 4	0 4	0 3	..	32
Milk .. per quart	0 9	0 9	0 6½	..	33
Butter—					
Fresh ..	1 6	1 8	1 4½	-10	9
Salt ..	1 1	1 1	1 3½	..	30
Cheese ..	1 1	1 1	0 10	..	..
Margarine—					
Special ..	0 9	0 9	0 6½	..	12
Standard ..	0 5	0 5	0 6½	..	..
Eggs (fresh)† .. each	0 1½	0 1½	0 1	..	1
Potatoes .. per 7 lb.	0 6½	0 8	0 6½	-20	-1

Throughout 1946 the retail prices of all the articles included in the above Table were controlled by the Ministry of Food. For most of these articles the maximum permitted prices remained unchanged throughout the year, and the changes in the average level of prices of these articles were therefore relatively small. For the remaining articles, the principal changes in the average level of prices during 1946 have already been mentioned above, and all of these changes were the result of variations in the maximum prices permitted under Ministry of Food Orders.

Rent.—The rents of unfurnished working-class dwellings remained subject to the control of the Rent Restrictions Acts throughout 1946. The average level of such rents (including local rates) at 1st January, 1946, was about 66 per cent. above that of July, 1914. As a result of increases in local rates in a number of towns, the average level of inclusive rents rose during April, and at 1st May was about 68 per cent. above that of July, 1914. Thereafter rents remained at about that level until the end of the year, being nearly 4 per cent. above the level of 1st September, 1939. A substantial part of the increase, since 1914, in the average level of inclusive rents is accounted for by increases in rates.

Clothing.—There was very little change, during 1946, in the average level of retail prices of working-class clothing and clothing materials, taken as a whole. During the second half of the year there was some upward movement in the prices of men's overcoats and a rise, of smaller dimensions, in the average level of prices of men's suits. There were also small increases during 1946 in the retail prices of boots and shoes. On the other hand, the average level of prices of most of the woollen materials included within the scope of the figures fell during the course of the year. For working-class clothing, as a whole, the returns furnished to the Department indicate that at 1st January, 1947, the average level of prices was very slightly higher than at 1st January, 1946, (less than 1 per cent.), and about 67 per cent. higher than at 1st September, 1939.

Fuel and Light.—During July there were increases in the retail prices of coal in many towns, and at 1st January, 1947, the average level of prices was a little over 1 per cent. higher than a year earlier, and about 56 per cent. above the level of 1st September, 1939. The price of gas was raised in some areas during 1946, and the average level of prices rose by about 2 per cent. during the year, and at 1st January, 1947, was about 40 per cent. higher than at 1st September, 1939. At the beginning of 1946 there was a general reduction of one-halfpenny per lb. in the retail prices of common wax candles, but, with this exception, there was very little change, on the average, in the prices of lamp oil, candles and matches during the year.

* The description of bacon specified for quotation is streaky, but where this kind is seldom being sold the returns relate to another kind, locally representative.

† This figure is an average calculated from the prices of various brands of margarine on sale at 1st September, 1939.

‡ Of the two prices shown for eggs at 1st January, 1947, and at 1st January, 1946, 2d. was for large eggs (in Ministry of Food category I) and 1½d. for small eggs (in category II). At 1st September, 1939, the average price for eggs, as shown by the returns received, was between 1½d. and 2d.

Miscellaneous Other Items.—There was a general increase of one-halfpenny per lb. in the prices of household soap during July, and also a slight upward movement in the average price of soda during the year. There was also an increase, at the beginning of July, in the average level of fares, as a result of higher fares on railways other than those of the London Passenger Transport Board. On the other hand, the average retail prices of various articles of domestic ironmongery and pottery fell in consequence of the remission of purchase tax on these articles in April. For the remaining articles included in this group, viz., brushes, tobacco and cigarettes, and newspapers, the changes in prices recorded during 1946 were relatively unimportant.

All Items.—Comparison with previous years.—The following Table compares the averages of the percentage increases recorded for the beginning of each of the twelve months of 1946 with the corresponding averages for each of the previous fourteen years:—

Average Percentage Increase over the level of July, 1914.

Year.	Food.	Rent (including Rates).	Clothing.	Fuel and Light.	Other Items included.	All Items included.
1932 ..	26	54	89	72	73	44
1933 ..	20	56	84	70	72½	40
1934 ..	22	56	86	70	72½	41
1935 ..	25	57	87	70	70	43
1936 ..	30	59	89	74	70	47
1937 ..	39	59	102	78	74	54
1938 ..	40½	60	109	81	75	56
1939 ..	41	62	114	84	79	59
1940 ..	64	63	185	110	108	84
1941 ..	68	64	269	127	127	99
1942 ..	61	64	299	135	155	100
1943 ..	66	64	251	144	182	99
1944 ..	68	64	245	156	191	101
1945 ..	69½	65	247	172	191	103
1946 ..	69	67	246	177	194	103½

It should be noted that the foregoing figures are designed to indicate the average percentage increase, in the United Kingdom, in the cost of maintaining unchanged the standard of living prevailing among working-class households at July, 1914, no account being taken of any changes in the standard of living or of any readjustments in consumption since that date.

TRADE DISPUTES.

The number of industrial disputes involving stoppages of work* in the United Kingdom, reported to the Department as having begun in 1946, was 2,191, as compared with 2,293 in the previous year.

The total number of workers involved in all stoppages in progress in 1946 was nearly 530,000,† of whom about 120,000 were indirectly involved (i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes). The total number of workers involved in all stoppages in progress in the previous year was also about 530,000.†

The aggregate number of working days lost on account of stoppages, at the establishments where the disputes occurred, is estimated at about 2,160,000 in 1946, compared with nearly 2,840,000 in 1945.

PRINCIPAL DISPUTES IN 1946.

The metal, engineering and shipbuilding industries accounted for about one-half of the aggregate number of working days lost in all stoppages of work through industrial disputes in 1946. There were several large stoppages in the motor vehicle manufacturing industry. During the last two weeks of January and the first part of February there was a stoppage in this industry at Coventry involving some 3,000 workpeople, on a question of recognition of a joint negotiating committee, which resulted in a loss of over 50,000 working days. Towards the end of February another stoppage began at Coventry, which ultimately involved nearly 5,000 workers, on a question respecting piecework prices, over 80,000 working days being lost. A third stoppage in the motor vehicle manufacturing industry occurred at Dagenham during the first and second weeks of March, approximately 11,000 workers being involved and over 80,000 working days lost. This dispute began on a question of the wages of a small number of men, but subsequently the workers involved made other demands, including full trade union recognition.

In the shipbuilding industry a stoppage by some 1,400 workpeople at Birkenhead during the greater part of June and July, on a demand for the reinstatement of three men who had been discharged for ceasing work before the recognised time, resulted in the loss of nearly 45,000 working days. Another stoppage of considerable duration occurred in the Bristol Channel area during August and September, on a demand for an increase in wages; this dispute involved over 2,000 workers and resulted in the loss of about 47,000 working days.

Tinplate millmen in South Wales and Monmouthshire ceased work during the last week of May and the first week of June owing to dissatisfaction with a wages award. Nearly 40,000 working days were lost through this dispute.

Some 70,000 days were lost in a protracted stoppage, from the beginning of September to the third week in October, by

* Stoppages of work due to disputes not connected with terms of employment or conditions of labour are excluded from the statistics. In addition, stoppages involving less than 10 workers, and those which lasted less than one day, are also excluded, unless the aggregate number of working days lost exceeded 100. The figures given for 1946 are preliminary and subject to revision.

† Some workers, chiefly in the coal mining industry, were involved in more than one stoppage in the year, and have therefore been counted more than once in the year's total. The net number of individuals involved in stoppages in progress during the year was approximately 410,000 in 1946, compared with approximately 360,000 in 1945. For coal mining alone the corresponding totals were approximately 130,000 in 1946 and 120,000 in 1945.

2,400 wire rope workers at establishments on the North-East Coast and in Yorkshire, on questions of increased wages and the non-recognition, by employers, of certain trade unions in national negotiations.

Although the coal mining industry accounted for three-fifths of all the stoppages of work in 1946 and for about two-fifths of the workers involved therein, the majority of the stoppages were of short duration. During the last week of May dissatisfaction with a wages agreement resulted in a stoppage of work by overmen, deputies and shotfirers at certain collieries in South Yorkshire, which rendered idle about 20,000 colliery workers and resulted in an estimated loss of 50,000 working days.

In the transport industry the only outstanding stoppage during 1946 was in South and West Wales where about 6,000 omnibus drivers, conductors and maintenance workers ceased work during the third and fourth weeks of October in support of the refusal, by a section of the employees, to accept the terms of a proposed new agreement on working conditions; 45,000 working days were lost in this stoppage.

There were several stoppages of appreciable size in the laundry industry during the year, the largest being that which occurred, during the latter half of February, in laundries at Birkenhead, Liverpool, Stoke-on-Trent and Manchester. In this dispute 43,000 working days were lost when over 3,000 employees ceased work on a demand for increased wages and reduced working hours.

A stoppage in the trawl fishing industry occurred during June, about 60,000 working days being lost when 6,000 fishermen refused to sail in protest against a reduction in fish prices due to heavy landings from foreign vessels.

Joint Stock Bank officials in Northern Ireland stopped work from about the middle of July to the middle of August owing to dissatisfaction with scales of salaries and conditions of employment. Over 43,000 working days were lost in this dispute, which involved nearly 1,500 employees.

In the following Table, the disputes involving stoppages of work in the United Kingdom in 1946 are classified by industry, and corresponding figures are given for 1945:—

Industry Group.	1946.			1945.		
	Number of Stoppages beginning in 1946.	Number of Workers involved in Stoppages in progress in 1946.	Aggregate Number of Working Days lost through all Stoppages in progress.	Number of Stoppages beginning in 1945.	Number of Workers involved in Stoppages in progress in 1945.	Aggregate Number of Working Days lost through all Stoppages in progress.
Fishing ..	5	9,200	70,000	3	2,600	12,000
Coal Mining ..	1,317	215,500*	420,000	1,306	243,000*	641,000
Other Mining and Quarrying ..	10	700	2,000	13	900	3,000
Brick, Pottery, Glass, Chemical, etc. ..	30	3,200	21,000	27	4,400	26,000
Engineering ..	175	103,700	566,000	235	76,100	317,000
Shipbuilding ..	103	16,900	195,000	186	28,400	143,000
Iron and Steel and Other Metal ..	169	41,700	323,000	170	19,400	68,000
Textile ..	36	6,600	43,000	41	4,000	10,000
Clothing ..	37	15,800	110,000	29	9,000	68,000
Food, Drink and Tobacco ..	22	10,500	66,000	9	1,800	9,000
Woodworking, Furniture, etc. ..	17	1,300	6,000	17	1,600	4,000
Paper, Printing, etc. ..	8	3,500	4,000	7	500	1,000
Building, etc. ..	77	7,000	24,000	36	3,200	5,000
Gas, Water and Electricity ..	10	4,800	18,000	5	1,600	4,000
Transport ..	105	59,800	162,000	156	127,900	1,491,000
Public Administration Services ..	8	3,400	12,000	8	1,500	5,000
Distribution, Commerce, etc. ..	25	10,900	68,000	9	600	3,000
All Other Industries ..	37	14,200	46,000	36	5,700	25,000
Total ..	2,191	528,700*	2,156,000	2,293	532,200*	2,835,000

Summary for 1932 to 1946.—In the following Table comparable figures are given for each of the years 1932 to 1946:—

Year.	Number of Stoppages beginning in Year.	Number of Workers involved in Stoppages beginning in Year.*			Aggregate Number of Working Days lost in all Stoppages in progress during Year.
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.	
1932 ..	389	337,000	42,000	379,000	6,490,000
1933 ..	357	114,000	22,000	136,000	1,070,000
1934 ..	471	109,000	25,000	134,000	960,000
1935 ..	553	230,000	41,000	271,000	1,960,000
1936 ..	818	241,000	75,000	316,000	1,830,000
1937 ..	1,129	388,000	209,000	597,000	3,410,000
1938 ..	875	211,000	63,000	274,000	1,330,000
1939 ..	940	24			

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS AND INDUSTRIAL DISEASES IN 1946.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

The total number of workpeople (other than seamen) whose deaths from accidents in the course of their employment were reported in the United Kingdom during 1946 was 1,672. This figure includes 587 fatal accidents at mines and quarries, 816 at places covered by the Factories Act, and 269 in the railway service. The total number of fatal accidents to seamen serving on vessels registered in the United Kingdom which were reported during the year was 229; this figure excludes 45 fatal accidents directly attributable to causes arising from the recent war.

The figures of fatal accidents are analysed in the following Table:—

	Num-ber.		Num-ber.
MINES AND QUARRIES.		WORKS AND PLACES UNDER SS. 105, 107, 108, FACTORIES ACT, 1937:	
Under Coal Mines Acts:		Docks, Wharves, Quays and Ships	56
Underground	494	Building Operations	180
Surface	48	Works of Engineering Con-struction	27
Metalliferous Mines	6	Warehouses	9
Quarries	39		
Total	587	Total Factories Act	816
FACTORIES.		RAILWAY SERVICE.	
Clay, Stone, Cement, Pottery and Glass	28	Brakesmen, Goods Guards	21
Chemicals, Oils, Soap, etc.	34	Engine Drivers, Motormen	14
Metal Extracting and Refining	9	Firemen	8
Metal Conversion and Founding (including Rolling Mills and Tube Making)	93	Guards (Passenger)	3
Engineering, Locomotive Building, Boilermaking, etc.	84	Labourers	12
Railway and Tramway Carriages, Motor and other Vehicles and Aircraft Manufacture	40	Mechanics	10
Shipbuilding	80	Permanent Way Men	97
Other Metal Trades	21	Porters	26
Cotton	12	Shunters	17
Wool, Worsted, Shoddy	7	Other Grades	54
Other Textile Manufacture	6	Contractors' Servants	7
Textile Printing, Bleaching and Dyeing	11	Total	269
Tanning, Currying, etc.	3	Total (excluding Seamen)	1,672
Food and Drink	20	SEAMEN.	
General Woodwork and Furniture	31	Trading Vessels	192
Paper, Printing, etc.	7	Fishing Vessels	37
Rubber Trades	7	Total	229*
Gas Works	16		
Electrical Stations	17	Total (including Seamen)	1,901
Other Industries	18		

INDUSTRIAL DISEASES.

The total number of cases reported in the United Kingdom during 1946 under the Factories Act, 1937, or under the Lead Paint (Protection against Poisoning) Act, 1926, was 428, of which 44 were fatal.

During the year, 47 cases (including 8 deaths) of lead poisoning were reported; for other types of poisoning, the figures were 24 cases and 3 deaths. Cases of anthrax numbered 14, of which one was fatal. For epitheliomatous ulceration, the figures were 245 cases and 32 deaths; for chrome ulceration 98 cases were reported.

A detailed analysis of these figures is given below.

	Cases.	Deaths.		Cases.	Deaths.
LEAD POISONING.			ANTHRAX.		
Among Operatives engaged in:			Wool	4	—
Smelting of Metals	4	2	Handling of Horsehair	—	—
Plumbing and Soldering	1	—	Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins	8	1
Shipbreaking	18	—	Other Industries	1	—
Printing	1	1	Total	14	1
Other Contact with Molten Lead	5	4			
White and Red Lead Works	4	—	EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCERATION (SKIN CANCER).		
Pottery	1	—	Pitch	98	3
Electric Accumulator Works	7	1	Tar	103	4
Paint and Colour Works	1	—	Paraffin	2	—
Shipbuilding	1	—	Oil	42	25
Paint used in other Industries	2	—	Total	245	32
Other Industries	1	—			
Painting of Buildings	1	—	CHROME ULCERATION.		
Total	47	8	Manufacture of Bichromates	5	—
			Dyeing and Finishing	4	—
OTHER POISONING.			Chrome Tanning	2	—
Mercurial	1	—	Chromium Plating	65	—
Arsenical	1	—	Other Industries	22	—
Aniline	19	1	Total	98	—
Chronic Benzene Poisoning	1	1			
Toxic Anaemia	1	1	GRAND TOTAL	428	44
Toxic Jaundice	1	—			
Total	24	3			

* Excluding 45 deaths directly attributable to causes arising from the recent war.

DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT AND TURNOVER AMONG THE UNEMPLOYED

In the issues of this GAZETTE for July, 1946 (page 182), and October, 1946 (page 271), analyses were given of the numbers of insured persons registered as wholly unemployed at 17th June, 1946, and 16th September, 1946, according to age and the duration of the last spell of unemployment (the age analysis was obtained in fuller detail in June than in September). Information in similar detail to that obtained in June has been compiled in respect of 9th December, 1946, and the figures* are given in the following Table:—

Duration of Unemployment in weeks.	Age Groups.							Total.
	14 and 15.	16 and 17.	18 and under 21.	21 and under 41.	41 and under 56.	56 and under 60/65.†		
	Males.							
4 or less	1,693	3,585	3,406	44,541	19,585	10,387	83,197	
Over 4 & up to 6	203	642	1,000	11,398	6,549	4,146	23,938	
" 6 " 8	91	373	661	8,282	5,116	3,542	18,065	
" 8 " 13	124	526	1,053	13,903	9,693	7,056	32,355	
" 13 " 26	89	314	865	15,656	12,610	9,738	39,272	
" 26 " 39	26	116	374	7,804	8,181	6,827	23,328	
" 39 " 52	11	40	195	5,089	6,660	5,362	17,357	
Over 52	21	35	178	5,568	9,835	9,379	25,016	
Total	2,258	5,631	7,732	112,241	78,229	56,437	262,528	
	Females.							
4 or less	1,392	2,262	3,970	17,661	6,765	1,030	33,080	
Over 4 & up to 6	189	361	848	4,971	2,157	312	8,838	
" 6 " 8	90	230	610	3,701	1,679	219	6,529	
" 8 " 13	105	265	921	7,606	3,426	452	12,775	
" 13 " 26	81	174	638	8,656	4,401	568	14,518	
" 26 " 39	18	34	164	3,328	1,917	306	5,767	
" 39 " 52	6	12	57	1,631	976	201	2,883	
Over 52	5	4	50	1,505	1,571	335	3,470	
Total	1,886	3,342	7,258	49,059	22,892	3,423	87,860	
	Total.							
4 or less	3,085	5,847	7,376	62,202	26,350	11,417	116,277	
Over 4 & up to 6	392	1,003	1,848	16,369	8,706	4,458	32,776	
" 6 " 8	181	603	1,271	11,983	6,795	3,761	24,594	
" 8 " 13	229	791	1,974	21,599	13,119	7,308	45,130	
" 13 " 26	170	488	1,503	24,312	17,011	10,306	53,790	
" 26 " 39	44	150	538	11,132	10,098	7,133	29,095	
" 39 " 52	17	52	252	6,720	7,636	5,563	20,240	
Over 52	26	39	228	7,073	11,406	9,714	28,486	
Total	4,144	8,973	14,990	161,300	101,121	59,860	350,388	

The figures for males show that the proportion of the unemployed who are out of work for long periods increases with advancing age. The numbers who had been unemployed for 39 weeks or more were negligible in the age-groups under 21 but represented 9 per cent., 21 per cent., and 26 per cent., respectively, in the age-groups 21 to 40, 41 to 55 and 56 to 64. On the other hand, while nearly 75 per cent. of the males aged 14 and 15 had been unemployed for four weeks or less, the corresponding percentages for the age-classes 16 and 17, 18 to 20, 21 to 40, 41 to 55 and 56 to 64 were 64, 44, 40, 25 and 18, respectively.

The figures for females show similar features, although the proportions with prolonged unemployment were considerably smaller than in the case of men. There is evidence that some women discontinue registration for employment when they reach the limit of unemployment benefit to which they are entitled.

The figures for 9th December and 17th June, 1946, bring out the following points. There was a slight decrease of about 900 in the numbers of wholly unemployed males. The numbers who had been unemployed for four weeks or less show a rise of just over 600. There was a drop of about 5,000 in the number unemployed for more than 4 but less than 13 weeks and of nearly 16,000 in the number unemployed for 13 to 39 weeks. On the other hand the number who had been unemployed for over 39 weeks increased by nearly 19,000 from 23,500 in June to 42,400 in December.

The total number of wholly unemployed females was 87,860 in December, compared with 100,109 in June, and there were considerable differences in the analyses for the two dates according to duration of unemployment. There was an increase from 30,000 to 33,000 in the number who had been unemployed for four weeks or less, but whereas in June there were 35,000 who had been unemployed for 13 to 39 weeks, the corresponding figure in December was only 20,000. There was not much change in the number unemployed for longer periods.

The age-distribution of unemployed males shows little change in December compared with June, an increase of 5,000 in the 56 to 64 age-group being counterbalanced by minor decreases in other age-groups. Among women there was a decrease from 58,000 to 49,000 in the number in the 21 to 40 age-group. This reflects the reduction in the number of married women registered as unemployed from 54,000 in June to 45,000 in December. 56 per cent. of all the females registered as unemployed on 9th December were aged 21 to 40 and 30 per cent. were aged 41 to 59.

A broad comparison between June and December is provided by the following Table which gives, for each of the two dates, a

* The figures exclude casuals, persons temporarily stopped, persons insured under the Special Schemes for the Banking and Insurance Industries and persons classified as unsuitable for ordinary employment.

† 65 in the case of males and 60 in the case of females.

percentage analysis according to age of the numbers in three categories of unemployment duration:—

Duration of Unemployment in weeks.	Percentages in Age Groups.						Total.
	14 and 15.	16 and 17.	18 and under 21.	21 and under 41.	41 and under 56.	56 and under 60/65.*	
	9th December, 1946.						
Males							
8 or less	1.6	3.7	4.0	51.4	24.9	14.4	100.0
Over 8 & up to 26	0.3	1.2	2.7	41.3	31.1	23.4	100.0
Over 26	0.1	0.3	1.1	28.1	37.6	32.8	100.0
Total	0.9	2.2	3.0	42.6	29.8	21.5	100.0
Females							
8 or less	3.5	5.9	11.2	54.3	21.9	3.2	100.0
Over 8 & up to 26	0.7	1.6	5.7	59.6	28.7	3.7	100.0
Over 26	0.2	0.4	2.2	53.4	36.9	6.9	100.0
Total	2.1	3.8	8.3	55.8	26.1	3.9	100.0
	17th June, 1946.						
Males							
8 or less	2.0	3.8	4.1	51.5	25.0	13.6	100.0
Over 8 & up to 26	0.3	1.1	2.7	40.5	33.8	21.6	100.0
Over 26	0.1	0.3	1.4	27.7	39.3	31.2	100.0
Total	1.1	2.3	3.1	43.5	30.5	19.5	100.0
Females							
8 or less	4.1	5.6	10.5	57.1	20.2	2.5	100.0
Over 8 & up to 26	0.6	1.3	5.3	60.6	29.1	3.1	100.0
Over 26	0.2	0.6	3.8	56.5	34.3	4.6	100.0
Total	2.2	3.2	7.5	58.1	25.9	3.1	100.0

TURNOVER AMONG THE UNEMPLOYED, SEPTEMBER—DECEMBER.

The article on page 271 of the October, 1946, issue of this GAZETTE contained an analysis designed to show how many of those who were registered as unemployed in June had gone off the register by September. (This was done by comparing the numbers in the "13 to 26 weeks" category in September with the numbers in the "0 to 13 weeks" category in June, etc.). It is possible to make a similar analysis for the period September to December. This is given in the following Table, which also shows, for comparison, the percentage depletion in the corresponding categories between June and September:—

Duration of Unemployment at 16th September, 1946 (in weeks).	Number at 16th Sept.	Number remaining on Register at 9th Dec.	Reduction.		Corresponding percentage reduction between June and Sept., 1946.
			Number.	Per cent. of number at 16th Sept.	
	Males aged 14 to 17.				
Up to 13 weeks	8,798	403	8,395	95	94
Over 13 weeks and up to 26 weeks	499	142	357	72	75
" 26 " 39	146	51	95	65	57
" 39 " 52	98	56	42	43	47
Total	9,541	652	8,889	93	92
	Males aged 18 and under 21.				
Up to 13 weeks	5,417	865	4,552	84	84
Over 13 weeks and up to 26 weeks	999	374	625	63	64
" 26 " 39	465	195	270	58	52
" 39 " 52	360	178	182	51	49
Total	7,241	1,612	5,629	78	78
	Males aged 21 and under 65.				
Up to 13 weeks	137,900	38,004	99,896	72	71
Over 13 weeks and up to 26 weeks	43,369	22,812	20,557	47	45
" 26 " 39	26,753	17,111	9,642	36	34
" 39 " 52	35,659	24,782	10,877	31	23
Total	243,681	102,709	140,972	58	57
Total—Males	260,463	104,973	155,490	60	59
	Females aged 14 to 17.				
Up to 13 weeks	5,651	255	5,396	95	96
Over 13 weeks and up to 26 weeks	202	52	150	74	81
" 26 " 39					

RECENT COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS.

COAL MINING: CONCILIATION SCHEME AND CONTINUANCE OF EXISTING WAGES, ETC., AGREEMENTS.

The National Coal Board, established by the Coal Industry Nationalisation Act, 1946, has made agreements with the National Union of Mineworkers dealing, respectively, with conciliation machinery and the carrying over of existing wages and conditions agreements in the industry.

NATIONAL CONCILIATION SCHEME.

By an agreement made on 5th December, 1946, the parties have adopted, with certain modifications, the National Conciliation Scheme established in 1943 by agreement between the Mining Association of Great Britain and the Mineworkers' Federation of Great Britain. The terms of the agreement are as follows:—

WHEREAS—

(a) By an Agreement (hereinafter called "the 1943 Agreement") dated the 25th day of May One thousand nine hundred and Forty-three and made between the Mining Association of Great Britain of the first part the Mineworkers' Federation of Great Britain of the second part and the several associations whose names are set forth in the first column of the first and second schedules to that agreement of the subsequent parts the parties to that Agreement established a National Conciliation Scheme for the Coal Mining Industry of Great Britain.

(b) By the Coal Industry Nationalisation Act, 1946, the Board was established as a body corporate and was charged *inter alia* with the duty on and after the primary vesting date to be fixed under the said Act of working and getting the coal in Great Britain to the exclusion save as in that Act provided of any other person and that Act contains provisions for vesting in the Board on the primary or other appropriate vesting date properties used for the purpose of carrying on coal mining and other related activities including most of the properties of the undertakings represented by the Mining Association of Great Britain.

(c) The Mineworkers' Federation of Great Britain was reconstituted as the National Union of Mineworkers which was registered on the 1st day of January One thousand nine hundred and Forty-five under the Trade Union Acts 1871-1940 with Rules adopted at a Special Conference held on the 16th-18th days of August One thousand nine hundred and Forty-four.

(d) The Associations of workmen whose names are set forth in the first column of the Second Schedule to the 1943 Agreement are now constituent associations of the Union and subject to its rules and each of such associations is administered as an Area (or part of an Area) of the Union and has entered into a District Conciliation Agreement.

(e) The Board and the Union wish to adopt the National Conciliation Scheme established by the 1943 Agreement with such modifications only as may be involved by the passing of the Coal Industry Nationalisation Act 1946 and the constitution of the Board thereunder and the substitution of the Union for the Mineworkers' Federation of Great Britain and to regulate in accordance therewith the discussion and settlement of all matters between them to which the said Scheme is applicable both before and after the primary vesting date.

NOW IT IS HEREBY AGREED by and between the Board and the Union that the Scheme as set out in the Schedule hereto be adopted and that the parties hereto be bound thereby accordingly.

Following is a summary of the Schedule:—

The Scheme, which is identical in essentials with the 1943 Scheme, provides for the establishment of a National Conciliation Board consisting of a Joint National Negotiating Committee and a National Reference Tribunal. The Negotiating Committee is to consist of the members for the time being of the Board and not more than 14 members nominated by the Union. The National Tribunal is to consist of three permanent members, none of whom shall be engaged in the coal mining industry or (save in the case of a member of the House of Lords who holds or has held high judicial office) a member of either House of Parliament. They are to be appointed for a period not exceeding five years by the Master of the Rolls (or by a Lord Justice of Appeal nominated by him) after consultation with the Board and the Union.

The jurisdiction of the National Board extends to questions of a national character raised by the Board and the Union or either of them; questions relating to the interpretation of settlements reached by the Negotiating Committee under this Scheme or under the 1943 Scheme by the Negotiating Committee constituted thereunder, or of agreements made between the Mining Association of Great Britain and the Mineworkers' Federation of Great Britain prior to the establishment of the National Board; district questions transferred to the National Board under the arrangements described below; and questions referred by the Minister of Fuel and Power to the National Board for decision or report.

Certain questions are within the exclusive jurisdiction of the National Tribunal, *viz.*, questions relating to the interpretation (a) of this Scheme or the 1943 Scheme, (b) of an award or decision of the National Tribunal under this Scheme or under the 1943 Scheme, and (c) of an award, decision or recommendation in relation to a question of a national character (other than an agreement between the Board and the Union) made or given previously to the appointed day by any body or person, and questions referred by the Minister of Fuel and Power to the

National Tribunal for decision or report. These questions are to be referred to and finally decided exclusively by the National Tribunal, but before deciding or reporting on any such question the National Tribunal must obtain and take into consideration the views of the Negotiating Committee or, in default of agreement, the views of the two sides of the Negotiating Committee. The Minister of Fuel and Power may, either on his own initiative or at the request of the tribunal, appear before the tribunal in person, or by a representative, and submit such observations and call such evidence as he may think desirable.

Questions of a national character, other than those within the exclusive jurisdiction of the National Tribunal or those referred by the Minister to the National Board, are to be discussed by the Negotiating Committee with a view to a settlement. If no settlement is reached within a period of five weeks, or such longer period as may be specially determined, the question is to be referred to the National Tribunal, sitting with assessors, for final decision. Every settlement reached by the Negotiating Committee and every award or decision of the National Tribunal on a national question (but in the case of a question referred by the Minister to the National Board or to the National Tribunal only with the consent of the Negotiating Committee) is to be binding upon the Board and the Union and its members for the time being, and the Union undertakes to endeavour to ensure that the terms thereof shall be observed by all workers affected whether or not they be members of the Union.

Questions of a purely district character are to be dealt with in accordance with the District Conciliation Agreements for the time being in force for the district concerned. Such agreements setting out and adopting the terms of the District Conciliation Agreement in force immediately before the appointed day, with such modifications and amendments as may be necessary to bring such agreement within the terms of the Scheme, are to be made between the Board and the Union not later than one month after the appointed day or after such further period as the Negotiating Committee may determine. Every District Conciliation Agreement must make provision for (a) a District Conciliation Board consisting of representatives of the Board and the Union acting through District Associations who are parties to the agreement, (b) the appointment of a District Referee and reference to such Referee of questions which the District Conciliation Board has been unable to settle, (c) making the settlements reached by the District Conciliation Boards and the awards and decisions of the District Referee binding on the Board and on the Union and its members, and (d) the transfer of District questions to the National Board in accordance with the Scheme.

District questions of special importance may be transferred from the district machinery and dealt with by the National Board in the same manner as national questions. Such transfers are to take place in the following cases:—(a) if the representatives of the Board and of the Union on the District Conciliation Board both resolve that the question be so transferred; (b) if the Negotiating Committee either on its own initiative or at the request of either or both sides of the District Conciliation Board concerned resolves that it be so transferred; (c) if the National Tribunal upon a reference to it by either side of the Negotiating Committee decides that the question is likely to affect or extend to any one or more other districts or otherwise to assume an importance which will not be confined to the district concerned or seriously to affect the national interest; (d) in the case of a question which has been referred to the District Referee, if the District Referee upon the application of either the representatives of the Board or the representatives of the Union on the District Conciliation Board in his discretion decides as in (c); and (e) if the question is one which arises from a failure to agree as to the making of a new agreement or the modification of a then existing agreement in relation to wages or conditions of labour or employment in the district, and the Board or the Union (or both) at the request of either or both sides of the District Conciliation Board concerned require the question to be referred to the National Board.

The Scheme also includes provisions relating to the method of revision and rescission of settlements made by the Negotiating Committee and of awards and decisions of the National Tribunal owing to changed circumstances, the incorporation of settlements, awards and decisions in the contracts of employment between the Board and workmen, and the obligations of the Union to prevent stoppages of work while a question is being dealt with under the Scheme.

PIT CONCILIATION SCHEME.

The National Scheme does not provide procedure for the settlement of questions arising at individual pits except when they reach the stage of discussion under District Conciliation Agreements. Accordingly a Pit Conciliation Scheme has been agreed upon between the Board and the Union and embodied in a further schedule.

This Scheme regulates the procedure at the pit for the discussion of every question arising with the object of reaching a settlement and provides for the reference of questions still unsettled to disputes committees, and thence, if necessary, to an umpire.

Any question in dispute arising between an individual workman or a set of workmen and the management is to be discussed at the earliest opportunity between the workman or workmen concerned and the immediate official of the pit, and failing settlement as a result of such discussions then within three days thereafter between the workman or workmen concerned and the

manager or his representative. If there is still no settlement, the workman or workmen concerned must, if it is desired to pursue the matter, immediately report the matter to the appropriate Trade Union official. If this official is of opinion that the question is of minor importance affecting an individual workman or a small group of workmen which may be settled by further discussions with the manager, such discussions are to be conducted forthwith. Any question not so settled, and all questions raised by the Trade Union Branch or Lodge or by the Management, are to be referred to a "pit meeting" between representatives of the Union and the management. If the question then remains unsettled after a period of fourteen days from the date on which the pit meeting was first requested, it is to be referred forthwith jointly by the colliery manager and the responsible Trade Union official to the Joint Secretaries of the District Conciliation Board who shall immediately refer the question to the appropriate disputes committee. The reference to the disputes committee may take place before the expiration of the period of fourteen days if the pit meeting so decides. Any question which, having been referred for settlement to a disputes committee, remains unsettled after a period of fourteen days from the date of such reference, or earlier if the disputes committee so decides, is to be referred for decision to an umpire selected from a panel by the joint secretaries of the District Conciliation Board. If the umpire is satisfied that the question is a pit question he is to proceed to determine the question; if he is of the opinion that it is not a pit question he is to notify the joint secretaries of the District Conciliation Board accordingly and the question thereupon falls to be dealt with under the District Conciliation Scheme. Two assessors, one nominated by the Union and one by the Management, are to be present at every hearing before an umpire.

Every settlement reached through pit discussions, pit meetings, or disputes committees and every decision given by an umpire are binding upon the Union and its members and upon the Management.

ADOPTION OF EXISTING WAGES AND CONDITIONS AGREEMENTS.

The following are the terms of an agreement made on 5th December, 1946:—

WHEREAS—

(a) By an Agreement between the parties hereto dated the 5th day of December One thousand nine hundred and Forty-six the parties hereto adopted the National Conciliation Scheme established by an Agreement (hereinafter called "the 1943 Agreement") dated the 25th day of May One thousand nine hundred and Forty-three and made between the Mining Association of Great Britain of the first part, the Mineworkers' Federation of Great Britain of the second part, and the several associations whose names are set forth in the first column of the First and Second Schedules to that Agreement of the subsequent parts with such modifications as were involved by the passing of the Coal Industry Nationalisation Act 1946 (hereinafter called "the Act") and the constitution of the Board thereunder and the substitution of the Union for the party of the second part and such other consequential modifications as were found necessary.

(b) The Board on the primary Vesting Date appointed under Section 5 of the Act will by virtue of Section 7 of the Act become party to contracts such as are mentioned in the Second Schedule to the Act to the extent therein mentioned including contracts of service of persons employed in such undertakings as shall vest in the Board by virtue of the Act.

(c) The terms and conditions of service of persons whose services will be so transferred to the Board are determined in part by agreements (hereinafter called "collective agreements") made between the National Union of Mineworkers and the Mining Association of Great Britain and between constituent associations of the National Union of Mineworkers and associations of employers and by settlements made under the conciliation machinery established by the 1943 Agreement and other conciliation machinery referred to in the 1943 Agreement for settling questions not being national questions as therein defined.

(d) It is desired that the Board should become bound by and entitled to the benefit of all the aforesaid collective agreements and settlements.

NOW IT IS HEREBY AGREED as follows:—

1. Subject as to the 1944 Agreement* to the provisions of clause 2 hereof the Board and the Union hereby agree to adopt and be bound by all the provisions of the aforesaid collective agreements and settlements.

2. Clause 4 of the 1944 Agreement* shall cease to have effect and the following Clause shall apply and be binding on the Board and the Union:—

"The parties hereto agree that during the currency of the 1944 Agreement no variation will be sought in the rates awarded in the existing operative awards of the District Conciliation machinery for the coal mining industry or in district rates as modified by the 1944 Agreement. Further until a period of six months has elapsed after the Board and the Union have agreed on effective pit conciliation machinery including provision for arbitration no application for alterations in wages rates at a pit shall be made other than those normally made in respect of changed methods or conditions of working in accordance with custom or agreement existing in the district."

3. On and after the primary Vesting Date referred to in Clause 4 hereof the Board and the Union shall be entitled to

* See the issue of this GAZETTE for May, 1944 (page 75).

enter into an agreement whereunder new scales of wages and a new wage structure shall be established in the coal mining industry and such agreement shall thereupon be binding on the Board and the Union notwithstanding the terms of Clause 3 of the 1944 Agreement.*

4. This Agreement shall take effect on the primary Vesting Date appointed under the Act.

JOINT INDUSTRIAL COUNCILS.

COUNCIL FOR THE ROAD HAULAGE INDUSTRY.

At a meeting of representatives of the Road Haulage Association and of the trade unions concerned, held at the offices of the Ministry of Labour and National Service on 14th January, it was agreed to set up a National Joint Industrial Council for the road haulage industry, and a constitution was agreed. The Council consists, on each side, of ten members and a secretary, and provision has been made for machinery for the speedy settlement of any differences that may arise.

The following trade unions are represented on the workers' side of the Council: the Transport and General Workers' Union, the United Road Transport Workers' Association, the Liverpool and District Carters' and Motor Men's Union, the National Union of General and Municipal Workers, and the Scottish Horse and Motor Men's Association.

Mr. H. T. Duffield (Employers' Side) has been appointed Chairman of the Council, and Mr. G. E. Corrin (Workers' Side) Vice-Chairman. The Joint Secretaries are Mr. G. W. Quick-Smith (Employers' Side) and Mr. Frank Cousins (Workers' Side).

The first meeting of the Council was held on 16th January.

COUNCIL FOR THE CANE, WILLOW AND WOVEN FIBRE FURNITURE TRADE.

A Joint Industrial Council for the cane, willow and woven fibre furniture trade in Great Britain and Northern Ireland has recently been constituted.

The Council is composed, on the employers' side, of representatives of the National Federation of Manufacturers from Cane, Willow and Woven Fibre, and the Employers' Federation of Cane and Willow Workers' Associations of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; and, on the employees' side, of representatives of the National Amalgamated Furnishing Trades' Association, the National Union of Packing Case Makers (Wood and Tin), Box Makers, Sawyers and Mill Workers, and the National Union of Basket, Cane, Wicker and Fibre Furniture Makers. Mr. A. Aitkenhead was appointed Chairman of the Council, and the Joint Secretaries are Mr. R. V. Morris (Employers' Side) and Mr. A. G. Tomlins (Employees' Side).

The Council has ratified the National Wages and Conditions Agreement for the industry.

CATERING WAGES ACT.

LICENSED NON-RESIDENTIAL ESTABLISHMENTS—ORDERS REGARDING WAGES, ETC.

Wages Regulation Orders† under the Catering Wages Act, 1943, were made on 31st December, 1946, by the Minister of Labour and National Service, fixing with effect from 2nd February, 1947, the statutory minimum remuneration, the annual holidays, and the holiday remuneration of workers, except managers, club secretaries and club stewards, employed in licensed non-residential establishments, such as public-houses and similar premises and registered clubs.

Minimum remuneration for a week of 48 hours exclusive of overtime is fixed for male workers aged 21 years or over, for youths and boys, for barmaids aged 21 years or over, for younger female workers employed as barmaids, and for other female workers aged 18 or over and those under 18. The weekly remuneration of all workers is varied in accordance with the amount of provision made by the employer in respect of board, meals or lodging. For a male worker 21 years or over employed outside the City of London and the Metropolitan Police District, the remuneration is 60s. a week where the employer supplies full board and lodging for 7 days a week, from 64s. 6d. to 79s. where only partial board is provided on 7 days a week with or without lodging, and 85s. where board, meals or lodging are not provided. For a barmaid 21 years or over the corresponding range is from 47s. with full board and lodging to 72s. with no board or lodging, and for other female workers 18 or over, except barmaids, from 35s. to 60s. In establishments situated in the City of London or the Metropolitan Police District, the remuneration of all male workers and of barmaids is 3s. a week higher than in the remainder of the country.

It is provided that where a regular worker (*i.e.*, a worker who ordinarily works for not less than 34 hours a week) works for less than 48 hours in any week he is to be paid a guaranteed weekly remuneration of 48 hours' work in his usual occupation at the appropriate hourly rate, the hourly rate being the minimum weekly remuneration divided by 48. The guaranteed weekly remuneration is not payable unless the worker is capable of and available for work and is willing to perform such services

* See footnote * in previous column.

† S.R. & O. 1946, Nos. 2258 and 2259. H.M. Stationery Office; price 3d. net and 2d. net, respectively (4d. and 3d. post free).

as may reasonably be required by the employer when work is not available for him in his usual occupation, or if the employer is unable to provide the worker with work because of circumstances beyond his control and gives the worker a clear pay week's notice to that effect.

The Orders also fix overtime rates for hours worked in excess of specified daily hours, and for all hours worked on the weekly rest day, and make provision for payment for six days of public holidays and for any day proclaimed as an additional Bank Holiday or a general holiday, and for an annual holiday of 12 days after at least 48 weeks' employment.

UNLICENSED PLACES OF REFRESHMENT—NOTICES REGARDING WAGES, ETC.

The Unlicensed Place of Refreshment Wages Board, under the Chairmanship of Mr. C. W. Guillebaud, have now reached a decision to give notice of their intention to submit to the Minister of Labour and National Service wages regulation proposals for minimum remuneration and holidays with pay affecting workers employed in unlicensed places of refreshment, which include cafés, tea shops, unlicensed restaurants, dining rooms, buffets, coffee stalls, milk bars, snack bars and similar places. A Notice setting out the detailed proposals will shortly be sent to all employers in the industry known to the Wages Board and a period of five weeks allowed within which written representations may be made to the Board regarding the proposals.

The provisions set out in the Notice are proposals only and a further meeting of the Board will be held to consider the representations received and the question of submitting the proposals, either without amendments, or with such amendments as the Board think fit having regard to the representations, to the Minister of Labour and National Service with a view to his making Orders giving legal effect to the proposals as submitted.

NATIONAL INSURANCE (EXTENSION OF UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT) REGULATIONS, 1946.

The National Insurance (Extension of Unemployment Benefit) Regulations, 1946,* were made on 21st December by the Minister of National Insurance, in conjunction with the Treasury, under the National Insurance Act, 1946.

These Regulations authorise the Minister of National Insurance during the period before benefit becomes payable under the National Insurance Act, 1946,† to continue the payment of unemployment benefit on the recommendation of a local Tribunal (which will during this period be a Court of Referees) to persons who have exhausted their rights to benefit under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1935 to 1944. The Regulations establish now a system of extended benefit on the lines contemplated in Section 62 of the National Insurance Act, and for this purpose modify certain of the contribution conditions of the present Acts so as to bring them into closer conformity with corresponding conditions of the National Insurance Act.

The Regulations enable a person to have his period of benefit extended despite the fact that he may be unable at the time of application to satisfy the first statutory condition for the receipt of benefit (which normally requires the payment of 30 contributions in the two years preceding the date of claim), provided that he could satisfy the condition at some time on or after 1st January, 1946. He must, of course, be able to satisfy all the other conditions for the receipt of benefit under the Unemployment Insurance Acts and be free from disqualification.

In view of the modification of the first statutory condition as indicated above, a new condition for the receipt of benefit has been introduced. Under this condition, the Local Tribunal must be satisfied that not less than 50 contributions have been paid by or credited to the applicant in respect of the twelve months immediately before the application for such benefit. For this purpose, contributions may be credited to him in respect of any period during which he is (a) unemployed and capable of and available for work; (b) incapable of work by reason of some specific disease or bodily or mental disablement; (c) undergoing any course of training approved by the Minister of National Insurance; or (d) in an employment which is an employed contributor's employment within the meaning of the National Insurance Act, but is not an insurable employment for the purpose of the Unemployment Insurance Acts. The special conditions as set out above do not operate until such date as may be determined by the Minister of National Insurance, but, in respect of unemployment occurring before that date, conditions substantially equivalent to the special conditions must, in the opinion of the Local Tribunal, be satisfied.

In making recommendations, the Local Tribunal will not take into account the means of the applicant or of persons connected with him, but will look into the particular circumstances of the applicant, including the industrial conditions in the district where he lives and the duration of his unemployment. The Regulations provide for the application of existing provisions of the Unemployment Insurance Acts to extended benefit, subject to certain necessary modifications.

* S.R. & O., 1946, No. 2152. H.M. Stationery Office; price 2d. net (3d. post free).
† See the issues of this GAZETTE for February, 1946 (page 40), and August, 1946 (page 214).

Extended benefit will be payable for a specified period fixed by the Minister of National Insurance on the basis of the recommendation of the Tribunal. Normally, the period will be six months, but at the beginning of the scheme it may be necessary to "stagger" the future review of cases by making the first period two, three, four or five months in some cases. An applicant, however, will not be entitled to extended benefit for any days on which he fails to satisfy the ordinary unemployment benefit conditions. All cases will be reviewed by Tribunals shortly before the end of each period for which an extension of benefit has been allowed. The Tribunal may then make a further recommendation. Any case may be reviewed at any time if facts come to light which reveal an applicant's unwillingness to comply with the conditions for extension of benefit. Rates of benefit payable during the extended period will be the same as in the case of ordinary benefit.

The Regulations will operate in respect of the first complete pay-week beginning after 10th February, 1947.

The Ministry of National Insurance have issued a leaflet (U.I.L.57) explaining briefly the provisions of the new Regulations. Copies of this leaflet may be obtained from any Employment Exchange.

ESTIMATED NUMBERS OF INSURED PERSONS IN EMPLOYMENT AND NUMBERS UNEMPLOYED, 1939, 1945 AND 1946.

REGIONAL AND INDUSTRIAL ANALYSIS.

In order to meet a need which has arisen for Regional statistics on a comparable basis for the years 1939, 1945 and 1946, in respect of employment and unemployment among persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, arrangements have been made to print these figures in a publication entitled "Tables relating to Employment and Unemployment in Great Britain, 1939, 1945 and 1946," which will shortly be placed on sale by H.M. Stationery Office.

The Tables will show, industry by industry, the estimated numbers of insured males aged 14 and under 65 and females aged 14 and under 60 years in employment at July, 1939, 1945 and 1946 (obtained by deducting the numbers registered as unemployed in July from the numbers insured), together with the numbers registered as unemployed, in each Region and in Great Britain as a whole. For July, 1946, only, similar figures will be given for the Greater London Area.

UNEMPLOYMENT AND FAMILY ALLOWANCES (NORTHERN IRELAND AGREEMENT) ACT.

The Unemployment and Family Allowances (Northern Ireland Agreement) Act, 1946,* which received the Royal Assent on 19th December, confirms an Agreement dated 18th September 1946, which was made between the Treasury and the Ministry of Finance for Northern Ireland and which provides for the assimilation of the burdens on the Exchequers of the United Kingdom and of Northern Ireland in respect of unemployment insurance, unemployment assistance and family allowances. This Agreement, which required confirmation by the Parliaments of the United Kingdom and of Northern Ireland before it became operative, supersedes an earlier Agreement, which was brought into force by the Unemployment (Northern Ireland Agreement) Act, 1936†.

Under the new Agreement, the two Exchequers are regarded as in parity when the charges upon them for the services in question are in the ratio of 2.2 on the Northern Ireland Exchequer and 97.8 on the United Kingdom Exchequer, i.e., in the estimated proportion of the total employed population in Northern Ireland to the corresponding population in the United Kingdom. When the cost of the services to the Northern Ireland Exchequer exceeds parity so calculated, that Exchequer is to be paid 80 per cent. of the excess by the United Kingdom Exchequer. Similarly, if the cost to the Northern Ireland Exchequer is less than parity, the United Kingdom Exchequer is to be paid 80 per cent. of the amount by which the Northern Ireland Exchequer cost falls short of parity.

As indicated above, the operation of the Agreement is confined to unemployment insurance, unemployment assistance and family allowances; but it is proposed to extend the arrangement in future so as to comprehend all social security services and payments, so far as it is found to be practicable. In order to give effect to this intention a further Agreement will be concluded in the future between the Ministry of Finance for Northern Ireland and the Treasury. Any Agreement so concluded will require confirmation by a further Act of Parliament.

The Agreement to which the present Act relates will operate as from 1st April, 1946. It is provisionally estimated that, during the financial year 1946-1947, the Agreement will entail a net payment of £1,375,000 from the United Kingdom Exchequer to the Northern Ireland Exchequer.

* 10 and 11 Geo. 6, Ch. 3. H.M. Stationery Office; price 1d. net (2d. post free).
† See the issue of this GAZETTE for April, 1936 (page 124).

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF INSPECTOR OF FACTORIES FOR 1945.

The Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories for the year 1945,* which has recently been published, contains a general review of the work of the Factory Department of the Ministry of Labour and National Service during that year, together with special reports on electrical risks, the work of the Engineering and Chemical Branch, industrial health and canteens.

In introducing the Report, H.M. Chief Inspector of Factories remarks that the year 1945 saw the commencement of the task of re-converting industry to civilian production. This involved such changes of product as from general munitions to baking machinery, landing craft to prefabricated houses, parachutes to shirts, machine-gun parts to roller skates and carpet sweepers, camouflage netting to artificial flowers, and cannon shell to agricultural implements.

The Report says that, in spite of shortages of material and labour, there was during the 1939-1945 war no such general and marked deterioration in the safeguarding of machinery as in the 1914-1918 war. The importance of maintaining good safety standards had been well recognised and the results were seen in a continued steady fall in the percentage of power machinery accidents year by year. Standards of dust and fume removal were on the whole well upheld, and the expansion of industrial medical nursing and first-aid services was very marked during the war. There was a definite and substantial advance in lighting, and a great increase in the number of works canteens, of which there were at the end of the war over 12,000 serving hot meals. On the other hand, with maintenance staffs cut to the bone, there was a serious deterioration in cleanliness and upkeep of buildings, and a general "spring clean" was one of the first and immediate needs after the war. Another immediate need mentioned in the Report was to improve welfare arrangements.

There remains, however, the legacy of antiquated factory buildings, and especially the small "slum" or "backyard" factories. An estimate made in respect of two old-established industries showed that the proportion of factory premises which were old and dilapidated and past reconstruction was 6 per cent. and 14 per cent., respectively; the number of people employed in these old premises, however, was very much less than the figures would at first sight suggest, because the great majority were small factories employing under 50 persons. It is, in fact, largely true of industry as a whole, states the Report, that the smaller the factory the worse it is housed. The only satisfactory remedy in the case of such old factories is closure and reconstruction, possibly along the lines of "flatted" factories to be let out to small occupiers; but, in view of the demands made on the building industry at present, it may be some time before the rebuilding of our old factories on modern lines can be undertaken.

Apart from physical conditions, a vital factor to be considered is the value of the individual human being in industry. The Report notes the advances shown in the number of personnel officers employed throughout industry, in outside welfare work, and in the spread of the idea of joint consultation between management and workers through Works Committees. Care must be taken, says the Chief Inspector, that the advances gained are not lost in the ensuing years either through a false economy or through a lack of interest.

Accident Prevention.—There was a further substantial reduction in the number of fatal accidents in 1945. The figure for that year was 851, a decrease of 15 per cent. compared with the previous year; this number is, in fact, the lowest reported during the last ten years and only a little more than half the peak figure of 1,646 in 1941. The number of non-fatal accidents reported during 1945 also showed a considerable decline. The following Table shows the number of reportable accidents, both fatal and non-fatal, in each year from 1938 to 1945.

REPORTABLE ACCIDENTS.

Year.	Fatal Accidents.	Variation on Previous Year.		Non-fatal Accidents.	Variation on Previous Year.	
		Per cent.	Per cent.		Per cent.	Per cent.
1938	944	—	—	179,159	—	—
1939	1,104	+ 17	+ 17	192,371	+ 7	+ 7
1940	1,372	+ 24	+ 45	230,607	+ 20	+ 30
1941	1,646	+ 20	+ 74	269,662	+ 17	+ 50
1942	1,363	- 17	+ 44	313,267	+ 16	+ 75
1943	1,221	- 10.5	+ 29	309,924	- 1.1	+ 73
1944	1,033	- 17.8	+ 6	281,578	- 9.1	+ 57
1945	851	- 15.2	- 10	239,602	- 14.8	+ 33

The Report includes a Table of figures showing the estimated numbers of persons employed in works subject to the Factories Act, excluding employment at docks and building and civil engineering sites. These figures have been related to the number of accidents in each year, so as to produce approximate accident rates, which are set out in the next Table. The figures do not take account of any changes in the hours worked, but they serve as a rough indication of the general trend of accident rates in the country as a whole and enable a general comparison to be made according to sex and age groups.

* Cmd. 6992. H.M. Stationery Office; price 2s. net (2s. 2d. post free).

APPROXIMATE ACCIDENT RATE, PER 1,000 OF THE PERSONS EMPLOYED.

Year.	Males.		Females.		All Persons.*
	18 years and over.	Under 18.	18 years and over.	Under 18.	
1938	37	46	10	14	29
1939	36	46	11	15	28
1940	45	52	13	16	34
1941	49	55	21	18	38
1942	53	59	28	22	43
1943	53	58	28	21	42
1944	51	55	28	20	40
1945	49	54	20	18	37

The Report points out that, although the number of non-fatal accidents fell substantially in 1945, it remained considerably higher than in 1939, and the reasons for this are discussed. Facts are adduced in support of the view that there has been a decline not only in the frequency rate of fatalities but also in the severity of accidents generally, and it is considered that the decrease in machine accidents points in the same direction. A reduction is noted in the number of accidents to women, the figure for 1945 showing a decrease of nearly 30 per cent. compared with that for the previous year; this figure represents a real decrease in the accident rate amongst women because the number employed fell by only 14 per cent. As an instance of this improvement, it is pointed out that the publicity given to hair entanglement accidents has shown good results.

As regards male young persons, the 1945 accident rate was higher than that for men—a disturbing feature of the accident returns for many years. On the other hand, the rate for girls was much lower than that for boys and fell below that for women. The Report attributes the accidents among young workers to ignorance as to where the dangers lie, lack of experience and skill, and the natural curiosity and high spirits of youth itself. These accidents to young persons call not only for a high standard of safety precautions but also for special measures of education, training and control.

At the other end of the scale, the tenacity and devotion of old people in staying at work during the war period has shown itself in the number of accidents reported as occurring to persons between 70 and 80 years of age. A proper grading of jobs to suit age is recommended for both young and old, and it is suggested that some of the "dead-end" jobs now being done by young persons could be more suitably and willingly done by older persons wishing to continue on lighter and less exacting work after pensionable age.

As regards the causes of accidents occurring during 1945, the most numerous accidents (27.5 per cent. of the total) were those arising from the handling of goods and resulting in cuts, abrasions, traps, strains and sometimes in more severe injuries such as crushing. Power driven machinery accounted for 15 per cent. of all accidents, and a further 14 per cent. were due to persons falling.

Safety Organisations.—A number of new safety organisations were started in factories during the year; but on the whole 1945 was a year of consolidation of ground already gained rather than of spectacular progress. The Report expresses the hope that, with the return to normal conditions, there will be a further spread of the safety movement. Attention is called to the influence and usefulness of the Industrial Museum as an exhibition of "good practice" in industrial safety, health and welfare.

Joint Advisory Committees.—Some details are given in the Report of the work being done by Joint Advisory Committees set up to consider conditions in various industries. The committees for the cotton and jute industries continued to meet at frequent intervals during 1945 and made considerable progress, and the Jute Committee have now submitted their final report. Meetings of the committee for the woollen industry were resumed after preliminary difficulties with regard to procedure had been overcome. One aspect of factory conditions under consideration by all three committees is that of the spacing of machinery; an interim report on this subject was issued by the Jute Committee in March, 1945, but no agreed final conclusions have yet been reached by the other committees.

The Report mentions that, during 1945, a new Advisory Committee was set up to deal with conditions of work in iron foundries. This committee is dealing particularly with such matters as temperature, washing and clothing accommodation, ventilation, cleanliness, lighting, health services and good housekeeping. The need for improved conditions in iron foundries is reflected in the difficulty of recruiting sufficient labour to meet urgent demands from the housing programme. During 1945, an Advisory Committee was set up to deal with the safeguarding of milling machines; the devising of better safeguards for such machines is especially important in view of the advances made in milling technique during recent times. Reference is also made to the work of the Committees on Safety in the Use of Power Presses and on Bending Brakes and to the appointment of a Standing Committee to consider developments of safety devices associated with power presses.*

Potteries.—The Report points to evidence that the pottery industry as a whole is much more responsive to new ideas than it was before the war. For the second year running there were no reported cases of lead poisoning. The prospect of prohibition of full lead glazes is now generally accepted; a number of tile works and certain other large pottery firms are well advanced in the change-over to low solubility glaze.

* In so far as they have been published, the reports referred to in this section of the Chief Inspector's Report have been noticed in previous issues of this GAZETTE.

Heating, Ventilation and Lighting.—The Report notes that there is a greater appreciation amongst both managements and workers of the important part which heating plays in securing good working conditions.

Advances are needed in the engineering practice of ventilation. Although the volume of complaint on this score fell during 1945, it was still about 50 per cent. higher than in 1938. A common source of complaint was draughts due to insufficient attention to the position and design of air inlets or to the warming of incoming air.

The urgency for production during the war years and experience of blackout conditions have driven home the importance of good lighting. Greater attention is now being given to the "quality" of lighting, i.e., to those other attributes, besides the intensity of the light, which promote good visibility and comfortable and pleasing conditions. It is pointed out, however, that glare is a matter which is still often neglected, either through inattention or lack of elementary knowledge of good lighting principles.

Colour in Factories.—The Report calls attention to the remarkable awakening of interest in recent years in the use of colour schemes in factories. Firms all over the country are taking the opportunity to introduce colour during the renovations they are undertaking. The Report adds that a colour scheme is not likely to be successful if it is haphazard and in this regard it calls attention to the studies on the subject made by the British Colour Council, the Industrial Welfare Society and other bodies.

Welfare Amenities.—Employers generally are anxious to provide higher standards of amenities, not only in view of the effects on the contentment of their workpeople but also in view of the need for attracting workers in a time of keen competition for labour. The Inspectors, however, still report cases in which washing accommodation and cloakrooms are not well used and even of damage to the amenities provided. The Chief Inspector asks for renewed efforts by all concerned for the proper maintenance and use of amenities. It is pointed out, however, that the provision of amenities is retarded by the difficulty of obtaining the necessary material and labour.

Hours of Employment (Women and Young Persons).—The number of relaxations under the Factories Act, 1937, in regard to hours of employment of women and young persons was greatly reduced in 1945. Quarterly returns made during the year show that for day-work schemes the number fell from 16,783 in February to 6,552 in November, while for shift-work schemes the figures fell from 6,423 to 3,268, the latter decrease being largely due to the abandonment of shift working in munition factories. As long as the serious shortage of suitable labour in some areas exists, however, it appears probable that circumstances will continue to arise in which some relaxation of the Factories Act provisions in regard to hours of employment are expedient.

The general tendency towards shortening of hours continued. The forty-hour week was still exceptional, but a 44 or 45-hour week was quite common. Interesting experiments in working a five-day week, with a target for output, are mentioned. The popularity of the five-day week system is undoubted; in parts of the Midlands and Southern England its use has extended rapidly, and in London a large number of factories have adopted the system. It has been found that workers who have a long journey to the factory are reluctant to undertake this to put in a morning's work only and that absenteeism on Saturday morning tends to be abnormally large.

Personnel Management, Training, etc.—The Report describes the advance made in personnel management, and lays stress on the importance of selecting the right men or women for this work, as well as of ensuring its efficient organisation. The need for expert advice on the matter is clear, and, to meet the need, a Personnel Management Branch has been set up in connection with the Factory Inspectorate, with a staff of advisers of wide experience as personnel officers, to help firms and their staffs with practical advice and guidance.

The Report also records a growing interest in works training schemes for new entrants to factories, and mentions two or three interesting developments in the instruction of juveniles. Attention is also drawn to developments in non-vocational training for boy and girl workers.

Industrial Health.—As regards industrial health, H.M. Senior Medical Inspector of Factories remarks that it was a matter of surprise and relief that the general standard of industrial health kept at such a high level during the war years. An increase in the total number of cases of occupational disease, poisoning and gassing was expected and happened, but comparison with 1914-1918 suggested that the incidence rate of these preventable conditions was notably less in the recent war.

In a section on the work of the Advisory Panels which were set up to consider dermatological, ophthalmological and radiological problems in industry, the Report states that the appointment of these Panels was an experiment which has proved to be an unequalled success and special mention is made of the warm co-operation extended to the Panels by leading industrial firms. Some details of the work of the Panels is given, and it is pointed out that the results of this work are becoming evident in the national field, particular reference being made in this connection to problems connected with radio-active substances.

The Report mentions the importance of industrial health to the three Services, and points out that the Royal Navy, the

Army and the Royal Air Force employ a very large personnel, both Service and civilian, on work with health hazards similar to those encountered in factory environments. For this reason, arrangements were made for the exchange of information between the Service authorities and H.M. Senior Medical Inspector, and a standing Joint Services and Factory Department Committee on Industrial Medicine was set up by the Army Council. Reference is also made to a number of special investigations which have been made by the Medical Branch during the year under review.

The Report includes a statistical Table showing the numbers of cases of industrial poisoning or disease notified during 1945, together with similar figures for certain earlier years. This Table indicates, *inter alia*, that 45 cases of lead poisoning (2 of them fatal) were reported during 1945, compared with 41 cases (including 5 fatal) in 1944. As regards the other types of poisoning, the most numerous were cases of aniline poisoning, of which 31 cases were reported during 1945, compared with 55 in 1944. Cases of epitheliomatous ulceration reported during 1945 numbered 215 (of which 9 were fatal), compared with 205 (20 fatal) in 1944; for chrome ulceration the corresponding figures were 94 and 121, respectively (none fatal in either year). As on previous occasions, information is given in considerable detail in the Report regarding the various cases of industrial poisoning or disease which occurred during the year under review.

A further Table in the Report indicates that 427 cases of gassing were reported during 1945, compared with 450 in 1944 and 695 in 1943; the numbers of deaths included in these figures were 27, 25 and 27, respectively. A large number of the cases reported for 1945 were due to carbon monoxide; the figure for that year, 218 with 18 fatalities, was the same as the average for the last six years, and the Report points out that there is as yet no sign of a return to the much lower pre-war levels, when for six years (1933-1938 inclusive) the average was 81 cases with 9 fatalities. A large number of cases of gassing which occurred during 1945 are discussed in detail in the Report.

The total number of fatal cases of silicosis (including silicosis with tuberculosis) investigated by the Department up to the end of 1945 was 1,845, while the corresponding figure for fatal cases of asbestosis was 201. Figures published in the Report show that in England and Wales 508 deaths from silicosis occurred during 1945, while pneumoconiosis and other forms of fibrosis of the lung accounted for 625 deaths; for 1944 the corresponding figures were 445 and 579, respectively. There was a decrease of over 2,000 in the cases of dermatitis voluntarily reported in 1945 compared with the figure for the previous year. It is stated, however, that there has been nothing to suggest that the co-operation of firms for the voluntary reporting of dermatitis has slackened. Much attention is given in the Report to questions of the health of workers concerned with radio-active materials and other injurious substances.

At the end of 1945, there were 143 whole-time works medical officers covering 242 factories, and 903 part-time works medical officers giving substantial service in 1,337 factories. This shows, on the 1944 figures, an increase of part-time and a decrease of full-time medical supervision in factories, largely due to the curtailment of production of certain classes of munitions and the change over to peace-time work. Reference is made to the work of the Mersey Docks Medical Service and to the medical services for dock workers in the Port of Glasgow operated by the Clyde Navigation Trust.

The report shows that during 1945 examining surgeons carried out over 235,000 examinations for certificates of fitness for employment in factories; in all but 3,900 cases, the persons concerned were certified as fit for such employment.

Canteens.—H.M. Superintending Inspector of Factories states that there was continued progress in 1945 in the provision of canteens in the smaller factories. The number of factories employing less than 250 workpeople with canteens rose from 6,584 in 1944 to 6,862 in 1945. On the other hand, there was a decrease, from 5,046 to 4,833, in the number of factories employing more than 250 workpeople with canteens; this is attributed to the closure of some large munition works towards the end of 1945. It is stated that, while the numerical position and the general attitude of employers and workers towards canteens was healthy, the standard of attainment in many cases was not yet as satisfactory as it should be. The difficulties experienced in the establishment of canteens are reviewed in the Report. It is concluded that the statutory Orders with regard to the provisions of canteens were accepted generally by employers without difficulty, and that the workers also seemed to have grown to regard the canteen as part of the service they expected to find at a factory, whether they used it fully or not. In spite of all difficulties, the standard of cooking at factory canteens continued to improve, although many menus were monotonous and indicated lack of imagination on the part of those making them.

Other Sections of the Report contain chapters by H.M. Senior Electrical Inspector of Factories, H.M. Senior Engineering Inspector of Factories, and H.M. Senior Chemical Inspector of Factories on the work of their branches during the year.

Statistics.—A detailed analysis of accidents and dangerous occurrences reported during 1945 is given in appendices to the Report. Another appendix gives particulars of prosecutions for breaches of the Factories Act during the year; these show that a total of 1,255 charges were brought during 1945 and that 994 convictions were obtained, a large number of the latter being for offences in connection with the safety provisions of the Act.

INDUSTRIAL SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE.

REGULATIONS RELATING TO MAGNESIUM CASTINGS.

On 10th December, the Magnesium (Grinding of Castings and Other Articles) Special Regulations, 1946,* were made by the Minister of Labour and National Service under Section 60 of the Factories Act, 1937. Draft Regulations on this subject were issued in December, 1945, and a revised draft was published on 13th September, 1946.†

The new Regulations provide for the safety of workers in factories where the grinding or polishing of castings or other articles consisting wholly or mainly of magnesium and of alloys containing magnesium is carried on, and they reproduce with amendments the matters dealt with in the Magnesium (Grinding of Castings and Other Articles) Order, 1943,‡ made under Regulation 60 of the Defence (General) Regulations, 1939. This Order is being revoked by the Magnesium (Grinding of Castings and Other Articles) (Revocation) Order, 1946,§ which was also made by the Minister of Labour and National Service on 10th December.

The new Regulations and the revoking Order came into force on 27th January.

PARTICULARS RELATING TO UNDERGROUND ROOMS.

The Work in Underground Rooms (Form of Notice) Order, 1946,|| was made on 30th December by the Minister of Labour and National Service under Section 53 of the Factories Act, 1937. That section provides that, before certain specified underground rooms are used for work for which they may be certified as unsuitable, the occupier shall notify H.M. Inspector of Factories for the district. The present Order prescribes the form of notice to be used for this purpose and sets out the particulars to be furnished in the notice. It will come into force on 1st February.

The Form of Notice which is prescribed (Factory Form 1229) may be obtained direct from H.M. Stationery Office at any of the addresses shown on the front cover of this GAZETTE, or through any bookseller, price 1d. net.

NOTIFICATION OF DANGEROUS OCCURRENCES.

The Dangerous Occurrences (Notification) Regulations, 1947,¶ were made on 7th January by the Minister of Labour and National Service under the Factories Act, 1937. They are in the same form as the draft Regulations, which were notified in the issue of this GAZETTE for November, 1946 (page 317). The Dangerous Occurrences Notification Order, 1935, is revoked by the new Regulations, which will come into force on 1st February.

JEWELLERY AND SILVERWARE INDUSTRY.

REPORT OF WORKING PARTY.

The Report** of the Jewellery and Silverware Working Party has recently been published. This Working Party, consisting of representatives of employers' and workers' organisations and of independent members, was appointed by the President of the Board of Trade in March, 1946, its terms of reference being to examine and enquire into the various schemes and suggestions put forward for improvement of organisation, production and distribution methods and processes in the jewellery and silverware industry, and to report as to the steps which should be adopted in the national interest to strengthen the industry and to render it more stable and more capable of meeting competition in the home and foreign markets.

The Report considers the questions of efficiency in production, factory and workshop accommodation, sales and publicity, design and research, the recruitment of labour, training and welfare, the export and import trade, the organisation of the industry, the purchase tax, hall-marking and the maintenance of standards, the supply of raw materials, costing and statistics. Among the recommendations made on these subjects are a number which bear upon working conditions, and the more important of these are summarised below.

The Working Party recommend that the industry be invited by the President of the Board of Trade to form a Federation of Trade Associations or one inclusive Trade Association, with an organisation capable of planning for and rendering service to the industry along the lines suggested in the Report. They also recommend the establishment of a Production Efficiency Organisation, with the task of promoting the re-organisation and re-equipment of the industry and its production efficiency generally. The duties of the officers of the Organisation would

* S.R. & O. 1946, No. 2107. H.M. Stationery Office; price 1d. net (2d. post free).
† See the issues of this GAZETTE for December, 1945 (page 223), and October, 1946 (page 277), respectively.

‡ See the issue of this GAZETTE for March, 1943 (page 37).

§ S.R. & O. 1946, No. 2106, H.M. Stationery Office; price 1d. net (2d. post free).

|| S.R. & O. 1946, No. 2247. H.M. Stationery Office; price 1d. net (2d. post free).

¶ S.R. & O. 1947, No. 31. H.M. Stationery Office; price 1d. net (2d. post free).

** Working Party Reports. Jewellery and Silverware. H.M. Stationery Office; price 3s. net (3s. 3d. post free).

include the promotion among firms of interest in and knowledge of the possibilities of mechanisation and other re-organisation within the range of the products of the industry.

The Report points out that, in all the main centres of jewellery and silverware production, a high proportion of the factories and workshops are housed in buildings which are quite unsuitable for the work of the industry and quite unfit, by modern standards, to provide reasonable conditions for the workpeople employed. It is recommended that a Central Buildings Committee should be set up, with a branch sub-committee in each of the main centres of production, to review the position regarding buildings throughout the industry, to work out plans for re-building in each centre, and to maintain the closest possible contact with local Reconstruction Authorities.

The Working Party note that the industry has recently adopted a proposal for a combined Design and Research Centre in London, and they make recommendations with regard to the support and activities of this Centre. They further recommend that the industry should take every possible step, by publicity and other means, to induce firms to give skilled workers of outstanding artistic gifts opportunities to enjoy a full training as designers and also to make every endeavour, as far as the position of each firm allows, to offer employment to fully qualified designers of a standing and with a remuneration such as will attract young men and women of high artistic capacity into the industry. They consider also that measures should be taken to secure the inclusion within the industry of a proportion of men and women of ability who have received a good scientific education and some technical training.

As regards the recruitment of labour and the training and welfare of workers, the central organisation of the industry is recommended, in conjunction with the trade unions, to seek to promulgate, through classes and other methods, a knowledge among managers and other persons in responsible positions of modern methods of promoting welfare and diminishing fatigue among workpeople. The central organisation, also in conjunction with the trade unions, should establish committees in appropriate localities to supervise recruiting and training for the industry. The main functions of these committees would be to maintain close touch with the appropriate schools and colleges in the locality; to arrange facilities for suitable boys to visit factories and exhibitions and to gain some knowledge of the industry; to assist in the dovetailing of factory practice with school and college training; and to carry out inspection in the workshop in order to ensure that the apprentice is receiving satisfactory instruction. Experts, it is further recommended, should be sent to Paris to investigate and report on the methods of training in use there.

On the subject of the outworker system, the Working Party recommend that the central organisation of the industry, in consultation with the trade unions, should consider urgently what can be done to remedy the evils that are liable to arise from the use of the system. The action to be taken should include efforts to discourage the employment of outworkers in regard to processes, or sections of the industry, in which this is possible, and, where outworking exists, to regulate effectively the wages which are paid to outworkers and the conditions under which they work.

ESSENTIAL WORK ORDERS.

WITHDRAWAL OF LIMESTONE SECTION OF THE QUARRYING INDUSTRY.

The Minister of Labour and National Service has informed organisations representing employers and workers concerned that the limestone section of the quarrying industry will be withdrawn from the scope of the Essential Work Orders on or about 31st March. The slag, igneous rock, sandstone and roofing slate sections of the quarrying industry have already been withdrawn from the scope of the Orders.* Notices will be issued to the individual undertakings which are to be de-scheduled, giving them at least a month's notice. Until individual de-scheduling takes effect, the provisions of the Essential Work Orders remain in force for all employers and workers in scheduled undertakings.

EMPLOYMENT OF FOREIGNERS AS DOMESTIC WORKERS.

STATEMENT RELATING TO AUSTRIAN WOMEN.

On 11th April, 1946, the Minister of Labour and National Service announced that it had been decided to reintroduce the system under which permits might be granted for the admission of individual foreign women for service in private households,† and that, subject to any special enquiries which might have to be made in individual cases, applications would be considered for permits for women of all nationalities other than German. The Minister added that, under this scheme, a permit might be granted to an employer who had not already a domestic staff which was reasonably adequate having regard to the circumstances of the household, provided that the Ministry of Labour and National Service were satisfied that there was no suitable British woman available, and that the wages to be paid were not below those prevailing locally for the particular kind of domestic work.

* See the issues of this GAZETTE for May, 1946 (page 115), and August, 1946 (page 207).
† See the issue of this GAZETTE for April, 1946 (page 94).

The Ministry have been requested by the Control Office for Germany and Austria to issue the statement below for the information of householders in the United Kingdom who may be hoping to bring over an Austrian national for domestic or other employment, under this scheme. The statement is intended to explain to householders who have made contact with Austrian women, and have asked for permits to bring them to the United Kingdom as domestic servants, why some time must elapse before the women in question can reach this country, if they can come at all. The statement is as follows:—

"The Austrian Government is faced with a serious shortage of labour, including a shortage of domestic servants. It will not sanction the exit of an Austrian national holding a British Ministry of Labour permit unless the Austrian authorities are satisfied that the individual in question is in a profession or occupation already overcrowded in Austria. Householders who have received Ministry of Labour permits in respect of Austrian domestic and other workers must, therefore, be prepared for the possibility that the Austrian national may not be allowed to leave her own country to come here. In any case, an Austrian holding a British permit must, before leaving the country, obtain three other essential documents which are issued only after production of the Ministry of Labour permit, *viz.*, Austrian passport, exit permit and British visa. The completion of these necessary formalities, in which various offices in Vienna are involved, takes a considerable time, especially where the women concerned live in country districts. Travel facilities are also somewhat restricted at present."

RESTORATION OF PRE-WAR TRADE PRACTICES.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND NATIONAL SERVICE.

In reply to a question in the House of Commons on 20th December, regarding the date of the end of the war period for the purposes of the Restoration of Pre-War Trade Practices Act, 1942,* the Minister of Labour and National Service made the following statement:—

"On the advice of the Joint Consultative Committee of the National Joint Advisory Council I have decided to appoint a day some time in December, 1947, as the end of the war period for the purposes of this Act. The necessary Order will be made in due course. Employers will then be under an obligation to restore or permit the restoration of a trade practice not later than two months after the appointed day and to maintain or permit the continuance of the trade practice for a further 18 months. The only exceptions to this obligation provided by the Act are where the trade practice has been modified or waived by joint agreement or by arbitration. It is, therefore, essential that the two sides of any industry affected should consider this matter with a view to agreement on any point arising. The Act was passed in pursuance of a pledge to the trade unions that trade practices relaxed for the purposes of the war effort would be fully restored. In making this announcement honouring that pledge I wish to acknowledge the valuable contribution to the war effort made by the trade unions in agreeing to these relaxations."

COST OF LIVING ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

The Cost of Living Advisory Committee, which was appointed in May, 1936,† has now been reconstituted by the Minister of Labour and National Service as follows:—

Mr. R. M. Gould, C.B., Chief Industrial Commissioner, Ministry of Labour and National Service (Chairman); Professor R. G. D. Allen, Professor of Statistics, London University; Mr. O. W. Cromwell, representing the British Employers' Confederation; Sir Joseph Hallsworth, M.A., representing the Trades Union Congress General Council; Mr. J. A. Hough, M.A., representing the Co-operative Movement; Mrs. T. Cazalet Keir; Sir Frederick Leggett, C. B.; Mr. A. H. Mathias, representing the Retail Distributive Trades Conference; Mr. J. R. N. Stone, C.B.E., Director of Department of Applied Economics, Cambridge; Miss D. S. Tomkinson, O.B.E., M.A., J.P., representing the National Federation of Women's Institutes; and representatives of the Ministry of Labour and National Service, the Board of Trade, the Scottish Office, the Ministry of Labour and National Insurance (Northern Ireland), and the Central Statistical Office.

The Secretary to the Committee is Mr. J. G. Cannell, Ministry of Labour and National Service, 8 St. James's Square, London, S.W.1. Its terms of reference are to advise the Minister of Labour and National Service on the basis of the official cost of living index figure and on matters connected therewith. The immediate question on which the committee has been asked to advise is whether any revision in the basis of the figure is practicable or desirable in present conditions and, if so, to advise as to the revision that might be made.

* See the issues of this GAZETTE for January, 1942 (page 8), and for March, 1942 (page 59).
† See the issue of this GAZETTE for June, 1936 (page 206).

NUMBERS OF MEN AGED 18-30 YEARS.

POSITION IN REGARD TO MILITARY SERVICE.

In reply to a question in the House of Commons on 10th December, the Minister of Labour and National Service gave the following information relating to men aged 18 and under 30 years (*i.e.*, men born in the years 1917-1928, inclusive) in Great Britain, and their position in regard to service in the Armed Forces:—

Estimated total number in the age group	4,200,000
Number who have served or are serving in the Forces	3,100,000
Number of men unfit for military service	500,000
Number of men, fit for military service, still retained in industry	550,000
Others who have not served in the Forces (conscientious objectors, students, ministers of religion, etc.)	50,000

It was also stated in the reply that the number of men included in the second line above who were still in the Forces was not known precisely, but that it was of the order of 1½ million; and that of the men still retained in industry (fourth line above) nearly two-thirds were in the coal mining, farming, shipping and building industries, the majority of the remainder being key men in the engineering and metal industries.

EXPENDITURE ON PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES.

In reply to a question in the House of Commons on 20th December, 1946, the Financial Secretary to the Treasury furnished a statement, which is printed in the *Official Report*,* showing the total expenditure (other than expenditure out of loans for capital purposes or out of capital receipts) on specified public social services during the financial year commencing 1st April, 1944 (or the latest available year), and estimates, where available, of the expenditure for the financial year 1945. The statement also gives figures, so far as available, of the total numbers of persons in Great Britain who benefited directly from the expenditure for 1944 (or the latest available year) in respect of the several services. The following particulars relating to expenditure on the services specified have been extracted from the statement:—

Service.	Great Britain. Financial Year Commencing 1st April.	
	1944 (or latest available year). (1)	1945 (estimated). (2)
Unemployment Insurance and Unemployment Assistance Acts:	£000	£000
(i) Unemployment Benefit, etc., General Scheme	5,488	16,758
(ii) Unemployment Benefit, etc., Agricultural Scheme	262	340
(iii) Unemployment Allowances	1,661	2,570
(iv) Prevention and Relief of Distress	625	352
National Health Insurance Acts	52,999†	56,962†
Widows', Orphans' and Old Age Contributory Pensions Acts	62,840	64,020
Old Age Pensions Acts	56,201	58,217
Old Age and Widows' Pensions Act, 1940 (Supplementary Pensions)	58,096	62,461
War Pensions Acts and the Ministry of Pensions Act (War of 1914-18)	33,007	34,018
Pensions (Navy, Army and Air Force and Mercantile Marine) Act, 1939; Personal Injuries (Emergency Provisions) Act, 1939; Military Training Act, 1939; Reserve and Auxiliary Forces Act, 1939 (War of 1939-45)	43,748	49,558
Education Acts	155,934	193,418
Physical Training and Recreation Act	1	3
Acts relating to Approved Schools	2,019	2,770
Public Health Acts so far as they relate to:—		
(i) Hospitals and Treatment of Disease	22,789	
(ii) Maternity and Child Welfare Work	7,157	
Midwives Acts		Not available.
Housing Acts	55,218	
Acts relating to the Relief of the Poor	40,516	
Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts	10,219	
Mental Deficiency Acts		
Totals	609,780	—

FOOD CONTROL.

MAXIMUM RETAIL PRICES.

Recent Orders made by the Minister of Food have prescribed maximum retail prices for certain varieties of imported cheese, and have removed price control from cucumbers, some kinds of canned fish, home grown and imported soft fruit, and pickles. As a result of other Orders, there have been some increases in the maximum retail prices of home manufactured jam and marmalade, fresh and smoked salmon, soya flour, dried fruit, egg products, sweet and bitter oranges, and grapefruit.

* *Parliamentary Debates, House of Commons: Official Report*, Vol. 431, No. 29, 20th December, 1946. H.M. Stationery Office; price 6d. net (8d. post free).
† The figures given relate to the calendar years 1945 and 1946, respectively.

RATIONING.

As from 5th January, an Order of the Minister of Food has included some varieties of canned meat hash, imported cheese and sweetened cereal products in the points rationing scheme, but on the other hand some packs of imported prepared meals have been freed from rationing.

To give effect to the gift of meat by the Argentine Republic to the people of the United Kingdom, the Minister of Food has made an Order requiring butchers to give a rebate at the rate of 5d. per head to their customers on the first sale of rationed meat in the week commencing 12th January.

WAGES AND WORKING HOURS IN CANADA.

The Canadian Department of Labour have issued, as a supplement to *The Labour Gazette* for October, 1946, a Report on wage rates and hours of labour in Canada in 1944. This Report, which is the twenty-seventh to be published in the series, has been compiled from returns furnished to the Department by about 15,000 undertakings in a wide range of economic activities, supplemented in some cases by information from trade unions and from collective agreements. The Report contains tables of average wage rates or earnings in a large number of occupations, the figures representing average "straight time" rates of wages or average piecework "straight time" earnings, *i.e.*, average rates or earnings during normal working hours, exclusive of extra payments for overtime, shift-working, etc., and of the value of any allowances, such as free transportation, uniforms, group insurance or sick benefits.

From the data obtained by this and earlier enquiries, the Department of Labour have compiled index numbers of wage rates in the six main industrial groups in Canada, *viz.*, logging, mining, manufacturing, construction, transportation and communication, and service (laundries). These index numbers show that the general level of wage rates in the six groups was higher in 1944 than that recorded in any previous year, being 37.5 per cent. above the level in 1939 and 23.5 per cent. above that in 1920, which is regarded as the date of the peak of the inflationary movement which followed the war of 1914-1918. The rise in the general index number of wage rates during 1944 (3.5 per cent.) was, however, much less than in any of the three preceding years and slightly less than in 1940. The Report points out that, between August, 1939, and December, 1944, the official index number of the cost of living in Canada advanced 17.6 per cent.

The Table below shows the average wage rates or average earnings in a few of the large number of occupations for which details are available in the Report.* As indicated above, the figures relate to wage rates or earnings during normal working hours and are exclusive of extra payments for overtime, etc., working and of allowances.

Industry and Occupation.	Average Wage Rate or Earnings in 1944.	Industry and Occupation.	Average Wage Rate or Earnings in 1944.
	Dollars. Per Day.		Dollars. Per Hour.
Coal Mining:		Radio Sets and Parts:	
Contract Miners	10.26	Assemblers, Male	0.62
Datal Miners	7.56	" Female	0.52
Labourers	5.85	Machinists	0.87
		Testers, Male	0.75
Foundry and Machine Shop Products:	Per Hour.	Electrical Machinery, etc.:	
Moulders	0.80	Assemblers, Male	0.76
Moulders' Helpers	0.59	" Female	0.52
		Coil Winders, Male	0.78
		" Female	0.53
Machinery (other than Electrical):		Machinists	0.84
Assemblers	0.69	Furniture:	
Machinists	0.87	Cabinet Makers	0.66
Toolmakers	0.96	Finishers and Polishers	0.61
		Upholsterers	0.80
Aircraft:		Brewery Products:	
Journeyman Machinists	0.94	Bottlers	0.68
		Coopers	0.77
		Labourers	0.56
Automobiles, Trucks, etc.:		Tobacco and Cigarettes:	
Assemblers & Machinists	0.99	Cigarette Makers, Female	0.39
Sheet Metal Workers	1.07	Cigarette Packers, Female	0.38
		Machinists	0.77
Agricultural Implements:		Unskilled Factory Labour, Male	0.56
Moulders	0.63		
Woodworkers	0.55		

In 1944, the standard or normal hours of work for male workers averaged 48.2 a week in the manufacturing industries covered by the enquiry. In the coal mining industry in the same year, the predominant working hours ranged from 47 to 60 a week.

* The Report reproduces the statistics relating to wages in the Canadian textile industry in 1944 which were published by the Department of Labour in February, 1946 (see the issue of this GAZETTE for May, 1946, page 124).

RESUMPTION OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING IN FRANCE.

NEW LEGISLATION.

In the issue of this GAZETTE for September, 1946 (page 250), a brief account was given of the methods by which wages in France are at present regulated. An Act dated 23rd December, 1946, provides for the supersession of this system and for a reversion to the pre-war system, under which wages were fixed by collective bargaining. The new Act authorises the Minister of Labour and Social Security to convene, as soon as possible after the promulgation of the Act, joint Committees of representatives of employers' and workers' organisations to draw up national agreements for the several branches of economic activity. These agreements are to include provisions relating to freedom of organisation and opinion; wage rates for occupational groups and geographical areas; conditions of recruitment and dismissal; and the organisation of apprenticeship and vocational training.

The war-time legislation relating to the general regulation of wages is to remain in force until a date to be fixed by Decree, and, until then, the application of legislation governing conciliation and arbitration is to be suspended. The Ministerial Orders already issued providing for the detailed regulation of wages are to remain in force until superseded by the application of the provisions of approved collective agreements relating to branches of activity or occupational groups.

The Act embodies a substantial revision of the section of the Labour Code relating to collective agreements. This revision provides, *inter alia*, for the validity of such agreements to be conditional upon prior approval by the Minister of Labour and Social Security. The Act also authorises the establishment of a Higher Commission for Collective Agreements, which is to advise upon the provisions of national agreements and to examine their probable effects on production, prices, and the cost of living. Approval of collective agreements may be withheld by the Minister only on the advice of this Commission.

WAGES AND WORKING HOURS IN THE NETHERLANDS.

Statistics of the average earnings and hours of work in 1945 of adult male workpeople employed in the principal industries in the Netherlands were published in the August-September, 1946, issue of *Maandschrift*, the journal of the Netherlands Central Statistical Bureau. Returns were obtained from large and medium-sized undertakings employing approximately 176,000 men, of whom 68,000 were skilled, 67,000 semi-skilled and 41,000 unskilled. The returns gave, for a week in October or November, 1945, the earnings of adult male workers (inclusive of overtime payments, supplements, premiums, etc.) and the number of hours worked in a week.

The statistics show that the average hourly earnings in October or November, 1945, of men employed in all the industries (including coal mining) covered by the enquiry were 85.7 cents for skilled, 76.0 cents for semi-skilled and 72.5 cents for unskilled workers. Compared with the corresponding figures for 1939, these figures represent increases of 49, 58 and 72 per cent., respectively. The average number of hours worked in a week in October or November, 1945, was 46½ for skilled, 47 for semi-skilled and 47½ for unskilled men.

The Table below shows, for the principal industries and for all industries (including coal mining) covered by the enquiry, the average hourly earnings and the average weekly number of hours worked by adult male skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workers in a week in October or November, 1945.

Industry.	Skilled Workers.		Semi-Skilled Workers.		Unskilled Workers.	
	Average Hourly Earnings	Average Weekly Working Hours.	Average Hourly Earnings	Average Weekly Working Hours.	Average Hourly Earnings	Average Weekly Working Hours.
	Cents.		Cents.		Cents.	
Cement	78.6	48	74.3	48	71.7	48
Engineering and Shipbuilding	89.5	*	85.6	*	76.8	*
Other Metal Working	84.6	*	78.0	*	77.8	*
Cotton	73.5	46	69.5	47	66.5	46½
Wool Textile	78.0	46½	71.7	47½	68.8	47½
Tanning and Leather Working	—	—	68.7	47½	64.6	47½
Boots and Shoes	84.1	45½	73.5	45	67.9	44
Bakeries	77.0	49½	70.3	49	70.9	49
Beet Sugar	—	—	81.0	56	74.0	55½
Cigars	72.6	46	68.7	47	59.5	47
Millsawing, etc.	—	—	71.9	48	67.0	48
Furniture Building	83.9	47½	73.8	47	68.0	48
Public Works Contracting	77.8	48½	71.9	49	—	—
Book, Newspaper, etc.	83.2	52	79.8	51½	73.5	49½
* Printing	85.3	48	78.0	48½	67.3	48½
Bookbinding	81.1	48½	71.3	48	71.6	48
All Industries†	85.7	46½	76.0	47	72.5	47½

* Figure not available.

† Including a number of industries not shown separately in the Table.

EMPLOYMENT IN GREAT BRITAIN IN NOVEMBER.

GENERAL SUMMARY

1. GENERAL MAN-POWER POSITION.

The broad changes in the man-power position between mid-1939 and November, 1946, are shown in the Table below. The figures relate to males aged 14 and under 65 and females aged 14 and under 60 years.

(Thousands)						
	Mid-1939.	Mid-1943.	Mid-1945.	June, 1946.	Oct., 1946.	Nov., 1946.
1. Total Working Population (excluding indoor private domestic service)						
Men	14,656	15,028	14,881	14,638	14,547	14,504
Women	5,094	7,253	6,768	5,885	5,806	5,820
Total	19,750	22,281	21,649	20,523	20,353	20,324
2. Ex-H.M. Forces who have not yet taken up employment ..	—	20	40	700	415	345
3. Insured persons registered as unemployed	1,270	60	103	376	366	366
4. Number in H.M. Forces, N.F.S. and Police and in industry						
Men	13,643	14,971	14,786	13,698	13,878	13,905
Women	4,837	7,230	6,720	5,749	5,694	5,708
Total	18,480	22,201	21,506	19,447	19,572	19,613

2. TOTAL WORKING POPULATION.

There was a decrease of 43,000 in the number of men in the working population in November, 1946, but the number of women increased by 14,000. The total reduction since June, 1945, is estimated at 1,325,000 (men 377,000 and women 948,000). The total working population at the end of November, 1946, was greater than at mid-1939 by 574,000 (men 152,000 less and women 726,000 greater).

3. H.M. FORCES AND AUXILIARY SERVICES, NATIONAL FIRE SERVICE AND POLICE, AND NUMBER ENGAGED IN CIVILIAN EMPLOYMENTS.

The total numbers in the Forces and Auxiliary Services, National Fire Service and Police and engaged in civilian employment increased by 41,000 during November (men 27,000 and women 14,000). At the end of November, it was 1,893,000 less than at the end of June, 1945 (men 881,000, and women 1,012,000), but 1,133,000 greater than at mid-1939 (men 262,000, women 871,000).

4. FORCES AND AUXILIARY SERVICES.

The numbers in the Forces and Auxiliary Services included in item 4 of the Table in paragraph 1 are as follows:—

(Thousands)						
	Mid-1939.	Mid-1943.	Mid-1945.	June, 1946.	Oct., 1946.	Nov., 1946.
Men	480	4,296	4,653	1,895	1,475	1,426
Women	—	461	437	137	92	84
Total	480	4,757	5,090	2,032	1,567	1,510

In the seventeen months from mid-1945 to the end of November, 1946, there has been a decrease of 3,580,000 (men 3,227,000 and women 353,000).

5. CIVIL DEFENCE, NATIONAL FIRE SERVICE AND POLICE.

The numbers in these Services included in item 4 of the Table in paragraph 1 are as follows:—

(Thousands)						
	Mid-1939.	Mid-1943.	Mid-1945.	June, 1946.	Oct., 1946.	Nov., 1946.
Men	80	253	112	84	84	85
Women	—	70	15	4	4	3
Total	80	323	127	88	88	88

There was thus, by mid-1945, a reduction of 196,000 from the figure of 323,000 at mid-1943. Since mid-1945, there has been a further reduction of 39,000 (men 27,000, women 12,000).

6. INDUSTRY.

The numbers employed in industry included in item 4 of the Table in paragraph 1 are as follows:—

(Thousands)						
	Mid-1939.	Mid-1943.	Mid-1945.	June, 1946.	Oct., 1946.	Nov., 1946.
Men	13,083	10,422	10,021	11,719	12,319	12,394
Women	4,837	6,699	6,268	5,608	5,598	5,621
Total	17,920	17,121	16,289	17,327	17,917	18,015

Between mid-1939 and mid-1945, recruitment for the Forces, partly offset by substantial new intake from the non-industrial

sections of the population, reduced the numbers in industry by over 1,600,000. Owing to the retirement of large numbers of men and women added during the war, the reduction continued up to the end of 1945; but since then the intake from demobilisation has greatly exceeded net losses from other causes. Between mid-1945 and the end of November, 1946, there was a net increase of 1,726,000 (men increased by 2,373,000, women decreased by 647,000). The number in industry at the end of November, 1946, was 95,000 greater than at mid-1939. There was a decrease of 689,000 men, offset by an increase of 784,000 in the number of women.

7. MANUFACTURE OF EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES FOR THE FORCES.

The estimated numbers employed on this work are as follows:—

(Thousands)						
	Mid-1939.	Mid-1943.	Mid-1945.	June, 1946.	Oct., 1946.	Nov., 1946.
Metal and Chemical Industries	1,070	4,310	3,132	492	376	364
Other Manufactures	200	811	698	223	115	110
Total	1,270	5,121	3,830	715	491	474

Between mid-1939 and mid-1943, the numbers employed on the manufacture of equipment and supplies for the Forces increased by 3,851,000. By mid-1945 there had been a decrease of 1,291,000. There was a further decrease of 3,356,000 between mid-1945 and the end of November, 1946, and at the latter date the numbers employed were 796,000 less than the numbers employed at mid-1939.

8. HOME CIVILIAN INDUSTRIES AND SERVICES AND MANUFACTURE FOR EXPORT.

The numbers employed in industry other than those employed on the manufacture of equipment and supplies for the Forces, that is, the aggregate numbers employed on work for home civilian needs and for export in the manufacturing industries, together with the numbers in the basic industries, and in building and civil engineering, the distributive trades and other civilian services, are as follows:—

(Thousands)						
	Mid-1939.	Mid-1943.	Mid-1945.	June, 1946.	Oct., 1946.	Nov., 1946.
16,650	12,000	12,459	16,612	17,426	17,541	

Between mid-1939 and mid-1943, the numbers employed in this sector were reduced by about 4,650,000, or 28 per cent. There was an increase of 459,000 between mid-1943 and mid-1945. There was a further increase of 5,082,000 between mid-1945 and the end of November, 1946, and, at the latter date, the number employed in this sector was 891,000 greater than the number at mid-1939 (or about 600,000 above the normal pre-war level).

9. MANUFACTURE FOR HOME MARKET AND EXPORT.

The figures for this sector are shown in the following Table:—

(Thousands)						
	Mid-1939.	Mid-1943.	Mid-1945.	June, 1946.	Oct., 1946.	Nov., 1946.
Home Market:—						
Metals and Chemicals*	1,586	833	1,014	2,292	2,495	2,520
Other Manufactures†	2,969	1,540	1,566	2,270	2,492	2,520
Total, Home Market	4,555	2,373	2,580	4,562	4,987	5,040
Export:—						
Metals and Chemicals*	450	90	200	851	908	915
Other Manufactures†	540	162	210	459	515	525
Total, Export ..	990	252	410	1,310	1,423	1,440
Total, Home Market and Export ..	5,545	2,625	2,990	5,872	6,410	6,480

Between mid-1939 and mid-1943, the numbers employed on manufactures for home market and export were reduced by 2,920,000 or 53 per cent. Between mid-1943 and mid-1945 there was an increase of 365,000. Between mid-1945 and the end of November, 1946, there was a further increase of 3,490,000 and the total at the latter date was 935,000 above the number at mid-1939.

The numbers employed on manufacture for export increased in the seventeen months mid-1945 to the end of November, 1946, by 1,030,000, and at the end of November exceeded the mid-1939 figure by 450,000 (metals and chemicals+465,000, other manufactures—15,000).

Employment on manufacture for the home market increased by 2,460,000 in the same period; at the end of November, the total was 485,000 greater than at mid-1939. There was a deficiency of 449,000 in manufactures such as textiles, clothing, leather, wood, paper, etc., offset by an increase of 934,000 in the metal and chemical industries.

* Metal manufacture, merchant shipbuilding and ship repairing, engineering, aircraft, motors and other vehicles, metal goods, chemicals and explosives.
† Food, drink and tobacco, textiles, clothing, footwear, leather and leather goods, wood, paper, building materials, pottery, glass and other manufactures.

10. NON-MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES AND SERVICES.

The figures for this group, which includes the basic industries and services (agriculture, fishing, mining, utilities, transport, National and Local Government service), building and civil engineering, the distributive trades, and other services (commerce and finance, personal and professional services, entertainment, catering, laundries and cleaning), are given in the following Table:—

(Thousands)						
	Mid-1939.	Mid-1943.	Mid-1945.	June, 1946.	Oct., 1946.	Nov., 1946.
Basic Industries and Services	4,683	5,027	5,191	5,502	5,546	5,547
Building and Civil Engineering	1,310	726	722	1,184	1,250	1,250
Distributive Trades	2,887	2,009	1,958	2,170	2,272	2,304
Other Services	2,225	1,613	1,598	1,884	1,948	1,960
Total	11,105	9,375	9,469	10,740	11,016	11,061

In the basic industries and services taken as a whole there was a continuous net increase from mid-1939 and the numbers employed are now 864,000 greater than at mid-1939.

In building and civil engineering there was a decrease of 588,000 between mid-1939 and mid-1945. In the seventeen months to the end of November, 1946, there was an increase of 528,000, the total at that date being 60,000 less than at mid-1939. In the distributive trades, the reduction between mid-1939 and mid-1945 amounted to 929,000. Between mid-1945 and the end of November, 1946, there was an increase of 346,000, leaving the total in these trades 583,000 less than at mid-1939. In the "Other Services" Group there was a reduction between mid-1939 and mid-1945 of 627,000. Of this, 362,000 had been recovered by the end of November, 1946, leaving a deficiency as compared with mid-1939 of 265,000.

11. COMPARISON—NOVEMBER, 1946, WITH MID-1939.

The numbers employed at the end of November, 1946, in certain important sectors of industry, expressed as percentages of the numbers so employed at mid-1939, are as follows:—

	Percentage
Manufacture of Equipment and Supplies for the Forces	37 per cent.
Manufacture for Home Market	111 "
Manufacture for Export	145 "
Basic Industries	118 "
Building and Civil Engineering	95 "
Distributive Trades	80 "
Other Services	88 "

12. SUMMARY.

The Table in the next column shows the totals in the main categories at mid-1939, mid-1945, June, 1946, October, 1946, and November, 1946.

NUMBERS EMPLOYED: INDUSTRIAL ANALYSIS.

MID-1939, MID-1945, MID-1946 AND NOVEMBER, 1946.

The Table below shows, in respect of those industries for which comparable figures are available, the changes in the level of employment between mid-1939, mid-1945, mid-1946 and November, 1946. The figures include only persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, together with women in part-time employment, two of whom have been counted as a unit. They are thus different in scope from those given above, which include estimates of the number of uninsured full-time employees, and of employers and workers on own account. Satisfactory estimates of the changes in the numbers within these uninsured classes in each industry cannot, at present, be made at monthly intervals.

The figures given below for mid-1939, mid-1945, and mid-1946 are based on the count of insured persons in each industry at those dates, coupled with information as to the employment of

part-time women workers at mid-1945 and mid-1946 derived from the returns rendered by employers under the Undertakings (Records and Information and Inspection of Premises) Order, 1943. The information as to changes, since mid-1946, in the level of employment in each industry, except coal mining, building and civil engineering, is also derived from these returns. Certain industries and services, which are not covered by the returns (or are only partially covered), or in which uninsured persons form a large proportion of the labour force, are omitted from the figures. These are agriculture, mining and quarrying (other than coal mining), National and Local Government service, railways, shipping, fishing, dock and harbour service, and professional services. Insured persons registered as unemployed and demobilised men and women taking paid leave are not included.

Industry.	Males (14 and under 65).				Females (14 and under 60).				Total.			
	Mid-1939.	Mid-1945.	Mid-1946.	Nov., 1946.	Mid-1939.	Mid-1945.	Mid-1946.	Nov., 1946.	Mid-1939.	Mid-1945.	Mid-1946.	Nov., 1946.
	(Thousands)	(Thousands)	(Thousands)	(Thousands)	(Thousands)	(Thousands)	(Thousands)	(Thousands)	(Thousands)	(Thousands)	(Thousands)	(Thousands)
GROUP I (METAL AND CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES):—												
Metal Manufacture:—												
Pig Iron	15.5	15.0	16.1	16.5	0.0	0.9	0.5	0.5	15.5	15.9	16.6	17.0
Steel Melting, etc.	156.4	147.0	152.9	160.3	3.6	27.8	18.0	16.0	160.0	174.8	170.9	176.3
Brass, Copper, Zinc, Tin, etc. ..	51.2	63.0	62.1	70.8	4.7	21.0	17.7	17.0	55.9	84.0	79.8	87.8
Tin Plates	22.7	9.7	10.3	11.9	2.6	2.7	1.8	1.9	25.1	12.4	12.1	13.8
Iron and Steel Tubes	29.1	25.9	26.4	27.6	2.6	2.8	6.8	6.5	31.7	34.7	33.2	34.1
Wire, Wire Netting, etc.	22.4	19.2	20.9	22.0	4.4	10.7	8.8	8.7	26.8	29.9	29.7	30.7
Total, Metal Manufacture	297.3	279.8	288.7	309.1	17.7	71.9	53.6	50.6	315.0	351.7	343.3	359.7
Engineering:—												
General Engineering	637.4	777.9	709.9	756.1	67.3	361.9	192.5	188.2	704.7	1,139.8	902.4	944.3
Electrical Engineering	105.9	106.1	99.9	106.8	28.0	69.7	53.2	53.3	133.9	175.8	158.1	160.1
Marine Engineering	51.1	70.1	67.1	66.0	1.4	10.4	4.9	4.2	52.2	80.5	72.0	70.2
Constructional Engineering ..	47.1	35.7	49.0	58.3	1.9	6.2	7.5	8.2	49.0	41.9	56.5	66.5
Total, Engineering	841.5	989.8	925.9	987.2	98.3	448.2	258.1	259.9	939.8	1,438.0	1,184.0	1,241.1
Construction and Repair of Vehicles:—												
Motor Vehicles, Cycles and Aircraft	428.1	597.2	443.1	462.0	45.2	279.0	100.3	100.3	473.3	876.2	552.4	562.3
Carriages, Carts, etc.	10.7	10.9	15.2	17.4	1.9	3.5	3.7	3.8	12.6	14.4	18.9	21.2
Railway Carriages and Wagons ..	51.6	41.1	51.5	55.1	1.4	5.7	3.3	2.9	53.0	46.8	54.8	58.0
Total, Vehicles	490.4	649.2	509.8	534.5	48.5	288.2	116.3	107.0	538.9	937.4	626.1	641.5
Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing	141.8	230.4	217.6	211.0	2.9	21.9	11.5	8.8	144.7	252.3	229.1	219.8

NUMBERS EMPLOYED: INDUSTRIAL ANALYSIS—continued. (Thousands)

Main table showing industrial analysis of numbers employed by industry, sex, and age group (Males 14 and under 65, Females 14 and under 60, Total) for various years from 1939 to 1946.

* Excluding agriculture, mining and quarrying (other than coal), National and Local Government service, railways, shipping, dock and harbour service. † Excluding professional and personal services.

UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG INSURED PERSONS AT 9th DECEMBER, 1946.

SUMMARY FOR GREAT BRITAIN. The numbers of insured persons registered as unemployed* in Great Britain at 11th November and 9th December, 1946, were as follows:—

Summary table for Great Britain showing unemployed persons by sex and age group for 11th Nov and 9th Dec 1946.

In addition there were on the registers at 9th December, 7,132† uninsured persons, including 2,171 boys and girls under 16 who had not yet entered industry.

The numbers of insured unemployed at 9th December are analysed below:—

Table showing analysis of insured unemployed persons by region and duration of unemployment (Wholly Unemployed, Temporarily Stopped).

The total of 362,976 includes 45,019 married women, some of whom probably are retiring from industrial employment, and ex-Service personnel numbering 27,186 who had had no employment since leaving the Forces.

The changes between 11th November and 9th December, 1946, in each administrative Region are given in the Table below:—

Regional analysis table showing changes in unemployed persons between 11th Nov and 9th Dec 1946 for various regions like London and South-Eastern, Eastern, Southern, etc.

* See footnote * in the next column. † See footnote † in the next column.

The following Table gives the numbers unemployed and the approximate percentage rates of unemployment at 9th December among insured males and females in each Region:—

Table showing percentage rates of unemployment by region for insured males and females at 9th Dec 1946.

NUMBERS UNEMPLOYED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM: REGIONAL ANALYSIS.

The total number of insured persons registered as unemployed* in the United Kingdom at 9th December, 1946, was 395,952, including 298,899 men and boys and 97,053 women and girls. In addition, there were on the registers in the United Kingdom at 9th December, 7,632† uninsured persons, including 2,242 boys and girls under 16 who had not yet entered industry.

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

Regional analysis table for the United Kingdom showing unemployed persons by region and duration of unemployment.

* The figures exclude 22,923 insured men and 679 insured women on the registers in Great Britain who had been classified as unsuitable for ordinary employment. † This figure excludes 1,263 uninsured persons on the registers in Great Britain who had been classified as unsuitable for ordinary employment.

NUMBERS UNEMPLOYED IN THE PRINCIPAL TOWNS.

The Table below shows the total numbers of unemployed* insured persons on the registers of all Employment Exchanges and Juvenile Employment Bureaux in each Administrative Region on 9th December, 1946, and the numbers of insured persons on the registers of the Exchanges and Bureaux situated in some of the principal towns in each Region, together with the increase or decrease compared with 11th November, 1946.

Table showing numbers of unemployed insured persons by region and principal town. Columns include Men 18 and under 65 years, Women 18 and under 60 years, Juveniles under 18 years, Total, and Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Totals as compared with 11th Nov., 1946. Regions listed include London and South-Eastern, Eastern, Southern, South-Western, Midlands, East and West Ridings, North-Western, and Yorkshire.

* The figures are exclusive of persons classified as unsuitable for ordinary employment. They include, however, some persons who were not available for employment away from home and others who for various reasons were not suitable for the types of vacancies current.

Table showing numbers of insured persons on registers at 9th December, 1946, by region and age group. Columns include Men 18 and under 65 years, Women 18 and under 60 years, Juveniles under 18 years, Total, and Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Totals as compared with 11th Nov., 1946. Regions listed include North-Western, Northern, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

NUMBERS UNEMPLOYED: 1939 to 1946.

The Table below shows the average numbers of insured persons registered as unemployed in each of the years 1939 to 1945, and the numbers registered as unemployed in each month of 1946.

Table showing average numbers of insured persons registered as unemployed from 1939 to 1946. Columns include Great Britain (Wholly Unemployed, Temporarily Stopped, Total) and United Kingdom (Total).

NUMBERS UNEMPLOYED: COMPOSITION OF STATISTICS.

The Table below gives an analysis of the numbers of persons registered as unemployed* in Great Britain at 9th December.

Table showing composition of statistics for unemployed persons by age group and insurance status. Columns include Men 18 years and over, Boys 18 years and over, Women 18 years and over, Girls 18 years and over, Total, and categories like A—INSURED UNEMPLOYED, B—UNINSURED PERSONS ON REGISTERS OF EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES.

* See footnote * in previous column. † From July, 1940, the figures exclude men in attendance at Government Training Centres. ‡ The figures for 1942 and later years are exclusive of men and women classified as unsuitable for ordinary employment. § Including insured and uninsured persons.

NUMBERS UNEMPLOYED: INDUSTRIAL ANALYSIS.

The statistics given below show, industry by industry, the numbers of persons aged 14 and over, insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, who were registered as unemployed at 9th December, 1946, distinguishing those wholly unemployed (i.e., out of a situation) from those temporarily stopped (i.e., suspended from work on the understanding that they were shortly to return to their former employment). The numbers include unemployed insured persons on the registers of Local Offices of the Ministry of Labour and National Service and of Juvenile Employment Bureaux, and claimants for benefit under the Special Schemes for banking and insurance.

The Unemployment Insurance Acts provide, subject to certain exceptions, for the compulsory insurance against unemployment of substantially all employed males under 65 years of age and females under 60 years of age. The principal classes of excepted employments are indoor private domestic service, employment otherwise than by way of manual labour at a rate of remuneration exceeding in value £420 a year, employment as female professional nurse, and, subject to certain qualifications, employment in the teaching profession and in the police forces; employment under public or local authorities, railway and public utility companies may, in certain circumstances, also be excepted. The Unemployment Insurance Acts do not apply to persons serving in an established capacity in the permanent

service of the Crown. Some persons employed in agricultural occupations are also outside the scope of the agricultural scheme, including sons, daughters, and other near relatives of the employer, persons not working under a contract of service, and persons engaged in such casual harvesting work as hop-picking, or gathering flowers, fruit, peas or potatoes (unless they normally undertake other insurable work). Persons not domiciled in the United Kingdom (e.g., migratory labourers from Éire) are not insurable in respect of employment in agriculture, and are accordingly not included in the figures. Part-time workers employed for not more than 30 hours a week, who entered employment during the war, are in most cases not insurable against unemployment, and are not, therefore, included. Insured persons on the registers in Great Britain who have been classified as unsuitable for ordinary employment are also excluded.

An unemployment book, on which is recorded the industry in which he is employed, is issued to every insured person, and this book must be lodged at an Employment Exchange whenever the insured person makes a claim for unemployment benefit or for an unemployment allowance, or registers as unemployed without claiming benefit or an allowance. The files of "lodged" books at the Employment Exchanges thus furnish for each industrial group a record of the unemployment of insured persons.

Table showing industrial analysis of unemployment by industry and sex. Columns include Great Britain (Wholly Unemployed, Temporarily Stopped, Total) and United Kingdom (Wholly Unemployed, Temporarily Stopped, Total). Industries listed include Agriculture, Fishing, Mining, Non-Metalliferous Mining Products, Brick, Tile, Pipe, etc., Pottery, Earthenware, etc., Glass, Chemicals, Paints, Oils, etc., Metal Manufacture, Engineering, etc., Construction and Repair of Vehicles, Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing, and Other Metal Industries.

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

NUMBERS UNEMPLOYED: INDUSTRIAL ANALYSIS—continued.

INDUSTRY.	Great Britain.						United Kingdom.					
	Wholly Unemployed (including Casuals).			Temporarily Stopped.			Total.			Wholly Unemployed, Temporarily Stopped and Casuals.		
	Males aged 14 and under 65.	Females aged 14 and under 60.	Total.	Males aged 14 and under 65.	Females aged 14 and under 60.	Total.	Males aged 14 and under 65.	Females aged 14 and under 60.	Total.	Males aged 14 and under 65.	Females aged 14 and under 60.	Total.
Textiles:—												
Cotton Preparing, Spinning, etc.	639	504	1,143	7	2	9	646	506	1,152	648	506	1,154
Cotton Manufacturing (Weaving, etc.)	413	283	696	5	5	10	418	288	706	418	289	707
Total, Cotton	1,052	787	1,839	12	7	19	1,064	794	1,858	1,066	795	1,861
Woolen and Worsted	552	219	771	5	19	24	557	238	795	572	262	834
Silk Spinning and Manufacture and Rayon, Nylon, etc. Weaving, etc.	103	104	207	2	—	2	105	104	209	109	111	220
Rayon, Nylon, etc. Yarn Manufacture	179	92	271	—	1	1	179	93	272	187	93	280
Linen	116	189	305	1	—	1	117	190	307	1,172	704	1,876
Jute	239	158	397	—	—	—	239	158	397	239	158	397
Hemp, Rope, Cord, Twine, etc.	132	294	426	1	2	3	133	296	429	171	322	493
Hosiery	131	190	321	166	15	181	297	205	502	300	224	524
Lace	26	5	31	—	—	—	26	5	31	—	—	31
Carpets	59	75	134	—	4	4	59	79	138	60	81	141
Other Textiles	338	305	643	—	—	—	340	312	652	357	405	762
Textile Bleaching, Printing, Dyeing, etc.	653	131	784	135	3	138	788	134	922	939	158	1,097
Total, Textiles	3,580	2,549	6,129	325	59	384	3,905	2,608	6,513	5,199	3,318	8,517
Leather, Leather Goods and Fur:—												
Tanning, Currying and Dressing, etc.	409	133	542	2	4	6	411	137	548	425	145	570
Leather Goods	147	73	220	1	7	8	148	80	228	155	82	237
Total, Leather	556	206	762	3	11	14	559	217	776	580	227	807
Clothing:—												
Tailoring	799	973	1,772	4	44	48	803	1,017	1,820	862	1,176	2,038
Dress Making and Millinery	98	274	372	—	12	12	98	286	384	100	295	395
Hats and Caps (including Straw Plait)	59	39	98	24	12	36	83	51	134	90	53	143
Shirts, Collars, Underclothing, etc.	76	273	349	15	—	15	91	284	375	134	642	776
Other Dress Industries	55	57	112	—	—	—	55	57	112	84	58	142
Boots, Shoes, Slippers and Clogs	799	164	963	64	4	68	863	168	1,031	942	176	1,118
Total, Clothing	1,886	1,780	3,666	135	83	218	2,021	1,863	3,884	2,212	2,400	4,612
Food, Drink and Tobacco:—												
Bread, Biscuits, Cakes, etc.	1,940	1,052	2,992	3	17	20	1,943	1,089	3,012	2,145	1,111	3,256
Grain Milling	332	183	515	—	—	—	332	183	515	394	186	580
Cocoa, Chocolate and Sugar Confectionery	421	317	738	2	1	3	423	318	741	429	319	748
Other Food Industries	1,585	1,198	2,783	15	36	51	1,600	1,234	2,834	1,721	1,288	3,009
Drink Industries	1,617	641	2,258	5	21	26	1,622	662	2,284	1,709	671	2,380
Tobacco, Cigars, Cigarettes and Snuff	479	172	651	—	—	—	479	172	651	523	245	768
Total, Food, Drink, etc.	6,374	3,563	9,937	25	75	100	6,399	3,639	10,037	6,921	3,830	10,741
Woodworking, etc.:—												
Sawmilling and Machined Woodwork	1,628	527	2,155	12	28	40	1,640	555	2,195	1,795	556	2,351
Wood Boxes and Packing Cases	373	175	548	1	—	1	374	177	551	383	179	562
Furniture Making, Upholstering, etc.	1,185	306	1,491	28	19	47	1,213	325	1,538	1,274	329	1,603
Other Woodworking	369	133	502	9	17	26	378	150	528	417	156	573
Total, Woodworking, etc.	3,555	1,141	4,696	50	66	116	3,605	1,207	4,812	3,869	1,280	5,089
Building and Civil Engineering Construction:—												
Building	20,493	269	20,762	99	6	105	20,592	275	20,867	23,425	283	23,708
Civil Engineering Construction	10,523	108	10,631	47	1	48	10,570	109	10,679	12,400	110	12,510
Total, Building, etc.	31,016	377	31,393	146	7	153	31,162	384	31,546	35,825	393	36,218
Paper, Printing, etc.:—												
Paper and Paper Board	615	327	942	1	17	18	616	344	960	637	353	990
Cardboard Boxes, Paper Bags and Stationery	281	213	494	—	1	1	281	214	495	286	222	508
Wall Paper Making	20	4	24	—	—	—	20	4	24	20	4	24
Stationery and Typewriting Requisites (not paper)	43	24	67	—	—	—	43	24	67	43	24	67
Printing, Publishing and Book-binding	1,845	425	2,270	7	8	15	1,852	433	2,285	1,925	456	2,381
Total, Paper, Printing, etc.	2,804	993	3,797	8	26	34	2,812	1,019	3,831	2,911	1,059	3,970
Other Manufacturing Industries:—												
Rubber	828	249	1,077	5	1	6	833	250	1,083	923	255	1,178
Oilcloth, Linoleum, etc.	169	80	249	84	8	92	253	88	341	254	88	342
Brushes and Brooms	121	125	246	9	17	26	130	142	272	132	143	275
Scientific and Photographic Instruments and Apparatus	457	178	635	—	—	—	457	178	635	461	183	644
Musical Instruments	58	16	74	—	—	—	58	16	74	59	16	75
Toys, Games and Sports Requisites	153	84	237	1	—	1	154	84	238	165	87	252
Other Manufactures	1,070	498	1,568	10	10	20	1,080	508	1,588	1,233	514	1,747
Total, Other Manufacturing	2,856	1,220	4,076	109	36	145	2,965	1,266	4,231	3,207	1,288	4,495
Gas, Water and Electricity Supply	2,266	397	2,663	10	1	11	2,276	398	2,674	2,501	400	2,901
Transport and Communication:—												
Railway Service	3,543	3,402	6,945	8	7	15	3,551	3,409	6,960	3,841	3,420	7,261
Tramway and Omnibus Service	2,034	2,207	4,241	8	10	18	2,042	2,217	4,259	2,143	2,222	4,365
Other Road Passenger Transport	790	51	841	1	—	1	791	51	842	855	54	909
Goods Transport by Road	4,418	108	4,526	13	—	13	4,431	108	4,539	4,704	109	4,813
Shipping Service	3,755	80	3,835	14	3	17	3,769	83	3,852	3,939	85	4,024
Dock, Harbour, Canal, etc. Service: Port Transport (Docks, Wharves, etc.)	5,194	65	5,259	28	1	29	5,222	66	5,288	6,356	66	6,422
Harbour, River and Canal Service	865	51	916	5	2	7	870	53	923	906	53	959
Total, Docks, Harbours, etc.	6,059	116	6,175	33	3	36	6,092	119	6,211	7,262	119	7,381
Other Transport Communication, etc.	797	65	862	6	1	7	803	66	869	825	66	891
Total, Transport, etc.	21,396	6,029	27,425	83	24	107	21,479	6,053	27,532	28,569	6,775	29,344
Distributive Trades	16,624	11,834	28,458	116	168	284	16,740	12,002	28,742	18,431	12,426	30,857
Commerce, Banking, Insurance and Finance*	2,096	4,268	6,364	1	3	4	2,097	4,271	6,368	2,205	4,292	6,497
Miscellaneous Services:—												
National Government Service (exc. National Fire Service)	14,519	5,749	20,268	46	24	70	14,565	5,773	20,338	16,700	6,197	22,897
National Fire Service	504	183	687	2	3	5	506	186	692	573	183	756
Local Government Service	8,952	3,107	12,059	121	27	148	9,073	3,134	12,207	9,834	3,206	13,040
Professional Services	1,576	1,386	2,962	11	5	16	1,587	1,391	2,978	1,663	1,434	3,103
Entertainments, Sports, etc.	3,593	1,395	4,988	9	38	47	3,602	1,433	5,035	3,769	1,483	5,252
Hotel, Boarding House, Restaurant, Club, Catering, etc. Service	7,244	8,738	15,982	21	75	96	7,265	8,813	16,078	7,725	9,277	17,002
Laundry Service	586	1,029	1,615	3	10	13	589	1,039	1,628	637	1,133	1,770
Job Drying, Dry Cleaning, etc.	182	236	418	—	2	2	182	238	420	188	243	431
Other Services†	3,370	720	4,090	21	3	24	3,391	723	4,114	3,650	735	4,415
Total, Miscellaneous	40,526	22,543	63,069	234	187	421	40,760	22,730	63,490	44,778	23,896	68,671
Ex-Service Personnel not Classified by Industry	38,742	3,657	42,399	159	16	175	38,901	3,673	42,574	41,583	3,821	45,404
GRAND TOTAL*†	267,025	91,620	358,645	2,635	1,696	4,331	269,660	93,316	362,976	298,899	97,053	395,952

* Persons insured under the Special Schemes for the banking and insurance industries are included in these figures.

† Including private gardeners, grooms, gamekeepers, park gardeners, sports ground keepers, chauffeurs, hairdressers, window cleaners, etc.

‡ The totals include 3,271 male and 215 female unemployed casual workers in Great Britain and 4,734 males and 228 females in the United Kingdom.

WORK OF APPOINTMENTS DEPARTMENT. MONTHLY STATISTICS.

The particulars given below, which relate to the work of the Appointments Department of the Ministry of Labour and National Service, are in continuation of those published in previous issues of this GAZETTE.

Technical and Scientific Register.

The Technical and Scientific Register, which is situated at York House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2, operates on a national basis. It is assisted in its work by six Advisory Committees for architecture and public utilities, chemistry, civil engineering, electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, and scientific research. The Register is not only a placing agency but it also provides an advisory service, with the object of helping and advising (a) those who are unemployed and seeking a job; (b) those who, although they have a job, desire for one reason or another a change of employment; and (c) those who, through disablement or for other reasons, can no longer follow their previous employment with prospects of success.

A register of vacancies, notified by employers, is maintained, from which persons enrolled on the Register are supplied with full particulars of posts for which, by their qualifications and experience, they appear to be suitable. A wide range of overseas vacancies is also available. The services of the Register are available to physicists, mathematicians, chemists (other than pharmacists), metallurgists, biological scientists, civil, mechanical and electrical engineers, architects, surveyors, town planners, estate agents and valuers; the qualification for registration is, in general, possession of a University degree or membership of the appropriate recognised professional institution.

and (b) involuntary absenteeism (absences due mainly to sickness). The figures for November, 1945, and October and November, 1946, which are given in the Table below represent the numbers of shifts lost through absenteeism, expressed as percentages of the total numbers of shifts that could have been worked.

	November, 1945.	October, 1946.	November, 1946.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Coal-face workers:			
Voluntary	9.53	10.56	10.35
Involuntary	10.17	8.25	7.90
All workers:			
Voluntary	7.75	8.15	8.01
Involuntary	8.94	7.04	6.81

For face-workers the output per man shift worked was 2.82 tons in November, 1946, compared with 2.81 tons in October, 1946, and 2.78 tons in November, 1945. The output per man-shift calculated on the basis of all workers was 1.06 tons in November, 1946.

EMPLOYMENT OVERSEAS.

AUSTRALIA.

According to information received by the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics, the numbers employed in factories in June, 1946, was 1.1 per cent. higher than in May, 1946, and 4.0 per cent. higher than in June, 1945. The figure for May, 1946, was 1.2 per cent. higher than that for April, 1946.

Returns received by the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics covering 56 per cent. of the total membership of trade unions, and relating to between 20 and 25 per cent. of all wage and salary earners, showed that the percentage of members of the reporting trade unions who were out of work for three days or more during a specified week in the June quarter, 1946, was 1.3, compared with 1.4 in the preceding quarter, and 1.1 in the second quarter of 1945.

CANADA.

Returns received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from nearly 16,200 employers in industries other than agriculture and private domestic service showed that the total number of workpeople in employment at 1st October, 1946, in the establishments covered by the returns was 1.4 per cent. higher than at 1st September, 1946, and 5.0 per cent. higher than at 1st October, 1945. The number of persons employed in manufacturing industries at 1st October, 1946, was 0.6 per cent. higher than at the beginning of the previous month; there was little change compared with 1st October, 1945.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

According to the general index of employment compiled by the Office of Census and Statistics, the number of workpeople employed in manufacturing industries, transportation and mining (other than alluvial gold diggings) in July, 1946, was 0.1 per cent. lower than in June, 1946, but 3.0 per cent. higher than in July, 1945.

ÉIRE.

The number of unemployed persons on the live register of Employment Exchanges at 28th December, 1946, was 69,135, compared with 67,432 at 30th November, 1946, and 76,538 at 29th December, 1945.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

The number of civilians in employment in industries other than agriculture and domestic service in October, 1946, is estimated by the United States Department of Labor to have been approximately 40,187,000. This was 0.1 per cent. higher than the figure for September, 1946, and 14.0 per cent. higher than that for October, 1945; it was 32.4 per cent. higher than the average for the year 1939. The number of wage-earners employed in manufacturing industries in October, 1946, is estimated to have been 0.2 per cent. higher than in September, 1946, and 15.2 per cent. higher than in October, 1945; it was 47.0 per cent. above the average for the year 1939.

The United States Bureau of the Census estimate that the total number of unemployed persons in the United States of America at the middle of October, 1946, was approximately 1,950,000, compared with 2,070,000 at the middle of September, 1946, and with 1,550,000 at the middle of October, 1945.

DENMARK.

At the end of November, 1946, returns received by the Danish Statistical Department from approved unemployment funds showed that 18,008, or 3.1 per cent. of a total membership of nearly 576,000, had been unemployed for seven days or more, compared with 1.8 per cent. (revised figure) at the end of the previous month and 7.0 per cent. at the end of November, 1945. In addition, 15,703 members had been unemployed for less than seven days at the end of November, 1946, and 4,838 were considered as ineligible for employment on account of age or other reasons.

SWEDEN.

According to statistics compiled by the Swedish Social Board on the basis of returns from representative establishments, the number of manual workers employed in industrial and commercial undertakings in October, 1946, was slightly higher than in the previous month. The index number (based on the figure

for September, 1939, taken as 100) was 102 in October, compared with 101 in September, 1946, and 100 in October, 1945.

Preliminary information received from trade unions with a total membership of approximately 833,000 showed that 2.0 per cent. of their members were unemployed at 30th September, 1946, compared with 2.1 per cent. at 31st August, 1946, and 3.0 per cent. at 30th September, 1945.

SWITZERLAND.

At the end of October, 1946, applications for employment were registered at Employment Exchanges by 2,034 persons, as compared with 1,726 at the end of September and 5,376 at the end of October, 1945; these figures include employed persons who were seeking other employment. Offers of situations at the same dates numbered 7,186, 8,507 and 5,223, respectively. The number of registered applicants for employment at the end of October, 1946, who were wholly unemployed was 1,122 or 0.8 per thousand of the employed population (exclusive of apprentices) according to the census of 1930; the corresponding figures for September, 1946, were 879 or 0.6 per thousand, and those for October, 1945, were 3,879 or 2.7 per thousand.

STATUTORY RULES AND ORDERS.

Since last month's issue of this GAZETTE was prepared, the unmentioned Orders* relating to matters with which the Ministry of Labour and National Service (or the Ministry of Labour and National Insurance for Northern Ireland) are concerned, either directly or indirectly, have been published in the series of *Statutory Rules and Orders*. The price of each Order, unless otherwise indicated, is 1d. net (2d. post free).

The Coal Industry Nationalisation (Primary Vesting Date) Order, 1946 (S.R. & O. 1946, No. 1986), dated 22nd November, 1946, made by the Minister of Fuel and Power under the Coal Industry Nationalisation Act, 1946.—See page 9.

The Pharmacy Undertakings (Revocation) Order, 1946 (S.R. & O. 1946, No. 1993), dated 25th November, 1946, made by the Minister of Health, and *The Pharmacy Undertakings (Revocation) (Scotland) Order, 1946 (S.R. & O. 1946, No. 2121/S.79)*, dated 11th December, 1946, made by the Secretary of State for Scotland; both Orders were made under Regulations 55 and 98 of the Defence (General) Regulations, 1939.—These Orders respectively revoke the Pharmacy Undertakings Order, 1942, and the Pharmacy Undertakings (Scotland) Order, 1942, which required certain information regarding pharmacy undertakings and hospitals to be furnished on request to the Central Pharmaceutical War Committee (or in Scotland to the Scottish Central Pharmaceutical War Committee). The revoking Order for England and Wales came into operation on 2nd December and that for Scotland on 18th December. (The Orders now revoked were noticed in the issues of this GAZETTE for October, 1942 (page 186), for England and Wales, and November, 1942 (page 202), for Scotland.)

The Stamped or Pressed Metal-Wares Wages Council (Great Britain) Wages Regulations (Holidays) Order, 1946 (S.R. & O. 1946, No. 2007; price 2d. net (3d. post free)), dated 2nd December, 1946; *The Aerated Waters Wages Council (Scotland) Wages Regulation Order, 1946 (S.R. & O. 1946, No. 2062/S.77)*, dated 9th December, 1946; *The Stamped or Pressed Metal-Wares Wages Council (Great Britain) Wages Regulation Order, 1946 (S.R. & O. 1946, No. 2063; price 3d. net (4d. post free))*, dated 9th December, 1946; and *The Hat, Cap and Millinery Wages Council (Scotland) Wages Regulation Order, 1946 (S.R. & O. 1946, No. 2143/S.81; price 2d. net (3d. post free))*, dated 18th December, 1946.—These Orders were made by the Minister of Labour and National Service under the Wages Councils Act, 1945.—See page 36.

The Magnesium (Grinding of Castings and Other Articles) (Revocation) Order, 1946 (S.R. & O. 1946, No. 2106), dated 10th December, 1946, made by the Minister of Labour and National Service under Regulation 60 of the Defence (General) Regulations, 1939.—See page 15.

The Magnesium (Grinding of Castings and Other Articles) Special Regulations, 1946 (S.R. & O. 1946, No. 2107), dated 10th December, 1946, made by the Minister of Labour and National Service under the Factories Act, 1937.—See page 15.

The National Insurance (Extension of Unemployment Benefit) Regulations, 1946 (S.R. & O. 1946, No. 2152; price 2d. net (3d. post free)), dated 21st December, 1946, made by the Minister of National Insurance, in conjunction with the Treasury, under the National Insurance Act, 1946.—See page 12.

The Coal Mining (Training and Medical Examination) (No. 2) Order, 1946 (S.R. & O. 1946, No. 2242), dated 20th December, 1946, made by the Minister of Fuel and Power under Regulations 55AA and 58AE of the Defence (General) Regulations, 1939.—See page 9.

The Work in Underground Rooms (Form of Notice) Order, 1946 (S.R. & O. 1946, No. 2247), dated 30th December, 1946, made by the Minister of Labour and National Service under the Factories Act, 1937.—See page 15.

The Wages Regulation (Licensed Non-residential Establishment) Order, 1946 (S.R. & O. 1946, No. 2258; price 3d. net (4d. post free)), and *The Wages Regulation (Licensed Non-residential Establishment) (Holidays) Order, 1946 (S.R. & O. 1946, No. 2259; price 2d. net (3d. post free))*, both dated 31st December, 1946, made by the Minister of Labour and National Service under the Catering Wages Act, 1943.—See page 11.

* See footnote * in second column on page 36

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR IN DECEMBER.

RATES OF WAGES.

In the industries covered by the Department's statistics,* the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation in the United Kingdom during December resulted in an aggregate increase estimated at approximately £38,000 in the weekly full-time wages of about 145,000 workpeople.

The principal groups of workpeople affected by increases in rates of wages which were reported in December were those employed in rayon yarn production, as manual workers in the non-trading services of local authorities in the administrative county of London and in Kent, Surrey and Sussex, in the manufacture of stamped or pressed metal wares, in the retail trade in England and Wales, and in aerated waters manufacture. Among other industries affected by increases during December were the lock, latch and key industry, perambulator and invalid carriage manufacture, and the hat, cap and millinery trade in Scotland.

In rayon yarn production there were increases of 2d. an hour for men and 1½d. for women. For manual workers employed in the non-trading services of local authorities in the administrative county of London, standard consolidated rates were fixed, resulting in increases of 5s. to 7s. a week for men, according to grade of occupation, with proportional increases for women and juvenile workers. For those employed by local authorities in Kent, Surrey and Sussex there were increases of 4s. a week in basic rates for men. For workpeople employed in the manufacture of stamped or pressed metal wares there were increases in the statutory minimum time rates fixed under the Wages Councils Act of 6s. a week or 1½d. an hour for men and of 1½d. an hour for women. In the retail meat trade in England and

Wales there were increases in minimum weekly rates of 6s., 7s. or 8s., according to weekly trade, for managers and managers-cashiers, of 4s. to 8s., according to age, for male shop assistants and cashiers, of 1s., 2s. or 3s., at certain ages, for females employed in general butchers' shops, and of 2s. to 12s., according to age, for males and 2s. to 7s. for females employed in pork butchers' shops. The statutory minimum time rates fixed under the Wages Councils Act for the aerated waters industry in England and Wales were increased by 9s. a week for men and 8s. for women, and in Scotland by 2½d. an hour for men and 2d. for women.

Of the total increase of £38,000, about £14,800 was the result of arrangements made by Joint Industrial Councils or other joint standing bodies established by voluntary agreement; about £7,700 resulted from arbitration awards; about £7,000 took effect under orders made under the Wages Councils Acts; and most of the remainder was the result of direct negotiations between employers and workpeople or their representatives.

HOURS OF LABOUR.

In the cotton spinning and weaving industry the normal working week was reduced from 48 to 45 hours, to be worked in 5 days of 9 hours each. Workpeople employed in gold, silver, etc., working in Birmingham had their normal weekly hours reduced from 47 to 45. In the perambulator and invalid carriage manufacturing industry the normal weekly hours beyond which overtime rates are payable under the Wages Councils Act were reduced from 48 to 44.

CHANGES IN WAGES AND HOURS IN 1946.

A special article dealing with these changes is published on pages 3 to 6 of this issue of the GAZETTE.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING DECEMBER.

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change.
Agriculture	Sussex	15 Dec.	Male workers 21 years and over employed wholly or mainly as horsemen, cowmen, stockmen and shepherds.	Minimum weekly rates fixed at 80s. for a 48-hour week, with overtime at 2s. 1d. an hour for employment during the week in excess of 48 hours, and at 2s. 6d. an hour for employment at week ends or on public holidays (previously inclusive rates were payable for a week of 58 hours, including employment on Sundays).†
Mining and Quarrying.	Cumberland .. .	30 Dec.	Iron-ore miners	Cost-of-living bonus increased† at the rate of 0.7d. a shift for men and youths 18 years and over, and of 0.35d. for boys (calculated to the nearest halfpenny). Cost-of-living bonus after change, for 6 shifts worked: men and youths 14s. 11½d., boys 7s. 5½d.
	West Cumberland	30 Dec.	Limestone quarrymen .. .	Flat-rate addition to wages, previously granted, increased‡ by ½d. a shift (2s. 3d. to 2s. 3½d. for men and youths 18 years and over, and 1s. 1½d. to 1s. 2d. for boys).§
Iron and Steel Manufacture.	Midlands and parts of South Yorkshire and South Lancashire	Sunday preceding 1st pay day in Jan.	Workpeople employed at iron puddling furnaces and iron and steel rolling mills and forges, other than those engaged on maintenance work.	Flat-rate addition to wages, previously granted, increased‡ by 1.2d. a shift (5s. 1.2d. to 5s. 2.4d.) for men and women 21 years and over, by 0.9d. (3s. 9.9d. to 3s. 10.8d.) for workers 18 years and under 21, and by 0.6d. (2s. 6.6d. to 2s. 7.2d.) for those under 18 years.
	West of Scotland ..	Pay period beginning 30 Dec.	Workpeople employed at iron puddling forges and mills and sheet mills.	Flat-rate addition to wages, previously granted, increased‡ by 1.4d. a shift (5s. 0.2d. to 5s. 1.6d.) for men, by 1.05d. (3s. 9.15d. to 3s. 10.2d.) for youths 18 and under 21 years, by 0.7d. (2s. 6.1d. to 2s. 6.8d.) for boys under 18, by 0.8d. (3s. 1.6d. to 3s. 2.4d.) for women 21 and over, and by 0.4d. (1s. 6.8d. to 1s. 7.2d.) for girls under 21 years. (The additional war bonuses of 5s. a week for men and married youths and 2s. 6d. for other youths and boys remained unchanged.)
Stamped or Pressed Metal Wares Manufacture.	Great Britain .. .	20 Dec.	Polishers, braziers, burnishers, drop stampers, dippers who are also bronzers, dippers and annealers (men, youths and boys).	Increases of 6s. a week in general minimum time rates and piecework basis time rates for men and of 1s. to 6s., according to age, for youths and boys. General minimum time rates after change range from 83s. 9d. a week of 47 hours to 104s. for men 21 and under 21½ years, and from 90s. to 104s. for men 21½ years or over, according to grade and occupation.¶
			Other men, youths and boys	Increases of 1½d. an hour in general minimum time rates and piecework basis time rates for men 21 years or over, and of ½d. to 1½d., according to age, for youths and boys. General minimum time rates after change for men 21 years or over 1s. 9d. an hour.¶
			Women and girls	Increases of 1½d. an hour in general minimum time rates and piecework basis time rates for women 18 years or over, of ½d. to 1d., according to age, in general minimum time rates, and of 1d. in piecework basis time rates for girls. General minimum time rates after change for women 18 years or over range from 1s. 3d. (1s. 2½d. during first 2 months for late entrants) to 1s. 5½d. an hour, according to occupation and period of employment.¶
Lock, Latch and Key Manufacture.	England¶	Pay day in week commencing 2 Dec.	Men, youths, boys, women and girls.	New scales of rates adopted and occupations re-classified, resulting in increases of varying amounts. Rates after change: men—patternmakers and toolmakers 110s. 6d. to 120s. a week, group "A" occupations 104s. to 117s., group "B" 97s. 6d. to 110s. 6d., group "C" 91s. to 104s., labourers 91s.; youths 22s. 6d. at 14 years rising, according to age, to 67s. 6d. at 20; females 22s. 6d. rising, according to age, to 62s. 6d. at 21, women 20 years and over engaged in power-pressing, varnishing, emery-wheeling, capstan lath operating, polishing, burnishing, plating or lacquering 2s. above the appropriate rate; women of special ability precluded from working piecework may be paid up to 5s. a week extra.** Piecework prices to be such as to enable workers of average ability to earn at least 25 per cent. above basic time rates plus cost-of-living addition.
Engineering	Great Britain .. .	Beginning of pay week in week commencing 25 Nov.	Patternmakers employed on timework in federated engineering establishments.	Rates to consist of (a) base rate, (b) a supplementary bonus of 27½ per cent. of base rate, and (c) the pieceworker's national bonus of 23s. 6d., involving increases of varying amounts, usually of 7s. a week.

* The particulars of numbers affected by changes in rates of wages and working hours, and of the amount of change in weekly wages and hours of labour, exclude changes affecting Government employees, shop assistants and clerks, for which classes the information available is not sufficient to form a basis for statistics. Where information is available, however, details of changes in the wages and hours of these classes are shown in the list of principal changes recorded. The estimates of the effect of the changes on weekly wages are based on normal conditions of employment and do not take into account the effect of short time or of overtime.

† This change took effect under an Order issued under the Agricultural Wages (Regulation) Acts.

‡ Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements.

§ Additional war bonus, previously granted, of 3s. a shift worked for men and youths and of 1s. 6d. for boys remained unchanged.

¶ These increases took effect under an Order issued under the Wages Councils Act. Details are contained in the Schedule to the Order (S.R. & O. 1946, No. 2063), obtainable from H.M. Stationery Office. Provision is made in the Schedule for a worker who ordinarily works for the employer at least 34 hours weekly to be paid in respect of any week in which he works for less than 34 hours, subject to certain conditions, not less than a guaranteed weekly remuneration of 34 hours' pay, calculated at the general minimum time rate ordinarily applicable to the worker.

** Principally Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Willenhall and Walsall districts, Liverpool, Wigan and London.

*** These wage rates are subject to an addition of 15 per cent. within the London area. The rates quoted consist of basic rates, a cost-of-living addition of 30 per cent., and an addition of 20 per cent. payable, after satisfactory production, where a "factory efficiency bonus" has not been applied.

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

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change.
Cotton	Lancashire, Cheshire, Yorkshire and Derbyshire.	2 Dec.	Men, youths, boys, women and girls.	Hourly time rates and current piece rates increased by 6.66 per cent. to compensate for the reduction of normal weekly working hours from 48 to 45.*
Linen and Cotton Handkerchief and Household Goods and Linen Piece Goods Manufacture.	Northern Ireland	4 Dec.	Male workers:— Timeworkers Pieceworkers	Increase of 1d. an hour in general minimum time rates for measurers and sample-makers, of ½d. for lappers, of ¼d. for apprentices to lapping, measuring and sample making, of ½d. for warehouse assistants or warehouse clerks, and of 1d. for all other male workers except those employed in the Swiss embroidery branch of the trade.† Increase of 1d. an hour in piecework basis time rates for workers other than lappers, measurers, samplemakers, warehouse assistants or warehouse clerks and workers operating machines in the Swiss embroidery branch of the trade.†
Woolen and Worsted.	West Riding of Yorkshire.	Pay day in week ended 2 Nov. (in respect of preceding pay period).	Workpeople employed in the woolcombing section.*	Consolidated weekly wages for a 45-hour week adopted in place of basic rates and cost-of-living addition for a 48-hour week, representing an addition of 6.67 per cent. in hourly rates to compensate for the reduction in hours from 48 to 45; consolidated weekly wage rates further increased by 5.49 per cent. in the case of men and 7.84 per cent. in the case of women; abolition of bonus on production scheme and, in lieu thereof, further increase on consolidated rates of 11.25 per cent. for both men and women. Minimum weekly rates after change for lowest rated workers: men (night work) 9s. plus special night allowance of ½d. an hour for all hours worked, (day work) 8s.; women 60s. 9d.‡
	Leicester	29 Nov.	Men, youths, boys, women and girls employed in the lambs' wool and worsted yarn spinning industry except those workers whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries.	New minimum basic time rates adopted for a 45-hour week with an increase of 1d. in the shilling (6½d. to 7½d. at 103 to 108 per cent. increase over July, 1914) in the cost-of-living bonus, resulting in net increases of 6s. 11d. a week for skilled men 21 years and over, of 1s. 11d. for unskilled men, of 10s. 7d. for skilled women 18 years and over, and of varying amounts, according to age, for younger workers; increases of 4s. 5d. in minimum wages for male pieceworkers and of 12s. 9d. for female pieceworkers. Rates after change: male timeworkers 34s. 10d. at 14 years rising to 85s. (unskilled) and 90s. (skilled) at 21 and over, females 34s. 10d. to 60s. at 18 and over; minimum wages for pieceworkers, males 94s., females 69s.; inclusive of cost-of-living bonus and good time-keeping bonus in each case.§
	West of England.	1st full pay week in Nov.	Men, youths, boys, women and girls.	New minimum time rates of wages fixed for a standard working week of 45 hours, resulting in increases of 4s. 6d. a week for men on day work in classes A, B and D occupations, of 5s. 6d. for those in class C, of 5s. 6d. for women in classes A and B occupations (class C is discontinued), and of varying amounts, according to age, for other workers; increases of ½d. an hour (2d. to 2½d. an hour) for night workers and of 10 per cent. on existing rates for piece workers. Rates after change for dayworkers: men—class A occupations 89s., B 86s., C 83s., D 80s.; women—class A 54s., B 52s., C 50s., D 48s.; youths and boys 33s. 6d. at under 15 years rising to 77s. 6d. at 20½; girls 33s. 6d. at under 15 rising to 47s. 6d. at 17½.‡
Flannel Manufacture.	Rochdale and District.	4 Nov.	Timeworkers and pieceworkers	New minimum rates fixed for a 45-hour week, representing increases of 5.3 per cent. on time rates previously in operation for men, of 7.8 per cent. for women, and of 10 per cent. for all pieceworkers. Minimum time rates after change include: men 21 years and over 82s. a week, women 18 and over 55s.‡
Pressed Felt Manufacture.	Rossendale Valley (certain firms).	1 Dec.	Men, women and juveniles	Increases of 3d. a week for men and of 2d. for women and juveniles. Minimum rates after change: men 85s. 8d., women 18 years and over—felt production processes 65s. 6d., cutting and stitching 58s. 8d.
Rayon Yarn Manufacture.	England and Wales	Beginning of 1st full pay period following 1 Dec.	Men and women	Increases of 2d. an hour for men 21 years and over and of 1½d. for women 18 and over. Rates after change inclusive of war time allowance: men 1s. 11d. an hour, women 1s. 3½d.¶
Textile Bleaching, Dyeing and Finishing.	Yorkshire**	2nd pay day in Dec.††	Skilled mechanics and apprentices employed in dye works.	New minimum time rates fixed for a 45-hour week, resulting in a net increase of 11s. a week for skilled mechanics; new minimum hourly rates adopted for apprentices. Rates after change: skilled mechanics 2s. 8d. an hour, apprentices 7d. at 14 years rising to full rate, at 22.‡
Hat and Cap Making and Millinery.	Scotland	30 Dec.	Men, youths and boys (all branches).	Increases of ½d. an hour in general minimum time rates for men 22 years or over, of ¼d. to 2d. for younger workers, according to age (except workers aged 16 and under 19 years whose rates were reduced by ½d. or ¾d.), and of ¼d. or 1½d. for late entrants; increase of 1½d. an hour in piecework basis time rate. General minimum time rates after change: 7d. an hour at under 15 rising to 1s. 9½d. at 22.‡
			Women and girls: Wholesale cloth, hat and cap making branch.	Increases of 2½d. an hour in general minimum time rates for workers other than learners, of 1½d. to 2½d. for learners, according to period of employment, and of 2½d. an hour in piecework basis time rate. General minimum time rates after change: workers other than learners 1s. 3d. an hour, learners 6½d. during the first 6 months, rising to 1s. during the fourth year.‡
			Other branches	Increases of 1½d. or ¾d. an hour, according to area, in general minimum time rates for workers other than learners; of ½d. to 3½d. for learners, according to area and period of employment, and of 1½d. or ¼d. in piecework basis time rate. General minimum time rates after change: workers other than learners 1s. 1½d. or 1s. 0d. an hour, according to area, learners 4d. or 4½d. during the first year, rising to 9½d. or 11½d. during the fourth year.‡
Aerated Waters Manufacture.	England and Wales	13 Dec.	Men, youths, boys, women and girls.	Increases of 9s. a week in general minimum time rates for men 21 years or over, of 7s. for youths 16 years and under 21, of 5s. 6d. for boys under 16, of 8s. for women 19 years or over, of 6s. for girls over 16 and under 19, and of 5s. 6d. for girls under 16; increases of 2½d. an hour in piecework basis time rates for male workers and of 2½d. for female workers. General minimum time rates after change: men 86s., women 58s.‡§
	Scotland	20 Dec.	Men, youths, boys, women and girls.	Increases in general minimum time rates of 2½d. an hour for men 21 years or over, of 1d., 1½d. or 1¾d., according to age, for youths and boys, of 2d. for women 20 years or over, and of 1d. to 1½d., according to age, for girls. Rates after change include: men 21 years or over 1s. 8½d. an hour, women 20 years or over 1s. 1½d. (Orkney and Shetland Islands—1d. an hour less in each case).‡§
Perambulator and Invalid Carriage Manufacture.	Great Britain	13 Dec.	Men, youths, boys, women and girls.	New general minimum time rates fixed for a 44-hour week, resulting in increases of 4½d. to 5½d. an hour, according to occupation, for men 21 years and over, of 4½d. for women 21 and over, and of varying amounts for younger workers. Piecework basis time rates remain 10 per cent. above the appropriate general minimum time rates. General minimum time rates after change: men 21 years or over 1s. 11½d. to 2s. 4½d., according to occupation, women 21 years or over 1s. 5½d. to 1s. 7d., male workers 18 and under 21 employed as porters or labourers, 1s. 5½d. at 18 years, 1s. 7d. at 19, 1s. 9d. at 20; other youths and boys 9½d. at under 15, rising to 1s. 9½d. at 20 and under 21, girls 8½d. at under 15, rising to 1s. 3½d. at 20 and under 21.‡

* See also under "Changes in Hours of Labour," and the article on page 309 of the November, 1946, issue of this GAZETTE.
† These increases took effect under an Order issued under the Wages Councils Act (Northern Ireland).
‡ See also under "Changes in Hours of Labour."
§ These rates were agreed to between the Midlands Master Spinners' Association and the Transport and General Workers' Union and are to remain in operation until 31st December, 1947. See also under "Changes in Hours of Labour."
¶ Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements.
‡ This increase was awarded by the National Arbitration Tribunal. It was further awarded that appropriate increases, based upon the increases for adults, should be applied to juveniles, such increases to be determined by negotiation between the parties.
§ This change applied to workers employed by firms which are members of the Bradford Dyers' Association Ltd. (Yorkshire branches only).
†† Retrospective to the first pay day in November, 1946.
‡‡ These increases took effect under an Order issued under the Wages Councils Act. See also under "Changes in Hours of Labour" and page 36 of this GAZETTE.
§§ These increases took effect under an Order issued under the Wages Councils Act. See page 36 of this GAZETTE.

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

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change.
Paper Box Manufacture.	Northern Ireland	20 Dec.	Male and female workers paid at time rates: Male workers employed as die makers, forme setters, cutters, machine minders, head stock keepers and in other specified occupations (with two years' experience of the trade after serving a period of learnership). Other male workers	Increase of 7s. 6d. a week (85s. to 92s. 6d.) in general minimum time rate; additional 2s. 6d. a week granted to workers employed on carton form making or in charge of an automatic carton glueing machine or a carton cutting and creasing machine fitted with a fully automatic feeder.*
			Female workers	Increases of 10s. a week (67s. 6d. to 77s. 6d.) in general minimum time rates for male workers during first year subsequent to the completion of learnership, of 15s. (67s. 6d. to 82s. 6d.) during second year, of varying amounts, according to period of employment and age of entering the trade, for learners, and of 8s. (55s. to 63s.) during first year of employment and 10s. (65s. to 75s.) during subsequent years for other male workers after the attainment of 21 years of age. Increases of 8s. a week (43s. to 51s.) in general minimum time rates for female workers other than learners, and of varying amounts, according to period of employment and age of entering the trade, for learners.*
Printing	Great Britain	13 Dec.	Lithographic artists employed in the general lithographic industry.	Increase of 7s. 6d. a week in general minimum time rate for men in all geographical grades. Rates after change: Grade (1A) 128s. 6d., Grade (1) 123s. 6d., (2) 121s., (3) 118s. 6d.
Local Authority Services.	Administrative County of London.	Pay day in week in which 1 Dec. fell.	Manual workers employed in non-trading services, except those whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries.	Standard consolidated rates fixed inclusive of war bonus previously paid, resulting in increases of 7s. 6s. 3d., 6s. or 5s. a week for men, according to grade of occupation, with proportional increases for women and juvenile workers. Minimum standard consolidated rates after change for labourers or equivalent classes of workpeople, grade A 100s. a week, B 103s.
	Kent, Surrey, East and West Sussex.	Pay day in week in which 2 Dec. fell.	do.	Increase of 4s. a week in basic rates for men, of 3s. for women, and of proportional amounts for juveniles, according to age. Minimum rates after change, inclusive of national war wage addition of 30s. a week: men—grade I 91s. a week, II 87s., III 83s., women 75 per cent. of men's rate.†
Retail Meat Distribution.	England and Wales	Pay day in week commencing 2 Dec.	Managers and manageresses. Men, youths, boys, women and girls employed in general butchers' shops. Men, youths, boys, women and girls employed in pork butchers' shops.	Increases of 6s., 7s. or 8s. a week, according to weekly trade. Minimum weekly rates after change: managers—London 96s. 6d. to 132s., according to weekly trade, Provincial A 93s. 6d. to 129s., Provincial B 90s. 6d. to 126s.; managers who supervise making-up in pork butchers' shops to receive 10s. a week above these rates; manageresses to receive 10s. a week less than managers' rates.† Increases of 8s. a week, according to age, for male shop assistants and cashiers and of 1s., 2s. or 3s., at certain ages, for females. Minimum weekly rates after change: male shop assistants and cashiers—London 37s. at 16 years rising to 94s. at 24, Provincial A 34s. to 91s., Provincial B 31s. to 88s.; female shop assistants and cashiers—London 30s. at 16 to 61s. at 23, A 27s. to 58s., B 25s. to 55s.; females mainly engaged in cutting and acting as general butchers' assistants—London 34s. at 16 to 67s. at 23, A 31s. to 64s., B 29s. to 61s.‡ Increases of 8s. a week for first machinemakers, of 4s. to 8s., according to age, for male assistants engaged as cutters, salesmen or makers-up, of 2s. to 12s., according to age, for male workers, engaged solely in salesmanship, and of 2s. to 7s. for female workers. Minimum weekly rates after change: first machinemakers engaged mainly in making-up, London 105s., Provincial A 102s., Provincial B 99s., first machinemakers with 3 or more assistants, London 115s., A 112s., B 109s.; male assistants engaged as cutters, salesmen, etc., London 37s. at 16 rising to 94s. at 24, A 34s. to 91s., B 31s. to 88s.; workers engaged solely in salesmanship—London 34s. at 16 years rising to 86s. at 24 (previously the terminal rate was at 25 years), A 31s. to 83s., B 29s. to 81s., females, London 30s. at 16 to 61s. at 24, A 27s. to 58s., B 25s. to 55s.‡
Retail Confectionery.	Scotland	2 Dec.	Female workers	Minimum weekly rates of wages fixed for a normal working week of 48 hours, as follows: first assistants in shops with 4 or more employees—up to and including 20 years of age 45s. a week, 21 and under 22 40s., 22 and under 23 35s., 23 and under 24 30s., 24 and over 60s.; first assistants in shops with less than 4 employees—40s., 43s., 50s., 53s. and 55s., assistants 21s. 6d. at 15 years rising to 50s. at 24.‡
Entertainments	Great Britain	29 Dec.	Managers employed in cinema theatres.	New minimum weekly rates of remuneration fixed for a normal working week not exceeding 48 hours, as follows: 120s. to 340s., according to grade of theatre and money holding capacity of one full house at regular prices.‡

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED DURING DECEMBER.

Gold, Silver, etc., Working.	Birmingham	First pay-day in Dec.	Workpeople employed in gold, silver and allied trades.	Normal weekly hours reduced from 47 to 45.
Cotton	Lancs., Ches., Yorks. and Derby	2 Dec.	Men, youths, boys, women and girls.	Normal working week reduced from 48 to 45 hours (5 days of 9 hours each).¶
Woolen and Worsted.	West Riding of Yorkshire.	Pay day in week ended 2 Nov.	Workpeople employed in the woolcombing section.	Normal working week reduced from 48 to 45 hours.**
	West of England.	1st full pay week in Nov.	Men, youths, boys, women and girls.	do.
Lambs' wool and worsted yarn spinning.	Leicester	29 Nov.	Men, youths, boys, women and girls.	do.
Flannel Manufacture.	Rochdale and District.	4 Nov.	Men, youths, boys, women and girls.	do.
Textile Bleaching, Dyeing and Finishing.	Yorks.††	2nd pay day in Dec.	Skilled mechanics and apprentices employed in dye works.	do.
Hat and Cap Making and Millinery.	Scotland	30 Dec.	Men, youths, boys, women and girls.	Normal weekly hours beyond which overtime rates become payable reduced from 46 to 44.‡
Perambulator and Invalid Carriage Manufacture.	Great Britain	13 Dec.	Men, youths, boys, women and girls.	Normal weekly hours beyond which overtime rates become payable reduced from 48 to 44.‡

* These increases took effect under an Order issued under the Wages Councils Act (Northern Ireland). See page 36 of this GAZETTE.
† This was agreed upon as an interim increase to be merged in any future national increase.
‡ These increases took effect as the result of an agreement made by the Joint Industrial Council for the Retail Meat Trade. The agreement provides that Provincial A rates are to apply to places with 10,000 or more inhabitants (except the City of London and the Metropolitan Police District) and to certain other towns listed in an appendix to the agreement, and that Provincial B rates are to apply to all other places.
§ These rates are contained in an agreement between the Scottish Federation of Retail Confectioners' Associations and the National Amalgamated Union of Shop Assistants, Warehousemen and Clerks. The rates quoted are minima, and it is provided that any employee in receipt of an amount over and above the scale rate applicable to her is to continue to receive such amount when any change is made in basic minimum.
¶ These rates were agreed to between the Cinematograph Exhibitors' Association of Great Britain and Ireland and the Managers' Separate Section. The agreement provides for certain additional emoluments and provides also that, where managers are at present enjoying a salary and/or conditions of employment more beneficial than those set forth, such salary and/or conditions are to continue.
‡ See also under "Changes in Rates of Wages" and Article on page 309 of the November, 1946, issue of this GAZETTE.
§ See also under "Changes in Rates of Wages."
†† This reduction applied to workers employed by firms which are members of the Bradford Dyers' Association Ltd. (Yorkshire branches only).
‡‡ These reductions took effect under Orders issued under the Wages Councils Act. See also under "Changes in Rates of Wages."

PERCENTAGE INCREASES IN RATES OF WAGES SINCE SEPTEMBER, 1939.

An estimate is made at the end of each month of the percentage increase in the weekly rates of wages of workpeople in the principal industries and services, including agriculture. These estimates relate to full-time rates of wages in industries, occupations and localities in which changes in the general levels of wage rates are regulated by collective agreements between organisations of employers and workpeople, arbitration awards or statutory orders. They are based on the recognised rates of wages contained in such agreements, orders, etc., and do not take account of changes in the rates of wages actually paid by employers to their workpeople, as to which comprehensive information is not available. They do not include the effects on the general level of wages of the changes which have occurred since 1939 in the proportions of workpeople employed in different industries, in the proportions of men, boys, women and girls employed, or in the proportions of workers employed on time-work and piece-work respectively. Moreover, they relate only to the recognised rates for a full week and do not reflect changes in the hours actually worked at different dates, or changes in piece-work earnings due to such factors as the introduction of new machinery, extra exertion on the part of

the workers, etc. The percentage increases since September, 1939, have varied considerably in different industries, and in combining these percentages into the general averages shown in the following Table account has been taken of the approximate total pre-war wages bill in the various industries.

Date.	Estimated Percentage Increase in Weekly Wage Rates since September, 1939.	Date.	Estimated Percentage Increase in Weekly Wage Rates since September, 1939.
1945 January	45-46	1946 January	57
February	46	February	57-58
March	47-48	March	58
April	48-49	April	59-60
May	48-49	May	60-61
June	49	June	61
July	50-51	July	63-64
August	51	August	63-64
September	51-52	September	64
October	51-52	October	64
November	52-53	November	65
December	53	December	65

TRADE DISPUTES IN DECEMBER.

Number and Magnitude.—The number of industrial disputes involving stoppages of work* in the United Kingdom, reported to the Department as beginning in December, was 79. In addition, 9 stoppages which began before December were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The approximate number of workers involved, during December, in these 88 stoppages, including workers thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, is estimated at 18,000. The aggregate number of working days lost at the establishments concerned, during December, was about 49,000.

Of the stoppages of work through industrial disputes known to have been in progress at some time in December, the coal mining industry accounted for 44, involving nearly 3,000 workers, and resulting in an aggregate loss of 4,000 working days.

The following Table gives an analysis, by groups of industries, of disputes involving stoppages of work in December:—

Industry Group.	Number of Stoppages in progress in Month.			Number of Workers involved in all Stoppages in progress in Month.	Aggregate Number of Working Days lost in all Stoppages in progress in Month.
	Started before beginning of Month.	Started in Month.	Total.		
Coal Mining	1	43	44	2,900	4,000
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding .. .	3	14	17	5,800	20,000
Transport .. .	..	5	5	1,100	4,000
All Other Industries ..	5	17	22	8,400	21,000
Total, December, 1946 ..	9	79	88	18,200	49,000
Total, November, 1946 ..	23	186	209	44,600	133,000
Total, December, 1945 ..	22	141	163	23,700	95,000

In the 79 stoppages which began during December, over 8,000 workers were directly involved, and about 8,000 indirectly

PRINCIPAL DISPUTES INVOLVING STOPPAGES OF WORK DURING DECEMBER.

Occupations† and Locality.	Approximate Number of Workers involved.		Date when Stoppage		Cause or Object.	Result.
	Directly.	In-directly.†	Began.	Ended.		
COAL MINING:— Haulage workers, timber lads,*etc., and other underground and surface workers—Clipstone, Mansfield, Notts. (one colliery).	220	590	7 Dec.	9 Dec.	Demand by timber lads for an increase in wages.	Work resumed to permit of negotiations which resulted in employer's offer of an increase of 3s. 5d. a shift, made before the stoppage, being accepted.
ENGINEERING:— Fitters, turners, sheet metal workers, etc.—Brough, Yorks. (one firm).	660	190	10 Dec.	28 Dec.	Employer's alleged failure to observe the terms of a national agreement on payment-by-results and subsequently to use agreed machinery for the avoidance of disputes.	Work resumed to permit of negotiations.
TRANSPORT:— Omnibus drivers and conductors—Brentwood, Southend and Wood Green (one firm).	300	..	12 Dec.	23 Dec.	Refusal to work new winter schedules.	Work resumed on advice of trade union officials. Subsequently workers agreed to work the new schedules.
RUBBER MANUFACTURE:— Rubber workers—Birmingham (one firm).	450	3,890	3 Dec.‡	5 Dec.	Demand for establishment of direct trade union negotiating machinery in place of Joint Factory Council procedure for dealing with domestic disputes.	Work resumed to permit of a ballot vote of all operatives to decide which procedure they desired to adopt, the result being a small majority in favour of trade union machinery.

* Stoppages of work due to disputes not connected with terms of employment or conditions of labour are excluded from the statistics. In addition, stoppages involving less than 10 workers, and those which lasted less than one day, are also excluded, unless the aggregate number of working days lost exceeded 100. The figures for the month under review are provisional and subject to revision: those for earlier months have been revised where necessary in accordance with the most recent information.
† The occupations printed in italics are those of workers indirectly involved, i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes.
‡ The stoppage began on the night shift of 2nd-3rd December.

involved (i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes). In the 9 stoppages which began before December, and were still in progress at the beginning of that month, the total number of workers involved during December, either directly or indirectly, was nearly 2,000.

Duration.—Of 80 stoppages of work, owing to disputes, which ended during December, 41, directly involving 3,000 workers, lasted not more than one day; 15, directly involving 800 workers, lasted two days; 8, directly involving 900 workers, lasted three days; 6, directly involving 500 workers, lasted four to six days; and 10, directly involving 4,000 workers, lasted over six days.

Causes.—Of the 79 disputes leading to stoppages of work which began in December, 7, directly involving 2,800 workers, arose out of demands for advances in wages, and 23, directly involving 2,300 workers, on other wage questions; 2, directly involving 300 workers, on questions as to working hours; 10, directly involving 600 workers, on questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons; 35, directly involving 2,000 workers, on other questions respecting working arrangements; and 2, directly involving 300 workers, on questions of trade union principle.

STATISTICS FOR YEAR 1946.

The total number of disputes involving stoppages of work reported as having begun in 1946 was 2,191. The total number of workers involved in all stoppages in progress during the year (including those which began in 1945 and extended into 1946) was nearly 530,000. The aggregate number of working days lost in 1946 through all stoppages in progress during the year was approximately 2,160,000.

A summary of the statistics of disputes in 1946, with comparative statistics for 1945 and, in less detail, for earlier years, is given in the annual review on page 7 of this GAZETTE.

CHANGES IN RETAIL PRICES AND COST OF LIVING.

INDEX FIGURES FOR 1st JANUARY, 1947.

Rise since July, 1914	Change since 30th November, 1946.	Food	All Items
.. .. .	.. .. .	68%	104%
Index Points	Per cent.	nil	nil
.. .. .	.. .. .	nil	nil

FOOD.

There was little change during December in the retail prices of food.

For the articles of food included within the scope of these statistics, the following Table compares the average prices in the United Kingdom at 1st January, 1947, with the corresponding prices at 30th November, 1946, and 1st September, 1939:—

Article.	Average Price (per lb. unless otherwise indicated) to the nearest ¼d., at—			Percentage Increase or Decrease (—) at 1st January, 1947, compared with—	
	1st Jan., 1947.	30th Nov., 1946.	1st Sept., 1939.	30th Nov., 1946.	1st Sept., 1939.
Beef, British—	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Ribs	1 3½	1 3½	1 2½	..	11
Thin Flank .. .	0 9½	0 9½	0 7½	..	27
Beef, Chilled or Frozen					
Ribs	1 1	1 1	0 9½	..	35
Thin Flank .. .	0 6	0 6	0 4½	..	23
Mutton, British—					
Legs	1 5½	1 5½	1 3½	..	13
Breast	0 8	0 8	0 7½	..	8
Mutton, Frozen—					
Legs	1 0	1 0	0 10½	..	16
Breast	0 4	0 4	0 4	..	..
Bacon*	1 10½	1 10½	1 3	..	50
Fish .. .. .	..	..	..	..	10
Flour .. per 6 lb.	1 3	1 3	0 11½	..	31
Bread .. per 3½ lb.	0 9	0 9	0 7½	..	25
Tea	2 10	2 10	2 4	..	21
Sugar (granulated) ..	0 4	0 4	0 3	..	32
Milk .. per quart	0 9	0 9	0 6½	..	33
Butter—					
Fresh	1 6	1 6	1 4½	..	9
Salt .. .. .	..	..	1 3½	..	18
Cheese	1 1	1 1	0 10	..	30
Margarine—					
Special	0 9	0 9	0 6½	..	12
Standard	0 5	0 5	..	..	..
Eggs (fresh)† .. each	0 2	0 2	..	..	1
Potatoes .. per 7 lb.	0 6½	0 6½	0 6½	..	-1

The following Table shows the average percentage changes in prices at 1st September, 1939, 30th November, 1946, and 1st January, 1947, respectively, as compared with July, 1914:—

Article.	Average Percentage Increase or Decrease (—) since July, 1914, at—		
	1st Sept., 1939.	30th Nov., 1946.	1st Jan., 1947.
Beef, British—	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Ribs	44	59	59
Thin Flank .. .	15	46	46
Beef, Chilled or Frozen			
Ribs	32	79	79
Thin Flank .. .	1	24	24
Mutton, British—			
Legs	48	67	67
Breast	14	24	24
Mutton, Frozen—			
Legs	51	75	75
Breast	-3	-3	-3
Bacon*	35	102	102
Fish	116	138	138
Flour	26	65	65
Bread	42	78	78
Tea	52	85	85
Sugar (granulated) ..	46	93	93
Milk	92	156	156
Butter—			
Fresh	13	23	23
Salt	7	27	27
Cheese	16	51	51
Margarine	-8	3	3
Eggs (fresh)†	58	60	60
Potatoes	33	32	32
All above articles (Weighted Average on July, 1914, basis)	38	68	68

On the basis of the figures given in the foregoing Tables the average level of retail prices, at 1st January, 1947, of the articles of food specified was about 68 per cent. higher than in July, 1914, and about 22 per cent. higher than at the beginning of September, 1939.

* The description of bacon specified for quotation is streaky, but where this kind is seldom being sold the returns relate to another kind, locally representative.
† This figure is an average calculated from the prices of various brands of margarine on sale at 1st September, 1939.

‡ Of the two prices shown for eggs at 1st January, 1947, and 30th November, 1946, 2d. was for large eggs (in Ministry of Food category I) and 1½d. for small eggs (in category II). At 1st September, 1939, the average price for eggs, as shown by the returns received, was between 1½d. and 2d.

ITEMS OTHER THAN FOOD.

The average level of working-class rents (including rates) at 1st January was about the same as at 30th November, being nearly 4 per cent. above the level of 1st September, 1939, and about 68 per cent. above that of July, 1914. A substantial part of the increase since 1914 is accounted for by increases in rates.

As regards clothing, changes in retail prices during December were relatively slight. Owing to the wide range of quotations, to changes in qualities, and to the variations in the extent to which different articles have been affected by price changes, it is not possible to make exact comparisons over a period of many years, but the available information (based on returns from representative retailers in a large number of towns) indicates that at 1st January the average level of prices was about 67 per cent. higher than at 1st September, 1939, and about 245 to 250 per cent. above the level of July, 1914.

In the fuel and light group, the average levels of retail prices of coal and of gas at 1st January showed little change as compared with 30th November. Prices of coal averaged about 56 per cent. higher than at 1st September, 1939, and about 203 per cent. above the level of July, 1914; prices of gas averaged about 40 per cent. higher than at 1st September, 1939, and about 117 per cent. higher than in July, 1914. There were no appreciable changes during the month in the prices of lamp oil, candles, or matches. For the fuel and light group as a whole the index figure at 1st January was about 53 per cent. higher than at 1st September, 1939, and about 179 per cent. higher than in July, 1914.

As regards other items* included in these statistics, there were relatively few changes in prices during December. In the group as a whole the average level of prices at 1st January was about 66 per cent. higher than at 1st September, 1939, and about 197 per cent. above the level of July, 1914.

ALL ITEMS.

If the average increases in the cost of all the foregoing items are combined in accordance with their relative importance in working-class family expenditure prior to August, 1914, the resultant general average increase at 1st January, 1947, is approximately 104 per cent. over the level of July, 1914, the same figure as at 30th November, 1946, as compared with 55 per cent. at 1st September, 1939. The result of this calculation (in which the same quantities and, as far as possible, the same qualities of each item are taken at each date) is to show the average percentage increase in the United Kingdom in the cost of maintaining unchanged the standard of living prevailing in working-class families prior to August, 1914, no account being taken of any changes in the standard of living or of any readjustments in consumption since that date.

The rise of 49 points since the beginning of September, 1939, is equivalent to nearly 32 per cent. Of these 49 points, about 4½ points represent the effect of the increases, since that date, in the taxes on sugar, tobacco and cigarettes, and matches, and rather more than one-half of a point is due to increases resulting from the Purchase Tax.

INDEX FIGURES: 1930 to 1947.

The following Table shows the average percentage increase in the United Kingdom for all items at the beginning of each month as compared with July, 1914.

Year.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1930 ..	66	64	61	57	55	54	55	57	57	56	57	55
1931 ..	53	52	50	47	47	45	47	45	45	45	46	48
1932 ..	47	47	46	44	43	42	43	41	41	41	43	43
1933 ..	42	41	39	37	36	36	38	39	41	41	43	43
1934 ..	42	41	40	39	37	38	41	42	43	43	44	44
1935 ..	43	42	41	39	39	40	43	43	43	45	47	47
1936 ..	47	47	46	44	44	44	46	46	47	48	51	51
1937 ..	51	51	51	51	52	52	55	55	55	58	60	60
1938 ..	59	57	56	54	56	55	59	56	56	55	56	56
1939 ..	55	55	53	53	53	55	55	55	55	65	69	73
1940 ..	74	77	79	78	80	81	87	85	87	89	92	95
1941 ..	96	97	97	98	100	100	99	99	99	99	100	101
1942 ..	100	100	100	99	100	99	100	101	100	100	100	100
1943 ..	99	99	99	98	99	98	100	99	98	99	99	99
1944 ..	99	100	100	100	100	100	101	102	102	101	101	101
1945 ..	102	102	102	102	103	104	107	105	103	103	103	103
1946 ..	103	103	103	103	104	103	105	105	103	103	103	104
1947 ..	104	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

An article reviewing the changes in retail prices and in the cost-of-living index figures during the year 1946 appears on pages 6 and 7.

A detailed account of the method of compilation of these statistics, "The Cost of Living Index Number: Method of Compilation" is obtainable, price 2d. net, from H.M. Stationery Office, at the addresses shown on the front cover of this GAZETTE.

* Soap, soda, domestic ironmongery, brushes, pottery, tobacco and cigarettes, fares and newspapers.

RETAIL PRICES OVERSEAS.

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

CANADA.

At the beginning of November, 1946, the official index figure, covering the cost of food, fuel and light, clothing, rent, home furnishings and services, and miscellaneous items, based on the average of prices in 1935-1939 taken as 100, was 127.1, an increase of 0.3 points or 0.2 per cent. compared with the figure at the beginning of October (126.8*) and of 26.3 points or 26.1 per cent. compared with the beginning of September, 1939. For food alone, the index figure at the beginning of November was 146.6, an increase of 0.1 point or 0.1 per cent. compared with the beginning of October and of 47.2 points or 47.5 per cent. compared with September, 1939.

AUSTRALIA.

At the end of the second quarter of 1946, the official index figure, covering the cost of food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, and other items in the six capital cities, based on the average of prices in 1923-1927 taken as 1,000, was 1,145, an increase of 11 points or 1.0 per cent. compared with the figure at the end of the previous quarter and of 228 points or 24.9 per cent. compared with that at the end of the second quarter of 1939.

NEW ZEALAND.

At 15th September, 1946, the official war-time price index, covering the cost of food, fuel and light, rent, clothing, footwear and household drapery, and miscellaneous items (adjusted for normal seasonal movements), was the same as at 15th June, 1946, and 0.7 per cent. above the level of 15th December, 1942 (the base date for the war-time index).

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

During the first half of August, 1946, the official index figure, covering the cost of food, fuel, light, rent, and sundries (including clothing) in nine urban areas, based on the average of prices in 1938 taken as 1,000, was 1,330, a decrease of 5 points or 0.4 per cent. compared with the figure for the previous month and an increase of 337 points or 33.9 per cent. compared with that for the beginning of August, 1939. For food alone, the index figure during the first half of August was 1,418, a decrease of 16 points or 1.1 per cent. compared with the figure for the previous month and an increase of 441 points or 45.1 per cent. compared with that for the beginning of August, 1939.

SOUTHERN RHODESIA.

In October, 1946, the official index figure, covering the cost of food, fuel and light, clothing, rent and rates, and sundries, showed an increase of 1.0 per cent. compared with the figure for the previous month and of 32.6 per cent. compared with that for August, 1939. For food alone, the index figure in October was 0.5 per cent. above the figure for the previous month and 31.4 per cent. above that for August, 1939.

INDIA.

In October, 1946, the official index figure for the working classes in Bombay City, covering the cost of food, fuel and light, clothing, rent, and miscellaneous items, based on the average of prices in July, 1933-June, 1934, taken as 100, was 264, a decrease of 6 points or 2.2 per cent. compared with the figure for the previous month and an increase of 159 points or 151.4 per cent. compared with that for August, 1939. For food alone, the index figure in October was 327, a decrease of 12 points or 3.5 per cent. compared with the figure for the previous month and an increase of 215 points or 192.0 per cent. compared with that for August, 1939.

CEYLON.

In September, 1946, the official index figure (revised series), covering the cost of food, fuel and light, rent, clothing, and miscellaneous items of working class consumption in Colombo Town, was 28 per cent. above the figure for the base period, November, 1942, compared with an increase of 24 per cent. in August. For food alone, the corresponding increase in September was 13 per cent., compared with 12 per cent. in August. Linked with the earlier series of index figures, the all-items figure for September, 1946, showed a rise of 133 per cent. above the level of the base period, November, 1938, to April, 1939, the rise in August being 127 per cent.

JAMAICA.

In October, 1946, the official index figure, covering the cost of food, fuel and cleaning, rent, clothing, and miscellaneous items for working class persons and peasantry in Kingston, showed a very slight decrease compared with the figure for the previous month and an increase of about 70½ per cent. compared with that for September, 1939. For food alone, the index figure in October was 0.5 per cent. below that for the previous month and about 61½ per cent. above the figure for September, 1939.

* Revised figure.

NORWAY.

In September, 1946, the official index figure, covering food, drink and tobacco, fuel and light, clothing, rent, and other items, based on the average of prices in 1938 taken as 100, was 159.9, a decrease of 0.3 points or 0.2 per cent. compared with the figure for the previous month and an increase of 59.1 points or 58.6 per cent. compared with that for August, 1939, the corresponding increase in August, 1946, being 59.4 points or 58.9 per cent. For food alone, the index figure in September was 156.7, a decrease of 2.2 points or 1.4 per cent. compared with the figure for the previous month and an increase of 55.8 points or 55.3 per cent. compared with that for August, 1939, the corresponding increase in August, 1946, being 58.0 points or 57.5 per cent.

FINLAND.

In September, 1946, the official index figure, covering the cost of food, fuel and light, rent, clothing, taxation, and other items, showed an increase of 0.6 per cent. above the figure for the previous month and of 369 per cent. above the average for August, 1938-July, 1939, compared with an increase of 366 per cent. in August, 1946. For food alone, the index figure in September was 0.8 per cent. above the figure for the previous month and 395 per cent. above that for August, 1938-July, 1939, compared with an increase of 391 per cent. in August, 1946.

ICELAND.

At 1st November, 1946, the official index figure, covering the cost of food, fuel and light, clothing, rent, and miscellaneous items in Reykjavik, based on the average of prices in January-March, 1939, taken as 100, was 1 point or 0.3 per cent. above the level of 1st September and 202 points or 200 per cent. above that of 1st September, 1939. For food alone, the index figure at 1st November was 2 points or 0.5 per cent. above the figure at the beginning of the previous month and 276 points or 273.3 per cent. above that at 1st September, 1939.

SWITZERLAND.

At the end of October, 1946, the official index figure, covering the cost of food, fuel and light, soap, rent, and clothing, based on the average of prices in June, 1914, taken as 100, was 211.5, showing an increase of 4.2 points or 2.0 per cent. compared with the figure for the previous month and of 74.3 points or about 54 per cent. compared with that for the end of August, 1939. For food alone, the index figure was 215.2 at the end of October, showing an increase of 6.1 points or 2.9 per cent. compared with the figure for the previous month and of 84.0 points or about 64 per cent. compared with the figure for the end of August, 1939.

PORTUGAL.

In September, 1946, the official index figure, covering the cost of food, fuel and lighting, and certain other household articles in Lisbon, based on the average of prices in the twelve months ended 30th June, 1939, taken as 100, was 209.2, showing a slight increase compared with the figure for the previous month and an increase of 110.5 points or 112.0 per cent. compared with that for August, 1939, the corresponding increase in August, 1946, being 110.4 points or 111.9 per cent. For food alone, the index figure in September was 219.1, an increase of 0.2 points or 0.1 per cent. compared with the figure for the previous month and of 120.7 points or 122.7 per cent. compared with that for August, 1939, the corresponding increase in August, 1946, being 120.5 points or 122.5 per cent.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

At mid-October, 1946, the official consumers' price index for wage-earners and lower-salaried workers in large cities, covering the cost of food, clothing, fuel, electricity and ice, rent, house furnishings, and miscellaneous items, based on the average of prices in 1935-1939 taken as 100, was 148.4, an increase of 2.5 points or 1.7 per cent. compared with the figure for the previous month and of 49.8 points or 50.5 per cent. compared with that for mid-August, 1939, the corresponding increase at mid-September, 1946, being 47.3 points or 48.0 per cent. For food alone, the index figure at mid-October was 180.0, an increase of 5.9 points or 3.4 per cent. compared with the figure for the previous month and of 86.5 points or 92.5 per cent. compared with that for mid-August, 1939, the corresponding increase at mid-September, 1946, being 80.6 points or 86.2 per cent.

RELEASES AND DISCHARGES FROM THE FORCES.

STATISTICS FOR NOVEMBER, 1946.

A statement has been issued by the Ministry of Labour and National Service showing the numbers of persons released and discharged from the Forces and Auxiliary and Nursing Services during November, 1946. In that month, 97,340 releases and discharges were reported. The total number of men and women released and discharged in the period 18th June, 1945, to the end of November, 1946, was 4,207,070.

The Tables in the next column show in detail the numbers of releases and discharges (a) reported during November, and (b) effected during the period from 18th June, 1945, to 30th November, 1946, together with (c) a comparison of the latter with the numbers laid down in the Government's programme.

Releases and Discharges from the Forces and Auxiliary and Nursing Services.

Service.	Class A.	Class B.	Other Releases and Discharges.		Total.
			Men.	Women.	
November, 1946.					
Royal Navy	16,540	130	750		17,420
Army	48,860	1,340	2,600		52,800
Royal Air Force	17,310	180	1,220		18,710
Total	82,710	1,650	4,570		88,930
Women.					
Royal Navy	1,260		60		1,320
Army	3,450	30	420		3,900
Royal Air Force	2,960		230		3,190
Total	7,670	30	710		8,410
Total, Men and Women.					
Royal Navy	17,800	130	810		18,740
Army	52,310	1,370	3,020		56,700
Royal Air Force	20,270	180	1,450		21,900
Total	90,380	1,680	5,280		97,340
18th June, 1945, to 30th November, 1946.					
Men.					
Royal Navy	574,370	20,200	39,230		633,800*
Army	2,009,170	196,190	174,970		2,380,330
Royal Air Force	696,630	54,640	45,060		796,330
Total	3,280,170	271,030	259,260		3,810,460
Women.					
Royal Navy	66,890	310	5,320		72,520*
Army	165,250	2,790	17,820		185,860
Royal Air Force	123,120	940	14,170		138,230
Total	355,260	4,040	37,310		396,610
Total, Men and Women.					
Royal Navy	641,260	20,510	44,550		706,320*
Army	2,174,420	198,980	192,790		2,566,190
Royal Air Force	819,750	55,580	59,230		934,560
Total	3,635,430	275,070†	296,570		4,207,070

Comparison of the Numbers Released and Discharged with the Numbers in the Government Programme.

Service.	Men.			Women.		
	Pro-gramme.	Releases and Discharges.	Excess (+) or Deficit (-) on Programme.	Pro-gramme.	Releases and Discharges.	Excess (+) or Deficit (-) on Programme.
Royal Navy	645,000	633,800*	-11,200	72,450	72,520*	+ 40
Army	2,370,020	2,380,330	+10,310	190,260	185,860	-4,400
Royal Air Force	789,730	796,330	+ 6,600	136,170	138,230	+2,060
Total	3,804,750	3,810,460	+ 5,710	398,910	396,610	-2,300

UNEMPLOYMENT FUND.

The following Table shows, approximately, the receipts and payments of the Unemployment Fund† in Great Britain for the periods stated:—

	Thirteen weeks ended 28th Dec., 1946.	Thirteen weeks ended 28th Sept., 1946.	Thirteen weeks ended 28th Dec., 1945.
(1) General Account.			
Contributions received from:—			
Employers	6,605,000	6,007,000	5,391,000
Employed persons	6,605,000	6,006,000	5,391,000
Service Depts., §	1,663,000	1,269,000	3,040,000
Exchequer	7,436,000	6,642,000	6,920,000
Miscellaneous Receipts	588,000	4,668,000	142,000
Total Income	22,897,000	24,592,000	20,884,000
Benefit	5,473,000	6,006,000	3,953,000
Cost of Administration	1,092,000	1,598,000	1,155,000
Miscellaneous Payments	140,000	66,000	67,000
Total Expenditure	6,705,000	7,670,000	5,175,000
(2) Agricultural Account.			
Contributions received from:—			
Employers	107,000	156,000	85,000
Employed persons	106,000	156,000	85,000
Exchequer	107,000	156,000	86,000
Miscellaneous Receipts	17,000	126,000	6,000
Total Income	337,000	594,000	262,000
Benefit	35,000	30,000	18,000
Cost of Administration	40,000	58,000	32,000
Miscellaneous Payments	—	2,000	—
Total Expenditure	75,000	90,000	50,000

* These figures include an estimate of 14,000 men and 400 women whose release had been effected at 30th November, 1946, but not yet recorded at the Admiralty.

† Individual specialist releases include 17,278 men and 554 women.

‡ A detailed account of the Fund is presented to Parliament annually (see H.C. 62 of Session 1945-46 for the period ended 31st March, 1945).

§ Contributions made under Section 96 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1935

UNEMPLOYMENT ALLOWANCES.

For the period of thirteen weeks ended 28th December, 1946, expenditure on unemployment allowances at Local Offices of the Ministry of Labour and National Service and of the Assistance Board (excluding the cost of administration) amounted approximately to £1,050,000. During the thirteen weeks ended 28th September, 1946, the corresponding expenditure was £830,000 and during the thirteen weeks ended 29th December, 1945, £674,000.

FURTHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING SCHEME.

STATISTICS OF APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AND AWARDS MADE.

In March, 1943, the Further Education and Training Scheme was set up for the purpose of assisting suitably qualified men and women to obtain the further education and training which their war service had interrupted or prevented. The Scheme is intended primarily for men and women who have served in H.M. Forces or in other branches of national service for at least one year. Details of the Scheme have been given in previous issues of this GAZETTE.

An article reviewing the progress made under the Scheme was published in the issue for May, 1946 (page 117), and an analysis of the awards made up to the end of July, 1946, was given in the issue for September, 1946 (page 246). Further statistics, showing the progress made up to the end of 1946, are presented below.

Up to the end of December, 86,417 applications for financial assistance had been received under the Scheme. Awards had been made in 46,362 cases; in addition over 6,000 applicants had been informed that awards would be made in their case. The total number of awards made during December was 8,250.

The Table below gives particulars of the progress made under the Scheme (a) during December, 1946, and (b) during the period since the inception of the Scheme up to the end of 1946.

	December, 1946.	Cumulative Totals up to end of December, 1946.
Number of applications for assistance made	5,108	86,417
Number of awards made—		
By Ministry of Labour and National Service	2,217	13,840
By Ministry of Education	3,836	25,062
By Other Government Departments	2,197	7,460
Total	8,250	46,362
Number of applications rejected	942	12,652
Persons transferring to other training schemes or withdrawing applications	854	5,505
Cases under consideration at end of period	—	21,998*

BUSINESS TRAINING SCHEME.

STATISTICAL REVIEW OF PROGRESS.

Early in 1946, a scheme was introduced for the training of men and women in business administration after their release from war service. An article published in the issue of this GAZETTE for February, 1946 (page 44), gave particulars of the Scheme, and articles in subsequent issues dealt with special aspects of it. The figures given below illustrate the activity of the Scheme up to the beginning of 1947.

The number of persons who at 4th January, 1947, had already completed the General Business Course was 2,325. Of this number 1,368 had proceeded to Specialised Business Courses, while a further 517 were under submission to such courses; this latter figure includes 262 persons who had completed the General Business Course within the previous four weeks. At 4th January, 1,546 persons had been allocated to, or were attending, the General Business Course.

Statistics relating to the progress of the Business Training Scheme (a) during the four weeks ended 4th January, 1947, and (b) during the period from the inception of the Scheme to 4th January, are given in the following Table:—

	Four weeks ended 4th January, 1947.	Cumulative Totals up to 4th January, 1947.
Number who have completed a General Business Course	565	2,325
Number placed in Specialised Business Courses	379	1,368
Number placed in business training vacancies	25	103
Number in employment†	87	332

* Including over 6,000 applicants who had been informed by Ministry of Education that awards would be made in their case.

† This category includes persons who returned to their former employment or who took up employment after completing a General Business Course.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

The number of workpeople whose deaths from accidents in the course of their employment occurred or were reported in the United Kingdom in December* was 162.† Details for separate industries are given below.

MINES AND QUARRIES.*		FACTORIES—continued.	
Under Coal Mines Acts :		Gas Works	1
Underground	48	Electrical Stations	1
Surface	—	Other Industries	1
Metalliferous Mines	1	WORKS AND PLACES UNDER	
Quarries	5	SS. 105, 107, 108, FACTORIES	
TOTAL	54	ACT, 1937.	
MINES AND QUARRIES	54	Docks, Wharves, Quays	
		and Ships	7
		Building Operations	24
		Works of Engineering	
		Construction	1
		Warehouses	1
		TOTAL, FACTORIES ACT	79
		RAILWAY SERVICE.	
		Brakesmen, Goods Guards	
		Engine Drivers, Motor	
		men	3
		Firemen	1
		Guards (Passenger)	1
		Labourers	1
		Mechanics	2
		Permanent Way Men	9
		Porters	2
		Shunters	1
		Other Grades	3
		Contractors' Servants	—
		TOTAL, RAILWAY SERVICE	22
		TOTAL (excluding Seamen)	155
		SEAMEN.†	
		Trading Vessels	7
		Fishing Vessels	—
		TOTAL, SEAMEN	7
		TOTAL (including Seamen)	162

A summary of fatal industrial accidents reported in 1946 is given on page 8 of this GAZETTE.

INDUSTRIAL DISEASES.

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

I. Cases.		I. Cases—continued.	
LEAD POISONING.		EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCERATION (SKIN CANCER).	
Among Operatives engaged in :		Pitch	5
Smelting of Metals	—	Tar	9
Plumbing and Soldering	—	Oil	5
Shipbreaking	2	TOTAL	19
Printing	—	CHROME ULCERATION.	
Other Contact with Molten Lead	—	Chromium Plating	9
White and Red Lead Works	—	Other Industries	—
Pottery	—	TOTAL	9
Vitreous Enamelling	—	TOTAL, Cases	32
Electric Accumulator Works	—		
Paint and Colour Works	—	II. Deaths.	
Coach and Car Painting	—	LEAD POISONING.	
Shipbuilding	—	Other Contact with Molten Lead	1
Paint used in other Industries	—	EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCERATION (SKIN CANCER).	
Other Industries	1	Oil	4
Painting of Buildings	—	TOTAL	4
TOTAL	3	TOTAL, Deaths	5
OTHER POISONING.			
Arsenical	—		
Aniline	1		
Toxic Jaundice	—		
TOTAL	1		

An article on page 8 of this GAZETTE gives statistics of cases of industrial diseases reported during 1946.

* For mines and quarries, weekly returns are furnished and the figures cover the 4 weeks ended 28th December, 1946.
† In addition 9 fatal accidents to seamen, directly attributable to causes arising from the recent war, were reported during December.
‡ 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 or not they have been included (as cases) in the same or previous returns.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACTS—DEPENDANTS' RIGHT TO COMPENSATION.

An action was brought by the widow of the deceased workman claiming compensation in respect of the death of her husband, which occurred when he was working in the employer's field. The workman was an epileptic; while working in a beet field, he fell, face downwards, into a rut which had become filled with water, and was asphyxiated. The County Court Judge held that the accident did not arise out of the employment and that the widow was, therefore, not entitled to compensation. The widow appealed.

The Court of Appeal (Lords Justices Scott and Somervell and Mr. Justice Vaisey) allowed the appeal, and held that Section 1 (1) of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1925, applied. This section provides that "if in any employment personal injury by accident arising out of and in the course of the employment is caused to a workman his employer shall" pay compensation. Lord Justice Scott, in the course of his judgment, said that the general purpose of the legislation was to oblige the employer to pay to the workman or to his personal representative, compensation for personal injuries incidental to his employment for which no action for damages lay either at common law or for breach of statutory duty. The principle is that, unless the weakness or illness of the workman is the sole cause of the accidental injury to, or death of, the workman, the employer is liable. The Court made an award in favour of the widow.—*Wilson v. Chatterton*. Court of Appeal, 28th February, 1946.

MASTER AND SERVANT—ESSENTIAL WORK (GENERAL PROVISIONS) (No. 2) ORDER, 1942.

The plaintiff accepted employment with the Great Western Railway Company on certain stated conditions which were set out in a document dated 5th June, 1923. One condition was that if a fireman failed three times to pass an examination for promotion to the grade of engine driver he should be removed from the footplate and be given less remunerative employment. The plaintiff, who was a fireman, failed to pass the examination and was, accordingly, given other employment which was less well paid than that of a fireman. The plaintiff contended that, by reason of the Essential Work (General Provisions) (No. 2) Order, 1942, he was entitled to be paid at a fireman's rate.

Article 4(1)(d) of that Order provides that the person carrying on the undertaking shall pay to every specified person a sum which is not less than the normal wage for the prescribed period if that person is, *inter alia*, willing to perform any services outside his usual occupation during any period when work is not available for him in his usual occupation.

Mr. Justice Wrottesley held that the provisions of the Order did not apply to a change of occupation, resulting in less remuneration, which occurred by reason of the terms of a contract of employment.—*Duffield v. Great Western Railway Company*. High Court of Justice, King's Bench Division, 23rd October, 1946.

ESSENTIAL WORK (COALMINING INDUSTRY) ORDER, 1943—QUESTION WHETHER A HEAD FIREMAN WHO WAS ASKED TO WORK AS A FIREMAN WAS ENTITLED TO THE GUARANTEED WAGE.

The workman was employed as head fireman and supervised two other firemen, but performed certain of the ordinary fireman's duties. In order to economise man-power the office of head fireman was abolished and the workman was offered the job of an ordinary fireman. The workman refused to accept the work, and except on the terms on which a head fireman worked, and stayed away from work from 18th July, 1945, until 11th January, 1946. In September, 1945, the National Service Officer refused leave to the employers to determine the workman's employment. The workman claimed full wages from 4th September, 1945, to 11th January, 1946, and the County Court Judge made an order in his favour.

Para. 4 (1) (a) of the Essential Work (Coalmining Industry) Order, 1943, provided for the payment of a sum not less than the guaranteed wage to a person who, during his normal working hours, was (i) capable of and available for work and (ii) willing to perform any service outside his usual occupation which in the circumstances he could be reasonably asked to perform during any period when work was not available to him in his usual occupation. The County Court Judge found as a fact that the work of head fireman was not available and that the workman could reasonably be asked to perform the work of a fireman; he also found that the workman was capable of and available for work, and that his employment had never been determined. The employers appealed.

The Court of Appeal (Lords Justices Morton, Somervell and Asquith) allowed the appeal. The Court held that the workman was not willing to perform any services outside his usual occupation which he could reasonably be asked to perform during the period when work was not available for him in his usual occupation. By refusing to do the work of a fireman, the workman had failed to qualify for wages although the employers might have been wrong in offering only the wage of an ordinary fireman. His proper course was to do the work of an ordinary fireman and at once raise the question of the proper wage payable to him.—*Wassell v. West Cannock Colliery Company Ltd.* Court of Appeal, 16th October, 1946.

CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT AND NATIONAL ARBITRATION ORDERS. NATIONAL ARBITRATION TRIBUNAL AWARDS.

During December, 1946, the National Arbitration Tribunal issued seven awards,* Nos. 901-907. Two of the awards are summarised below; the others related to individual employers.

Award No. 905 (14th December).—Parties: Members of the Chesham and District Brickmakers' Association, and members of the Transport and General Workers' Union in their employment. Claim: For the observance by the employers of the terms and conditions of employment agreed by the Joint Industrial Council for the Stock Brick Manufacturing Industry. Award: The Tribunal found that, on the evidence adduced before them, the claim had not been established. The Tribunal were, however, of the opinion that the question as to the Sectional Council whose agreement in regard to wages and conditions was appropriate to be observed by members of the Association was one for consideration by the National Joint Council for the Building Brick and Allied Industries.

Award No. 906 (17th December).—Parties: Members of the Durham Coal Owners' Association, and members of the Durham Winders' Trade Union in their employment. Claim: For a wage of 35s. per shift, with a reduction in hours from 8 to 6 per shift. Award: The Tribunal found against the claim.

NATIONAL ARBITRATION TRIBUNAL (NORTHERN IRELAND) AWARDS.

Since last month's issue of this GAZETTE was prepared, the National Arbitration Tribunal (Northern Ireland) issued eight awards, Nos. 570-577. Three of these awards are summarised below.

Award No. 571 (25th November).—Parties: The Northern Ireland Road Transport Board, and certain employees of the Board. Claim: For certain specified rates of pay for male and female clerks employed by the Board. Award: The Tribunal awarded in detail the scales of pay appropriate to the various classes of male and female clerks employed by the Board. The award was to have effect from 1st November, 1946.

Award No. 572 (26th November).—Parties: Biggers Ltd. (Londonderry), Henry Denny and Sons Ltd. (Portadown), the Northern Ireland Farmers Bacon Company Ltd. (Cookstown), and the Producers Bacon Company (Collin Glen) Ltd. (Dunmurry); and certain employees of the firms. Claim: (1) For a working week not exceeding 46 hours, and (2) for weekly minimum rates of wages to be paid to certain grades of workers (as defined by the Bacon Curing Industry National Joint Industrial Council in Great Britain) as follows: Grade 1—97s. 9d.; Grade 2—92s. 11d.; Grade 3—86s. 2d. (During the proceedings it was intimated that a settlement of the dispute affecting Biggers Ltd. and Henry Denny and Sons Ltd. had been reached, and the claim against these firms was by consent withdrawn.) Award: The Tribunal awarded an increase of 6s. per week in the existing basic weekly rates of wages of the employees of the Northern Ireland Farmers Bacon Company Ltd., and the Producers Bacon Company (Collin Glen) Ltd., to whom the claim related. The Tribunal found that the claim for a working week of 46 hours had not been established and they awarded accordingly. The Award was to have effect from the beginning of the first full pay period following 1st November, 1946.

Award No. 574 (5th December).—Parties: The Ministry of Agriculture for Northern Ireland and certain slaughtermen employed at Lurgan Abattoir. Claim: (1) That the slaughtering squad at Lurgan should be reduced to six; (2) that the squad should be given as many animals as they could slaughter during working hours provided there were enough animals available; (3) that the Ministry should observe the terms of the National Arbitration Tribunal Award No. 158 (part 3); and (4) that the arrangement whereby (a) additional men were to be employed when the average earnings rose above £6 per week and (b) a man would be paid off when the earnings fell below £4 per week should be altered so that for £6 and £4 there should be substituted £8 and £6, respectively. (Certain further parts of the claim were by consent withdrawn during the proceedings.) Award: The Tribunal awarded that the arrangement mentioned in part (4) of the claim should be modified by the substitution of £5 for £4 as the lower average weekly earnings for the purpose thereof; the Tribunal found that the parts of the claim set out in (1) and (2) above had not been established and they awarded accordingly; and they made no award in respect of part (3) of the claim. The award was to have effect as from 5th December, 1946.

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

During December, 1946, the Industrial Court issued six awards, Nos. 2073-2078. Four of these are summarised below.

Award No. 2073 (5th December).—Parties: The National Union of Railwaymen, and the Southern Railway Company. Claim: That the staff employed on the construction of pontoons in the Southern Railway Company's workshops at Lancing be paid an allowance for work of an exceptional nature. Award: The Court found that the claim had not been substantiated.

* See footnote in second column on page 36.

Award No. 2076 (18th December).—Parties: The National Joint Council for the Junior Ranks of the National Fire Service—Trade Union Side and Official Side. Claim: That the basic scales of pay of Firemen and Section Leaders should be increased to the level of the basic scales for Police Constables and Police Sergeants respectively, with a proportionate increase in the scale of pay of Leading Firemen; and that supplementary allowances to married Firemen and Leading Firemen should be increased to 17s. 6d. a week, with a proportionate increase for married Section Leaders. Award: The Court awarded in favour of the claim for parity with police rates and rent allowances, and charged the parties with the determination, in the light of the award, of the basic rates of Leading Firemen and supplementary allowances (rent allowances) to married Leading Firemen.

Award No. 2077 (19th December).—Parties: The National Union of General and Municipal Workers, and the North Eastern Lime and Limestone Association. Claim: To determine whether the employers were under obligation to conform with an agreement made between the Weardale Quarry Owners Association and the Union for an increase of wages. Award: Without prejudice to any question as to whether upon its merits the advances should be given, the Court found that the claim had not been established.

Award No. 2078 (30th December).—Parties: The Shipbuilding Trade Joint Council for Government Departments—Trade Union Side and Official Side. Claim: That an additional minimum payment of 8s. weekly should be made to electrical fitters when employed on testing duties, irrespective of classified rates. Award: The Court awarded that electrical fitters employed in test rooms should be entitled to receive such payments as would increase their classified rate to 8s. above the base rates.

SINGLE ARBITRATORS AND AD HOC BOARDS OF ARBITRATION.

During December, 1946, three awards, two of which related to disputes reported under the Conditions of Employment and National Arbitration Order, 1940-1944, were issued by Single Arbitrators appointed under the Industrial Courts Act, 1919. All the awards related to individual undertakings.

In addition, an award was issued by an independent Chairman appointed under the Conciliation Act, 1896, to deal with a dispute between the two sides of the National Joint Industrial Council for the Home Grown Timber Trade.

COURTS OF INQUIRY.

HOURS OF LABOUR IN SHIPBUILDING.

The Minister of Labour and National Service has appointed Sir John Forster, K.C. (Chairman), Sir Frederick Rees, M.A., LL.D., and Prof. I. W. MacDonald, M.A., C.A., to be a Court of Inquiry under the Industrial Courts Act, 1919, "to enquire into the difference that has arisen between the Shipbuilding Employers' Federation and the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions on the Trade Union claim for a 40-hour week of five days, with particular reference to the question of a five-day week, and to report." The Court presented their Report on 23rd January.

ROAD HAULAGE INDUSTRY.

The Minister of Labour and National Service has appointed Lord Terrington, C.B.E. (Chairman), Mr. J. E. Greenwood and Mr. James Young, C.B.E., to be a Court of Inquiry under the Industrial Courts Act, 1919, "to enquire into the differences that have arisen between the two sides of the National Joint Industrial Council for the Road Haulage Industry on the trade union claim, and to report."

ROAD HAULAGE WAGES ACT. NOTICE OF PROPOSAL.

Road Haulage Central Wages Board.—Proposal R.H. (21), dated 31st December, 1946; for the cancellation of the existing Order* and for the fixing of the statutory remuneration specified in the proposals to workers engaged on road haulage work in connection with vehicles operating under A or B licences or defence permits. The principal changes proposed include (a) an increase of 3 days in the annual holiday with pay; (b) special rates for certain workers employed on the carriage of indivisible loads; (c) an increase in the guaranteed day for regular workers from 5½ to 8 hours; (d) an improvement in the time allowances to workers who are instructed to report for duty but who do not commence work; and (e) an improvement in the time allowances for workers required to telephone for instructions while off duty.

AGRICULTURAL WAGES (REGULATION) ACTS.

ORDER RELATING TO WAGES AND HOURS.

An Order was made on 4th December, 1946, by the Agricultural Wages Board for England and Wales, with effect from 15th December, 1946, discontinuing the minimum inclusive weekly wages payable to special class workers in Sussex. These workers are now entitled to the general minimum weekly wage with overtime for any employment in excess of 48 hours per week or at week ends.

* See the issue of this GAZETTE for February, 1946 (page 64).

CATERING WAGES ACT.

NOTICES AND ORDERS.

The Unlicensed Place of Refreshment Wages Board will shortly give notice of their intention to submit wages regulation proposals to the Minister of Labour and National Service; and Wages Regulation Orders have been made by the Minister in respect of certain workers employed in licensed non-residential establishments. An article dealing with these matters will be found on page 11 of this GAZETTE.

WAGES COUNCILS ACT, 1945.

NOTICES OF PROPOSAL.

During December, 1946, notices of intention to submit to the Minister of Labour and National Service wages regulation proposals were issued by the following Wages Councils:—

Cutlery Wages Council (Great Britain).—Proposal C.T.(40), dated 6th December, 1946; for requiring certain customary holidays to be allowed to workers, and for fixing payment for such holidays.

Tin Box Wages Council (Great Britain).—Proposal X.(29), dated 10th December, 1946; for requiring certain customary holidays to be allowed to workers, and for fixing payment for such holidays.

Boot and Shoe Repairing Wages Council (Great Britain).—Proposal D.(88), dated 20th December, 1946; relating to the fixing of revised minimum time rates and guaranteed time rates (including minimum overtime rates).

Further information concerning any of the proposals listed above may be obtained by persons engaged in the respective trades from the Secretary of the Council at Queen Anne's Chambers, Broadway, London, S.W.1.

WAGES REGULATION ORDERS.

During December, 1946, the Minister of Labour and National Service made the following Wages Regulation Orders* giving effect to the proposals made to him by the Wages Councils concerned:—

The Stamped or Pressed Metal-Wares Wages Council (Great Britain) Wages Regulation (Holidays) Order, 1946: S.R. & O. 1946, No. 2007 (Q.(63)), dated 2nd December, and effective from 13th December, 1946.—This Order prescribes the customary holidays to be allowed to workers and fixes payment for such holidays.

The Stamped or Pressed Metal-Wares Wages Council (Great Britain) Wages Regulation Order, 1946: S.R. & O. 1946, No. 2063 (Q.(64)), dated 9th December and effective from 20th December, 1946.—This Order prescribes guaranteed weekly remuneration increased general minimum time rates, piece work basis time rates and overtime rates.—See page 27.

The Aerated Waters Wages Council (Scotland) Wages Regulation Order, 1946: S.R. & O. 1946, No. 2062/S.77, (A.S.(26)), dated 9th December, and effective from 20th December, 1946.—This Order prescribes increased general minimum time rates and overtime rates.—See page 28.

The Hat, Cap and Millinery Wages Council (Scotland) Wages Regulation Order, 1946: S.R. & O. 1946, No. 2143/S.81, (H.M.S.(30)), dated 18th December, and effective from 30th December, 1946.—This Order prescribes increased general minimum time rates, piece work basis time rates and overtime rates.—See page 28

* See footnote * in next column.

WAGES COUNCILS ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND), 1945.

NOTICES OF PROPOSAL.

There were no Notices of Proposal issued during December, 1946.

WAGES REGULATION ORDERS.

During December, 1946, the Ministry of Labour and National Insurance made the following Wages Regulation Orders giving effect to the proposals made by the Wages Council concerned:—

The Paper Box Wages Council (Northern Ireland) Wages Regulation Order, 1946 (N.I.B. (36)), dated 16th December, and effective from 20th December, 1946.—This Order prescribes increased general minimum time rates, piece work basis time rates and general minimum piece rates.—See page 29.

The Paper Box Wages Council (Northern Ireland) Wages Regulation (Holidays) Order, 1946 (N.I.B. (37)), dated 16th December, and effective from 20th December, 1946.—This Order prescribes the customary and annual holidays to be allowed to workers other than out-workers, and fixes payment for all such holidays.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.*

(Note.—The prices shown are net; those in brackets include postage.)

COAL MINING INDUSTRY.—*The Future of the Coal Miner.* How coming changes mean a new deal and new opportunities for all who work in the Coal Industry. A brief explanation based on the Reid Report. Ministry of Fuel and Power. Price 9d. (11d.).—See page 9.

FACTORIES.—*Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories for the year 1945.* Cmd. 6992. Ministry of Labour and National Service. Price 2s. (2s. 2d.).—See page 13.

JEWELLERY AND SILVERWARE.—*Working Party Reports.* Board of Trade. Price 3s. (3s. 3d.).—See page 15.

NURSES' SALARIES.—*Nurses' Salaries Committee:* (i) *Further Recommendations.* Mental Nurses S.C. Notes No. 8. (ii) *Revised Recommendations regarding certain grades of Nurses.* Nurses S.C. Notes No. 14. Ministry of Health. Price 2d. each (3d.).

REINSTATEMENT IN CIVIL EMPLOYMENT.—*Decisions given by the Umpire in respect of Applications under the Reinstatement in Civil Employment Act, 1944.* R.E. Code 1. Pamphlets Nos. 54 and 55. Ministry of Labour and National Service. Price 1d. each (2d.).

* Copies of official publications (including Orders, Regulations, etc.) referred to in the GAZETTE may be purchased from H.M. Stationery Office at any of the addresses shown on the front cover.

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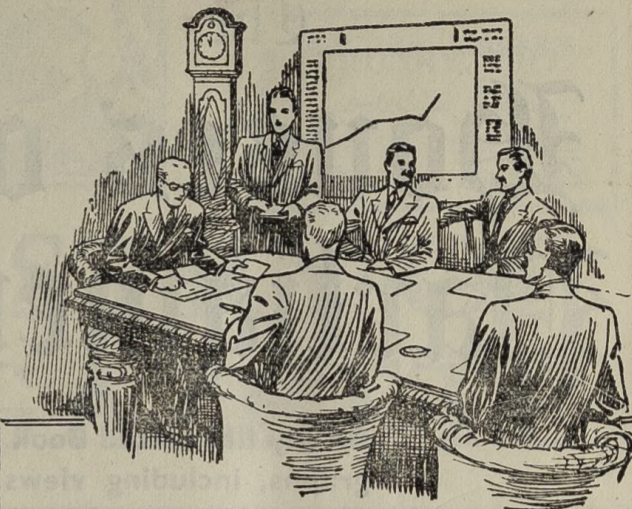
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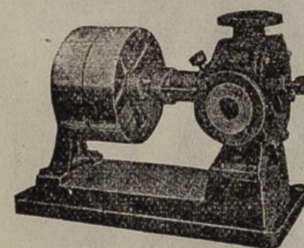
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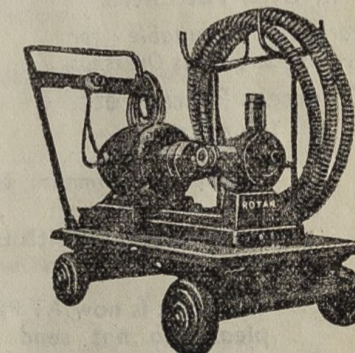
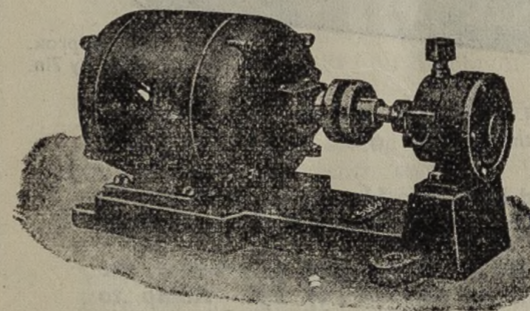
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